

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD IN OUR HEARTS AND IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE AROUND US.

In today's Gospel, we hear that a prophecy from Isaiah is being fulfilled by John the Baptist, John is the one of whom it is written, Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you: he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy two thousand years ago by preaching that Jesus was the Messiah, and pointing toward him in all of his words and actions. But preparing the way for the Lord was not just a task for John the Baptist – it's a task for each one of us. Now it's our turn to prepare the way of the Lord in our own hearts as well as in the world around us.

One of the most important things we can do this Advent season is to prepare our own heart to receive Jesus. The big question is: how do I do this? First and foremost, we must spend some time with Jesus in prayer. We can treat our prayer time like an appointment, setting aside some time each day to spend with God, even if it's only five or ten minutes. We can refrain from giving God the "leftovers" of our day, instead offering the first fruits of time when we're awake and alert. We might prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts by spending time reading Scripture, praying a rosary or praying in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Whatever we do, it will help us prepare our hearts to receive Jesus.

But our focus can't be only on self during this season of Advent. Just like John the Baptist, we want to prepare the way of the Lord in such a way that those around us might more easily be brought into an encounter with Jesus. John the Baptist, through his words and actions, was able to bring people into an encounter with the Lord; our words and actions can have the same effect if we're intentional about them.

During this Advent season, we can take some time to talk to family, friends, co-workers, or classmates about the true meaning of Christmas. It may be a small action or a simple word from us that opens up the way of the Lord in that person's heart. Just like John, we should point to Jesus in all that we do and say. Be a witness for Christ. After all, we have all been called by name to a life of discipleship.

RCIA.

This week the RCIA class will be getting ready for the birth of Our Lord and celebrating Christmas. Please continue to pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD

On December 13, all students will have a Christmas party before the Christmas break. No CCD classes will be held on December 20 or 27. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3 for all students. The CCD teachers wish all of you a joyous, blessed Christmas!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Dec 11	Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26
Tues Dec 12	Zec 2:14-17, Jdt 13:18bc, 19, Lk 1:26-38
Wed Dec 13	Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30, 2 Cor 10:17-11:2, Mt 25:1-13
Thur Dec 14	Is 41:13-20, Mt 11:11-15, 1 Cor 2:1-10a, Lk 14:25-33
Fri Dec 15	Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
Sat Dec 16	Sir 48:1-14, 9-11, Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun Dec 17	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11, Lk 1:46-50, 53-54, 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	12,676.00
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$	747.00
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	\$	373.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$	911.00
<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	\$	190.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	14,897.00

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES:

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR

CALENDARS: • Concert Series Concert IV: The University of South Mississippi's "Civic Chorale" Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 10th– 2:00 p.m. • Concert Series Concert V: "Magnolia Concert Society – Christmas Concert" – Sunday, December 17th – 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact: TERRY D. MADDUX: Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454 E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Be sure to avail yourself to our Lord's Infinite Mercy during the Advent Season in preparation to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ONLINE GIVING SOON AVAILABLE AT NATIVITY

We are excited to announce that Nativity BVM Cathedral will soon be offering one-time and recurring donations conveniently from our website! You will be able to make your secure donations via electronic check or debit/credit card by simply visiting our website at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org. More information will soon be available on our website or by calling the parish at (228) 374-1717. This convenient new method of giving will be available in February 2018.

ADORATION FOR AN INCREASE IN VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Marian Chapel, we will have our monthly one-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Come and spend an hour with the Lord in quiet prayer.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Dec 16 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Ann Kavanagh 3. Sondra Ahern 4. Andrea Gilich 5. Dale Dorcik	Dec 16 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell	Dec 16 4:00 pm McKinzy Mathis Sam Burke
Dec 17 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh	Dec 17 7:00 am Joe Koonce	Dec 17 7:00 am Clayton Stoddard Ava M. Stoddard
9:00 am 1. Barbara Ziz 2. Nora Ziz 3. John Brauchle 4. Tracie Kessler 5. Michael Kessler	9:00 am Al Simons, Jr.	9:00 am Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Terrene McDonnell Cameron McDonnell
11:00 am 1. Nanette Burke 2. Judy Steckler 3. Sandy Steckler 4. Ben Eastman 5. Rocky Greathouse	11:00 am Linda Bourgeois	11:00 am Aidan Tarrant Annabelle Tarrant Brennan Tarrant
5:30 pm 1. Teresa Ballinger 2. Angela Cannon 3. Kristy Arguelles	5:30 pm Youth Ministry	5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wills
	CANTORS	
	Dec 16 4:00 pm Sean Ross	
	Dec 17 9:00 am Phil Frisby	
	11:00 am Dennis Burke - Choir	

MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Dec 11	Betty Lou Callegari	Tomasz Golab/Marcin Wiktor (SI)
Tue	Dec 12	Josh Bozeman	Jeanne Harbison
Wed	Dec 13	Annette Luther (SI)	Kevin Guillory
Thur	Dec 14	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich.	Maria Hoang Thi Khoai
Fri	Dec 15	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Collins/Sims Family
Sat	Dec 16	<u>8</u> Judith Balonek <u>4</u>	Josephine Esposito Allen
Sun	Dec 17	<u>7</u> -Deacon Ben <u>9</u> -	F. T. P.
	11	Stanley Dellenger <u>5:30</u>	Maria Hoang Thi Khoai

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Gerrie Weldon, Sister Jackie Tarrant, Beverly Hammond, Lehmon Skrmetti, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Kim Wilkerson, Pete Skrmetta, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich and Karen Skremetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*The Nativity School Children's Choir, under the direction of Mr. Terry Maddox and Mrs. Nanette Burke, will hold their Christmas concert on Monday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are welcome to enjoy the performance of our choir members who are in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. *Nativity School will hold its annual Christmas Store for the Children on Friday, December 15th. Children shop for items for their parents, grandparents or siblings **at no cost!** This tradition began after Katrina and has continued ever since. If you have small new or gently used items that you would like to contribute, please drop them off at the school. *Mark your calendars! The annual Nativity School Christmas program, under the direction of Mrs. Colleen Kavanagh, will take place on Monday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. The original play, featuring the 6th grade class, will tell the Christmas story through the eyes of the Wise Men (since the entire 6th grade class is made up of boys!) All students in the school will join in singing several musical selections throughout the program. Our thanks to Mr. Terry Maddox and the faculty and staff of the school. All are welcome to attend. *Congratulations to Team Tsunami and Team Thundercloud (or Robotics teams) for a job very well done at the recent regional tournament. Although both teams did an excellent job, Team Tsunami placed first in Robot Performance and is advancing to the State Tournament in Jackson.

POLISH CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH FATHER ADAM

URBANIAK

Come enjoy a traditional Polish Christmas dinner at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church community center:
6705 Jim Ramsay Road, Vanleave
Saturday, December 16, 2017 ~ 7 pm
\$30. per person or \$50. per couple
Tickets available after weekend masses and at the Parish office at 6705 Jim Ramsay Road, Vanleave ~ 228 283 5252.
For more information contact Sue Flurry ~ 601-945-2274

MEMORIALIZATION OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Please stop in the back of the church on your way out of the Cathedral today to check on the memorialization plaques of those who gave to the restoration of our priceless stained-glass windows. A genuine thank you is expressed to all who gave so generously to this outstanding project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 11** Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
Dec 12 Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 BINGO at 5:30 p.m.
 RCIA at 6:00 p.m.
 Advent Penance Service, 6:00 p.m.
Dec 13 Cleaning Team "A"
 CCD at 5:30 p.m. SHC
Dec 14 Greenbriar Mass at 10:00 a.m.
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:00 p.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for December 12th: Pope (Kristi), Pritchard (Casey Reed), Privett (Jason & Kasey), Ramon (Missy), Rhodes/Thornton (Jamie Rhodes), Richards (Sally) and Richardson (Debbie). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent– 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
 Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Eve – 11:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN # 61
OFFERTORY # 47
COMMUNION #604
SENDING #617