

The Advent Wreath...

is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. *At this point in time Christianity "Christianized" secular practices...* By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21).

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. *The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life.* Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. *The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ.* The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows: On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: **O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.** He then continues for each of the days of the first week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen." The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

The prayer above will be use as we light our Advent Wreath candles at Mass. For each of the 4 weeks of Advent these prayers will be here for your use at home.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. 5:30pm: for the soul of Mary Diane Cusick at the request of the Conway Family **Sun 9:00am:** for the soul of Gail Lee, Jr. at the request of Shirley Lee
Sun 12:00pm: for all the members of the Parish and the Parish Family

TREASURE STEWARDSHIP:

Offertory: \$ 8,377.50

Our Weekly Average Operational Expense is \$9,000

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

NO Religion Classes TODAY
 (kids or adults)

All classes resume Sun., Dec. 4th



ATTENTION 10TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND PARENTS!

The 10th grade Confirmation **CANDIDATE/PARENT** meeting is Dec. 15th at 7pm in the Youth Group Room. This is a mandatory meeting for all candidates & their parents as we will be discussing the responsibilities for this year as well as the date of Confirmation.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



"PARENT'S NIGHT OUT" is this Friday, Dec. 2nd (6 to 10pm; Parish Hall) Bring your children to us to babysit while you enjoy a date night or get your Christmas shopping done. This is a **FREE** service of St. Anna's Youth Group. Reservations are necessary and due by tomorrow, Nov. 28th. Contact

Mrs. Deb at 770-267-7637 or dfarabaugh@st-annas.com.
Please feed your children dinner before they come.

The Middle School retreat **"COLOR WARS"** was a great success. Many thanks to our High School Youth who put this retreat on for our Middle School youth. All had a great time!


Check out St. Anna's web site for more pictures of the retreat!



The next **WYN (Wednesday Youth Night)** is Wed., December 14th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join us for some Advent fun!




Welcome our newest
Parishioner:
Jacqueline D'Asta



Advent by Candlelight
Today, Sunday, November 27
At 6:00 pm in Parish Hall


Men's CRHP will meet...the First and the Third Mondays of the month at 6:00 PM in the school of religion. The next two meetings dates are Nov. 21 and Dec. 5...Bring your workbooks.

St. Anna's
Christmas Craft
Bazaar is next weekend
Dec. 3rd & 4th
Local hand-crafted gifts
for everyone on your list this year!
VENDORS STILL WELCOME
Contact Krista Willis at 706-296-6448 or
Kathlene Miller at 770-595-4815





St. Anna's Music Ministry invites
All to our Christmas Gala on
Saturday, Dec. 17th at 7:00pm
**"A Musical Journey from
Advent to Christmas"**

As we rejoice this Advent in the coming of the Savior, we can plan how to share that joy with others. As you plan caring for your family when you are gone, remember to include the parish endowment fund in these plans. Create your Catholic Legacy by going to www.cfngalegacy.org and click on Plan Your Will. If you have any questions, please call Juliet Greco at 404-497-9440




Did you know...there are two different mops in the kitchen area. The regular mop is used for wet spills and general mopping. The micro fiber flat mop is used for dried spots on the linoleum in the parish hall and kitchen area only. Don't use the micro fiber mop on the stone tiles! (the stone tiles will be discussed at a later date)...**now you know.**



Nursery Available for Mass

9:00 Mass	12:00 Mass
Nov. 27 - NEED SOMEONE!	Nov. 27 - <i>Joyce Stodghill</i>
Dec. 4- <i>Marianna Tanner</i>	Dec. 4 - <i>Yaricxa Roman</i>

Holy Day of Obligation is Dec. 8th
There will be a Vigil Mass on Wed. Dec. 7th at 6:30pm and Mass on Thursday, Dec. 8th at 12:15



Send your Bulletin items to Secretary@st-annas.com
December 18th bulletin is due : Thursday, Dec. 8


save the date
What: St. Anna's Ministry Fair
When: January 14-15, 2017 After all Masses
Where: Parish Hall
Why: Because: "Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the varied grace of God". 1 Peter 4:10-11

Hockey tickets on sale by the K of C 4th Degree for the Atlanta Gladiator's game Sat. Jan. 21st. Tickets are \$20 Tailgate @5pm; Game @7pm. Contact Don Williams at 770-639-3305 for details and tickets.

Congratulations to St. Anna's...

FAMILY of the YEAR!

Richard + Connie + Eric ODUM
(and son Austin - not shown)
from CRHP to Eagle Scouts to photography to Nicaragua and much more!




The 2nd Annual Winter Gala Dinner & Dance
After the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, February 11th



Meeting times for the week:

- OLPH - Every Mon. @ 4:30pm (108)
- Women's CHRPH - Every Mon. @ 6:30pm (108)
- Centering Prayer - Every Mon. @ 7pm (Chpl)
- RCIA/RCIC - Canceled this week
- Women's Bible Study - Every Wed. @ 10am (105)
- Choir Rehearsal - Wed. 11/30 @ 7pm
- K of C Bus. Mtg - Thurs. 12/1 @ 7pm (PH)
- Adoration - Every Fri. @ 6am-12pm (Chpl)
- 1st Saturday Rosary - Sat. 12/3 @ 5pm

WEEKLY READINGS - Nov. 27th thru Dec. 3rd
Saturday: Confessions begin at 4 PM



Sunday: Is 2:1-5. / Ps 122(121):1--9/ Rm 13:11-14. / Mt 24:37-44.
Monday: Is 4:2-6. / Ps 122(121):1-2.3-4a.4b-5.6-7.8-9. / Mt 8:5-11.
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10. / Ps 72(71):1-2.7-8.12-13.17. / Lk 10:21-24.
Wednesday: Rm 10:9-18. / Ps 19(18):8-11. / Mt 4:18-22.
Thursday: Is 26:1-6. / Ps 118(117):1.8-9.19-21.25-27a. / Mt 7:21.24-27.
Friday: Is 29:17-24. / Ps 27(26):1.4.13-14. / Mt 9:27-31.
Saturday: Is 30:19-21.23-26. / Ps 147(146):1-6. / Mt 9:35-38.10:1.6-8.