

“Rejoice with joyful song” we hear in the first reading, reminding us of the object of this season of preparation. We prepare for the coming of the Son of God—into the world, into our hearts, and at the end of time. Let us try to put aside all the busyness and craziness of the season and concentrate on preparing our hearts for the divine presence in us and among us.



Today (the 3rd Sunday of Advent)

is traditionally known as **Gaudete Sunday**, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. **Gaudete** (“Rejoice”), taken from the Latin translation of Phil 4:4-5, sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord’s birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of **rose-colored** vestments.

Readings for this Week (December 16-21)

MONDAY: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
TUESDAY: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
WEDNESDAY: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
THURSDAY: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
FRIDAY: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
SATURDAY: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

Scripture for next Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Virgin shall be with child.

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We ask your prayers for **Reed Rasnick**, the brother of **Bea Oberle**, who died recently. Notes may be sent to Bea at 2433 Randolph St., Bristol VA 24201.

Your prayers are asked for **Harley Bratton**, the father of **Kathy Simon**, who died recently. Notes may be sent to Kathy & Mike at 110 Ridgewood Dr., Bristol, TN 37620.



If you would like to make a donation toward our **Christmas flowers** in memory of, or in honor of someone, please **notify the office NLT noon on Thursday, December 19**. These will be listed in our bulletin on Holy Family weekend (December 21/22).

Pastor's Notes

The second reading this weekend reminds us to be patient as we wait for the coming of the Lord. This is good advice. I find it especially relevant when I reflect on how difficult it can be to have patience at times. We are so used to getting what we want when we want it. Amazon has even introduced same day delivery in some areas. That is correct, you can place an order and have it delivered the same day like a pizza.

When I think about all the modern conveniences we have, it can make it hard to imagine what it was like for the people of Israel waiting for the Messiah. They waited hundreds of years after the prophets first started telling them a Savior was coming. Generations came and went without ever seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy. I am sure it became difficult for many people to believe this would happen and many more likely struggled with their faith because of it.

Eventually the Messiah did come into our world and when people realized what had happened it was better than anyone had ever hoped. It may be hard to believe that God really has a plan for all of us. It can be even harder when we see things going horribly wrong in our world. However, God has shown us over and over that He will not abandon His people. God will make Himself known to us and the answers we seek will come. He just does it all in His time. We will never know when that is.

It is easy to lose faith and doubt when we do not see things happening the way we think they should. We must always remember that the wisdom of God is so far beyond our understanding. Yes, we can insist that things should happen the way we want them to, at a time we think they should, but are we really seeking God's will when we do that?

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE IN!!

If you took an ornament from our Giving Tree, the **gifts are due back in TODAY (Sunday, Dec. 15—NLT 3:30 p.m.)!!** Be sure to put the item in a gift bag and attached the **ornament to the OUTSIDE** of the gift bag. Many thanks for helping to bring joy to others this Christmas! May God bless you!!

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

NO Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA this week... Classes resume next **Sunday, Dec. 22** in the Great Room, **9:45-11:15am**. For more information about RCIA, please contact Sydney at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

Advent Materials available:

Be sure to stop by the religious education table in the commons to pick up some spiritual reading during Advent. All materials are free (except for the Lighthouse CDs—\$3 donation per CD—thank you!)

ICON of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians

Prayer Service—today—Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Bristol Columbian Center (124 18th St., Bristol, TN)

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a traveling Marian Icon and all are welcome to join them today (Dec. 15) for a special prayer service at 3:30 p.m. at the Columbian Center. Join them to pray for our brothers and sisters of faith who are at risk around the world. After the service, refreshments will be served.

THANK YOU for your SUPPORT!!

Sr. High & Jr. High Youth Ministry would like to extend a BIG thank you to all who supported our youth fundraiser. It was a huge success!! We are well on our way to purchasing a set of hand chimes.

One Warm Coat Drive

Do you have an extra coat... or two? St. Anne's Youth Ministry (SHYM & JHYM) is kicking off their *One Warm Coat Drive* and collecting clean, gently used warm coats of all types and sizes. They will be accepting coat donations the weekend of December 22 at all the Masses! Drop your coats off in the container in the hall by the Great Room. Donated coats will be distributed in our local community. Thank you for your help!

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **Dec. 15—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Caroling
 - **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
 - **Dec. 29—NO SHYM** (*Merry Christmas!*)
 - **Jan. 5—NO SHYM** (*Happy New Year!*)
- *****There WILL BE CONFIRMATION CLASS*****
Sunday, Jan. 5—6-8pm—Brady Youth Center

Junior High Youth Ministry (Grades 7 & 8)

- **Dec. 15—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Caroling
- **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- **Dec. 29—NO JHYM** (*Merry Christmas!*)
- **Jan. 5—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Tuesday, **December 17, 9:00am-4:30pm**. Please stop by the chapel for prayer any time during the day and join us for **Benediction at 4:30pm**.

NO Confessions at 5pm this Tuesday, Dec. 17, due to the Penance Service that evening at 7 p.m.



**Advent
Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, Dec. 17
7 p.m.**

Join us Tuesday at 7 p.m. to prepare your hearts for the coming of Jesus this Christmas. Several priests will be here for individual confessions.

Children's Choir for Christmas Eve

St. Anne's Children's Choir will rehearse Wednesday, December 18 at 3:20 p.m. The rehearsal will last around 30 minutes. The Children's Choir will sing for the **4pm** Mass on **Christmas Eve**. Any 2nd to 8th grade children are encouraged to sing. Looking forward to a great turn-out this year and we'll be singing some new and exciting Christmas songs. If you have any questions, please contact: Chris Neal at 423-268-1520.

Theology on Tap - Dec. 18 for Young Adults

Young Adult Catholics (age 21 to 35-ish) are invited to come learn more about their faith and to share in the Catholic community. Next gathering is this **Wednesday, December 18** upstairs at **Studio Brew** in downtown Bristol, from **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The topic will be: **"The Christmas Story"** (*presented by Fr. Chris*).

IF YOU NEED a NURSERY available here at the parish, please contact the parish office at 276-669-8200 ext. 0 **NLT 4pm this Monday, Dec. 16**. If no one requests the nursery we won't ask our nursery workers to be here on the 18th — so please let us know by Dec. 16th if you need the nursery to be open on Dec. 18.

Saint Anne's Friendship Club will meet this Thursday, December 19th 11:30 a.m. at Cheddar's Restaurant at exit 7 Please call Gina Rossetti (423-878-7827) by this Tuesday, Dec. 17, to reserve your spot for lunch. New members are always welcome to join us!!

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines:

- For Dec. 22 bulletin: NLT 12N, Monday, Dec. 16
- For Dec. 29 bulletin: NLT 2pm, Thursday, Dec. 19
- For Jan. 5th bulletin: NLT 2pm, Friday, Dec. 27

Parish office will be closed: Dec. 24, 25, 26, and Jan. 1
No Weekday Masses: Dec. 26, 27



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14 (*Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. † Regina C. Finan

Sunday, December 15 (*3rd Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. † Slawomir Lendzioszek

11:30 a.m. † Diane M. Blackburn

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

Tuesday, December 17

8:30 a.m. † Anna Cooper

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 a.m. † Rita Mansfield

Thursday, December 19

6:00 p.m. † Frank Hanson

Friday, December 20

8:30 a.m. † Deceased members of the Tran family

Saturday, December 21 (*Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. † Tonette Davidson

Sunday, December 22 (*4th Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. † Audrey Wilson

11:30 a.m. † Gloria Jean Gately and † Robert Tate

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

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVERS

Don't forget! You still have time to make a tax-deductible gift to our parish (perhaps the Endowment Fund!!) — if you are 70 1/2 yrs. old and have an IRA, you can do a gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover... it can lower your taxable income, count towards your required minimum distribution, and help you feel good about helping your parish look to the future! For more information, contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer, or the parish office.

Second Collections:

—this weekend (Dec. 15) for St. Anne's Social Ministry

—Dec. 24/25 for Commonwealth Catholic Charities

2019 STATEMENTS: Be sure that your end-of-year donations are received in the office by **5pm, Dec. 31, 2019** to be included on your 2019 tax statements. Thanks!

(**Please note:** the collection taken up at the 5:30 Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve is for the 2020 Holy Day... so if you place a donation in that collection basket on Dec. 31 it will be counted and recorded as 01/01/2020.)

Collection Report (Dec. 7/8)

Regular/Operating	\$12,039
Add'l School 2nd Collection	\$ 675

National Center on Sexual Exploitation: Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Office encourages support of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) who is making strides with their Law Center as a voice for victims of the porn industry/sex trafficking. They work on behalf of the victims in the courts. A generous donor pledged \$3 million to the Center to increase the culture changing impact and asks for matching funds to the effort before year end. To help with this worthy effort, send donations to: National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), 440 First Street, NW, Suite 840, Washington, DC 20001.

This Week in Adult Faith formation:

Sunday, December 15

- **NO SMARE (Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education)** this week. **Join us next Sunday, Dec. 23 for Jesus Revealed—Encountering Jesus in his Biblical Names- "True Vine" - 9:45-11:00am** in the **School Library**. Everyone welcome; no need to sign up.
- **NO RCIA** this week.

Monday, December 16:

- **Monday Adult Faith Formation: Pillar 3 of the Catechism — "Life in Christ". 1:00pm-2:30pm** in the **St. Vincent de Paul Center**.

Tuesday, December 17:

- **Book Club: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. 10:30am-11:30am** at the **St. Vincent de Paul Center**.
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study, 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the **St. Vincent de Paul Center**— "**Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist**."

Wednesday, December 18:

- **Wednesday Scripture Study this week. "Gospel According to John". 1:00pm-2:30pm, St. Vincent de Paul Center.** All are welcome to join the group!
- **Wednesday Prayer Group, 2:45pm-3:45pm** in the **Saint Vincent de Paul Center**. All are welcome to join us for an hour of prayer!

For more information about any of the above Adult Faith Formation programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church 39th Annual Christmas Dinner

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located in downtown Bristol (700 Cumberland St., Bristol, VA) invites the community and area visitors to enjoy its annual Community Christmas Dinner. Dinner will be **Wed. Dec. 25th from 4 to 6 p.m.** Meal includes traditional holiday dinner trimmings. Reservations are not necessary and there is no fee for the dinner. Bring your family & friends and some holiday spirit to share. All are welcome to a wonderful meal and a fun-filled evening of fellowship, entertainment, and caroling. For more information you can contact 276-669-9488 or emmanuelbristol@gmail.com.

PRAY for VOCATIONS

Do you rejoice with the Lord?

Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life?
Call Father Brian Capuano in the Vocations Office at 804-359-5661 or email him at vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



St. Anne Catholic School

Celebrating our 70th anniversary!

St. Anne's School would like to thank the parishioners who came out to support us and celebrate with us at the "Knight at the Museum" fundraiser. We had a very successful and enjoyable evening. St. Anne's PTO raised over \$22,000!! THANK YOU!!

**Volunteers needed!!
January 2 thru 15**



St. Anne's parishioners will staff the community Soup Kitchen from January 2 thru January 15. The Soup Kitchen requires two adult volunteers per day, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Soup Kitchen facility located on the United Coal Company campus (*just a few blocks from St. Anne's*). The work lasts less than 90 minutes.

If you are willing to serve our community, please contact Kristie Fayler at Faylermom@gmail.com. THANKS!

SCAM EMAILS!! Do NOT reply to emails from Fr. Chris unless it is from his parish email address. Priests won't email you from a gmail address asking for money.



Christmas Season—HOLY DAY Mass Schedule

- * **Christmas Eve** (Vigil: Nativity of the Lord)
English Masses at: **4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 12Midnight**
Spanish Mass at **9 p.m.**
- * **Christmas Day** (Nativity of the Lord)
Mass at **10 a.m.**
(Incense will be used at all except the 4 p.m. Mass)
- * **New Year's Eve** (Vigil: Solemnity of Mary)
Mass at **5:30 p.m.**
- * **New Year's Day** (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Mass at **10 a.m.** *(incense at the 10 a.m.)*

Bristol Faith in Action VOLUNTEERS needed

BFIA is in need of volunteers to do Reception, Appointment Setting, Date Entry, and Interviewing. They are open Tuesday thru Friday, 10a to 2p. Please stop by for an application at 1534 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA or call 276-466-8292. As always, your non-perishable food donations are appreciated for their food pantry.

BFIA Christmas Ornaments—\$25/each—great gift idea! Stop by BFIA to purchase. Proceeds to Heavenly Hand Up.