



# ST. LOUIS CHURCH

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### December 7, 2008



### Daily Mass Readings

This Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Next Sunday
Is 40:1-5,9-11	Gn 3:9-15,20	Is 40:1-11	Is 40:25-31	Is 41:13-20	Rev 11:19;12:1-6,10	Sir 48:1-4 9-11	Is 61:1-2,10-11
Ps 85:9-14	Ps 98:1-4	Ps 96:1-3,10-13	Ps 103:1-4,8,10	Ps 145:1,9-13	Jdt 13:18-19	Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,18-19	Ps 1:46-50, 53-54
2 Pt 3:8-14	Eph 1:3-6,11-12						1 Thes 5:16-24
Mk 1:1-8	Lk 1:26-38	Mt 18:12-14	Mt 11:28-30	Mt 11:11-15	Lk 1:39-47	Mt 17:9-13	Jn 1:6-8,19-28

#### Lectio Divina

While reading sacred scripture, read the words with a love and sense of discovery until something seems to strike home. Sit with the passage as one would with a good friend- not just thinking or analyzing, but instead remaining in a quiet, listening spirit, so the word can nurture and challenge you.

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#### Call to Prayer

"Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."

#### The Word of God

Choose one of next Sunday's readings.

One person reads the scripture aloud as others are attentive to a word, phrase, or theme that is meaningful to them.

Allow for a minute of silent reflection.

Have another person read the same scripture a second time.

#### Faith Sharing

Begin with an open ended question such as "What strikes you from this reading?" and/or you can use the "Reflection Question" found on our website or bulletin.

*Allow time for reflection & sharing.*

#### Closing Prayer

At the end of the faith sharing, invite participants to pray aloud for any particular petitions or praises they may have. Feel free to close with:

The Lord's Prayer

Spontaneous prayers or A faith-based song

#### Reflection Question for December 14<sup>th</sup>

*John makes clear that the purpose of his life is to point to Jesus. How does my life point to Jesus?*

### Mass Intentions for Week of December 7, 2008

Sunday	6:45am	Frank Berisford
	8:00am	Jane Gossage & Sister Alacoque
	9:30am	William Thurau & Sean Finnegan
	11:15am	Kathleen Kelly & Hank Melle
	12:45pm	Maria Bochniewicz & Chester Rodio
Monday	7:00am	Roger Bartrug & Cordelia Gillett, SI
	9:30am	Norma Brach & Roger Bartrug
	12:00pm	Special Intention
Tuesday	5:00pm	Maureen Gonzales
	7:00am	Cordelia Gillett, SI & Amos Shattuck
Wednesday	9:30am	Edward Wilson & Special Intention
	7:00am	Bradley Benefiel
Thursday	8:30am	Roger Bartrug
	7:00am	Thomas Devine
Friday	8:30am	Mary Marilley
	7:00am	Bob Miller & Cathy Miller
Saturday	8:30am	Richard Baker & Marion Olson
	8:00am	Antoinette Ducote & Rose Sliva
	4:00pm	Doug Wilson & Fanny Ambrose
	5:30pm	Special Intention & April Kristin Line

### In Your Prayers, Please Remember Those Who Are Sick Especially the People Listed Below

If you would like to have a name put on our sick list, please call the parish office at 410-531-6040. Names on the Sick List will be included for three months. If you would like your name to be listed after the three month period, please call the Parish Office at that time. Thank you.

Gloria Barbaro	Matthew Furman	Carolyn O'Rourke
Danny Blake	Stephanie Grady	Amanda Post
Viola Bourcey	James Grimes	Tammy Randle
Joan Brannan	Beth Hartner	Kathryn Rosewag
Hilda Cashell	Sherri Hendrix	Tom Ryan
Dolores Cashman	Larry Jewstein	Gerry Shaw
Sam Citrano	Eileen Kingsley-Hamm	Lisa Marie Stovall
Daniel Comeaux	Kathy Knouff	Matthew Sussan
Don Conrad	Louise Koontz	Robert Thommen
Richard Durant	Alexandra Lindsay	Roberta Wilhelm
Nancy Endsley	Peter Marin	Charlotte Williams
Bob Fleischacker	Lee Morin	John Williams
Sally Fleshman	Charles O'Donnell, Sr.	Marie Wnuk
Good Friend of the DeJames Family		



Dear Parishioners,

This Monday (December 8<sup>th</sup>) is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception!** Under this title, Mary is the patroness of the United States. This feast is an opportunity for us to honor Mary who was conceived without sin and who lived her whole life in perfect imitation of her Son. It is also an opportunity for us to pray for our beloved nation. It seems that more than ever now is the time to pray for our country and those who serve to protect her. The Mass schedule for this feast is listed elsewhere in this bulletin.

On Tuesday (December 9<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30pm in the church we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** communally. We are fortunate to have 12 priests as Confessors who will assist us in this important sacrament. I strongly encourage you to join as a community in receiving this incredible gift of God's forgiveness.

Our **Christmas Concert** is scheduled for next Sunday (December 14<sup>th</sup>) at 4pm. This concert is a marvelous opportunity to spiritually prepare for the Birth of Christ and to get into the Christmas spirit. It is open to the public so please feel free to invite family, friends or neighbors to share in this uplifting professional musical celebration of Christ's birth. It is always a joy to see so many attend this wonderful evening.

Monsignor Luca

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*"I am indeed rich, since my income is superior to my expense, and my expense is equal to my wishes."*  
Edward Gibbon (1737-1794) English Historian and Writer

**PARISH MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

Mass of Anointing	Sunday, December 7	Church	4:00 PM
Novena	Monday, December 8	Chapel	7:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal	Monday, December 8	Room 305, Church	8:00 PM
J.O.Y.S. Game Nite	Tuesday, December 9	Social Hall	7:00 PM
Catechism	Tuesday, December 9	Room 301, 302, 303	7:00 PM
Parish Reconciliation Service	Tuesday, December 9	Church	7:30 PM
Mother's Play Group	Wednesday, December 10	Room 302	9:30 AM
STAND	Wednesday, December 10	Social Hall	2:30 PM
CYM 5-Week Speaker Series	Wednesday, December 10	Howard Bishop A, B, C	7:30 PM
First Reconciliation	Wednesday, December 10	Church	7:00 PM
Young Adult Bible Study	Wednesday, December 10	Room 303	7:30 PM
Prayer Group	Wednesday, December 10	Room 306	8:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal	Thursday, December 11	Room 305, Church	8:00 PM
Middle School Dance	Friday, December 12	Gym	7:00 PM
SLYA Holy Hour	Friday, December 12	Chapel	7:00 PM

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Monday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 7:00am; 9:30am (School Mass); 12 Noon and 5:00pm. As the Patroness of our country, we honor Mary, our Blessed Mother, and pray for our nation.

**COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**

This Tuesday (**December 9<sup>th</sup>**) in the church at 7:30pm we will communally celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After a brief period of communal preparation, twelve priests will be in attendance to enable us to personally receive this sacrament of God's loving kindness and forgiveness. This is truly an excellent way to prepare our hearts for the coming feast of Christ's birth. Come experience the peace that only the Lord can give!

# ST. LOUIS PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>-Retired Religious Fund  
December 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>-Building Fund

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Advent is the perfect time to examine how well we make use of the abundant gifts which we have received from God. "If we truly have the spirit of stewardship we will not let God's gifts go to waste, and we will not selfishly cling to them but use them generously to serve others. That is the point of stewardship.

## SOME OF THE GOOD DEEDS

### OUR CHILDREN OFFERED TO GOD THIS WEEK

Helping my sister; Being a good helper; Loving others; Helped mom clean the house; Helped mom fold laundry; Helping in the yard when I didn't have to; I helped mom and dad clean the house; Gave a friend my toy when hers broke; Played nicely with my sister; Helped my mom watch my sister; Pulled wire fences out of the ground so the animals won't get hurt; Made breakfast for my family; Helped clean the garage; Giving Bobby paper for his banner; Made a special present for Grandpa; Helped Grandma make pancakes; Washed the dishes; Took my dog for a walk.

## HOWARD COUNTY HOSPITAL CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

In order to better serve Catholic patients at Howard County General Hospital, the Catholic parishes in Howard County are sponsoring a priest to offer pastoral care to patients at the hospital—especially in times of emergency. **Father Edward Szymanski** will be the first priest called in cases of emergency. In a day of more Catholics and fewer priests, Saint Louis is happy to sponsor this effort to provide priestly care for Catholic patients.

## PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Our departed friends and loved ones: Lilliane Ademac, grandmother of Linda Soule and great-grandmother of Elizabeth and Amanda; Lorna Fortwengler, mother of Jane Ponton and grandmother of Brendan, Annie and Julia.

## ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers used to decorate our church sanctuary are available to honor a loved one who is living or deceased. The flowers may also be used as an expression of gratitude to God on special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays or other significant events. In addition to placing flowers at the Altar in loving memory of someone, you may also acknowledge loved ones, with flowers at the other shrines in our new church. Flowers for the Shrine of St. Louis, Shrine of St. Joseph or the Blessed Mother are \$50 each; Pieta is \$75; Altar Flowers are \$75. Arrangements may be made by calling the parish office (410-531-6040) Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm. All who are honored will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

For your convenience the Parish Office is open Monday thru Friday from 9am-8:30pm, Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday 9am-3pm. The office is closed weekdays from 12:30pm-1:30pm for lunch. The entrance to the Parish Office is located along the right side of the front entrance to the church.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Next weekend, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Monsignor Luca and Father Sorra.

## CHURCH LINENS

Today by Ms. Fleshman & on December 14<sup>th</sup> by Ms. Flynn.

## PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM?

Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Parents must participate in a Baptism Preparation Session before the Baptism date is set.
- The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held on Wednesday, January 14th in Room 301 of the Pastoral Center from 7:15pm to 9:15pm.
- Please register for a session by calling the Parish office at 410-531-6040.
- One godparent must be a practicing Roman Catholic, verified by the godparent's parish.
- Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Louis for at least 6 months.

## RECENT BAPTISMS AT ST. LOUIS

**Rocco Thomas Falcone,**

child of Michael and April (Carroll) Falcone

**Jennifer Marie Garippa**

child of James and Angela (Comberiate) Garippa III

**Emily Katherine Knouff,**

child of James and Katherine (Mauser) Knouff

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Please continue to remember the following soldiers in your prayers:

Cpl. Dan Haack, Cpt. Joseph McDonald, Spc. Curtis Campbell, Cpt. Brendan Gallagher, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matthew Middleton, PFC Joseph Henry, Lt. John Ryan, Capt. Steven Cooper, Capt. Amy Cooper, Lt. Denise Reccardi and Col. Lee dePersia.

Their pictures and mailing addresses are on the board in the Narthex so you can put a name with a face in your prayers. Please do bring any pictures and addresses of your family members in the military to the parish office for inclusion in the bulletin and on the prayer board.

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

If you wish to participate in lighting the Advent Wreath at the beginning of Mass and take up the Offertory Gifts during the Sundays of Advent, please come to the information table in the Narthex and sign up for a Mass. We have written instructions on what to do and when, and we can help with any questions you have to make it easy. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season, and a good way to get children involved! Thanks so much for your help.

## CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN

The Children's Liturgy for Christmas is now being planned. Children participate in the Mass as readers, ushers, gift bearers and dramatization of the gospel. Sign up forms went home with the children in grades 2-5. We also need your help to make this a success, so if you would like to get involved with the children of the parish or if your child would like to participate and you did not receive a form, please contact Joyce Moore at [jamoore6@verizon.net](mailto:jamoore6@verizon.net).

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

All girls and boys in grades 1 through 8 are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. The purpose of this contest is to teach our children that Christmas is not just a day of giving and receiving gifts, but a special day of love and peace because of God's gift to the world—the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. For the full set of poster contest rules, please pick up a brochure in the Narthex of Church after Mass or visit the web-site <http://www.kc11898.com> and click on the Keep Christ in Christmas link.

## BISHOPS APPROVE BLESSING FOR CHILD IN WOMB

The U.S. bishops approved the Order for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb for use in the diocese of the United States with a 223-1 vote November 11, at their General Assembly in Baltimore. The Blessing of a Child in the Womb was prepared by the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities after receiving requests from dioceses for such a blessing and not finding an existing blessing for a newly conceived child. In March, 2008 a blessing was prepared and submitted to the Committee on Divine Worship. The proposed blessing is distinct from the Blessing of Parents before Childbirth found in the Book of Blessings.

## "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" CAR MAGNETS ON SALE

As a way, to keep the focus of the season on the true meaning of Christmas...Jesus Christ, the Knights of Columbus will be offering car magnets in the shape of a Nativity Scene, with the words "Keep Christ in Christmas." They will be available in the narthex after all Masses in Advent for a nominal cost of \$5.

## PARISH INFORMATION TABLE

The Parish Information Table Ministry needs a few volunteers to help out at the table for about 15 minutes after each Mass on weekends, particularly after the Sunday 12:45 Mass. For more information about how you can become part of this important parish ministry, please contact Chris Long, at [kkmmc@verizon.net](mailto:kkmmc@verizon.net).

## HAITI SNIPPETS

We would like to send out a huge thank you to the Western Howard County soccer club, Maureen Turney, and Leah Healey! Under the guidance of Maureen & Leah, the WHC collected 528 soccer jerseys, 410 shorts, and 10 to 15 soccer balls for the children at St. John's School. The effort of the soccer club will definitely bring a smile to many children whose lives were so affected by the storms earlier this year. Thank you WHC, Maureen, & Leah!

Please pray for structural engineer, Larry Newman, electrical engineer Dick Ogan, and Dr. Bob Brill who will be traveling to Gonaive, Haiti December 10th! Mr. Newman and Mr. Ogan will be assessing the damage done at the school and Dr. Brill plans to assess the medical needs of the children.



## FOOD DRIVE THIS WEEKEND

This week is our food collection weekend. We will be sorting food in the narthex of the Church at 6:30pm. We can always use help. With a good crew we are finished well within an hour. Sorting food is fun and easy and for parishioners of all ages. Please join us.

### ST. LOUIS GARDEN CLUB WINTER GARDEN WALK

The Garden Club will be visiting Brookside Gardens' Garden of Lights, on the evening of **December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Non-members, spouses and friends are welcome. In addition to the festive light show, there is a winter display of holiday poinsettias, flowering plants and evergreens in the Conservatory with a garden railway train traveling throughout the colorful landscape. Local musicians will also perform in the Visitor Center. The bus will leave the St. Louis Church parking lot at 6:30pm and will return at approximately 10 pm. The cost is \$24 for bus and admission fee. For further info and to sign up please call Merritt Kenney at 410-531-2037.

### WELCOME SESSION & PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new or nearly new to the parish, please plan to join us next Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, for our New Parishioner Welcoming Program. In order to REGISTER and officially join our parish family we invite you to attend. We will meet Sunday afternoon from 12:30pm-1:30pm in the Social Hall of the Pastoral Center. All family members welcome!

### PARISH TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Less than 10 seats remain for the **December 13<sup>th</sup>** trip to New York City. Tickets are \$60 (trip only), \$160 (includes Rockettes Radio City Christmas Show ticket). Contact Mary Helfrich at [MHelfrich@Gmail.com](mailto:MHelfrich@Gmail.com) or 410-241-0985 to reserve your seat!

### HOLIDAY MILITARY MINISTRY PROJECT

While last year's project to support our military was an overwhelming success, it was a somewhat daunting task to get sorted and mailed all the fruits of the parish's generosity for those who are serving and cannot be home with their families during the holiday. This year, with some research, and talking with some knowledgeable folks, the suggestion was made that our military brothers and sisters would appreciate more gift certificates from brand name stores so they could do their own shopping. The USO has recommended gift certificates in denominations of \$25.00 and above from any brand name store such as Target, Best Buy, Sears, Penney's, Wal-Mart, Giant, Safeway, Major Restaurant and Hotel Chains such as Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn, Howard Johnson, Hyatt, Macaroni Grill, Pizza Hut.... you get the idea...if it is a major chain world wide, it's fair game. Starting next weekend until the Saturday before Christmas St Louis will be collecting these gift cards. The USO will handle the distribution of any contributions we are able to make.

If you would like to participate in this holiday military ministry project, you can simply deposit your gift cards in the regular collection basket. All cards received in the collection basket will be used for this purpose. If you would like your contribution recorded place the gift card in your church envelope and it will be added to your giving record. Recognizing that this is a difficult time for everyone economically, our soldiers will appreciate any contribution you are able to make. If you have questions or need further information call Pat Mayes at 301-854-3004. God bless you and your kindness.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS DINNER

The St. Louis Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Christmas dinner at 7:30pm on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at the Crab Shanty restaurant in Ellicott City. Knights and their wives or special friend are invited. The cost of the sit-down dinner is \$38/person and it includes tax and gratuity. Reservation and payment is due no later than November 30th. For more info or to sign up contact David Stephan at 410-997-8687 or Bob Schremp at 301-854-3972.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

St. Louis Church Concert Series presents Lessons and Carols and Songs of the Season, a Christmas concert on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 4pm in the church. Featuring soprano Jessica Marie Stecklein, bass Christopher Douglas Rhodovi, the Monumental Brass Quintet, the St. Louis Choir, and the St. Louis School Middle School Chorus. No tickets required; free will donation. Dessert reception to follow concert in the Social Hall. For more information, call Donna Douglass at 443-535-8929.

### CD TITLE OF THE WEEK

#### The Body and Blood of Christ - Dr. Scott Hahn

A former Presbyterian minister, Dr. Scott Hahn was once a militant opponent of the Catholic Church. In this informative presentation, he provides the biblical basis for the Church's teaching on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the significance of the Feast of Corpus Christi, and gives us a greater understanding of our vocation to be the living presence of Christ in the world.

- "This is an excellent tool for catechesis! I am using it in the 'Why Catholic?' program." Joe - Huntley, IL
- "Dr. Hahn explains the foundation and significance of the Feast of Corpus Christi and how we are all a part of the Body of Christ." Megan - Norwalk, CT

Look for this inspirational CD in the Kiosk in the Narthex. A contribution of \$3/CD and \$0.50/brochure is requested.

## FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you like to sing? We are now searching for a few additional willing and able singers to cantor at Mass - especially Saturday evening at 4:00pm and 5:30pm. Please contact Paul Carroll at [pcarroll@stlouisparrish.org](mailto:pcarroll@stlouisparrish.org) or the Parish Office for more information.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

On **December 10<sup>th</sup>**, about 170 of our children will celebrate the gift of God's mercy & reconciliation in the sacrament of Penance for the very first time. We ask that you remember these children with this blessing as they journey through their preparation...

#### Blessing for our Children

Forgiving Father...Creator of all that is good & kind...  
Help these children to be open to the guidance of your Spirit as they learn to live by the light of the Great Commandment. Open their ears, minds, & hearts to the teachings of your Son. Fill them with the Spirit of love, peace, joy, & kindness. Remind them of your constant love for them, and help them to always desire your forgiveness.  
Amen.

## YOUTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

*Sitting, Waiting, Wishing.* Jack Johnson has an older song by this title and it is about a relationship where one person seems to be wishing and waiting for the other's love. Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever waited and hoped for someone to grow in love for you? It's a tough wait, especially if you really care about the other person. It happens all of the time to God.

The invitation has existed since before you and I were born... "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelations 3: 20). Can't just sit there though; we have to listen, then get up and open the door, then dine with Jesus in the Eucharist! This Advent, this time of waiting and wishing can also be a time to let Jesus in more than you ever have before. Take time in silence or pray with others. I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOU!

### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** MS CYM Youth Council from 6-7pm in the Youth Room

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** HS 5 week series "Stereotypes & Labeling" with Tim J & Friends

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** MS Monthly Dance from 7-10pm. Tickets are \$5 and on sale starting 12/1 in the Religious Education Office.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** Live Nativity at Friary! Call Pat to be silent performer!

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** CYM Adopt A Family Wrapping Party at 6:30pm

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** Tentative HS CYM Coffeehouse from 7-10pm

**December 21<sup>st</sup>** Lunches to the Homeless (FILLED!)

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

St. Louis Young Adult Ministry (SLYA) welcomes Catholic young adults (single, married, married with children) ages 18-35, and connects them through a balance of social, service and spiritual events. SLYA is a member of the Howard County Regional Young Adult Ministry. If you would like more information, please contact Kristen Daub ([kdaub@stlouisparrish.org](mailto:kdaub@stlouisparrish.org)) or Lora Atkinson ([seekingtruth03@yahoo.com](mailto:seekingtruth03@yahoo.com)).

**December 12<sup>th</sup>:** Holy Hour in Chapel with Praise and Worship music at 7:00pm, join us afterwards for food and fellowship.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Advent Day Retreat at Our Lady Center from 9-3. Cost is a good will donation. Please contact Lora Atkinson ([seekingtruth03@yahoo.com](mailto:seekingtruth03@yahoo.com)) for more information and to sign up by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please note:

Bible Studies have stopped for the year. They will start again on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in room 303!

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SHRINE OF ST. ANTHONY

### Recurring Events:

Daily Mass, Monday thru Friday, 12 noon

(Tuesday Mass includes the Novena to St. Anthony)

First Friday Healing Mass, 7:30pm

Third Sunday Healing Mass, 3:00pm

Confession, Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm and Friday, 7:00-8:00pm (except for First Friday of each month)

Daily Evening Prayer, Monday thru Friday, 5pm

### Upcoming Events:

**December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>,** Living Nativity, 7:30pm

Join the Secular Franciscans of St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, members of St. Louis Youth Ministry, and the Conventional Franciscan Friars of the Shrine of St. Anthony in a commemoration of what St. Francis of Assisi did in the little town of Greccio, Italy to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our prayers, Christmas carols, and a living Nativity scene will take place outside in the courtyard. Light refreshments will be provided.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>,** Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 10pm  
Reception to follow in the Papal Dining Room.

Unless otherwise noted, all above events are held at the Shrine of St. Anthony at 12290 Folly Quarter Rd in Ellicott City. For more info call 410-531-2800 or visit [www.companionsofstanthony.org](http://www.companionsofstanthony.org).

## TRAVELERS LOOKING FOR MASS TIMES

To find church locations and Mass schedules nationwide call 1-410-676-6000 or go to [www.MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org).

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES' CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Catholic Charities' Christmas Festival at the Basilica will bring together many friends for a festive occasion to benefit The Jenkins Senior Living Community by helping to build a pavilion on the campus. This year's lively holiday concert, held at 7:30pm on **December 11<sup>th</sup>** includes traditional Christmas music and carols. The Concert Artists of Baltimore and the Cathedral of Mary our Queen Choir will be performing. A coffee, wine and dessert reception will follow at the Catholic Center. All tickets are \$125 and include the reception after the concert. Please call 410-646-6544 for more information and to purchase tickets.

## MINISTERING BY BEING ACTIVELY PRESENT TO OTHERS

Join us for a retreat for those current and "interested" in pastoral visiting on **December 13<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30am-noon at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. Contact Regie Tesk at 301-854-9727.

## CONSIDERING ADOPTION?

Catholic Charities of Baltimore has both International and Domestic Adoption Programs. We work with families of all faiths and couples or singles with or without other children. Our next informational meeting will be held on **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 11 E. Mt. Royal Ave. in Baltimore, 21202. Children visit prospective adoptive families for 4 weeks in late June to mid July so they can all assess if adoption is a good fit with each other, then return to the Philippines while families complete the adoption process if they decide to proceed. For further details or to register for these meetings, please call our office at 410-659-4050.