

ADVENT symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during Advent

O come, O come, Emmanuel,/And ransom captive Israel,/That mourns in lonely exile here/Until the Son of God appears./Rejoice! Rejoice!/Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through Dec 16th) look forward to Christ’s second coming, and the last two Sundays (Dec. 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ’s first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ’s return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about announcements of Christ’s arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

Advent is a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ’s birth, it is more. It’s in Advent’s shadow that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated; and it is only in the light of Christmas that our Christian life makes sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ’s 1st coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his 2nd coming that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. Faith knows for whom and what it is waiting. It’s fulfilled faith for it hold to the fulfilled promise.” The promise for Israel and the church is Jesus has come, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.

FOURTH WEEK of ADVENT: the father prays: **O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.”** (The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath.)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5:30pm for the repose of the soul of Donald Kircher requested by Ed & Carol O’leary.

Sun 9:00am for the soul of Porky DeProspero as requested by his wife Dolly and family

Sun 12:00pm for all who worship here at St. Anna’s.

TREASURE STEWARDSHIP:

Offertory: \$ to be announced

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 it’d be truly appreciated :)

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

There is **NO CLASS** for the students in the School of Religion for the next two weeks; Sun. Dec. 25th and January 1st. Classes resume on Sun., Jan 8th. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our families.



On Sunday, January 8th our 10th grade Confirmation candidates will begin meeting with David Smith for their immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students will meet in rooms 102/103. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The

youth group class will return to the youth group room (room 101) beginning that Sunday.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

There will be **NO WYN (Wednesday Youth Night)** on Wed., December 28th. The next WYN will be on Wed., January 11th.



Christmas Eve
Saturday, Dec. 24th
Vigil Masses are
4pm, 6pm, & Midnight

Christmas Day
Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10 am

Please sign up in the Narthex this weekend to serve as a liturgical ministry for these Masses



Everyone is welcome to join us on Thursday, Dec. 22nd after the 12:15 Mass to decorate St. Anna's Sanctuary for Christmas. The more the Merrier for this Special Time.

Send your Bulletin items to Secretary@st-annas.com
January 1st bulletin is due : Tuesday, Dec. 20



Please join us in the parish hall, January 14-15 2017, following all Masses, as we embrace Stewardship as a way of life in our parish. Take a few moments to see the various ministry opportunities that are available at Saint Anna's Parish. **"If anyone would serve me," Jesus says in the Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be."** In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me? How can I give back?

Ministry Fair

Lay Carmelites will meet on Sunday, Dec. 18th after the noon Mass and on Tuesday, Dec. 20th after the 12:15 mass. Join us if you wish!

ADORATION: Every Friday from 6am-12:15pm someone is in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the CHAPEL: Come and adore! Would you spend a set hour with Him every Fri-



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



Baskets of Cheer: Tickets are on sale this weekend after all Masses in the Narthex. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. Winner will be announced after Christmas.

The 2nd Annual Winter Gala Dinner & Dance
After the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Feb. 11th. We will have a sit down dinner along with a live dance band performing.



Thank You to the Music Ministry for the wonderful "Musical Journey from Advent to Christmas"

Gifts of IRAs to the parish endowment fund to lower income before year end: The IRA Charitable Rollover is permanent. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift directly from your IRA account to help support the work of your church and benefit from lowering your income and taxes. Please contact Juliet Greco at the Catholic Foundation for more information: jgreco@cfnga.org or 404-497-9440.



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.



Please look through the lost and found basket beside the prayer intention book in the Narthex and claim your items... They miss you!



Did you know...The various tables throughout the church (mainly the Parish hall and Education Bldg) if pushed against the wall eventually leave a mark. The mark left cannot be removed easily. Unfortunately touching up with paint looks bad too. This goes for things other than tables. Look, for examples at the trash cans in the Parish Hall to see marks left. LEAVE A GAP!...now you know.

Meeting times for the week:
OLPH - Every Mon. @ 4:30pm (103)
Men's CRHP - Mon. 12/19 @ 6pm (101)
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 - Canceled 12/21
Parish Council - Wed 12/21 @ 7pm (105)
Rosary Makers - Thurs. 12/22 @ 7pm (101)
KofC Coun. Plan. Mtg - Thurs. 12/22 @ 7pm (PH)
Adoration - Every Fri. @ 6am-12pm (Chpl)



WEEKLY READINGS - Dec. 18 thru Dec. 24
Saturday: Confessions begin at 4 PM

Sunday: Is 7:10-14. / Ps 24(23):1-2.3-4ab.5-6. / Rm 1:1-7. / Mt 1:18-24.
Monday: Judges 13:2-7.24-25a. / Ps 71(70):3-4a.5-6ab.16-17. / Lk 1:5-25.
Tuesday: s 7:10-14. / Ps 24(23):1-2.3-4ab.5-6. / Lk 1:26-38.
Wednesday: Song 2:8-14. / Ps 33(32):2-3.11-12.20-21. / Lk 1:39-45.
Thursday: 1 Sam. 1:24-28. / 1 Sam. 2:1.4-5.6-7.8abcd. / Lk 1:46-56.
Friday: Malachi 3:1-4.23-24. / Ps 25(24):4-5ab.8-9.10.14. / Lk 1:57-66.
Saturday: Is 9:1-6. / Ps 96(95):1-2a.2b-3.11-12.13. / Titus 2:11-14. / Lk 2:1-

Nursery Available for Mass
9:00 Mass 12:00 Mass
Dec. 18 - NEED SOMEONE! Dec. 18 - Joyce Stodghill
Dec. 25 - Marianna Tanner Dec. 25 - Yaricxa Roman