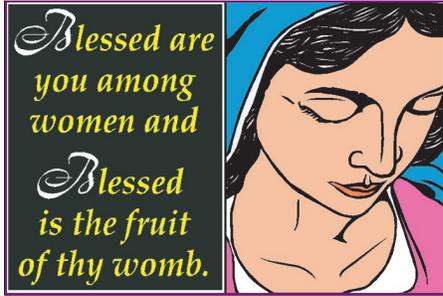


As we draw closer to Christmas, our attention turns to tiny Bethlehem, where the Son of God will be born, and the teenager Mary, who is to bear this Son of God into the world. A small town and a young, seemingly insignificant Jewish girl show us that God's plans include each and every one of us, whether we are wealthy, rich, and strong or not. Let us continue our joyful Advent vigil for the One who will bring salvation, justice, mercy, and peace.



Readings for this Week (Dec. 21-26)

Monday: Zeph. 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
Wednesday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk. 1:67-79
For our **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day** Masses, readings are:
Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22

Scripture for next Sunday (Holy Family)

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Samuel is dedicated to the Lord.

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

We are God's children now.

Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph find Jesus teaching in the temple.

Next Sunday's Gospel tells a story of the worry and deep concern that Mary and Joseph experience upon learning that their young son is missing. Parents who have ever lost their child, even briefly, can appreciate the worry of Jesus' parents. As we listen to the Scripture next Sunday, let us ask for God's strength and comfort for all families, but especially those that are undergoing hardship.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

—We ask your prayers for **Slawomir Lendzioszek** who passed away last weekend. Notes of sympathy may be sent to his children, **Eric and Eva**, and their mother **Anna** at 1626 Virginia Ave., Bristol, TN 37620 or to Slawomir's mother, **Halina Pedras**, at 1875 Lee Hwy #24, Bristol, VA.

—Your prayers are requested for **Raymond Newman**, the grandfather of **Ashley Newman**, who died this week. Notes may be sent to Ashley at 1270 Volunteer Pkwy. #G21, Bristol, TN 37620.

DECORATING: Adults/Teens who'd like to help us decorate the church for Christmas—we'll be working this afternoon (Sunday, Dec. 20) starting around 4 p.m.

SPECIAL CHOIR (Gr. 3-8) for Christmas Eve

Reminder to the children/teens singing at the 5 p.m. Mass this Thursday (Christmas Eve!) that your **FINAL rehearsal** is this **MONDAY, Dec. 21 at 3:15 p.m.**

Adult Faith Formation Committee members are reminded that our planning meeting is scheduled for this **Monday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m.**, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

ST. ANNE'S CHOIR is reminded of their rehearsals this week on Monday & Tuesday (Dec. 21 & 22) at 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget!! We have begun our Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the Holy Year of Mercy.

Adoration hours are from 9:15a to 4:30p (even if there is not a morning Mass). You are encouraged to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your prayer life during this Holy Year of Mercy. NOTE: We will continue to have **24-hour Adoration** on the first Tuesday of every month, as usual. Please continue to sign-up for the 24-Hour Adoration on the other Tuesdays.

Weekday Masses this week: Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 21 & Dec. 22 at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

Confessions this week: Tuesday, Dec. 22, 5-6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 26, 3:30-4:30 pm.



**CHRISTMAS (The Nativity of the Lord)
Holy Day of Obligation**

Our Holy Day Masses will be:

Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24)

Masses: 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 12Midnight (all in English)
(music begins 30 minutes prior)

5 p.m.—Children's Choir

8 p.m.—Ensemble

12Midnight—St. Anne's Choir

Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25)

Masses: 10 a.m. (English)

1 p.m. in Spanish

The Nursery will be available at the 5 p.m. Mass.

Incense will be used at all liturgies except the 5 p.m.

Senior High Youth Ministry (grades 9-12)

Upcoming Schedule:

- **Dec. 20**—Youth Group “**December Fun Night**” - Kobe Japanese Steak House & gift exchange
- **Dec. 27**—**NO SHYM**—*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*
- **Jan 3**—**Youth Group**—ALL TEENS (grades 9-12) - BYC—6pm-8pm
- **Jan 10**—**Youth Group**—ALL TEENS (grades 9-12) - BYC—6pm-8pm **AND, at 9:45 on Sunday Morning**, all teens in grades 10, 11 & 12 who would like to receive **Confirmation** this spring will have a meeting with at least one parent in the BYC.

Items Needed: We have a homebound parishioner in need of a shower bench and hand held shower head. If you have either of these items that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to her. Please contact Sydney at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 if you can help with this. Thank You!

Bulletin Deadline: Due to publisher’s schedule, the deadline for the Jan. 3 bulletin is 5pm this Tue., Dec. 22.

The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 28.

Mass Schedule for Holy Family: We will have our regular weekend Mass schedule next weekend, Dec. 26/27.

Upcoming St. Anne’s Bus Trips

We are in the process of getting estimates of cost and reservations made for a couple of bus trips for parishioners. Both of these trips will include an overnight stay at a nice hotel. More details will be given as soon as confirmed.

- **March for Life in Washington DC—Jan. 21/22, 2016**
- **Seminarian Mark’s transitional diaconate ordination in Richmond (this trip will also provide the pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Holy Year of Mercy)—Apr. 15/16, 2016**

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs

CD of the week: “Why Be Catholic?”

For those who aren’t Catholic, it may not be apparent why one should embrace the Catholic Faith. In this inspiring presentation, bestselling author Patrick Madrid gives compelling biblical and historical reasons for why he embraces the faith as a lifelong Catholic. He shares valuable insights into the beauty of the Catholic Church and its claim to contain the fullness of the deposit of faith given by Christ. Pick up this CD and many others at the Lighthouse CD display on the table in the commons. A \$3.00 donation per CD is greatly appreciated and enables us to restock with new titles. Thank You!

What’s New in the Parish Library?

Be sure to take some time to stop by the Parish Library located in the church office to check out new and interesting reading materials. We also have popular Catholic DVD’s available. You may notice that in the commons we now have a “rolling library cart” thanks to the Evangelization Team. We will put new materials and seasonal materials on the cart to make it easy for you to check them out before or after Mass. Also, if you attend any adult faith formation during the week at the St. Vincent de Paul Center you will notice that we now have library shelves filled with books for your spiritual reading. Please consider taking advantage of all the library materials. The rolling cart currently contains books for Advent & Christmas reading along with new additions this week of:

- Jesus of Nazareth by Pope Benedict XVI
- The Virgin Mary by Father Raymond De Thomas De Saint-Laurent
- Four Witnesses—The Early Church—Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus of Lyons by Rod Bennett and
- A Marginal Jew—Rethinking the Historical Jesus by John P. Meier

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so that you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it is all about. The bible is a story about the Father’s unfailing love for us, a love that we are called to share with others. Please join us on Sunday mornings between the Masses as we begin this new study on **January 3**.

**New Scripture Study to begin for the Holy Year of Mercy
“Divine Mercy”**

“You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”
Ps. 86:15

Sign-up now to join one of the groups beginning in January:

- **Tuesday evening 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the St. Vincent de Paul Center, beginning **January 5**
- **Wednesday afternoon 1:00-2:30 p.m.**, St. Vincent de Paul Center, beginning **January 6**

Please sign up at the table in the commons or by emailing sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org. Cost of study materials is \$12 (payable at the first meeting).

PRAY for VOCATIONS! *How is God calling YOU to grow in HOLINESS?* If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate, or the consecrated life, call Father Michael Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, 804-359-5661 or email him at mboehling@richmonddiocese.org.

*Mass Intentions
for the Week* 

Saturday, December 19 (*Vigil-4th Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. †Regina C. Finan

Sunday, December 20 (*4th Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. †Maureen Ianucci

11:30 a.m. Parishioners

2:00 p.m. †Beatriz Jimenez Castillo

Tuesday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Spec. Int. for Emily Condlin

Wednesday, December 23

8:30 a.m. †Barry Brady

Thursday, December 24 (*Vigil: Nativity of the Lord*)

5:00 p.m. †Neal Jewell

8:00 p.m. Deceased members of the
†Weberling & †Turner Families

12Midnight †Bridget Segerblom

Friday, December 25 (*Nativity of the Lord*)

10:00 a.m. †Larry Church

1:00 p.m. †Anthony Orobona (*Spanish Mass*)

Saturday, December 26 (*Vigil: Holy Family*)

5:30 p.m. †Jim Hoy

Sunday, December 27 (*Holy Family*)

8:30 a.m. †Thad Slack

11:30 a.m. †Raymond Crosby

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- **Catechumenate Class** does **NOT** meet this **Wednesday, Dec. 23** or next **Wednesday, Dec. 30**. We will resume regular Wednesday evening classes on **January 6** at 6:30 p.m. in the Greatroom.
- **Inquiry Class** will also resume on **January 6** in the office conference room. Please stop by the greatroom for opening prayer before going to the conference room.
- **Breaking Open the Word** for catechumens and candidates will **NOT** meet during the Liturgy of the Eucharist on **Saturday, December 26** or **January 2**. We will resume Breaking Open the Word on **Saturday, January 9** in the office conference room.
- If you know someone who is interested learning more about the Catholic Church or in need of conversion, please bring them on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, but unable to attend on Wednesday evenings, please contact Sydney at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org for other possible times.

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates.

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

- **Sunday, Dec. 20**—**Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class: "The Infancy Narratives: Luke 2"** 9:45am-11am in the Greatroom. Next **Sunday, December 27** we will **NOT** have SMARE. Class will resume on **January 3** as we begin our new study of "**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible**". Bring your Bible.
- **Monday, Dec. 21—Saturday, Jan. 2: No Religious Education Classes** during Christmas Week and New Year's Week.



Collection Report

Immaculate Conception Holy Day/Dec. 8	\$ 1,953.96
Regular/Operating (Dec. 12/13)	\$13,973.60
Social Ministry/2nd collection	\$ 3,871.17
Add'tl School/2nd collection	\$ 2,236.00

COLLECTIONS at CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

At all our Christmas Liturgies there will be **TWO** collections taken up. The first (taken up during the Offertory) will be for the **Christmas Holy Day** and the second, (taken up after Communion) is for **Commonwealth Catholic Charities**.

Executive Director Position: Bristol Faith in Action

BFIA is a non-profit ecumenical organization that assists neighbors in need. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Exec. Dir. has overall strategic/operational responsibility for BFIA and execution of its mission. Oversees staff, programs, expansion, fundraising, grant writing, community education/relations and duties as described in job description (*to be provided*). The Exec. Dir. is an exempt position based upon a 30-hr. work week. BA/BS Degree or equivalent non-profit experience and background check required. Salary negotiable based on experience (range: low -mid 5 figures). Send resume w/references to: BFIA Search, c/o CCC Bristol, 424 Melrose St., Bristol, TN 37620 or email to office@cccbristol.com. Deadline: 12/31/15.

CHRISTMAS DINNER—December 25

Emmanuel Episcopal Church (700 Cumberland Street in downtown Bristol) will open its doors to the community again this year for their 34th annual **Christmas Dinner** this **Friday, Dec. 25 from 4-7 p.m.** Reservations are not needed, just bring the family and friends and holiday spirit to share. Come enjoy a wonderful meal which includes all the holiday dinner trimmings, and a fun-filled evening of fellowship, entertainment and caroling.



A Prayer for the Final Days of Advent

Lord God,

Thank you for the hope and joy that you offer us!

“The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal

And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.

The angels and shepherds praise him

And the magi advance with the star,

For you are born for us,

Little Child, God eternal!”

—Kontakion of Romanos the Melodist

(CCC 525)

Looking Ahead Just a Bit...

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Masses: New Year’s Eve (Dec. 31) at 5:30 p.m. and on New Year’s Day (Jan. 1) at 10 a.m.

Dear Parishioners,

CHRISTMAS!

A journey of the heart,

A renewal of the spirit,

A pause to rekindle love and friendship.

CHRISTMAS!

May you have silence to hear His quiet coming,

May you have peace to feel love subtly stirring,

May you have joy to respond with hope renewed.

CHRISTMAS!

We wish you laughter, joy, and a happy heart,

Warmth of love, good friends today and always.

We wish you His peace in your life;

We wish you His blessings.

***Christmas
Blessings***