ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA – ADULT EDUCATION – BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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

AFFLAC – Adult Faith Formation: Leadership and Catechesis

December 20, 2009

Week #4 of Advent

One of my fondest Christmas memories was having a late Christmas Eve dinner at the home of my Dad's parents, with all my aunts, uncles and cousins. Our very Italian Grandparents had tradita a special tradition. At midnight, we would all go into the dinning room where Grandpop's large Creche' stood. All the Nativity pieces were assembled except Baby Jesus. At midnight, he chose a grandchild to place the figure of Baby Jesus into the manger and we'd sing Silent Night in English and Italian. Thus, it was truly Christmas! I share this "Blessing Prayer for the Christmas Crib," with you.

Lord, as we pray before this our Christmas crib-shrine and await the feast of the Birth of the Holy Child, cause us to wonder and to rejoice again in this most ancient feast.

As the magi came bearing gifts, may we, this Christmas, gift one another with the gold of charity, the myrrh of kindness and the incense of prayer.

With the shepherds, we come to the birth of Christ seeking a simple celebration, where the greatest gift will be ourselves given to You, our God, and to each other.

May the star of Bethlehem which shone brightly over the first crib, stand guard over our home, filling it and all the earth with light and peace.

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You because by Your holy birth You give hope to all the world. Amen.

(Prayers for the Domestic Church)

Christmas Blessings, Joy and Peace to all our St. Augustine parish families!

Mary Jane

"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

For all who have lost a loved one - …We must not bury the dead twice – beneath flowers and in our hearts–but keep them alive by our side with the things they held dear and we still cherish. In the wonderful memory of their names, their special dates and remembrances, they shall remain alive in us and through us. Don't only shed tears for them, but also remember them with your good works. Keep their memory bright with your love and extol their souls in brightness.

RCIA – 2009 – 2010

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA meets today, December 20th. Our topic will be preparation for the birth of our Savior. We'll also share different Christmas family traditions.

Our next session will be Sunday, January 3, 2010.

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" now consists of 30 wonderful people, who pray 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 our parishioners who are struggling with illness or death in their families, as well as other challenges such as unemployment or addictions. During this holy season, let us also pray for the needs of all in our armed forces so far away from their families. May they come home soon and safely!