

December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent



Isaiah the Prophet speaks to us: "in days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain ..." Ancient peoples thought gods dwelt on high mountains.

Jesus in the Gospel calls us: "... stay awake!... you also must be prepared..."

St Paul urges us: "... it is the hour for you to awake from sleep..."

There is a note of urgency in the scriptures: "Our God is coming! We must be awake and ready when He comes. We must be children of light and reject the works of darkness and sin!"

Holy Day

This year, since Dec 8th falls on Sunday, the day has been transferred but the obligation has not been transferred. Since Our Lady under the title of Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the United States, we hope many will want to attend mass.

*Monday, December 9th
Masses: 7am, 9am, Noon*

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings.

At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. Please be as generous as you are able!

COME HAVE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Along with Mrs. Claus, Santa will join us for Breakfast from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (If we can feed the reindeer, he may be able to stay a little longer.) So, leave the cooking to us and take some time out from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season to join Santa, your Parish Family and Friends for a festive full Brunch Buffet including the return of Eggs Benedict and Eggnog French Toast. While you are here, visit the Attic Treasures Table; wander by our creative "Young At Heart" Club's table full of crafts, jewelry and gift items; stock up on some delicious homemade soups; and take a chance on our monthly 50-50 raffle. **\$9.00 per Adult and Children 12+ \$4.00 per Child under 12.**

See Church bulletin boards for more details.

Parish Social Ministry

An opportunity to reach out to families in the community. Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree will be delivered on Sunday, December 15, 2019. Please meet in the convent at 1:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call Parish Social Ministry at 302-764-7545. Thank you for your kindness and compassion.

Parish Social Ministry is collecting Stockings for soldiers. If you are interested in sewing a stocking, a pattern is available. Call Parish Social Ministry at 764-7545.

USED ALTAR CANDLES

We have a small supply of used short altar candles (blessed) available to anyone who would like to have them for their home. If you are interested please contact Sue Dunn 302-893-1057.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

12/15 is due 12/6

12/22 is due 12/10

12/29 is due 12/17

If you have any questions or concerns please email: ecuthbertson@sainthelenas.org or phone: 302-764-0325 Ext. 106. Thank you!

This week's Dialog features a special section giving thanks for Bishop Malooly's eleven year ministry as our bishop. Please pick up a copy as you exit church today.

Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Ruth Bower, Charles Brumbaugh, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Sarah Hess, Ella Kirksey, Shirley Kosek, Edward Mebs, Gay Meriggi, Dora Pacitti, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma Shock, Caitlin Soper, Frank Sullivan, Catherine Thomson, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych, Anita Tyrawski, Mary Gabel, Alline Da Grossa, Toni Di Lezio, Sister Dorothy Prettyman, Janet Szubieolski, Catalina Weddle, Ray Altamuro, Marie Spinden, Jane Parsons, Nathan Medeiros, Friends at the Kutz Home, Amy Jo Schosie-Jones, Nicolas Childs



WEEKLY CALENDAR



Sunday, December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection: Maintenance and Repair

11:00am Children's Lit/Word - Church

12:15pm Baptisms-Church

12:15pm Confirmation Meeting-Masci Hall

Monday, December 2

6:00pm Youth Choir-Church

6:30pm Religious Ed Classes -School

6:30pm Adult Scripture Study-Rel. Ed. Office

Thursday, December 5

5:30pm-Bingo-Masci Hall

7:30pm- Adult Choir-Church

Friday, December 6 First Friday

9:30am Adoration-Church

Saturday, December 7

10:30am 1st Reconciliation-Church

11:00am Ice Cream Social-Masci Hall

Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent

2nd Collection: Religious Retirement

8:00am Second Sunday Breakfast-Masci Hall

11:00am Children's Lit/Word - Church

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



LOOK WHAT'S COMING.....

Santa's elves are coming to town.....

St. Helena's Youth Group would like to watch your children for 3 long hours on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

12 Noon - 3 PM in Masci Hall

We will have pizza for the kids and sweets too. Enjoy this opportunity to finish wrapping, baking or just TAKING A NAP.

Please email Ms Hummy

at hpennell@sainthelenas.org to sign up your children. DONATIONS will be happily accepted to offset our expenses.

CONFIRMATION Meeting for Candidates and Sponsors (or parent) TODAY (Sunday) at 12:15pm in Masci Hall.

YOUTH GROUP meets TONIGHT (Sunday) in the Religious Education Office at 7pm. We will be planning our Santa's Elves project!!

FIRST RECONCILIATION Celebration is NEXT Saturday, December 7, at 10:30pm in Church. We will have a short Prayer Service before the children make their First Confessions. An Ice Cream Social follows immediately in Masci Hall to celebrate this happy and grace-filled occasion!

AMAZON

Christmas is right around the corner!

When you shop on Amazon don't forget, they have their AmazonSmile Foundation, which donates one-half percent (0.5%) of each eligible purchase to the charity of your choice. Instead of going right to Amazon.com, just access your account through their AmazonSmile website <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0064838> and select St. Helena's Catholic Church to get the charitable donation. A great benefit to our parish!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30

5:00pm (SR) Deceased Members of the
Russell and Sullivan Families

Sunday, December 1

7:00am (EF) Lutcavage & Blaska Families
9:00am (SR) People of the Parish
11:00am (SR) Patricia Darmanin (Living)

Monday, December 2

9:00pm (SR) Jane Steele

Tuesday, December 3

7:00am (EF) Mary Sue Whisker
9:00am (SR) George & Artie Blevins

Wednesday, December 4

9:00am (SR) Charles Seitz

Thursday, December 5

7:00am (SR) Paul O. Knight
9:00am (WK) Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 6

7:00am (CAP) Rosalina Mendes
9:00am (SR) Adelaide & Stanley Russell

Saturday, December 7

9:00am (SR) Janice Brintnall
5:00pm (SR) Marie Reinholz

Sunday, December 8

7:00am (SR) Esther Lutcavage
9:00am (WK) Martha & Steve Budishak
11:00am (SR) People of the Parish

MASS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Fr. Chris Hanley will celebrate Mass in honor of the Feast of Saint Francis Xavier on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier Church (Old Bohemia) in Warwick, MD. The rectory museum will be open for individual examination one hour before the start of Mass. The church is available for tours, group retreats and Catholic weddings. A video about the property can be viewed on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFGICsNM6gk>

. For additional information, contact Kathy at 302.378.7293 or send email

OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com. The GPS location is 1690 Bohemia Church Road, Warwick, MD 21912.

ANGEL GIVING TREE REMINDER

Reminder that wrapped gifts should be returned at the **Nov 30th/Dec 1st** weekend Masses. Otherwise, please drop them off in the rectory during normal business hours (avoid leaving on porch if possible).

COATS FOR KIDS

The Knights of Columbus, Christopher Council is bringing this special program to Holy Rosary and St. Helena and surrounding areas. If you have new jackets please drop off at churches.

Jackets will be keeping kids warm starting Sunday after mass TODAY DECEMBER 1 10am to 12pm at Holy Rosary Church.

Contact Tom Cassidy 302-543-3076

thomasfcassidy@gmail.com

with questions or names of families that need a little help this winter. God bless..

JESUS HOUSE PRAYER AND RENEWAL CENTER

A Sacred Space for Spiritual Seekers
2501 Milltown Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-995-6859

www.jesushousecenter.org

Weekly Events At Jesus House

Catholic Mass, Every Tuesday, 12:15pm
(except Holy Days), Chapel

Charismatic Prayer, Every Thursday, 11am -
12:30pm, Chapel

Centering Prayer, Every Wednesday, 7pm,
Chapel

Grief Support Groups, 3rd Monday, 1:30pm &
3rd Thursday, 7pm, Malmgren Center

Saint Mark's High School Catholic Education and Ministry Grant

Saint Mark's High School is pleased to offer the Catholic Education and Ministry Grant to enhance a family's ability to afford a Catholic education. A \$5,000 tuition grant will be provided annually to students who have a parent who works full-time for a Catholic institution: parish, elementary school, high school, diocesan office, or other recognized Catholic entity.

Applications Are Now Being Accepted!

<https://www.stmarkshs.net/admissions/tuition-affordability>

RETRouvaille



Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. **The next program in your area is the weekend of February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another weekend will be held in April.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Catholic Charities taking application for energy assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), administered in Delaware by Catholic Charities, is now taking applications for the 2018-2019 heating season. This federally-funded program assists low-income Delawareans who need help in meeting home energy costs. LIHEAP makes payments directly to home energy suppliers. The LIHEAP benefit is based on a household's income, size, and type of fuel.

You may be eligible for assistance if your total household income falls within income eligibility guidelines. For example, a household of 4 can have no more than \$50,325 in annual household income (before taxes).

In order to qualify, you must make an appointment with a Catholic Charities office for a personal interview. Regular office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In Kent County, call (302) 674-1782.

In New Castle County, call (302) 654-9295.

In Sussex County, call (302) 856-6310.

The application process runs from July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Catholic Charities Needs Your Help to Warm Up Winter

As temperatures start to decline, Catholic Charities is preparing to *Warm Up Winter* for its most vulnerable neighbors by collecting new and "gently used" blankets and other bedding, coats, hats, and gloves at each of its office locations now through the end of January 2020. Catholic Charities will freely distribute donated goods through its various programs.

Donors can bring their coats and blankets to any of the following Catholic Charities locations and receive a tax deduction receipt:

- Main Office, 2601 W 4th Street, Wilmington 19805, 302-655-9624
- Bayard House, 300 Bayard Avenue, Wilmington 19805, 302-654-1184
- Thrift Store, 1320 E. 23rd Street, Wilmington 19802, 302-764-2717
- Marydale Retirement Village, 135 Jeandell Drive, Newark 19713, 302-368-2784
- Kent County Office, 2099 S DuPont Highway, Dover 19901, 302-674-1600
- Sussex County Office, 406 S. Bedford Avenue, Suite 9, Georgetown 19947, 302-856-9578
- Casa San Francisco, 127 Broad Street, Milford 19968, 302-684-8694
- Seton Center, 30632 Hampden Avenue, Princess Anne 21853, 410-651-9608

Staff at all locations will accept donations between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All donated blankets and bedding, coats, and other clothing items should be clean, in good condition, and ready to use. Keep in mind that Catholic Charities staff cannot clean, mend, or repair items, and merchandise not fit for distribution must be discarded at Catholic Charities expense.

Reserve Tickets for the Phillies Fan on Your List

By popular demand, St. Helena's will be going to a Saturday game in 2020! We've reserved rows 1 through 9 in Section 433 for the game against the Miami Marlins on **Saturday, April 18th at 4pm.** Tickets can be purchased for only \$20 per seat, and \$10 will be donated to our Social Ministry for every ticket purchased! To reserve tickets, send an email to JimClark.StHelenas@verizon.net with your name, phone number and the number of tickets you would like.