

November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS November 27– December 5 2021		
27 Sat	8:30 am	Mardy Perron and Chris Keepers
27 Sat	4:30 pm	Jordan & Braxton Carr and Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
28 Sun	8:00 am	Pat Boyle and All of Our Parishioners
28 Sun	10:30 am	Damon Williams and Muriel Beaumont Alvarez
29 Mon	8:30 am	Patricia Warthen Miriam & Joseph Welty
29 Mon	7:00 pm	Tom Ryan
30 Tues	8:30 am	Ailith & Wayne Rogers and The Myles Family
1 Wed	8:30 am	Jacob Fermier and Becky Joy
2 Thur	8:30 am	Carol Briggs & Family and Sophia Lind
3 Fri	8:30 am	Vernon & Tina Briggs and Sophia Lind
4 Sat	8:30 am	Mardy Perron
4 Sat	4:30 pm	Larry Little and Patricia Fitzgerald-Rocks
5 Sun	8:00 am	Miriam & Joseph Welty And Vernon & Tina Briggs
5 Sun	10:30 am	Betsey Forrence, Maria Greco and Bruce Greco

A Note from the Pastor:

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

As we enter the Advent Season of preparation for the coming of the Lord, I would like to share with you some ways to assist your journey to Bethlehem. You will notice in the bulletin a scriptural insert on the Sunday Gospel meant for your reflection. You will also be invited to the Taizé Carols and Lessons during Advent for prayer and singing. Please check the bulletin weekly when this will occur. Every Saturday Morning at 8:30 a.m. we have a memorial Mass to the Blessed Mother, and on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. we pray the Miraculous Medal Novena with Mass in addition to the 8:30 a.m. morning Novena Mass. You are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation being offered on Saturdays at 3:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall, but you can also set up a personal appointment for the reception of the Sacrament in the parish rectory.

In addition to the spiritual ways we can move to Bethlehem and our preparations for the Coming of the Lord, other programs sponsored by a few of the parish organizations will be held in December. Please note this in the Calendar of Events section. I would also like the parish to begin Coffee and Doughnut gatherings on December 12th following the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses. Please note that there are also opportunities to offer assistance to the disadvantaged within our community. Advent is a time of personal reflection, prayer and renewal and are the most important gifts we can offer to Christ.

May you always know the Blessings of the Lord, Fr. Bill

Good News Reflection First Sunday of Advent

Pray: *Keep, Lord, my life from those things that drive me apart from You. Give me the wisdom and boldness to let go of everything that stops me from following You. Amen.*

*Jeremiah 33:14-16, Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

Faith that gives hope and victory

Today's world needs Christians who truly understand that faith gives us hope and victory in the midst of any and all difficulties.

Taking this even further, today's world needs Catholics who truly understand that going to Mass means having faith in miracles -- especially the miraculous transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Are you changed by the presence of Christ in the Eucharist? If so, then after you exit the church, others see evidence of this faith - right? There's a difference between "knowing" the truths of our faith and authentically living these truths.

What prayer requests have you made in which you're still waiting for God to provide his help? When you offer them to Jesus during the prayers of Mass, do you feel the hopefulness that comes from faith?

During the consecration of the Eucharist, if we do not have faith in God's ability to change bread and wine into Christ, an ability that does not rely on the how holy the priest is we won't have faith to recognize that Jesus is ministering to us in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming, but we can also relate it to our daily lives today. We all have new tribulations looming in the future, unknown and unpredictable. That's life on earth! And Jesus wants to help us through them. Faith in this gives us hope and victory.

However, when our focus is on our troubles instead of on Christ, we are not living in faith. Jesus warned us about our hearts becoming spiritually drowsy. This is when we lose faith. We forget to remain centered in Christ. We neglect to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But when we ask Jesus to restore us to a life of faith, we become vigilant, expectant, and aware that we can rely on God to help us in whatever comes our way.

Our tribulations make us fearful. Faith gives us reasons to hope in Jesus and to live in joy instead of fear. It's not easy! It takes conscious effort. But spiritual drowsiness is a miserable way to live.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

What are you waiting for from Jesus? How will you use the Season of Advent to grow in faith by noticing the loving, generous, merciful activities of God?

Questions for Faith Sharing:

What are your favorite ways to prepare for Christmas? How do you make Advent a season of hope and a time of growing in faith? Share your ideas with the other community members and listen for new ideas that you can adopt.

Children's Liturgy will begin on Sunday, November 28th at the 10:30 am Mass. We are looking for volunteers to teach. Please call the rectory if you are interested.

The Emmitsburg Community Chorus Presents its 55th Annual Christmas Concert

Please join us on **Sunday, November 28th at 4:00 pm** at the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 339 S. Seton Ave Emmitsburg MD. Handicap parking is available.

Upcoming Events-December & January

December 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:30 am and 7:30 pm (Office is Closed)
December 10th Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
December 11th First Reconciliation Penance Service 10 am
December 12th Coffee & Donut Social Returns after 8 & 10:30 am Masses. Our hosts are the Knights of Columbus.
December 15th 6:30 pm Taizé Prayer Service
December 24th Christmas Eve 4:30 pm, 7:30 pm and Midnight Mass (12:00 am)
December 25th Christmas Day 9:30 am
December 25th and 26th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - We will have our normal weekend Mass schedule to fulfill our Sunday obligation
December 31st New Year's Eve 4:30 pm
January 1st New Year's Day 9:30 am

January 1st and 2nd Epiphany of the Lord - We will have our normal weekend Mass schedule to fulfill our Sunday obligation

****Meetings and Classes - Parish Hall****

December 1st Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm -Parish Hall

Legion of Mary: 9:30-Noon Every Saturday
Monthly Curia Meeting December 5th at 1:00 -3:00 pm

Ladies Sodality: January 24 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

St. Vincent DePaul /Our Lady of Grace Conference:
December 15th 7:00 pm

Faith Formation

RCIA (Mondays) The Month of December -7:00 pm RCIA will be held St. Joseph Parish Hall

Confirmation Classes 6:30 pm -8:00 pm
December 7 and 14

First Friday Adoration

December 3, 2021 9:00 am-7:00 pm

All are welcome to stop by for a visit when the Eucharist is exposed on the altar. Our Lord made 10 promises for those who would have a devotion to His Sacred Heart. In previous bulletins we listed promises seven & eight. The 9th promise is "I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated". The 10th promise is "I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts". In this Year of the Eucharist, the Baltimore Diocese is encouraging parishioners to deepen their relationship with our Eucharist Lord.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

November 20 & November 21, 2021

First Collection: (Envelopes & Loose) \$ 3,914.00

On-line Giving: \$1,068.50

Total Collection: \$ 4,982.50

*****Total needed to reach our weekly budget \$ 8,450.00**

Second Collection: (For Tuition Assistance) \$ 434.00

Thank you for your continued generosity! It is recommended that each household contribute to the first collection an equal amount to one hour's wage from each wage earner. Please give what you are able to give, especially during these hard times, no gift is too small!

Old Fashion Christmas Bingo

The Vigilant Hose Co. Auxiliary is holding their Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Bingo-Tuesday, December 7 at the Activities Building on Creamery Road. Doors open at 5 pm Games begin at 7 pm. Pay at the door-Basic Package \$8 Free Punch and cookies at intermission.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Please pray for: Larry Maruskin, Bruce Weatherly, Sally Stobb, Joi VanVranken, Fr. Charlie Krieg, C.M., Elaine Brown, Julie Brown, Roberta Lawyer, Connie Kapriva, Tom Miller, Joseph Krenitsky, Leatrice Ott, Etta Mae Norris, Emily Lingg, David Benjamin, Carol & Tom Samuelson, Luke Millhimes, Maria Lewis, Shawn Mort, Kathy Tennace, Fr. William O'Brien, Melissa Kinna, Olivia Kauffman, Mr. Harry Arnone, Mary Louise Hoban, Callan Wivell, Sandy-Wivell-Paparo, Nicholas Wivell, Jr., Helen & Ed Reaver, Darlene and Don Upchurch, Ann Graupensberger, and for the Homebound and Caregivers. Pray for the men and women who serve in the Military throughout the world, especially: Sgt. 1st Class Sean Reardon, recently deployed to Syria. Please pray for the families who are suffering with Covid-19 and or the variants of this disease, and for those who have lost love ones through this Pandemic.

Donations for Christmas Flowers

For your convenience, we have supplied an envelope for those who use weekly envelopes to donate towards the Christmas Flowers in memory of their loved ones. If you do not receive weekly envelopes, but would still like to donate in honor or in memory of your loved ones, enclose your donation in a sealed envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" which may be placed in the collection basket or you may drop it off at the rectory during regular business hours. Be sure to include the names you want to be recognized.

The Deadline is Monday, Dec. 13. Thank you for your continuous donations!



St. Joseph Church Collation-Giving Tree Toys and Gift Card Collection

Sponsored by Seton Center- The Helping Hands Program

Please choose a tag from the Giving Tree. The toy tags offer many gift options marked boy or girl with their ages. Included on the giving tree are tags for gift cards for the teenagers ages 13-17, in increments of \$25-\$50 from Walmart, Target, or Kohl's. Also available on the Giving Tree are tags for food gift cards tags for the families in increments of \$25 from Jubilee, Weis, or Food Lion grocery stores. Please keep **sales slip/activation code** with your gift cards along with the your Christmas tree tag. Please attach the gift tag to the gifts.

(We ask that expensive items like bikes, electronics, cell phones or game systems not be purchased so we can keep the giving at a fair)

There will be a collection box in church in front of the altar rail where you may place your gifts or you may stop by the rectory during regular business hours. The collection deadline for the parish to deliver your gifts to Seton Center for you, is **December 9th by 4:00 pm. Please do not leave gifts on the rectory porch!!** ***Please note you may take your gifts directly to Seton Center Seton Center 226 East Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg, Mon-Fri, 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

between December 8-11th



Thank for sharing in the gift of giving for the people in our community during this Christmas Season.



**Masking at St. Joseph's is strongly recommended
The following guidelines for best practices
at St. Joseph's**

- We recommend and encourage you to wear a mask.
- Please sanitize your hands to minimize a surface spread of the disease.
- Please be mindful and respectful of each other as we gather masked and unmasked.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in this difficult time.