



**Why do we observe Advent?** *“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”*

*This wonderful song has become the mainstay of the Advent season, evoking deeply felt emotions that are at the heart of our Catholic faith. Like the Chosen People of the Old Testament, we sometimes feel “exiled” from God, held “captive by those habits of thought and action that keep us separated from God, from others and from our best selves.*

*While Advent is often thought of as simply the “weeks before Christmas,” it is actually a time of prayerful discernment. During this time people of faith are asked to reflect upon the true meaning of the upcoming celebration of Christmas. The scripture readings of Advent prepare us for the second coming of Christ as Judge while at the same time reminding us of the events leading up to His first coming in Bethlehem.*

*Today’s society moves fast. In a time when Christmas decorations begin gracing storefronts in September, it can be difficult for families to find time to reflect upon the joy of the upcoming Christmas celebration. Traditions such as the use of Advent wreaths or Advent calendars help to ground us in anticipation of what is to come. These customs allow time for daily reflection which prepares us to be ready to welcome and receive the Son of God at Christmas. That’s why it is so important to understand Advent as a sacred time of preparation for the coming of the Lord into our lives, our families and our world.*



**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – Fridays 9:30 to 11:30 AM, in the Burke Wing.  
**SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**– Sundays 7 to 8:15 PM. Call Cathy 410-796-8150.

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**



*The 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year can be very difficult after the loss of a loved one. One-on-One Counseling is available and we have many books in our Bereavement library, for loan, on how to get thru the Holidays after the loss of a loved one, and other pertinent topics.*

**Call Mary Jane for details.**

*Our next Support Group will be in the Spring.*

**RCIA – 2008 - 2009**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



*RCIA meets today December 7th, in the Burke Wing @ 9:00 AM.*

**Topic: Advent Reflections & Questions of Conscience & Morality – Part 1.**

**“HELPING HANDS” MINISTRY**

Helping Hands



**Our “Helping Hands” assist with funeral receptions for our parishioners by bringing food donations, setting-up, serving, take-down, and clean-up. A sincere thank you to those who responded to our need and will be assisting the “Helping Hands” team.**

*If you can assist in any way, please call Pat Pool at 410-796-5876.*

**PARISH PRAYER CIRCLE**

*Our parish “Prayer Circle” prays for the needs of our parish family. “Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” Psalm 55:17*

*Anyone may call or email in a petition to*

*To Frank Stanitski  
[fspsosjs@verizon.net](mailto:fspsosjs@verizon.net)*

*410-796-4582*



*“Prayer helps us to respond to misfortune with courage, to react with confidence and to rebound with enthusiasm.”*

*- William Arthur Ward -*