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MARK 13:36-37

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"



*St. Andrew Catholic Church
2100 SE Cove Road, Stuart, FL 34997*

Parish Location
 2100 SE Cove Road
 Stuart, FL 34997
 Telephone: 772-781-4415
 Fax: 772-781-2906
Website:
saintandrewcatholic.org

Mass Schedule
 Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
 5:00pm Mariner Sands
 Sunday: 7:30 , 9:00 & 10:30am
 Monday-Friday 7:30am
 Holy Days: Vigil 4:00pm
 Holy Day: 7:30am & 6:00pm

Confession:
 Saturday: 2:30pm
 Those wishing to receive the sacrament should be here at 2:30 or by appointment

First Saturday
 7:30 Mass followed by individual confessions

Eucharistic Adoration
 Mon-Fri. 8:00am-8:00pm
 Saturday: 8:00am-2:00pm

Pastor
 Reverend John Barrow

Retired Assisting Clergy
 Monsignor Blase Gintoli
 Monsignor James Moore

Deacons
 Deacon Richard Venezia
 Deacon Louis Romero

Deaconate Candidates
 Andre Boucher

Office Hours
 Mon. Wed. & Fri. 9:00am-12:00noon
 Saturday 2:30—5:30pm
 Sunday 9:00-12:00noon

Parish Ministries

Religious Education/Youth Activities
 Donna Hernandez

Adult Education (RCIA) & Lectors
 Christine Michaelian

Adoration Chapel
 George & Linda Mekulsia

Servants of the Eucharist & Care of the Sick
 Kathleen Sullivan

Annulments
 John Ginnetti

Men of Saint Andrew & Prayer Shawls
 David Olio & Norma Olio

St. Vincent de Paul Society
 2200 SE Cove Rd., Stuart
 772-286-4411
 by appointment

December 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent

**Mass
 Intentions**



**For the
 week**

Nov. 30	Thurs.	7:30am	Marie Frock +
Nov. 30	Thurs.	6:00pm	Eleanor Leonard +
Dec. 1	Fri.	7:30am	Joseph Oriero +
Dec. 2	Sat.	7:30am	Victor & Jean Wilenta +
Dec. 2	Sat.	4:00pm	Hugo M. Cinalli +
Dec. 3	Sun.	7:30am	Thomas Houlahan +
Dec. 3	Sun.	9:00am	Cathy Gilio Costa +
Dec. 3	Sun.	10:30am	Charles Walgreen III +
Dec. 4	Mon.	7:30am	Baby Boy Blaise +
Dec. 5	Tues.	7:30am	Nicola Rizzi
Dec. 6	Wed.	7:30am	Robby Demerest +
Dec. 7	Thurs.	7:30am	Baby Boy Blaise +
Dec. 7	Thurs.	4:00pm	Walter Lagocki +
Dec. 8	Fri.	7:30am	Phyllis & Tom Cote' (liv)
Dec. 8	Fri.	6:00pm	Thomas A. Herbert +
Dec. 9	Sat.	4:00pm	Richard & Mary Healander +
Dec. 10	Sun.	7:30am	Priests of St. Andrew (liv)
Dec. 10	Sun.	9:00am	Cathy Gilio Costa +
Dec. 10	Sun.	10:30am	Katharine Theurer +
Dec. 11	Mon.	7:30am	Diamond Rose +
Dec. 12	Tues.	7:30am	Bill Kramer +
Dec. 12	Tues.	6:00pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec. 13	Wed.	7:30am	Malcolm Kennedy +
Dec. 14	Thurs.	7:30am	John Deuchler +
Dec. 15	Fri.	7:30am	Frank Norcia +
Dec. 16	Sat.	4:00pm	Santo Santisi +
Dec. 17	Sun.	7:30am	Christmas Novena Intentions
Dec. 17	Sun.	9:00am	Scotto Family
Dec. 17	Sun.	10:30am	Amanda Marie Milsap (liv)



Mass Intentions

Date	Intention	Time
Dec. 2	Jerome Timlin +	5:00pm
Dec. 9	James Durie +	5:00pm
Dec. 16	Murphy Moore +	5:00pm

Today we enter the Season of the Incarnation: Advent and Christmastide, including the celebrations of Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, the civil New Year, and Epiphany. During this season we acknowledge a divine plan that is not the way most of us would do things. We love the twists to the story, the little ironies that even a child can understand. A young girl bears the child of God. The King lies in a manger, attended by animals and their shepherds. Foreign Wise Men recognize Him and bring strange gifts. This is what our Christmas carols sing about and our stained glass windows depict—grace in unexpected places.

During this season perhaps we can reflect on those surprising places of grace in our own lives. Where do we least expect to find the Christ Child?

The first unexpected place of grace that occurs to me is with those we find difficult. It might be a Christmas party with annoying colleagues or irritating neighbors. For many, it is with people in their own family. Families who have experienced divorce often find this season difficult. When there are children involved, the most common solution seems to be to let the kids bear the burden. They travel from house to house or alternate years with Mom and Dad, even on this special day not permitted to be with everyone they love at the same time.

I know a family who does it differently. This family decided that setting aside hard feelings is preferable to their children being uprooted at Christmastime and forcing them to choose between loved ones. Everyone celebrates together: current spouses, all the children all the grandparents, a childless aunt and uncle—everyone. There's something under the tree for each person and the Christmas meal is a happy potluck of foods and relatives. The first time was awkward. After a year or two, it started to feel normal so that during the year all celebrations include everyone. It started with the Christmas story where, gathered around the manger and the tree, one finds an unexpected place of grace. ~Paige Byrne Shortal-





The fun of cellphone photos is that by simply stretching your thumb and index finger over a picture you can enlarge a face or a feature or shrink it back again. It is always interesting to see a facial close-up, especially if the person is special to you.

The season of Advent, which begins today, invites an imaginary photo play, in that we can zero in on one aspect of Christ's coming or another. Easiest to recall is the First Coming of Christ. We are so familiar with the story from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Thanks to St. Francis of Assisi, the first person to set up a display of the scene, we have a powerful visual aid.

Over the centuries, we Christians have piled on many beautiful layers of traditions, some national, others of our family, to enhance the basic gospel story. To our evergreens we have added outdoor lights. This is all part of the Christmas season that is on the way in earnest now, even though the marketplace has been there since before Halloween.

But there is a whole different dimension of the words "Christ's coming" that the Church urges us to focus on in the Scriptures of the first half of Advent. Otherwise we might well skip it. It is a vital need of our spiritual lives, and our perspective on life.

The bible calls it "the parousia", or the "end time", placing Christ's Second Coming. Likely our hesitancy to go there springs from a certain fear because that coming of the Lord will mark the finale of the world as we know it. In addition, Scripture tells us that Day will be the one of our final judgement by God, when He will determine how we will spend eternity. We know deep down that we'd rather not think about that. Also, we may be at a loss to know the best preparation for it.

Our early Church ancestors believed that the end was near. Our Lord prompted His listeners to feel that way. Obviously they misread the timing. They would be baffled by our nonchalant presence on earth more than twenty centuries later. But for how long only the good Lord knows for certain.

The Responsorial Psalm 80 in this weekend's Liturgy offers a way to prepare no matter when that Day comes. It sings: "Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall be saved." What that implies is the task of thinking differently about time. It is a warning to turn away from our usual selfishness to start thinking more of others and finding ways of serving them. That also means turning back to Christ after our sorry track record in this regard and making a good confession as part of your Advent. Each year parishes offer a penance service with several additional confessors on hand. Don't let that opportunity go knocking. As for "seeing His Face," you will see it in the faces of everyone around you. To our collective credit, we do recognize His face every now and then. Remember how people rushed to help hurricane victims, and the heroes who lessened the awful impact of that mass murder a mere two months ago in Las Vegas. Pulling back from the usual Christmas scene to see this other side to Christ's Coming involves acquiring a daily habit of charitable thinking and acting toward others. It is sometimes very hard to do. It takes something called perseverance. A wise observer comes just in time to encourage us with a gentle reminder that "by perseverance the snail reached the ark."

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Candles to **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** are burning for **Walter Laagocki** this week.
2. The Candle in the **Adoration Chapel of the Two Hearts** is burning for **Salvatore Riviello** this week.
3. The **Sanctuary Candles** are burning for the intention of **the Antrobus Family** this week.
4. The second collection this week is for the reduction of the parish debt.
5. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets this Wednesday, Dec. 6th at 10:30am in classroom C.
6. Please remember that **December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation.**

Knights of Columbus Slam Breakfast COUNCIL 6241

First Weekend of the Month

Sunday, December 3rd

8:00am-11:30am

Eggs cooked to order, pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham, grits, juice and coffee.

JUST \$6.00 per person Kids \$2.00

Kids under 6 FREE!

COME ONE! COME ALL!



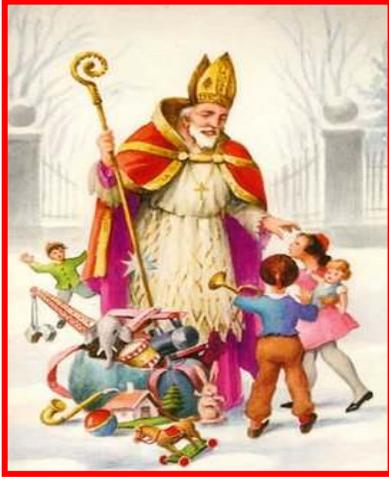
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION; THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY DECEMBER 8TH

Vigil Mass, Thursday, Dec. 7th 4:00pm

**Holy Day Masses, Friday, Dec. 8th:
7:30am & 6:00pm**



Saint Nicholas Tree



Our students in the CCD Program will be honoring **St. Nicholas** on his feast day. St. Nicholas dedicated his life to serving the needy, the sick and the suffering, he also was known for his love of children.

In the spirit of St. Nicholas choose a tag from our tree and purchase a gift card and return it to the St. Nicholas box located in the St. Andrew Church Lobby. Certificates will be distributed to St. Vincent de Paul, Mary's Shelter, God's Resources and the Pregnancy Care Center to help needy families and individuals in our area. Please include the dollar amount on the outside of the envelope.

(Suggestions for gift cards; Publix, Walmart, Walgreens, Winn Dixie, CVS, etc.)
May God Bless You!!

Please return gift cards no later than the weekend of December 16/17th 2017.



We are offering **Christmas Novena Masses** for the intention of our loved ones and friends beginning Monday, **Dec. 18th** and continuing 9 days until Monday, **Dec. 25th**. Envelopes for your novena intentions are available in your envelope packet, the church office and also on the table in the church lobby.

All intentions must be returned before the novena begins, by **Sunday Dec. 17th** to be placed on the altar.

Christmas Bake Sale

December 9th & 10th

AFTER

ALL MASSES

We will have lots of homemade baked desserts, and Christmas cookies.

We will be selling the

OPLATEK POLISH WAFER

for Christmas Day Dinner for \$6.00

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity. The wafers will be available for purchase in the church office also.

PLEASE COME & SUPPORT OUR YOUTH AT ST. ANDREW



The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Andrew is collecting regular size laundry detergent, cereal, and canned pasta for December. Please place the items in the basket by the church office in the main lobby. Thank you.

Answering the Call

Among the least disagreeable aspects of army life, apart from having to shoot people, is pulling guard duty at four in the morning. Nothing so concentrates the mind as the unwelcome prospect of being wrenched from a warm bed in the middle of the night. Summoned for guard duty along a perimeter line, where unseen dangers lurk on every side, one simply gets up and goes. Not so different, come to think of it, from the Lord's command issued in today's Gospel: *Be watchful! Be alert! Because one never knows the day or the hour when the Lord will choose to strike. God forbid that he should suddenly swoop down only to find one fast asleep.*

The point is, none of us know, which is why we ought always to be ready to receive the Lord, the exact hour of whose promised return it is not given to any man to know. We only know He comes, not when. But because He comes in search of us, we ought especially to stay awake, so that we may all the more quickly be caught. ~ Regis Martin~

Loving Father, grant us the grace ever to remain steadfast and vigilant, ready to roll at a moment's notice for love of you.



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 17th at 12:00noon.**

This is a big undertaking and many hands are needed. If you can assist us, please call the church office and leave your name and telephone number.
THANK YOU!!!!



10:30am Family Mass Presentation of the Gifts

December	3	Dr. Donovan & Christopher Essen
December	10	Guettler Family
December	17	Wroblewski Family

Martin County High School Opus 2017 in Concert



Come hear beautiful holiday music performed by the award-winning OPUS 2017 choir under the direction of Shane Thomas.

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 4:00pm

Free admission- no ticket necessary

10:30am Family Mass

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

December	3	Holling Family
December	10	Lindsey Family
December	17	Mosby Family
December	24	Connelly Family

Today we begin the season of Advent, preparing for the day when we celebrate God becoming flesh, becoming Incarnate, becoming one of us. In doing so, we are called upon to prepare our hearts for Christ's presence in our lives. Every Christina's goal should be to reveal Christ to those we encounter. As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, let us think of how we can make his presence incarnate in what we say and do.