

# GAUDETE = JOY

Our Lord kept his promise: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (Jn 15:11). Like "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Phil 4:7), the fullness of joy transcends the ordinary experience of happiness and may not even fit the common expectation of pure happiness. The women at the empty tomb were "fearful but overjoyed" (Matt: 28:8). As the "fullness of joy" is an anticipation of heaven, it will inevitably involve certain tension, so long as we are in time and space. To "burst with joy" or to "weep for joy" expresses the agony of ecstasy — the price paid for encountering perfection in an imperfect world. But in heaven there is no conflict or contradiction, no exasperation at not being able to contain joy.

The culminating evidence of sanctity is a joy that is not of this world. Saints always suffer in various ways as a consequence of their heroic virtue, which pits them against the "wickedness and snares of the Devil," but there is no such thing as a sad saint. The saints are proof of the existence of God and his mercy by their very lives, which are testimonies greater even than miracles or the logic of natural theology. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the Church rejoiced and recognized by infallibly the holiness of St John XXIII and St John Paul II. These are the first popes to be canonized since St. Pius X (d. 1914) and was enrolled in the calendar of saints in 1954.

Every saint is different in personality and in ways of serving the Lord, and for that reason certain ones will strike a sympathetic chord more readily than others. Some would have been easy to live with, and others decidedly difficult, but failure to rejoice in their sanctity is a judgment against us rather than against them. There is a line no less perceptible for having been mistakenly attributed to Plato: "We can easily forgive the child who is afraid of the dark, but the real tragedy is the adult who is afraid of the light." Sanctifying grace enables the Light of Christ to shine not on, but through souls. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

**3rd WEEK of ADVENT:** father prays:  
**O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of the visitation. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.**" (mother then lights the 2 previously lit purple candles plus rose candle)

**MASS INTENTIONS** Sat. 5:30pm for the repose of the soul of Mary Diane Cusick as requested by Ed & Carol O'leary. **Sun 9:00am** for the soul of Bob Criss as requested by his family **Sun 12Pm** for everyone who worship with us at St. Anna's.

**TREASURE STEWARDSHIP:**  
 Offertory: \$ 9,809.50

*Christmas Day is on Sunday the 25th this year which is a cause for JOY for stressed out priests! It is also a cause for concern as the Christmas Mass schedule is 4 Masses less (plus 2 less the following weekend) than it would be otherwise. That is 6 collections forgone—so if you can put a little extra in the basket those weekends*

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**"GOD AND COFFEE"**  
 resumes today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
 in the Parish Hall.  
 Join us for coffee and good Catholic conversation.



**FAITH FACTORY TEE SHIRTS** should be in this weekend. If you ordered a tee shirt, stop by the Parish Hall after Mass to pick up your shirt(s). They are in alphabetical order on the table right inside of the Parish Hall. If you still owe for your tee shirt, please see Mrs. Deb or Mrs. Delilah to pay for it. Thank you.

The **10TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE/PARENT** meeting is this Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. **in the church**. This meeting is mandatory for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to be confirmed in the spring of 2017.



Any adult over the age of 18 who wishes to work with, chaperone or volunteer with the children and youth of St. Anna's, must take the Archdiocese **VIRTUS Protecting God's Children** class. This includes volunteers for Summer Days, youth group, Life Teen and any other program/activity involving children. The VIRTUS Protecting God's Children class will be held at St. Anna's on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. You must register for this class at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Registrations are being accepted now. If you have questions, contact Deb Farabaugh at [www.dfarabaugh](http://www.dfarabaugh)

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

**YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** is this Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm during our usual WYN night. Please bring a snack to share, a bottle of soda & a \$10.00 gift (boy/boy or girl/girl) for a gift exchange. Come and enjoy some Christmas merriment with other youth of St. Anna's.



# Welcome

**ACES** (Active, Catholic, Enthusiastic, Senior)

Christmas Luncheon is Friday, Dec. 16, 2016  
Following 12:15 Mass in the Parish Hall.  
\$5/Person. Please bring Wrapped White Elephant



**Baskets of Cheer:** Tickets will be on sale the weekend Dec. 17th & 18th after Mass in the Narthex. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10

**"A Musical Journey from Advent to Christmas"**  
Saturday, Dec. 17th at 7:00pm  
Presented by our Music Ministry



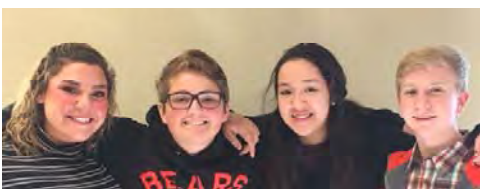
Please join us on **Dec 17, at 8 a.m.**, location TBD, in Monroe, to deliver meals for the Empty Stocking Drive. The food will already be boxed up and ready to be

delivered. So we make sure we have enough volunteers and to get updated information, please email Darice Jones at [daricebj@aol.com](mailto:daricebj@aol.com) to RSVP

**Hockey tickets** on sale by the K of C 4th\* for the Atlanta Gladiator's game Sat. Jan. 21st. Tickets are \$20 Tailgate @5pm; Game @7pm. Contact Don Williams at 770-639-3305 to buy tickets. These will not be on sale in the Narthex, you must call to buy tickets.



Congratulations to our 2017 Nicaragua missionaries. AnnaBelle Graham, Duncan Jourdan, Ami Willis, and Hunter McElveen.



Please keep them and the people they will be serving in your prayers.

**Did you know...**the Toilet paper dispensers in the bathroom stalls hold two rolls of paper. When the bottom roller is depleted the upper roll drops to be accessible. The bottom roll should be used completely before the top one is used. By the way...this is the only paper to be flushed down the toilet...**now you know.**

## Nursery

Available for Mass

9:00 Mass

12:00 Mass

Dec. 11 - **NEED SOMEONE!**

Dec. 11 - *Meagan Xydias*

Dec. 18 - **NEED SOMEONE!**

Dec. 18 - *Joyce Stodghill*

Send your Bulletin items to [Secretary@st-annas.com](mailto:Secretary@st-annas.com)  
December 25th bulletin is due : Wednesday, Dec. 14

Jesse Tree Gifts are due at the church by noon on Thursday, December, 15th.  
Thank you in Advance for all you gave!



On January 14-15, 2017 we celebrate our **Ministry Fair** at St. Anna's Parish. Tables and sign-up sheets for each ministry will be in the parish hall after all Masses. There are many talented parishioners in our parish who can share their talents and participate in the life of the parish. A representative from each ministry will be available to answer your questions. Please take the first step and join us after all Masses on, January 14-15. Pray about it and "Come to the Fair."



The Church office will be closed on Friday 12/23/16

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



**My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!** Isaiah 61:10  
As we rejoice this Advent in the coming of the Savior, we can plan how to share that joy with others. Now there is a simple way to plan your Will online. 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](http://www.cfngalegacy.org) and click on Plan Your Will. If you have any questions, please call Juliet Greco at The Catholic Foundation, 404-497-9440 or email [jgreco@cfnga.org](mailto:jgreco@cfnga.org)

### Meeting times for the week:

- OLPH - Every Mon. @ 4:30pm (103)
- Women's CRHP - Every Mon. @ 6:30pm (108)
- Centering Prayer - Every Mon. @ 7pm (Chpl)
- RCIA/RCIC - Every Tues. @ 7:15 pm (107/8)
- Parish Bible Study - Every Wed. @ 10am (105)
- Adoration - Every Fri. @ 6am-12pm (Chpl)



**WEEKLY READINGS - Dec. 11 thru Dec. 17**  
Saturday: Confessions begin at 4 PM

- Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 (7)
- Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 ,Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** IIs 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15..11-12/Lk 1:26-38.
- Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36
- Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17