



November 28, 2021

*The Advent season begins today!
Take time to reflect on how you will use the
next four weeks to prepare your heart for
Christmas.*

BREAKFAST WITH JESUS



Please join us for a very special **Agape** next Sunday,
December 5th following the 10:30 am Mass.

Come enjoy "Breakfast with Jesus" and share the
blessings of the season with each other as we await the
coming of our Lord!

A pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus
will be served. There will be photo opportunities for the
children. Hope to see you there!

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A Holy Day of Obligation - December 8

This special joyous day is a Holy Day of Obligation as well
as the patronal feast of the USA. The Immaculate
Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb
of her mother, St. Anne. The dogma of the Immaculate
Conception affirms that, "the Blessed Virgin Mary was
preserved, in the first instant of her conception, by a
singular grace and privilege of God omnipotent, and
because of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the
human race, free from all stain of original sin". (Pope
Pius IX, December 8, 1854)

MASSES FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Polycarp:

Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 8 at 8:30 am

St. Dennis:

Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SODALITY ADVENT RETREAT

ALL ARE INVITED!



Saturday, December 11th

9 am - 1 pm in the Mother Drexel Hall

Please join the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality for an Advent
Retreat on Saturday, December 11th. This retreat is open
to all. Deacon Frank Weber will be the Retreat Master.
Donut holes, coffee, tea and orange juice will be provided
in the morning. Please bring your own lunch.

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, December 20th, at 7 pm

The Deanery Penance Service will be at Holy Cross, Dover
on Monday, December 20th, at 7 pm. Various priests will
be available to hear confessions.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS MASS SCHDEULE



St. Polycarp:

Friday, December 24 at 4 pm

Friday, December 24 at 9 pm

Saturday, December 25 at 10 am

St. Dennis:

Friday, December 24 at 4 pm

Saturday, December 25 at 10 am



FIRST RECONCILIATION PLEASE PRAY . . .

for our five Parish children
who will receive the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
for the first time, next
Saturday, December 4th.

LET US PRAY

WEEKLY INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 27 **Blessed Virgin Mary**
4 pm Bruce Johnston - Rev. Paul Mast

Sunday, November 28
10:30 am Living Intention - Ronald LaSana - Neda Biggs

Monday, November 29
NO MASS

Tuesday, November 30 **St. Andrew, Apostle**
8:30 am Charles Robinson Jr. - Deacon Charlie & Maureen Robinson

Wednesday, December 1
8:30 am Robert H. Smith - Mike & Diane Dellinger

Thursday, December 2
NO MASS

Friday, December 3 **St. Francis Xavier/First Friday**
NO MASS

Saturday, December 4 **St. John Damascene/First Saturday**
4 pm Parishioners

Sunday, December 5 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
10:30 am BVM Sodality

Our Sanctuary Lamp in Church burns in prayer for Terrance Vogel, at the request of The Marvian Family.

Bread & Wine Offerings:

Wednesday, December 1st, in memory of Angelo Cariello, Sr., at the request of Angelo & Teresa Cariello.

We Pray for Our Sick and Those in Need of Our Prayers

To have someone's name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

Jim Walls, Ashley Pratt, Andrew Cella, Jr., Anne Borgman, Peter Borgman, Kaysie Borgman, Louis Terrenzio, Mildred Lux, Lily Griffiths, Rob Miller, Gordon Hollander, Carol Hurst, Ed Stachow, Patty Moon, Christie Moon, Ben Walters, Michelle Dean, Austin & Dylan Dean, Kenny Bullins, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Mariann Pierson, Ron Ivory, Ruth Staub, Jaci Stokes, Jo Rolison, and all those suffering from Covid-19.

We Pray for our Deceased

Eileen Sassman

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer Chain – To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or (302) 653 – 8064.

Rosary by Telephone: Tuesday mornings at 11 am. Contact Jill at (302) 653 - 3836 or jill_mercer@yahoo.com.

Flame of Love Rosary: Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Church.

Divine Mercy: Fridays at 3:00 pm in Church.

LITURGY

Blessings

The *Blessing of Sodalists* will take place next Sunday, December 5th, at the 10:30 am Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The next Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will take place at the 10:30 am Mass next Sunday, December 5th. CLOW takes place on the first and third Sundays of the month. To learn about CLOW, visit

<https://saintpolycarp.org/childrens-liturgy-of-the-word/>

VOCATION CHALICE MINISTRY



Our Holy Father stated: "The first kind of testimony that encourages vocations is prayer." He also states "Our first duty, therefore, is to keep alive in families and in parishes, in movements and in apostolic associations, in religious communities and in all the sectors of

diocesan life this appeal to the divine initiative with unceasing prayer." The vocation chalice is a visible sign to encourage such prayers for vocations and to encourage young people to answer His call to devote their lives to serving God through a Vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life. We are all called to pray for vocations. Call or text Alice Gaston to take home the vocation chalice for a week of prayer, (302) 670-7924.

Family	Weekend	Mass time
Brimson	Dec. 5	10:30
Taylor	Dec. 19	10:30
Ruane	Jan. 2	10:30

Arrive 15 minutes before your mass time and pick up (or drop off) materials in the sacristy.

When one prays for vocations, one learns to look with the wisdom of the Gospel at the world and at the needs of life and the salvation of every human being." (Pope John Paul II)

FLAME OF LOVE - EMBRACE THE CROSS

Love requires sacrifice, and love of Jesus and our neighbor, costs a great deal. We don't realize that we will not be happy until we learn to embrace and love the cross. This is what Jesus did, and what He asks us to do. The cross is hard and cold, like the world; but we can make ourselves soft and warm by carrying it. We are called to love God and others down to the last letter of God's will, even if it means giving our life for Him. Our Lady has given us the rosary to pray. Sacrifice a little of your time in the name of Jesus. Join us on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm, in the church (side door). Pray the Flame of Love devotion with us. Materials will be given to you. Questions? Call Roxanne (leave message) or text. 302-242-6484.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

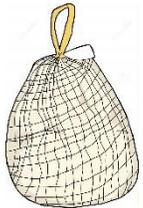


THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree committee works closely with the Smyrna School District and our Parish School of Religion to identify children in need at Christmas. The **Giving Tree** is set up inside the **Main Entrance of the church** with the children's requests. Every child was asked to choose 2 or 3 gifts for their Christmas wish list. Please purchase one of these wish list gifts and return it to the Parish Hall no later than **Dec. 5th**. Your generosity will help to make Christmas extra special this year! **Thank You!**

Questions? Contact Fran Walls at (302) 653 - 1450 or smyrnawalls@gmail.com

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF SAINT POLYCARP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM 2021



Once again, it's time for SVDP's annual Christmas "Turkey Drive" to benefit our neighbors in need. Can you donate a **turkey** or **ham**? **Gift cards** are also greatly appreciated. (\$30 maximum)

DONATIONS You can **drop off** your donation at the **St. Polycarp parking lot on Thursday, December 9th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.**

If you know of anyone who would like to have a turkey, ham, or gift card please call the *Saint Vincent de Paul Society* at 302-264-6630. *Saint Vincent de Paul members will deliver the turkeys and gift cards to peoples' homes on Saturday, December 11, between 9 am and Noon. (Weather permitting.)*

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Polycarp has been distributing turkeys at Christmas for over fifteen years thanks to the generous donations of Parishioners. We are grateful to you.

SMYRNA-CLAYTON MINISTERIUM FOOD PANTRY



We are once again collecting food items for the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium Food Pantry.

Bins for your food donations are in the hallway outside of the Mother Drexel Hall. The pantry is in need of canned beef stew, canned chili, canned pasta, canned soup, and hot and cold cereal. Pop-top lids if available. **The pantry is no longer accepting coupons. Please no expired food.** The pantry is now located at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 22 North Union Street in Smyrna.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Change the World: Become a Catholic!



A few weeks ago, we celebrated All Saints Day, as we recalled those "*living witnesses*" who with joy and peace, show us what living the Catholic life can bring. As witnesses to Christ's love

ourselves, we pray to the saints, asking for their intercession for those who are discerning the call to join in full union with the Catholic Church.

If you know someone who is looking for a new beginning and wants to learn more about the Catholic Church, "**personally invite**" them to our RCIA sessions, taking place at the Parish campus on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm.

The **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is for individuals who are unbaptized, baptized in other faith traditions or Catholic adults wishing to receive Confirmation and Holy Eucharist and seeking full membership in the Catholic Church.

We are all called to share the "Good News" and you can make a difference by simply asking!

Please contact Deacon Frank Weber for more information at DeaconFrank@saintpolycarp.org or leave a message with the Parish office at (302) 653 - 8279.

HAPPENING ELSEWHERE



Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

A Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held on Friday, December 3rd, through Sunday, December 5th. This retreat is for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or associated with someone who is (parent, spouse, friend), there is nothing to fear and so much to gain. For more info contact Nan at (302) 463 - 7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

PREPARING & ADORING WHILE WAITING

St. John the Beloved invites you to a Praise, Worship and Adoration Celebration on Friday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm at St. John the Beloved Church (907 Milltown Road, Wilmington). Enter the heart of Jesus during an evening of music, worship, and adoration. He will be waiting for you. Come to the one who heals, nourishes, satisfies. For more information Contact Sue O'Hanlon; sohanlon@sjbde.org

Ewell's-Saint Paul United Methodist Church presents
 A View-from-Your Car Drive-by Version of
Silent Night, Holy Night
A Live Nativity



Thursday, December 9, Friday, December 10
 & Saturday, December 11
 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Ewell's St. Paul Church, Clayton, Delaware
 Begin at the Providence Creek Academy/First State
 Military Academy entrance just off of Duck Creek Road
 (rt. 15). Guides will be there to direct you. Monetary
 donations for the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium
 Community Outreach will be accepted.

RESERVED PARKING SPOT - THIS COULD BE YOURS

WHAT: Help out the church with this annual fundraiser
 and Parish tradition of putting up a
 parking spot to the highest
 bidder! You will have the reserved
 spot (with your name on it) for one
 year. With the winter weather
 coming, you will want to have that
 close spot for you or loved one
 (maybe as an early Christmas gift.)



WHERE: Back parking lot by the brick wall around the
 HVAC unit, practically right under the portico!

HOW: Please submit your bid amount by **December 1st
 at 3pm** by emailing lisa.titus@saintpolycarp.org with the
 Subject Line: "Parking Spot Bid" or dropping it in the
 collection basket or black drop box under the portico
 labeled "Parking Spot Bid" with your name & phone
 number on it. Besides individual bidders, Parish
 organizations or groups can consider putting in a
 collective bid for your group. All bids **MUST** be in writing.

COLLECTIONS

Figures for this week's collections were unavailable due
 to the early submission dates for the Bulletin. Figures will
 be reported at a later date.

Please consider signing up for eGiving to ensure your
 contributions are received even when you are not here for
 Mass. Recurring, catch up, or one-time gifts (please indicate
 your intention) can be made.
 Visit faith.direct/DE831.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support last week for the
 collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human
 Development! Your generosity supports those on the
 margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you
 missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit
www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to
 Give" under "Resources".

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give in gratitude. A donor to the Retirement Fund for
 Religious writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters
 gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith."
 Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly
 Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.
 Your gift to the December 4/5 second collection helps
 provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

For the most up-to-date information, visit
<https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/>

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 3:00pm

Saturday, November 27 9 am Fall Cleanup- Grounds 12 pm Environment Committee (Church) 2:30 pm Confession (Church) 4 pm MASS
Sunday, November 28 10:30 am MASS
Monday, November 29 6:30 pm RCIA Sessions (Library)
Tuesday, November 30 8:30 am MASS 10 am Adult Faith Formation- Connected in Christ (Hall) 11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone) 7 pm PSR Grades 5-8 (Rooms 3-6, 8, Hall) 7 pm Sacramental Prep. Parent & Child Meeting (Church)
Wednesday, December 1 8:30 am MASS 6 pm Joint Council Christmas Party (Hall/Kitchen)
Thursday, December 2 10 am Seasons of Hope (Library) 6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (Church) 7 pm K of C 3 rd Degree Business Meeting (Hall)
Friday, December 3 3 pm Divine Mercy (Church)
Saturday, December 4 11 am First Reconciliation (Church) 12 pm Environment Committee (Church) 2:30 pm Confession (Church) 3:25 1 st Saturday Rosary - Sodality (Church) 4 pm MASS 4:30 pm Columbiettes Bake Sale (after Mass)

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: NOVEMBER TO JANUARY

Due to early deadlines for submission to our publisher for the
 upcoming holidays, below are the deadlines for submitting
 anything to be published in our bulletin:

BULLETIN DATE	SUBMIT BY NOON
December 12	December 2
December 19	December 7
December 26	December 13
January 2	December 16
January 9	December 30