





### Third Sunday of Advent

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This sounds easy but it's not. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all". This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because they are people of hope. *A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.*



**Daughters of Isabella** are now selling their homemade Cheese Balls. They make great appetizers for Christmas parties & holiday gettogethers. To purchase, contact Vera Dotson 812-537-0591 or Sandy Schmits 812-926-0943. They will also be selling them here at St. Mary's after all masses this weekend, December 16/17.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION:** We are now accepting donations for Christmas flowers for the church. Envelopes are in the pews, or you may use your own; **please print names clearly** on the envelopes if your gift is being made as a memorial. (Memorial donations made by **December 22nd** will be published in our Christmas bulletins; donations made later than the 22nd will still be gratefully accepted!) As always, thank you for your generosity!



### Advent Giving Tree

If you missed the Deadline for the Giving Tree, you may still drop off gifts at the parish office. Gifts should be unwrapped. Monetary gifts marked "Giving Tree" SHOULD be placed in the collection basket.



It is with pride that we congratulate St. Mary School Alumni, Carl Sebastian Smith, (son of Evelyn Santiago and Todd Smith), for being selected as this year's recipient of the prestigious "Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship". We congratulate Carl and his family!



**St. Mary, Aurora** **Monday, Dec. 18** **7:00PM**  
St. Peter, Franklin Co Wednesday, Dec. 20 6:30PM

NOTE: Fr. Steve is available in the back of church every Saturday for Reconciliation. He is also available by appointment – just call the parish office or Fr. Steve's cell phone (leave a message) at (812) 592-2317.

### ADVENT CONCERTS

Dec. 20 St. Joseph North Bend 7:00pm



### Coming in January!!

A morning bible study will be starting in January. It will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday's of each month. Time is approximately 9-9:15, after the morning mass. All are welcome to attend whenever you can. The first topic is St. Peter and his writings using the Augustine Institute Lectio program by Tim Gray. The cost for the study guide is \$25.00. To sign up for materials contact Connie, 812.926-0060, [Connie.powers@mystmarys.com](mailto:Connie.powers@mystmarys.com) or text 812.310.4765.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

This bible study will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of each month. The first session will be January 10th. Start time is approximately 9-9:15, after the morning mass. All are welcome to attend when you can. The first topic is St. Peter and his writings using the Augustine Institute Lectio program by Tim Gray. The cost for the study guide is \$25.00. To sign up for materials contact Connie, 812-926-0060, [connie.powers@mystmarys.com](mailto:connie.powers@mystmarys.com) or text 812-310-4765 by January 3rd.

### Confirmation

The Confirmation prep program for teens is a two-year program. If your child is in the seventh grade and wishes to be confirmed in eighth grade, you need to register them now. Materials need to be ordered soon. To register or for more information contact Connie, 812-926-0060, [connie.powers@mystmarys.com](mailto:connie.powers@mystmarys.com) or text 812-310-4765 by January 3rd.

### William C. Hollander

**October 10, 1940 – December 9, 2017**

Our prayers and condolences are with Bill, Emily their children and family.



**Attention Fans & Followers of St. Francis of**

**Assisi.** Mark your calendar. On Tuesday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm on PBS, "The Sultan and the Saint" docu-movie can be viewed at home or at other viewings nationwide (sultanandthe [saintfilm.com/viewings-parties](http://saintfilm.com/viewings-parties)).



**Please consider our Parish when making a year- end gift.** Your generosity to St. Mary Parish and School has been a blessing throughout this past year. Your continued support allows us to help our church and school families and continue the mission of the Church by spreading God's Word throughout the world! As you begin year-end tax planning, take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31 and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to our parish makes a great difference to us and can help you as well. As always, work closely with your tax and legal advisors to determine how any particular strategy will affect your overall tax situation. Thank you for financially supporting the many ministries of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church and School. The Archdiocese can help.

