

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2017

The Good Shepherd and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

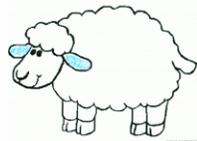
Theresa DiMeo and Tracy Zlock have been busy preparing their second grade PSR students for their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 2nd. At their October Rite of Enrollment, the children received a cloth cutout of a sheep. After going to Confession for the first time, each child will carry a sheep, bearing their name, to put on the large Good Shepherd banner hanging in church.

Children love the story of the Good Shepherd (John 10). They can easily identify with the sheep being called by name. This Scripture speaks to their fundamental need to be loved and cared for by Jesus. Shepherd-like loving care builds spiritual trust in their young lives. This trust is essential as they confess their sins for the first time.

There is a story here for us as well. As you might have guessed, Jesus was not really talking about sheep. He was talking about you and me. Just as a shepherd kept watch over his sheep and protected them from danger, so Jesus stands watch over us, patiently waiting on us, as the Shepherd of our souls. He knows how tempting things of this world can be, to the point where we may stray. How comforting it is to know that we have a friend in One who is patiently and lovingly watching over us to ensure our safety and protection from the allurements of this world.

And thank you, dear parishioners, for keeping our second graders in your prayers as they follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd to their First Reconciliation.

We are never too old to put our name here.



Patricia Freedman, DRE

A combined Penance Service for Churches in our Deanery will be held at Holy Cross in Dover on December 18th at 7 pm.

Today's Solemnity (Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe) starts the last week of Ordinary Time before the Church begins her new Liturgical Year with the Advent Season on Sunday, December 3rd.

The Advent Season is a time of preparation of our hearts and lives by focusing on the heart of Christmas – the Birth of Jesus.

Please join us on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd following the 10:30 am Mass, for the dedication of the new statue of St. Polycarp.

There will be an Agape on Sunday, December 3rd, after the 10:30 am Mass in the Hall.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24th is both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.

*Masses for the 4th Sunday in Advent:
Saturday, December 23rd at 4 pm
Sunday, December 24th at 10:30 am.*



*Christmas Masses:
Sunday, December 24th at 4 pm and 9 pm
Monday, December 25th at 10 am.*

Friday, December 1st - First Friday of the month.
Mass at 8:30 followed by the **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Devotions to the Sacred Heart.**

Saturday, December 2nd - First Saturday of the Month.
Mass at 8:30 followed by praying the **Novena to the Miraculous Medal.**

The **Delaware State Troopers Memorial Service** will be held at St. Polycarp Church on Monday, December 4th.

LET US PRAY



Bread & Wine for the Eucharist are given in prayer for all the leaders of our city, county, and state government.

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church burns in prayer for the poor and homeless in Delaware.

Our Sanctuary Lamp in St. Ann Chapel burns in prayer for our PSR children making their First Reconciliation.



Flowers ordered this weekend are requested by Richard Zikowitz in honor of 64 years of marriage.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Mon. November 27
8:30 Robert H. Smith - Mike & Diane Dillinger

Tues. November 28
8:30 James Butler - Sue & John Pokoiski
9 am – 9 pm Adoration
10:30 DHCI Communion Service

Wed. November 29
8:30 Sharon Foster Lehman - Ed Lehman

Thurs. November 30 *Saint Andrew*
 Charles Robinson Jr. - Deacon & Maureen
7pm Flame of Love Rosary

Fri. December 1 *First Friday*
8:30 Purgatorial Society
9:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart Devotions
3:00 pm Divine Mercy

Sat. December 2 *First Saturday*
8:30 Bernard Hallisky - Tom & Jeanne McElrone
9:00 Novena to the Miraculous Medal
11:00 am First Reconciliation
2:30 pm Confession
4 pm Matthew Orlando - Barbara Dean

Sun. December 3 *First Sunday of Advent*
10:30 am Parishioners

...For our Sick & Deceased

Our Sick ~

Week I Betty Campbell

Week II Sophia Wilson, Bertha Hudson, Deirdre Moor, James Dean

Week III Joseph & Dorothy Eliz, Gordon Hollander, Lucinda Buxton
 Donald & Geraldine Hreha, Michelle Collier

Week IV Samantha Lane, Paul Spirovich, Joe Dugan, Jimmy Callahan, Mary Fullerton, Pat Gibson, Don Watson

Week V Marie Nardone

Week VI Lorraine Macasevich, Maureen Robinson, Helen Armstrong, Brad Ganson, David DeVincentes

Pray For Our Deceased ~

George Kaliyadan, parishioner

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
 And let the perpetual light shine upon them. May the
 souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of
 God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Contact Deacon Mike at Deacon.Mike.Boyd@gmail.com.
 More information is available on our parish website.

LITURGY

LOOKING TO THE LIGHT

Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware – Coat of Arms



The Most Reverend William Francis Malooly is the ninth Bishop of Wilmington. Each bishop has a particular coat of arms.

Symbols:

Lion of Judah who is Christ in Revelations – The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David is in Revelations (5:5). These are the messianic titles applied to Christ to symbolize His victory.

The Crosses of Calvary –

Looking at the three crosses of Calvary, we should learn what our own attitude to our own cross will be and what will result if we (1) reject it as did the bad thief, (2) accept it as the good thief did, or (3) embrace it with Jesus.

Vocation Chalice Ministry

Many Older Catholics remember parish life and schools staffed by an abundance of priests and sisters. But, younger Catholics have grown up with little or no experience of women and men in religious life. These include Generation X, (born 1961 – 1980), and the Millennials, (born 1981 – 2000).

To raise the awareness level of vocations at St. Polycarp Church, a ministry will begin again next week, on the first week of Advent. It consists of a different parishioner each weekend being commissioned to take a Chalice and Paten home with them after Mass. They can place it on their kitchen/dining room tables and during meals do

faith sharing about "Vocations". After the sharing, a different person offers prayers focused on creating a culture of "Vocations" in the home and in the parish.

Since the founding of the parish in 1914, five women have said "Yes" to a call to serve God as nuns. One priest has been ordained, Fr. Mast, in May of 1972.

This 50th anniversary year of the dedication of the church building in May of 1968, is a fitting occasion to re-introduce this new ministry. Hopefully, it will encourage parishioners to get to know our seminarian, Adam Bauer, and to help our young people develop prayer habits, especially discernment, which is an integral part of the faith formation of youth.

Vocation Reflections

In today's first reading, God tells us through the prophet Ezekiel that He will look after and tend His sheep, rescuing them, pasturing them and giving them rest. For the last two thousand years, God has called men to join in that work by serving the Church as priests who lead, nourish, heal and serve His people. If you think God is calling you to the priesthood, or if you know a healthy young man whom you think God might be calling, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, the Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302 - 573 - 3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations/

The Smyrna/Clayton Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to pack orders and/or pick up donations from Wawa. If you can help please contact Patti Tigani at 302-222-4671 or 653-6907 or Brenda Russillo 302-359-8488 for further information.



This week the Smyrna/Clayton Food Pantry is asking for rice, egg noodles, pudding, ready to go soups and beef stew. Please no expired food.



The Giving Trees are in the Hall and at our main entrance. The Giving Tree coordinates the gifts for needy children in our community for Christmas. We work closely with the Smyrna School District and our Parish School of Religion to identify children in need. Each child is asked to request two items. Please purchase at least one of the requests. The gifts should be returned by Friday, December 8th.

HAPPENING In our DIOCESE

"Dignity of the Human Person" – Father Leonard Klein, the Director of Pro-Life Activities for the Diocese, will focus on many questions pertaining to sex, gender, marriage and human life on Saturday, **December 2nd**, after the 5 pm Mass and a pot luck supper, in the St. John the Apostle Parish Hall (506 Seabury Av, Milford, DE). Contact Mary Hall at 491 - 6432 if you are planning to attend.

The **3rd Annual "BEEF 'N BEER"** is on Saturday, **December 2nd**, at 5 pm at **St. Thomas More Academy**. Adults cost \$15.00, ages 6 - 19 cost \$5.00, and children 5 & under are FREE. The Open Beer Bar is \$10.00 extra at the door. www.saintmore.org

The **High School Placement Test** is on December 2nd at 8:00 am or December 3rd at 12:00 pm. Register online at <http://wilmington.stsusers.com>.

Celebrate the start of Advent on **Sunday, December 3rd**, at 2 pm at **St. Francis Xavier Shrine, Old Bohemia** (1699 Bohemia Church Road, Warwick, MD 21912), with an **Old-Fashioned Carol Sing** featuring religious and secular music. Audience participation will be encouraged as the music ministers from St. Joseph Parish, Middletown perform a collection of beloved Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Tours of the historic facility will be available one hour prior to the concert. A free-will offering to the Old Bohemia Historical Society will be collected. For additional information, call Marji (302 - 328 - 4803).

St. John the Baptist-Holy Angels Parish in Newark is sponsoring a **bus trip to the brand new Museum of the Bible** in Washington DC on **Monday, December 4th**. To reserve your space please call Phyllis Edwards (302 - 731 - 8016) or (302 - 731 - 2200). Seating is limited.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Saint Vincent de Paul Society Annual Christmas Turkey Drop-off



On Thursday, December 14th, from 6 pm - 7 pm there will be a Turkey, Ham, Chicken, and Food Gift card DROP OFF in the Church's back parking lot. If you would like to donate to a needy family just drive by and drop it off, no need to get out of the car. The Knights of Columbus will be helping with the collection. Food gift cards (Acme, Food Lion, and Walmart) can be of any denomination but should not be over \$30. During November and December, the cards can also be placed in the Poor Box, located at each entrance of the Church. On Saturday, December 16th, SVdP Vincentians will distribute the donations to the homes we have visited during this year. As of Oct 31st, SVDP has visited 94 families.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped SVDP this year and in the past. With your generosity, I pray we can provide a Christmas meal for the less fortunate families in our community. If you or your family need assistance, please call SVDP (302 - 264 - 6630).

The **Capital Ringers Holiday Classics** will be at the Presbyterian Church of Dover (54 South Street, Dover, DE) on **Sunday, December 10th**, at 7 pm. The suggested donation is \$15 per person while this event is free to children 18 and under. For additional information visit www.capitalringers.org or call 302 - 632 - 1043.



The Junior Board of St. Francis Hospital is sponsoring "**Lights of Love**" to recognize friends and family or to honor the memory of our loved ones. By making a donation of \$10 or more per name, those honored will have their names displayed on a scroll in the hospital lobby. On **Monday, December 18th**, a **Mass** in the Chapel (5th floor) and celebration in the lobby led by the **Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington** will be held in honor of those named. For more information contact susanmclaughlin53@gmail.com.



Christmas Painting Party with Laura Ashby, owner and artist of Painting Parties, LLC on **Thursday, December 14th**, from **7 - 9 pm** in the hall. Laura brings all the supplies and provides step-by-step instructions and guidance. We will be painting the picture you see here! No experience is necessary, but you will leave with a painting. We will supply some light refreshments. A great event for all (ladies and gentlemen) to help put you in the holiday spirit. The cost will be \$35. More details to follow.

STEWARDSHIP

Because this bulletin was printed earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the collection amounts and the 50/50 results were not available. This information will be published in next week's bulletin.

St. Polycarp has partnered with Faith Direct to make it easier for you to be a good steward and to support our parish. Visit www.saintpolycarp.org for a direct link to sign up or to print and fill out a paper enrollment form.

PARISH & FAMILY LIFE



29 days until Christmas
Join us this Thursday,
November 30

Social Media is already reminding us how close Christmas is getting. Do not push panic buttons yet. Breathe deeply and think about a different family plan for Christmas this year. **Fr. Paul Mast will lead a three-hour workshop to help people plan a more rewarding 2017 Christmas season.** Based on the popular book, *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, this workshop helps people reduce their stress and increase their enjoyment by making simple changes in their holiday celebration. Participants will be given a chance to examine their current practices, fine-tune their values, create a fantasy Christmas, and then combine all their insights into a workable plan for the coming holiday season.

The workshop is on **Thursday, November 30th (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm)**. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbor.

A \$10 registration fee will pay for workshop materials. The workshop is limited to 30 participants. Please call the office and register (302 - 653 - 8279) in advance (before November 23rd) so enough materials are available.

This Week In Our Parish

Sun. November 26

NO PSR

10:30 am Children's Liturgy of the Word (Hall)

Mon. November 27

12:30 pm Academy 4's

Tues. November 28

12:30 pm Academy 4's

6:30 pm Social Concerns (Rm. 7)

7:00 pm PSR Grs. 5-8 (Rms. 1-6, 8, & Library)

Wed. November 29

9 am Academy 3's

12:30 pm Academy 4's

Thurs. November 30

9 am Academy 3's

12:30 pm Academy 4's

6:30 pm Unplug The Christmas Machine Workshop (Library)

7 pm RCIA (Hall)

Fri. December 1

9 am Academy 3's

9:15 am Altar Guild I

12:30 pm Academy 4's

Sat. December 2

11 am First Reconciliation (Church)

12 pm First Reconciliation Reception (Hall)

12:30 pm Baptismal Class - *advance registration required* (Library)

2:30 pm Confessions

St. Polycarp T-shirts
&
Cat's Meow Village Shelf Sitter of our Church
Keepsakes



Available for purchase! Order forms are available at the doors of the Church, in the office or visit our website to print the order form. (Go to "Bulletin" - "Commemorative Items".) Questions? Joan O'Drain at 302 - 659 - 5317

St. Polycarp Church 2017 Census

If you have not completed a census, visit our website or call the Parish Office to complete one.