



December 8, 2019
Second Sunday
of Advent



**Our mission is to invite everyone
into a deeper relationship
with Jesus Christ.**

The Greatest Gift ~ Jesus Christ ~ What are you waiting for?

Brothers and Sisters,

We are in the Season of Advent, a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. We have decorated our church and our homes. We hear beautiful songs of the Silent Night, the Prince of Peace, the Babe in the Manger. Christians around the world are waiting for His coming.

What about non-believers and lapsed-believers; what are they waiting for? Advent, and perhaps Christmas, may have little or no meaning in their lives. For some, this time of year is merely an extended shopping fest. For others, this may be a season of frustration, angst, or sadness. Do you know someone who has stepped away from their Faith, or perhaps never had much experience of relationship with God?

We want everyone to know the Savior, and as believers we are called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are seeking to bring more people to Christianity, not necessarily to Catholicism. Therefore, we decided to offer Alpha as a powerful tool to invite others to know Him. Alpha offers a non-threatening environment with dinner, a video presentation, and discussion. It is a space to join others who may have a similar experience. It is a space to ask the difficult questions, challenge the beliefs and teachings of Christianity, and even explore the very existence of God and Jesus Christ. We want them to ask the questions that have troubled them, to share the doubts they have grappled with, and perhaps open the door to believing in Him.

We invite you to pray over this and discern who the Lord is calling you to invite to our Alpha experience on January 9th. No strings attached. No commitment. No judgment. No cost. Childcare is provided. Ask them to come with you once and decide whether or not to come again. Take your time. Pray for His guidance.

*Heavenly Father, may this Advent Season be a time of preparing my heart and mind for the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As I await His coming this Christmas, reveal to me others who may be waiting for an invitation to honest conversation about You. Who are You calling me to invite to Alpha that we may explore the big questions of faith together?
It is the greatest gift I can give them.*

Write down names that come to mind. Then, extend the gift of an invitation. Two invitation cards were included in the gift envelopes we handed out after all the Masses this weekend. If you did not pick up your gift envelope, or if you would like more invitations please contact the Church Office.

Sincerely, Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions ~ December 9-15, 2019

*Monday @ 10:00 am — Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Rita McDonald (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Frances Hehir (Sp Int)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Beth Barrett (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Risa White (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Mildred Jordan (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Nolan Hughes (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

Contact the Church office to schedule Mass intentions and to add names to our prayer list.

Sacrament of Reconciliation — Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)

Adoration this week: Monday, 8-10 am; Tuesday - Friday, 8 am — 12 pm

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Chris Cox

Rush Sweeney

Chuck & Judy Carr

Repose of the Soul:

Gayle Roberts, brother of Judy Bomgardner

Rosa Giurintano



Altar Flowers this weekend are donated by John McAleese, in memory of Margaret McAleese.
Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by Sofia & Sebastian Quino, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION

Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Monday, December 9th @ 10:00 am only.

Angel Tree Gifts are due by December 14th. Choose an ornament and return your wrapped gift specified on the ornament.

Attach the ornament to the gift to be sure it goes to the correct family. Place gifts under the Angel Trees. Thank you!

Religious Goods Store is going out of business — all items 1/2 off!

Women's Guild Christmas Gathering — Thursday, December 12th, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Family Life Center.

All women are invited to join us for a light meal, and to help sort the Angel Tree gifts and prepare them for delivery.

Parish Reconciliation Service — Monday, Dec 16th @ 6:00 pm We will have several priests available for this Sacrament.

Religious Ed Christmas/New Year Break — No Religious Ed Classes December 18 - January 5th.

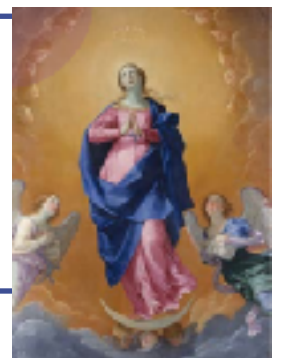
Big Deal Youth Group resumes Wednesday, January 8th; CGS classes resume Sunday, January 12th.

Christmas Mass Schedule — Christmas Eve @ 5:30 pm; Midnight Mass (choral presentation begins @ 11:30 pm);

Christmas Day Mass @ 10:30 am (No Nursery, No Children's Liturgy)

Alpha begins January 9th @ 6:30 pm — Did you pick up your Gift Envelope after Mass? Call the office if you need one!

Immaculate Virgin! Your spotless spiritual beauty is for us a living source of confidence and hope. To have you as Mother, Holy Virgin, reassures us on the path of life as a pledge of eternal salvation. Because of this, O Mary, we have recourse to you with confidence. Help us to build a world where human life is always cherished and defended, every form of violence banished, and the peace of all tenaciously sought.
Amen!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Offertory Collection for November 30 / December 1:

- Regular collection \$25,751.89
- Capital Campaign Collection \$7,099.83
- Retired Religious Collection \$135.00

2nd Collection THIS weekend for Retired Religious.

Church Office information

601-992-9547

office@spaulcc.org

Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8am to 4:00 pm

www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com