

Saint Ann's Parish

2013 Gilpin Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware 19806-2294

Tel: (302) 654-5519 • Fax: (302) 654-5527 • Website: www.stannwilmington.com



December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. John J. Mink, Pastor

Rev. Richard Jasper, Associate Pastor

Mrs. Pat Grant – St. Ann's School Principal (www.thesaintannschoool.org)

MASSES

Saturday Vigil

4:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM & 10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

DAILY MASSES

Monday through Friday

8:00AM

RECTORY HOURS 9AM-4PM Monday to Friday

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020



Dear Parishioners, Visitors & Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord, I would like to extend the blessings of Christmas to you and your families on behalf of myself, Fr. Jasper, and our entire parish staff. May we also pray for all of our families who may be unable to get together this Christmas due to the present pandemic. Please also keep in your hearts our military service members overseas for their sacrifice to our country. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! **---Fr. Mink**

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE ARE: 2 p.m. / 4 p.m. / 7 p.m./10 p.m.
MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS DAY ARE: 9 a.m. / 11 a.m.

ALL Masses will be celebrated in Church; there will be NO Mass in the Social Hall this year in order to keep crowd numbers to a minimum and to keep our school virus free.

You will be or have already been informed of your Mass time and directed to a certain pew at the Mass to which you have been assigned. No additions can be made to the number of reservations you requested. At the time of drafting this bulletin announcement, we are permitted to hold 30 percent of our church's capacity, or 125 persons at each Mass. Please remember that this number could change at the last minute depending on what the state and diocese permit as Covid cases continue to increase.

Also – remember that we will not be able to welcome any parishioners or guests who come to St. Ann's without having made reservations. Thank you for understanding, and we are grateful for your continued prayers and support. **---Fr. Mink and Fr. Jasper**

The St. Ann "APP" - I probably should have alerted you to this sooner so that you could have actually read the book during the four weeks of Advent, and not scramble to find it in the final five days leading up to Christmas. (I'll just blame 2020!) Nevertheless, if you are searching for a beautiful meditation on Our Lady's 'Yes' to becoming the Mother of God that can be read at any time, look no further than Caryll Houselander's spiritual classic, *The Reed of God*.

Houselander (1901-1954) led a fascinating life as a British convert who came into the Catholic Church at age 7 and spent her short life seeking God through art and literature. Remaining a single laywoman until her death, she often identified with the Christ who was found in the poor, marginalized and war-weary, and her insightful writings made many an attempt to remind us all that our own "yes" to God's will helps us bear Christ in the world, just as Our Lady did.

Houselander wrote in *Reed*: "The remedy for fear is trust in God." This trust "will not set us free from suffering, but will set us free from anxiety, hesitation, and above all from the fear of suffering." (What a great meditation for these times in which we find ourselves!)

As we reflect on the Virgin Mary's complete trust in God in today's Gospel and these final days of the Advent season, may we too echo her "yes," knowing that she and her Son will never abandon us on our journey, no matter where the road leads.

And by the way, although *The Reed of God* book recommendation may be too late for Santa (and Amazon) to bring in time for Christmas morning, it can certainly become the first great book you read in 2021 (Hint, hint!).

For those who are unable to attend Christmas Mass this year, St. Ann parish is planning on filming a Christmas Liturgy that can be viewed at any time on Christmas Eve/Day. Look for the link on our website and other social media platforms beginning on the 24th. For questions, feel free to contact the rectory at 654-5519 or email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com

SAFE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AT ST. ANN'S

Our parish continues to observe all Covid-19 precautions for the safe celebration of the sacraments. In particular, due to the in-person and close contact required for the valid celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, the following guidelines are reiterated:

Individual, masked, face to face confessions with 6 feet distancing, are held in the church sacristy on Saturday mornings from 8:30-9:30, with disinfecting by the priest after each penitent. A bell will ring to indicate that the priest is ready for the next penitent. In order to observe occupancy regulations and time constraints, those wishing to celebrate the sacrament are asked to arrive no later than 9am on Saturdays. There will be no scheduled confessions on Saturday December 26th. Vigil Mass will still be celebrated at 4pm Saturday for the Feast of the Holy Family.

St. Ann's Church is open for Private Prayer on Monday-Thursday after the 8am mass until 10am. On Fridays, the church is open after the 8am mass until 10am and 12-3pm.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE - Thank you to everyone who gave to our annual Christmas giving tree especially in this most trying "2020". Many families will benefit from your kindness.

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY PROGRAM STOPS. The FEED THE HUNGRY Program at Saint Paul Catholic Church is being stopped for a while for a review. Since they will stop receiving the food donations, Saint Ann Parish will stop collecting donated as of Monday, 30 November 2020. All the food donated will go to a worthy Feed the Hungry Program. Hopefully we will be able to start our donations again by Lent 2021. We shall see and keep you informed. We thank all those who have donated food. We thank our Msgr Dewson Council 13821, Knights of Columbus for transporting your donated food to Saint Paul Parish. You all have made a difference! God bless you!

Need to register for St. Ann's? Visit our website www.stannwilmington.com and select the parish registration button. You can either print the form and drop off to the rectory or email it back to us.

Election of Trustees – Each parish in the Diocese of Wilmington is incorporated within and by the laws of the State in which it is located. St. Ann is incorporated in the State of Delaware. The by-laws of the Corporation and the statutes of the Diocese of Wilmington provide for five trustees; the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Pastor, and a priest so designated by the Bishop, (these days it is the Chancellor of the Diocese) and two (2) lay persons are to be elected each January by duly registered members of the parish in the meeting called by the President (the Pastor). That election is scheduled for Sunday - January 3rd, following the 10:30am Mass. Our current lay trustees are Charles Klous and David O'Connor.

Communion Update – All who would like to receive communion on the tongue, are asked to wait until the end of the communion line to receive in order to abide by state/diocesan Covid regulations. Thank you.

The Rectory will be closed Thursday December 24th, Friday December 25th and Monday, December 28th. We will reopen on Tuesday, December 29th.

Are you Using Our Online Parish Giving and Don't Need Your Weekly Envelopes? Please let us know so that we can cancel them. Just email the rectory at stannschurch@stannwilmington.com or call us at 654-5519. Thank you.

Mass Intentions

****Priests will be saying Mass Intentions privately for each 6:30am daily mass & the 8am Saturday Mass starting on Monday June 1st with the beginning of public Masses.**

Saturday December 19

**8:00 A.M. Msgr. John "Jack" Dewson, K of C

4:00 P.M. Florence M. Garofalo

Sunday December 20

7:30 A.M. Dolores Karpinski

10:30 A.M. Ida Asta

Monday December 21

**6:30 A.M. Josephine Marge

8:00 A.M. Daniel J. Monigle, Jr.

Tuesday December 22

**6:30 A.M. Mary Wertz

8:00 A.M. Kenneth Ackerman

Wednesday December 23

**6:30 A.M. Sr. Eileen

8:00 A.M. Intention of Bill & Millie Mentzer

Thursday December 24 Christmas Eve

2:00 P. M. Charles H. McKinney

4:00 P.M. Henry & Theresa Deptula

7:00 P.M. Intention of Leontina Juliani

10:00 P.M. Intention of Leontina Juliani

Friday December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 A.M. Stephen & Anna Smith

11:00 A.M. Sister Irene Loretta, IHM

Saturday December 26

**8:00 A.M. Mary Cunningham & the deceased

members of the Cunningham family

4:00 P.M. Anna Kelley & Family

Sunday December 27

7:30 A.M. Tom Wertz

10:30 A.M. Vera Donnelly

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name on the prayer line contact Joe/ Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or joeshirl7@comcast.net.

Offertory for the weekend of December 6th was \$11,836. As always – thank you for your kind and generous support to St. Ann's.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET US!!! Parish Giving is available for Online Offertory Giving – To set up your account, visit our website and click the Parish Giving Button. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the rectory at 654-5519 or stannschurch@stannwilmington.com



2nd graders are preparing to make their First Reconciliation by completing lessons in their classroom. They are excited to be receiving this very special sacrament and they already have learned the Act of Contrition.

Christmas Symbols

The significance of most Christmas symbols is obvious; others, although commonplace, have deeper meaning not immediately apparent, and some represent stories no longer remembered.

Candy Cane – The shepherd's crook, representing the Nativity's first witnesses and Christ the Good Shepherd, inspired the candy cane. Its alternating white and red stripes represent the Lord's purity and sacrifice, even as the same colors do liturgically. Its lively peppermint flavor stands for the royal gift of spice. Finally, like the body of Christ itself, the candy cane is given to be broken and shared.

Christmas Holly – The bright green leaves and red berries, well into the cold season, make holly right for Christmas. Its symbolism, however, is much deeper. For the early Christians it was not only reminiscent of the burning bush seen by Moses, but prophetic as well. In the face of Christmas sentimentally, it foretells, with its prickly points and drops of blood-like berries, Christ's crown of thorns. According to ancient legend, its berries were once yellow, but were stained permanently red by Christ's blood, since it was used to fashion the Savior's crown of thorns.

Advent Prayer

Light of the world, enter the darkness of our hearts and renew us in faith, hope and love. As we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of the Incarnation, help us to see your presence in our world, especially in the needs of the poor. Strengthen us to become true peacemakers able to love our enemies and forgive those who have offended us. Lead us to acknowledge our own sinfulness, accept your mercy and extend your healing love to those around us. Amen...





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