



Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.
Pastor*

*Rogelio D'Almeida
Pastoral Associate*

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Administrative Assistant
Parish Office*

2111 Ashland Avenue..... 410-675-7304

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Web site: <http://www.stwen.org>

Lyceum

2100 E. Madison St.....410-675-3320

*St. Wenceslaus is "twinned" with St. Ann Church,
at Greenmount Ave. and E. 22nd St.
410-235-8169*

*Masses at St. Ann: Sunday – 9:45 a.m.
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.*

MASSES

SUNDAY
WEEKDAYS
HOLYDAYS

8:00 and 11:45 am
8:00 am
As announced in the bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment for confessions

DEVOTIONS:

Infant of Prague Novena - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations - 8:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS:

Adult candidates and parents of infants are invited to contact the pastor so that we can begin preparations for baptism.

MARRIAGE:

We extend a warm welcome to couples desiring to be married in the church. Please contact us early (six months or more) so that we can work with you to prepare for your wedding.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:

Please notify the pastor when a member is unable to come to church. We will be happy to provide pastoral care at home or in the hospital.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School classes for children and youth meet every Sunday in the Lyceum from 9:30 to 11:30A.M. To register call the church office or Ms. Edith Pumphrey, Director, at 410-488-7069.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We urge you to register as a member of the parish, so that we can keep you informed of church activities. We will be happy to provide you with church envelopes to assist you in the support of the church. You may register in person at the church office weekdays between 9:00 to 2:00 or by completing the following form.

Name _____

Street _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Check:

New Registration Moving out of Parish

Change of Address Want Envelopes

Catholic Review Yes No

Please cut out and drop in the collection box or mail to the rectory.

SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

From the Pastor . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

Today's Scriptures remind us "*a virgin conceived and bore son, and he was named Emmanuel*" (see Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). The Gospel's reference to the birth of Jesus directly quotes the Prophet Isaiah, and so we believe it was the fulfillment of God's age-old promise to those waiting with expectant faith.

As we contemplate these scriptural passages, I believe it's a good idea to ponder the actual situation into which Jesus was born. Let's recall Mary and Joseph were very poor and humble, and they hailed from Nazareth, a very small town "*in the middle of nowhere.*" Let's recall the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy: to those who didn't know the truth, it would have been "*scandalous*" (she was found "*with child*" before marriage and Joseph's first inclination was to "*divorce*" her quietly). Let's recall that soon after Joseph "*took Mary into his home,*" they found themselves haplessly journeying to Bethlehem, and there, even though she was about to give birth, were unable to procure a decent place to stay. Let's recall the birth of Jesus took place in a filthy stable where animals were kept, and let's imagine how "*shameful*" that must have been for his "*vagrant*" parents. This child of theirs, who they named Emmanuel, meaning "*God is with us,*" was born into humility. Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of the Son of God, were poor, humble, homeless and voiceless; by all outward appearances, others certainly could have regarded them as despicable and disgraceful individuals, highly unworthy to be parents of one destined to such greatness. And this is exactly how God the Father in heaven wanted it to be!

I believe all of these circumstances "*set the stage*" for the entire earthly ministry and mission of Jesus. Think about it: Jesus spent most of his time reaching out to the "*lowly*" and to those who had no voice; he proclaimed God's mercy and love to sinners, and to those who were otherwise disenfranchised and marginalized from society; he preached to the arrogant and self-righteous "*religious leaders,*" and told them they were hypocrites; he said those seeking to be Godlike would have to "*become like little children,*" or they would not inherit the Kingdom. This great ministry and mission of Jesus truly began in that little town of Nazareth when "*the virgin Mary responded to God's will and thereby conceived a son.*" Because of this, and from the very first moment of the "*incarnation,*" we believe God became flesh within the very lives of the lowly, the humble, and the poor. Jesus even did so until the very end of his earthly ministry, when he was absolutely humiliated by suffering a criminal's death on a cross. This Jesus, our Emmanuel, our God with us, has always sought out and identified with those who were and are the most "*lowly*" and humble among us. And so, I believe we are called to do the same!

Today, we remember the "*virgin who conceived and bore a son,*" and we contemplate an earthly mission of Jesus directed toward the "*lowly*" and the poor. We believe this was how our God came to live among his people! Once again, and as faithful children of such a God, let's commit ourselves to the ministry of forgiveness for sinners, to the work of bringing others out of misery, to the task of feeding the hungry, and to the care of healing the sick and the brokenhearted. This way, and with our lives, we will always proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom to others! My friends, this is what it's all about!

Praise God! *Friar Timothy*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for our sick and homebound church members. Also, keep in prayer Lauren Green (Marjorie McDonald's daughter) and from our sister parish, St. Ann's church, Delores Moore.

REMEMBER OUR INFIRM

During the Christmas season, please keep our elderly and infirm members and friends in your prayers. An

address list is available in the back of the church for your convenience in sending Christmas cards.

CHURCH DECORATING

Come and lend a hand today after the 11:45 am mass. Many hands make light work of decorating the church for the holidays. There's something for every age level to do. We'll supply the hot chocolate, cookies and Christmas music. Thank you for all your support.

SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to all of you who have brought in donations of food to help with our Christmas baskets and restocking of the food pantry. All your continued support helps to maintain the pantry.

2017 CALENDARS

The 2017 Church calendars are available in the back of the church. We are grateful to the Cvach/Rosedale Funeral Home for sponsoring our church calendars again this year. Remember to take one when you leave.

NEXT SUNDAY

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

1 st Reading	Isaiah 62:11– 12
2 nd Reading	Titus 3:4–7
Gospel	Luke 2:15–20

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun	Dec 18	8:00 am			Janice Wright
					For the Parishioners
		11:45			
Tues	Dec 20	8:00			Wenceslaus & Mary Shimanek
Wed	Dec 21	8:00			Robert Carroll
Thurs	Dec 22	7:00			Francis Gossman (Gift of Hope)
Fri	Dec 23	8:00			Arden G. Livingston, Sr.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

	Masses	Attendance	Collection
12/11/2016	8:00 am	54	
	11:45	<u>37</u>	
		91	
Total			\$2,603.85
Last Year's Total 12/13/2015			\$2,204.72

ADVENT PRAYER AND PENANCE SERVICE

A combined Evening Prayer and Penance Service for the Parishes of **St. Francis Xavier, St. Ann and St. Wenceslaus** will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church (Caroline and Oliver Streets) on **Tuesday evening, December 20th at 6:30 pm.** This is a great way to “prepare the way of the Lord.” Please join us!



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE...

Christmas Eve:

7:00 pm St. Ann & St. Wenceslaus Combined First Mass of Christmas held at St. Wenceslaus Church

Christmas Day:

9:30 am Carols by Church Choir
10:00 am St. Ann & St. Wenceslaus Combined Christmas Morning Mass held at St. Wenceslaus Church

New Year's Day:

10:00 am St. Ann & St. Wenceslaus Combined Mass held at St. Wenceslaus Church

KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Friday, December 26th. 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Cecelia Church Hall (enter from parking lot) 3301 Windsor Mill Rd & Hilton St. Admission is FREE. Potluck: Bring a Dish. All are welcome. Fellowship, Food, African Dance, Storytelling, Market Place and more. For more information check the flyer on bulletin board in back of church.

MOTHER MARY LANGE AWARDS

The Mother Mary Lange Awards Banquet will be held on **Friday, February 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm** at Martin's West. The event is sponsored by the Office of Black Catholics to honor members of our Black Catholic parishes. Tickets for the St. Wenceslaus tables can be ordered from Mary Clayton or the parish office for **\$60 each, payable before January 27th.** Join us to celebrate our 2017 honorees.

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

Remember to purchase your 2017 subscription package. **The cost of a subscription plan is \$132 yearly or \$11 monthly, a savings of \$32 for the year.** See Michael Hall, Antoinette Shannon or call the church office to reserve your subscription package in advance of the January Afternoon at the Races event. Thank you for your continuous support.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS...



Memorial flowers to be placed on the altar at Christmas in honor of a loved one, living or deceased will be available soon. **The suggested offering is \$8.**

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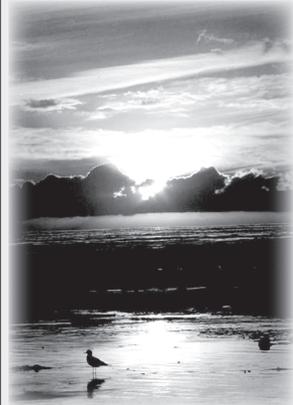
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