



Saint Anne
and
Our Lady
of
La Vang
Catholic Church



As the month of November has ended, we begin a new liturgical year and the Season of Advent. Here's an overview of Advent opportunities, parish events and feast days during this season of Hope in the month of December.

- Little Blue Books for Advent
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
- Scripture and Carols
- Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation
- Advent Penance Service
- Feast of St. Lucy

- **100th Anniversary Celebration - All-Day Adoration on Friday - Mass and Banquet on Sunday, December 17**
 - **Giving Tree**
 - **Church Decorating for Christmas**
 - **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - Mass Times**
 - **Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr**
 - **Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**
 - **Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
 - **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
 - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - New Year's Day - Holy Day of Obligation**
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Little Blue Books for Advent

In this time of waiting and anticipation, prepare your heart by spending time with God each day of Advent. The Little Blue Book

guides you through this joyful season with short devotionals that will inspire you. This year's Advent book focuses on the Infancy Narrative of

Luke's Gospel and begins December 3, 2023

The Little Blue Books are available in the basket located in the hallway directly outside the church doors.

Be sure to pick one up!



Lighting of the Advent Wreath

During Advent, we wait in Hope for the promise of the "Word to be made flesh". The lighting of the Advent Wreath is a visual symbol that exemplifies this period of waiting. This weekend marks the first week of Advent/waiting. Before the start of Mass, take notice of the lighting with anticipation for the birth of our Savior.

Advent Candles

The Advent Wreath contains four candles. All of the candles are purple except the third, which is rose. The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often:

Hope - It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Love - It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Joy - The third candle is pink and symbolizes Joy. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Peace - We light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes Peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels:

"Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men"

"The angel said, 'Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.'"

LUKE 1:30-31



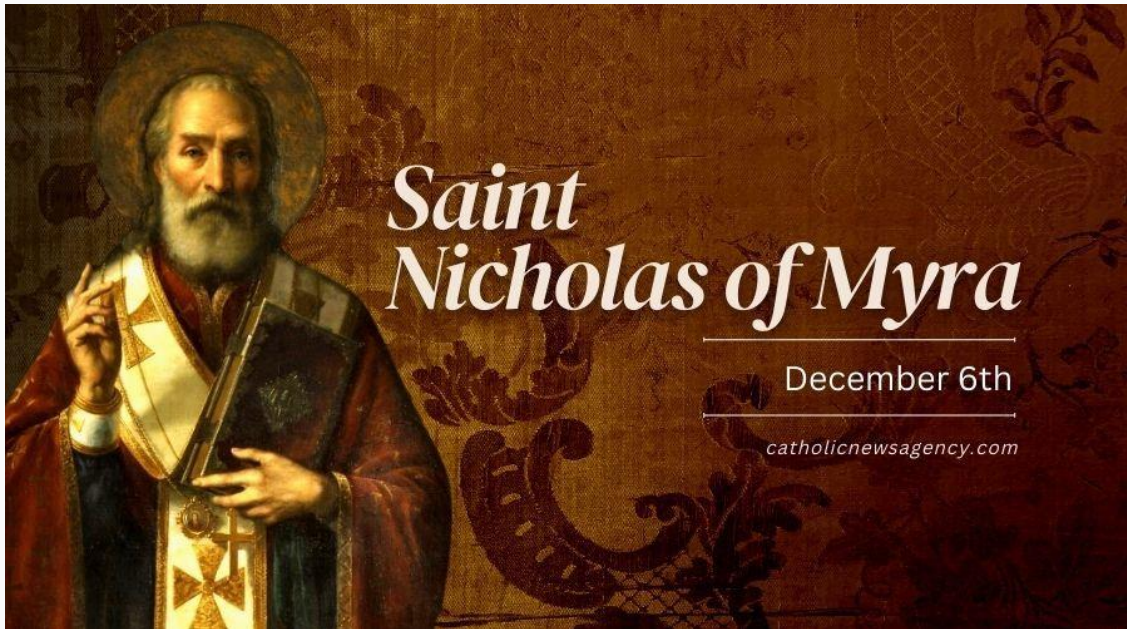
Scriptures and Carols

On Sunday, December 3, beginning at 5:00 pm in church, the parish will begin the Advent Season with the presentation of the Scriptures and Carols Program.

Join us as Lectors, Cantors, Vietnamese Choir and the congregation proclaim the Nativity Story in scripture and song.

Immediately following the event, a light supper will be

available for all to enjoy. For planning purposes, please call the Parish Office if you plan to attend the supper.



It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around A.D. 280 in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick.

Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, unmarried people, and students in various cities and countries around Europe.

***Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation***

Mass Times

Vigil - 7:00 pm in English

Holy Day - 9:00 am in English; 7:00 pm in Vietnamese



**PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, we beseech you that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.



Advent Penance Service

Reconciliation will be available on Sunday, December 10. Fr. Tri will be available from 2:00-4:00 pm. Fr. Pham will be assisting from 2:00-3:00 pm and Fr. Victor Eschbach from 3:00-4:00 pm.

If your schedule does not allow you this opportunity for Reconciliation at our parish, here is a listing of dates and times at other parishes in the Lancaster area offering the sacrament:

St. Philip the Apostle - Sunday, December 3 - 2:00 pm
Sacred Heart - Monday, December 11 - 7:00 pm
St. Leo the Great - Tuesday, December 12 - 7:00 pm
San Juan Bautista - Wednesday, December 13 - 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann - Thursday, December 14 - 7:00 pm
Historic St. Mary Church - Sunday, December 17 - 6:30 pm
St. Catherine of Siena - Monday, December 18 - 7:00 pm
St. Joseph Church - Wednesday, December 20 - 7:00 pm

Reminder--Fr. Tri is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 pm and on Sundays from 11:00-11:45 am.

ST. LUCY

December 13th



The virgin Saint Lucy, a native of Syracuse in Sicily, was martyred around the year 303. Her name--"Lucia"--is derived from the Latin word lux, meaning "light." Medieval portrayals of Lucy show her holding her eyeballs on a plate, possibly indicating the torture she underwent. Those who suffer from diseases of the eye pray for her intercession. Her luminous witness was confirmed by the great cult that had already grown up around her figure by the 5th century.



Parish Anniversary Weekend

Friday, December 15 - Sunday, December 17

The parish's 100th year closing weekend will begin on ***Friday, December 15*** with all-day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning immediately following the 9:30 am Mass until 6:30 pm. An Adoration sign-up sheet will be available outside the sacristy, and it is requested that at least three people sign up for each hour.

On ***Saturday, December 16***, immediately following the 4:30 pm Mass there will be light refreshments in the St. Anne Cafe for all those who wish to celebrate the anniversary on that day.

On ***Sunday, December 17***, there will be only one Mass celebrated at 10:00 am with our main celebrant, Most Reverend Bishop Timothy C. Senior and con-celebrant Most Reverend Bishop Ronald E. Gainer. This Mass will be a joint Mass in both English and Vietnamese.

Immediately following the Mass, the celebration continues with a buffet banquet at the Eden Resort Crystal Ballroom. All parishioners should have received an invitation and should return their reservation and payment to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 10, if they plan to attend. We will be joined by special guests who will share their memories of St. Anne Parish from years past.



Beginning this weekend, the Giving Tree will be located in church. The Giving Tree offers you the opportunity to make a sacrificial, material gift for the benefit of your neighbor in need. All donations are used to help underwrite the meals to be distributed on Friday, December 22 during the parish Christmas Dinner Takeout Event. This event provides the joy and security of a traditional Christmas dinner for those in need.

Take a tag, or tags, from the tree and return your donation with the tag in an envelope and deposit it in the wooden, locked box provided by the tree. Your generosity to those in need during this Christmas season is very much appreciated. Thank you!



Church Decorating

Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 22, at 1:30 pm to decorate the church for Christmas. If you are able to help, please call, text, or email Joe Hoenninger at Joseph.Hoenninger@gmail.com or 717-575-2596.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Plan to join your St. Anne and Our Lady of La Vang parish family for Christmas Mass as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mass Times:

Christmas Eve - 4:30 pm Mass in English

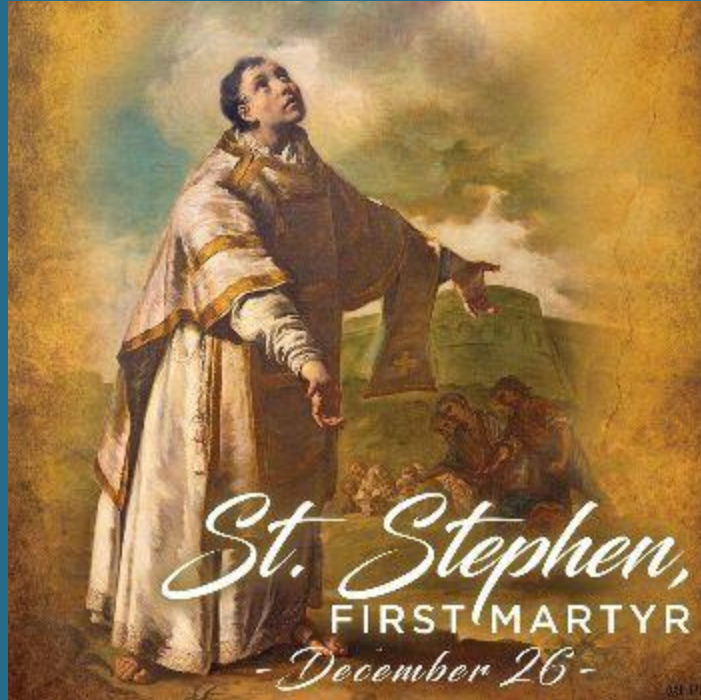
*7:00 pm Vietnamese Christmas Eve
Program*

8:00 pm Vietnamese Mass

Christmas Day - 9:30 am (English);

12:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas!



Stephen, whose name means "crown" or "garland," was the first to gain the crown of martyrdom in the Church. The account of Stephen's death is a short course in the martyrdom that would define Christian life in its first four centuries. After engaging in a debate with Hellenistic Jews, Stephen recounts for them their own history as fulfilled in Christ. To the ears of his accusers, Stephen's words are blasphemy. Stephen's marvelous countenance--"like an angel"--is a further irritant. They drag him outside the city to stone him. Stephen, "filled with the Holy Spirit," has a vision of Christ. Before he dies, he forgives his tormentors.



Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

Feast Day - December 27

John, the "disciple whom Jesus loved" and author of the fourth Gospel, three epistles, and the Book of Revelation, is often represented as an eagle, one of the "four living creatures" from Revelation 4:6-8. John's Gospel begins by placing Jesus Christ within the context of eternity, as the eternal Logos (Word) of the Father. Saint Augustine says that John "soars like an eagle above the clouds of human infirmity, and gazes upon the light of the unchangeable truth with those keenest and steadiest eyes of the heart." John is said to have composed his works in Ephesus, modern Turkey. He died there around the year 100.



Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

December 28

The prophet Jeremiah described the agony of the Jews as they were taken into Babylon: "Rachel mourns for her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more!" (31:15). Rachel, wife of the patriarch Jacob, is shown to be lamenting the exile of the people formed from her. When Christ entered the world, Jeremiah's words gained a new depth. King Herod learned of the birth of the newborn "King of the Jews" and intended to murder him. Jesus escaped into exile with Mary and Joseph. In a rage, Herod slew all Jewish males under the age of two in Bethlehem. The Jewish mothers lamented their

children, killed in Christ's stead. But eternal life triumphs over evil. The Holy Innocents live victorious in heaven.



***Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, December 31***

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule:

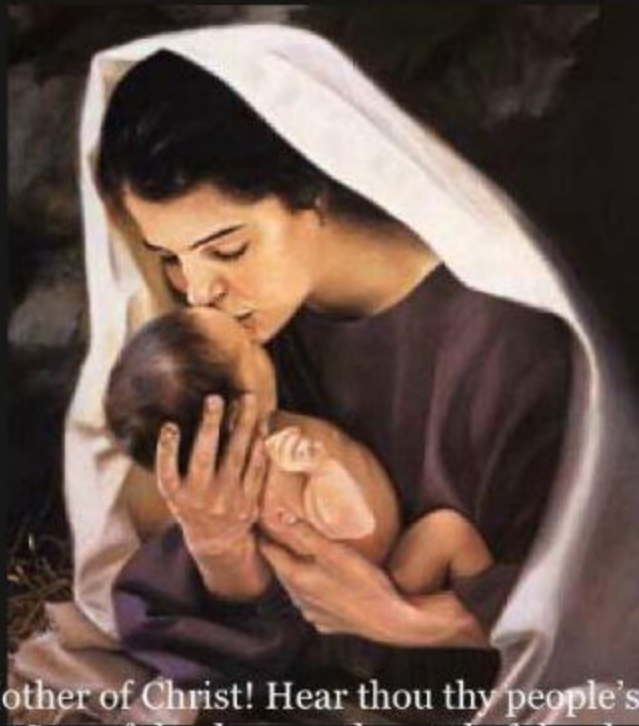
Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:30 am; 12:00 pm (Vietnamese)

"The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love. . .The family is an intermediate institution between individuals and society, and nothing can completely take its place. . .The

family is a necessary good for peoples, an indispensable foundation for society, and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love, of the total and generous self-giving of their parents. . . The family is also a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity. . . O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love for your commandments" (*Pope Benedict XVI*).

January 1 is the Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God,
A Holy Day of Obligation



Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of Him who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Times:

Vigil Mass (New Year's Eve)

7:00 pm in English

Holy Day (New Year's Day)

9:00 am in English

12:00 pm in Vietnamese
