

## *Advent – Christmas Schedule for Our Lady Star of the Sea*

- November 30 4pm, Vigil Mass for First Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church (Vespers)
- December 1: 8 & 10:45am, Masses for First Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church
- December 4: 6 to 7pm, Adoration and Confessions in Historic Church**
- December 7: 3-7pm, OLSS Solomons Christmas Walk Chili Cook-off & Winter Fest in Providence Room  
Live Nativity and Entertainment
- December 7: 4pm, Vigil Mass for Second Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church (Vespers)
- December 8: 8 & 10:45am, Masses for Second Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church
- December 8: 4-6pm, Southern Md Youth Orchestra and Choir Concert in Parish Church
- December 11: 6 to 7pm, Adoration and Confessions in Historic Church**
- December 12: 6:30 pm, School Christmas Concert in Providence Room
- December 14: 4pm, Vigil Mass for Third Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church (Vespers)
- December 15: 8 & 10:45am, Masses for Third Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church  
4 pm, Tuba Christmas in Parish Church
- December 18: 6 to 7pm, Adoration and Confessions in Historic Church**
- December 20: Parish office closes at 1pm
- December 21: 4pm, Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church (Vespers)
- December 22: 8 & 10:45am, Masses for Fourth Sunday of Advent, in Parish Church
- December 24: Christmas Eve (Parish office closes at noon, reopens Dec. 27)  
4 pm, Children’s Liturgy in Parish Church  
7 pm, Mass with OLSS Choir in Parish Church  
12Midnight, Mass in Historic Church (music begins at 11:30pm)
- December 25: 10:00 am, Mass for the Nativity of the Lord, in Historic Church
- December 26: 10am, Mass in Historic Church, St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- December 27: 10am, Mass in Historic Church (Parish office open from 8am to 1pm)
- December 31: 8am, Daily Mass in Historic Church  
5:30pm, Vigil Mass in Parish Church -Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)  
11pm to Midnight, Adoration in Historic Church  
Midnight, Mass in Historic Church
- January 1: 8 & 10:45am, Masses in Parish Church -Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)



From the desk of Fr. Ken,

*Advent and Christmas 2019*

Ever since I can remember the Christmas season has always been my favorite. There is something about it which makes me feel young again. Perhaps it is all the memories I have as a child going to Midnight Mass with my family and seeing all the beautiful decorations, singing the beautiful Christmas carols, and seeing everyone filled with great joy and warmth of spirit.

There was also the sense of great mystery. Celebrating Mass in the middle of the night, the Scripture readings talking about these amazing figures, the shepherds, the angels, and of course thinking about the joy that Mary and Joseph experienced at the birth of their son, a special son, whose coming the world had been eagerly anticipating for generations.

Now, after celebrating my last Mass on Christmas Eve, I especially enjoy watching the Christmas Eve Mass on TV from St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It's not celebrated at midnight anymore, but the beauty, the singing, and the majesty are just as amazing and powerful as ever.

It is tradition that on Christmas Day, the Holy Father delivers a Christmas message to the world known as Urbi et Orbi (for the city and for the world). A few years ago, in his Christmas address Pope Francis reminded us that "where God is born, hope is born".

My prayer for you and our parish this Christmas is that in celebrating the great mystery of love and mercy in God becoming man, that we may all experience a rebirth of Christ and hope in our lives, in our families and in our parish. My prayer is that those who may be suffering any kind of distress or disillusionment in life may experience the tenderness and love of our Lord that heals wounds and brings encouragement and hope. After all, our Blessed Lord knows what it is like to experience great distress, he was born into it.

Together, let us gaze in amazement and wonder at the baby Jesus who is the beautiful gift of grace and life that is born for you and for me. It is Jesus who is the answer to calm our fears and who reinvigorates our hope. "I bring you good news of great joy...for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). This is the great message of hope. We are not alone; God is with us!

May our Savior bless you, your family, friends and neighbors during this Advent and Christmas season and may His peace, joy and hope be with you throughout the new year.

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Ken

P.S. On the back of this letter you will find a schedule of the celebration of the Sacraments, and the many programs and activities that will be happening in our parish during Advent and Christmas. I hope you will find this helpful.

