



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2020 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
closed for lunch 12-1:00 PM

MASSES NOW

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM
Spanish Mass is at 1:00 PM

DAILY MASS

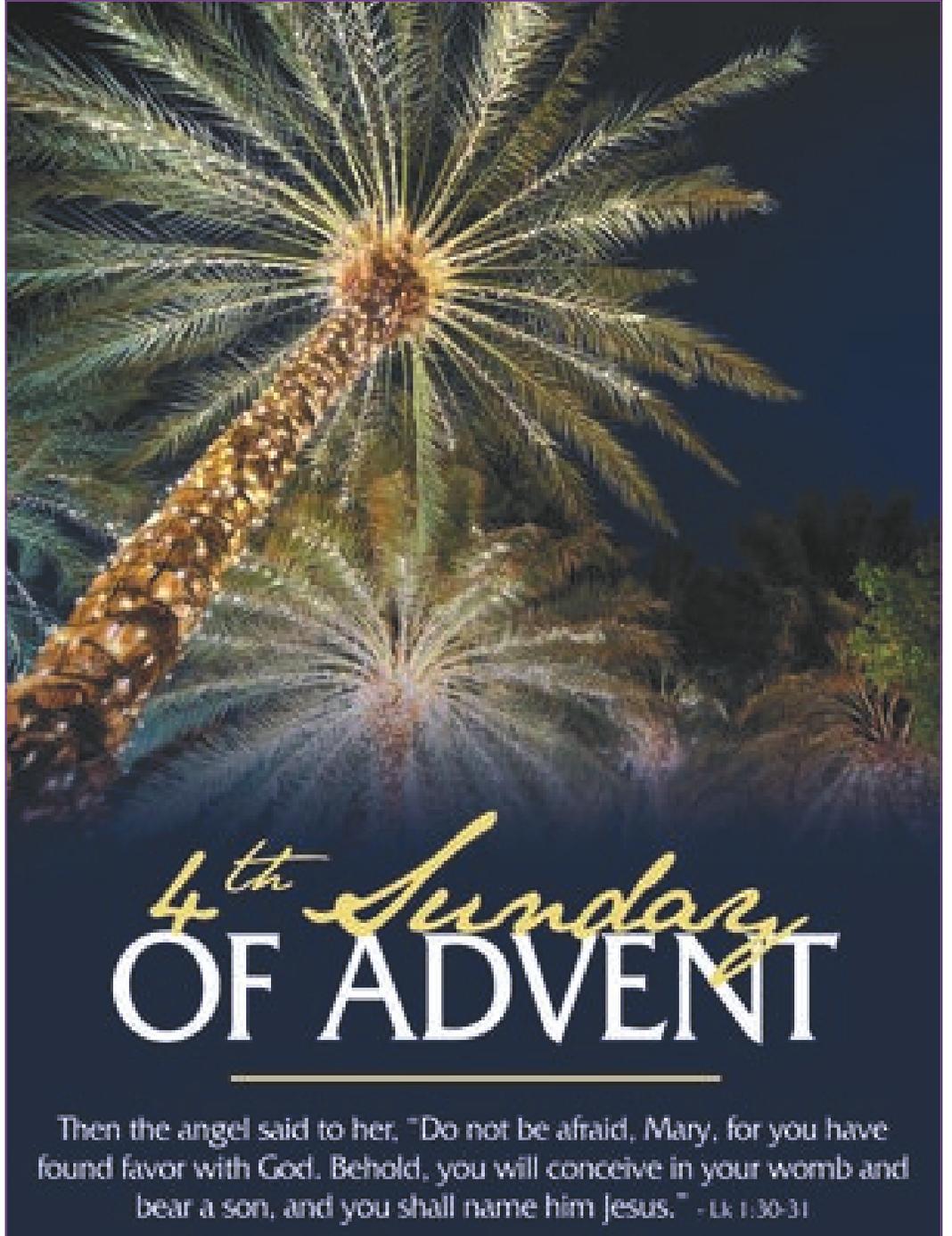
9:00 AM Monday-Saturday

MISSION

The Mission of St. Joan of Arc Parish is to put Jesus first in our lives by seeking to know Him in Scripture, Encountering Him in Prayer, Celebrating His Presence among us in praise and worship and uniting with one another in loving service.

NOTE

WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF DECEMBER. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. WE WILL ALLOW ONLY 50% CAPACITY FOR EACH MASS AND YOU MUST PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. THANK YOU. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS.



4th Sunday
OF ADVENT

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:30-31



CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM FR. PAT

Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, this year we were truly blessed. In February we had the Mette Family Band, known as MJM7, play in concert. We were blessed to have a Lenten Mission. This mission was given by Fr. John Anglin. Hopefully when this pandemic is over, Fr. John will return to give another inspiring Mission. We also want to thank Magda Robles for giving a woman's retreat in February.

Even though we did not have Vacation Bible School, Nancy Lovelock, our Youth Minister, still reached out to our youth. She and Deacon Fred LaPiana did a wonderful job with our Confirmation class. The youth Group was involved in the Good Samaritan Project and they reached out to the poor in our community. Miss Nancy also was responsible for streaming the 4:00 pm Vigil Masses. Now people who cannot attend Mass, due to Covid-19 can watch the Mass at home. We also want to thank Vickie Kelly and her daughter Colleen for taping the Vigil Mass while Miss Nancy is away.

I also want to take this time to thank Fr. Arthur Rojas. He is a priest from the Archdiocese of New York. While he is here helping his mother recover, he has been an asset for our Hispanic Community. He is fluent in English as well. If you have a spiritual matter to discuss with Fr. Rojas, he will gladly assist you. He will be here until January 15th.

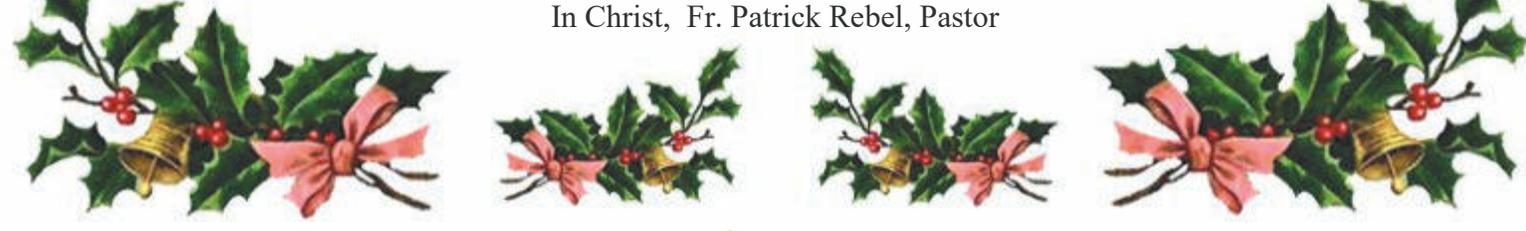
We are so thankful for your generosity. We were fortunate to hit our Annual Pastoral Appeal goal again last year. Currently, for this year, we are about \$23,000 short of our goal. If you have not made your pledge for the APA, we ask that you take this appeal to prayer and consider supporting your parish with a financial gift. If we do not hit our goal, the diocese will take the \$23,000 out of next year's parish budget. Thank you for your generous support.

I would like to thank our staff who have kept this parish afloat. Our Business Manager, Anne Cofone and her Assistants, Marie Duphiney and Maryann Quinn, have worked hard to run an efficient parish office. Also, Mary Jo Waggoner, our bulletin Editor and Faith Formation Director, has helped us with the day-to-day operations of the parish. I am thankful to Jill LaPiana working with Second Graders during the summer so that they could receive First Communion.

Finally, I would like to thank those who make our Liturgical celebration so meaningful. I am so appreciative of our priests, Fr. Dennis Kaelin, Fr. Michael Kouts, Fr. Ed Reiter and Fr. Arthur Rojas. We are also blessed we have our Deacons: Jose Cruz, Fred LaPiana and Mike Ruffner. I would also like to acknowledge, as well, Mary Jo Lovill, our Head Sacristan, for all the Liturgies she prepared for throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Music Minister, Joyce Thorpe who coordinates our music throughout the year.

Thanks especially to Our Lord Jesus Christ whose birthday we celebrate on Friday, December 25th. We pray that our Lord will help us through this difficult time. I also want to thank all of you for the support you have given to St. Joan of Arc. If you have been blessed this year, please remember your parish family here at St. Joan of Arc. May you have a Blessed Christmas Season and a very Prosperous New Year. Know that I am keeping you in prayer.

In Christ, Fr. Patrick Rebel, Pastor



From the Pastors' Desk

Third Week of Advent

In last week's first reading, Isaiah is thankful for the privilege of being entrusted with God's Words. The prophet is aware of the positive effect of God's message to a tired and exhausted people. Thanks to these words the poor receive a message of hope. People also find healing in Isaiah's uplifting themes. People are now coming home from captivity in Babylon. They now have liberty and rejuvenation.

Isaiah speaks for the chosen people. They are overjoyed because of their restored relationship with God. Their joy can be compared to a bride and groom. On their wedding day they wear beautiful robes glittering with gem stones. This wedding imagery is an illustration of the restored relationship between God and His people. There is also a spiritual nature of salvation and justice. As God's servants, the people of Israel, are ready to step forward and lead the world in following the teachings of God. All nations will recognize that their purpose is to promote justice and give praise to the Lord. As a result the desert waste land will be transformed into a lush garden.

In last week's Gospel, John the Baptist gives witness to Jesus, the Light who comes into the world as the Messiah. John is sent by God. John's mission is to testify to the Light so that, through John, all might believe in the Messiah. John the Baptist lets the people know that he himself is not the light. Only Jesus is the true light of God.

John is interrogated by the Jewish religious leaders about his mission he has been given by God. John states that he is not the Christ, Elijah or a prophet. He quotes Isaiah 40:3 and states that he is a "voice crying out in the dessert making straight the way of the Lord". He is only a messenger that bears witness and testifies to the of Jesus Christ being the promised Messiah.

These religious leaders then ask John, if he is not the Christ, why does he baptize. John states that he only baptizes with water for repentance in order to demonstrate that someone is coming who is more powerful. He is preparing the way of the Lord. John will continue giving testimony to the authenticity of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

In last weeks' second reading, St. Paul encourages us to stay close to God. We do this through prayer and gratitude. The apostles pray that by God's Grace they, and all of us, will be ready for anything that comes our way. This is especially true for the time Christ comes back for us in His promised Second Coming.

At the end of December, many will be making New Year's resolutions. At this time of Advent, we too can make a resolution to live like Jesus, whose birth we are about to celebrate. Jesus is the Light of the world. We can try to imitate His holiness. During this season of Advent we can come out of the darkness of sin and temptation and walk in the Light of Christ.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Each year we ask Friends of the Poor for a donation to help us serve Holiday packages to our neighbors in need. This unusual year, your help is needed more than ever, please help us bring hope and joy others with your donation. Mark check FOOD or TOYS as you wish, and mail it to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at 1291 Kass Circle, Spring Hill, FL. 34606. Thank you and may God Bless you this Thanksgiving and Christmas with His love.

Observances for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

Thursday: Christmas Eve

Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)

Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

NOTES FROM DEACON FRED

Come to the Stable

Today it is time to rest. To open our hearts to the miracle of what is Christ's birth. We have cleaned the house, we have set the table, and we are ready for our special guest. It is time to reflect on how much we are loved by our friend Jesus. It is time to reflect on the conversation we are going to have with Him on Christmas day. How are we going to greet Him.... What are we going to say to Him... Will we be like Martha and attend to others in His name, or like Mary and be at peace in His presence?

As children we remember preparing the cookies and milk for our guest Santa Clause knowing that he was without doubt going to visit at midnight with gifts specifically meant for us. Many of us tried to stay up all night to see and talk to Santa... and many of us fell asleep in trying.

As God's children we wait with the same excitement and anticipation... that Jesus is going to visit us on His birthday and be with us and talk with us. We become children again, trusting and knowing that He will come and we will be so blessed as He spends time with us and our loved ones.

God reminds David, that He chose David while he was working as a shepherd in the field, to lead His people. God created Mary, our Blessed Mother, to be a perfect human being, without sin, and chose her to carry our Lord and bring Him into the world. But... Mary, the perfect human being lived in a very humble home, and gave birth to her Son in a very humble place... a place where shepherds could visit.

We cannot make set a table elegant enough or decorate a house elaborate enough to be worthy of our guest... but.. we can offer ourselves as Mary did through a humble and trusting heart.

Some celebrate Christmas. We are invited to experience Christmas in the company of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds, and kings, as we take our place sitting in a stable bare.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

NOTITAS DEL DIÁCONO

JOSE CRUZ

El pasaje de Isaías que escuchamos hoy fue escrito durante un tiempo de gran esperanza. El pueblo judío había sido liberado del exilio y por fin podía regresar a Jerusalén. Isaías invoca “el año de gracia del Señor” un año de jubileo durante el cual toda propiedad se restituía al dueño original (Isaías 61, 2). En el sentido definitivo, el dueño original de todos los bienes de este mundo es Dios, quien los distribuye generosa y equitativamente. Jesucristo, el Mesías, es el cumplimiento de este año de gracia prometido, que trae júbilo, libertad, justicia y alabanza. Es más, puesto que él está siempre con nosotros, cada año es un año de gracia. Lo que en el tiempo de Isaías fue una emancipación del exilio y una esperanza por el regreso a la ciudad santa se ha convertido con Jesús en una emancipación del pecado y en una esperanza de la vida eterna.

“¿Quién eres tú?” es la pregunta que le hacen repetidamente a Juan, a lo cual él primero responde diciendo quién no es él. No es el Mesías prometido ni Elías, cuyo regreso muchos anticipaban, ni tampoco un profeta como Moisés, que era uno de sus antepasados. No, él es el mensajero, el que prepara el camino del Señor. Así como Isaías preparó el camino hacia la ciudad santa, Juan prepara el camino hacia nuestro corazón.

Juan les dice a los líderes religiosos que “en medio de ustedes hay uno, al que ustedes no reconocen” (Juan 1, 26). A lo largo de todo el ministerio público de Jesús, muchos de esos mismos líderes tampoco lo reconocieron a él. Nuestro desafío ahora es reconocerlo a él. ¿Lo reconocemos en el más pequeño de nuestros hermanos y hermanas? ¿Lo reconocemos en nuestra comunidad, cuando dos o tres nos reunimos en su nombre? ¿Lo reconocemos en la Eucaristía, su cuerpo y su sangre entregados por nosotros? ¿Lo reconocemos en los momentos difíciles y de incertidumbre?

Pregunta de la Semana

¿Cuándo y dónde reconozco la presencia del Señor en el mundo?

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
or 1:18-25.

Christmas Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14.

Friday: Christmas Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-2

In this week of celebrating Jesus' birth in Bethlehem,
help save a child's life: Option Line Alternatives to Abortion- Call: 1-800-395- HELP (4357)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 am † Mary Aufiero req by
Charles and Judy Cipriani
4:00 pm † Philip McGovern req by
Anne McGovern

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 am For Our Parish Community
11:00 am † Aline Patane req by
Husband, Ed
1:00 pm † Angel Falcon req by
Juan Carlo Falcon

MONDAY DECEMBER 21

9:00 am † Craig Sohl req by
Sonia and George Sohl

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 am † Julia Rebel req by Barbara Brush

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 am † Agnes C. Nixon req by Her loving
Daughter, Debby Gambino and Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 am † Dorothea Graca req by
Loving Husband, John Graca

CHRISTMAS VIGILS

4:00 pm † Fr. Ray O'Neill
10:00 pm † Nancy Bednarski req by
Mom and Dad

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM † Mike McKenzie req by
McKenzie Family
11:30 AM † Para las almas en Purgatorio
req by Dora

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 am † Steven Waggoner req by
Mary Jo Waggoner
4:00 pm † Bernie Schwindenhammer req by
Loving Wife

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00 am For healing for Mary Brennon
req by Anne McGovern
11:00 am For Our Parish Community
1:00 pm † Rosa Diaz req by
Ramona and Felipe Vasquez

ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

Opening Prayer:

O GOD, BLESS THIS ADVENT WREATH.
MAY IT HELP US PREPARE TO WELCOME JESUS, YOUR SON,
INTO OUR LIVES.
MAY THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE SHINE THROUGH US. AMEN.

WEEK 1- First Sunday of Advent (Light candle # 1) - *HOPE*

WE BELIEVE IN YOU, LORD.
WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP US
TO LOVE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER MORE.
YOU ARE OUR LIGHT,
THE LIGHT THAT OVERCOMES DARKNESS.
COME, LORD JESUS!

(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 2 – Second Sunday of Advent (Light candles #1 & #2) - *LOVE*

COME, LORD JESUS.
WARM OUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LOVE.
HELP US TO PREPARE FOR YOUR COMING.
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS WE CAN DO.
HELP US TO SEE THE GOOD THINGS OTHERS DO.
COME, LORD JESUS!

(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 3 – Gaudete Sunday (Light candles #1, #2, #3) - *JOY*

JESUS, WE WANT YOUR COMING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN HOW WE LIVE AND LOVE.
OPEN OUR HEARTS TO HEAR YOUR TELLING US
HOW WE CAN BRING PEACE AND JOY TO OTHERS.
COME, LORD JESUS!

(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

WEEK 4- Fourth Sunday of Advent (Light candles #1, #2, #3, #4) - *PEACE*

LORD JESUS,
QUIET THE WORRIES AND FEARS IN OUR HEARTS.
GIVE US YOUR PEACE.
THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE YOU SHARE WITH US.
HELP US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE WITH OTHERS.
COME, LORD JESUS!

(Pause for silent prayer. Share your good deeds)

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time.

Please consider online giving.
Go to our website: www.StJoanofarcfl.com
and click on Online Giving.

Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

Attendance 380

Offertory \$8312.00



Thank you to our amazing Knights of Columbus for repairing and cleaning our Social Hall Stove Exhaust Fan. They also paid for everything, saving our Church hundreds of dollars. Thank you and God bless our Knights,
Fr. Pat

We would like to thank The Columbiettes, Auxiliary 11317, for taking 20 Christmas Tree bears off of the tree and spending \$875.00 in Gift Cards for our families in need.

Dear Parishioners, this is why we always need to support the fundraisers of the Columbiettes, Knights of Columbus and Conference of Catholic Women, as they use their fundraising monies to support various needs in our parish as well as help pay for some of our parish bills. Thanks to these wonderful groups.

**To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under Heaven.
- Ecclesiastes 3:1**

"... a time to die ..."

Please pray for the deceased of our parish, who recently passed away. Especially for:

**Jennifer Ristich
Kum Yu Joe Chen**

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel

Asst. Priests..... Rev. Edward Reiter
Rev. Michael Kouts
Rev. Dennis Kaelin
Msgr. Joe Sobiesiak

Deacons Deacon Fred LaPiana
Deacon Jose Cruz
Deacon Mike Ruffner

Parish Business ManagerAnne Cofone

Director of Faith Formation Mary Jo Waggoner
Stjoanreled@gmail.com

Director of Junior High and Youth MinistryNancy Lovelock
Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Music.....Joyce Thorpe
Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am & by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Please call the Parish Office. (352) 688-0663

MATRIMONY IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING MARRIAGE AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH, PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT THERE IS A SIX MONTH PRIOR NOTICE REQUEST REQUIRED.

PARISH INFO

OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(352) 686-7864

RCIA/RCIC

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“IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Served in our Parish Family Hall the 2nd Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & for our homebound, the 4th Thursday of each month.

MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP (NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME)

Wednesday 9:30 am-10:30 am

Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Closed during all Masses & the month of August.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

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