



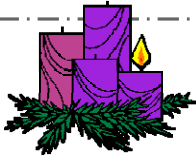
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA – ADULT EDUCATION – BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

(410-564-2395) – email: MaryJane@staugustinechurch.org

AFFLAC – Adult Faith Formation: Leadership and Catechesis

November 29, 2009



Welcome to Week #1 of Advent!

I read this article by Fr. James Martin, (a Jesuit Priest), just yesterday and pass it on to you for reflection. “Only a saint could maintain the patience needed to confront Christmas shopping, Christmas stress, and Christmas credit card bills. That’s too bad because something else gets overlooked in the rush – ADVENT!”

First of all, get to know Advent. This liturgical season is a time of waiting – something that we all do: we’re waiting for some good news, for a better job, or for our lives to improve. Advent is a time when we think about waiting for God, so it fits in perfectly with our natural human longings. “Come, thou long expected Jesus,” as the hymn goes. Advent is also the time of beautiful Scripture readings, like those from the Book of Isaiah. “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.” These are readings to give all of us hope. And Advent is the season for beloved church traditions, including the Advent Wreath, which can easily be translated into home rituals.

Second, cut back on the craziness of Christmas preparations. A few suggestions – send cards only to close friends and family; drop one present per person from your list; and go only to the most essential holiday gatherings. Does that sound selfish? It’s just the opposite. It will give you time to spend with those you really love, and more time to spend in prayer. Maybe Advent is when you can really settle into your spiritual life, by finding joy in the season and less stress in Christmas. Advent may be the time that you’ve been waiting for!” May these 4 weeks of Advent waiting prepare your hearts warmly for Jesus.

“HELPING HANDS” MINISTRY –

Our “Helping Hands” Team members assist with set-up, serving, take down and clean-up, when a luncheon reception is requested after a funeral. We are always in need of additional “hands.”

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



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

We believe no one should grieve alone. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, and would like to talk with someone, call Mary Jane. One-on-one counseling is also available. We have a lending library of wonderful books, videos and pamphlets on all kind of losses. Two Support Groups are offered each year – one in the Fall (just completed) and another in Spring.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM, Friday mornings in the Burke Wing

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY SERIES: Sunday

evenings. Call Cathy Carlin (410-796-8150)

PARISH PRAYER CIRCLE –

“Evening and morning and at noon, I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”

Psalm 55:17

Our parish “Prayer Circle” of 27 wonderful people, prays for the needs of our parish family. Anyone may call or email in a petition to our Prayer Circle Coordinator, Frank Stanitski at

fspsosjs@verizon.net or

410-796-4582.

Through prayer, we provide added hope to parishioners who are struggling with illness or death in their families, as well as other challenges such as unemployment or addiction.



RCIA – 2009 – 2010

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

There will be no RCIA session this Sunday, Nov. 29th – our Thanksgiving break. We meet again next Sunday, Dec. 6th.

Please keep all of our Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers.

