FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Parish Nurses Say: As we prepare for Christmas, let us remember to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior. Let us remember that we are here to serve others in many ways. One small deed can make one big difference in the life of someone else.

Secular Franciscan Order (Ordo Franciscanus Secularist) Interested in living the gospel in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi? ***Living Gospel to Life and life to Gospel*** this is what we do. Gospel to life means we are to take the teachings of Jesus Christ and apply them to our everyday situations. Life to Gospel means we are to mirror our life to Jesus' life. We are to turn other cheek, walk the extra mile, suffer as He suffered, pray as He prayed, forgive as He forgave, love as He loved. Join one of the oldest secular orders in the Catholic Church, the Secular Franciscan Order. As Secular Franciscans, we live with our families, attend school and perform our jobs out into the world, gathering in prayer, fraternity and service. If you're interested, please contact Bill Wallace OFS, wgwbraveheart@hotmail.com or you may call Don Schwab, OFS, 757-899-0951 or don.schwab@yahoo.com. Our next meeting is Sunday, December 15th 2019 at 1:30 pm at St. Gregory the Great, 5345 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, 23462.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES: Couples..... want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend. Attend one of the upcoming weekends: Feb 21-23, 2020 in VIRGINIA BEACH, VA or Mar 20-22, 2020 in FAIRFAX,, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/.

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BAPTISMAL SCHEDULE:

On Sunday, December 15th, **Baptism Preparation Class** will be held at 10:30 a.m. on the second floor in classroom, #10. If you are expecting, we encourage you and your spouse to attend this session. **Godparents are welcome to attend!** Baptism dates and times will be discussed during the class. Please RSVP to Edith, (757) 877-5021, if you are planning to attend.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 17-22, 2019

Dec 17, Tuesday		Pauline Healy ✞
Dec 18, Wednesday		Lucia Le Thi - Anh ✞
Dec 19, Thursday		Felizardo Umali ✞
Dec 20, Friday		Clara Umali ✞
Dec 21, Saturday		Dorothy Schivley ✞
Dec 22, Sunday	7:00	Bill & Billy Allen ✞
	9:00	Pace Family ❤
	12:00	Dez, Jimmy Castro & Children ❤

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READINGS FOR DECEMBER 16-22, 2019

Dec 16, Monday	NM 24:2-7, 15-17A, PS 25:4-9, MT 21:23-27
Dec 17, Tuesday	GN 49:2, 8-10, PS 72:1-4, 7-8, 17, MT 1:1-17
Dec 18, Wednesday	JER 23:5-8, PS 72:1-2, 13, 18-19, MT 1:18-25
Dec 19, Thursday	JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A, PS 71:3-6, 16-17, LK 1:5-25
Dec 20, Friday	IS 7:10-14, PS 24:1-6, LK 1:26-38
Dec 21, Saturday	SG 2:8-14, OR ZEP 3:14-18A, PS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21, LK 1:39-45
Dec 22, Sunday	IS 7:10-14, PS 24:1-6, ROM 1:1-7, MT 1:18-24

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 16-22, 2019

Dec 16, Monday	Divine Will Group 9:00 am
Dec 17, Tuesday	Mass/The Gardens 10:00 am
Dec 18, Wednesday	Adult Choir Music Practice 7:00 pm Youth Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Dec 19, Thursday	St. Jerome Penance Service 7:00 pm
Dec 20, Friday	Mass/St. Francis 11:15 am CDA/Christmas Lunch 11:00 am
Dec 21, Saturday	**First Day of Winter**
Dec 22, Sunday	**NO** Religious Education Classes MS and HS Youth Group Events to be Planned Simbang Gabi/St. Bede 7:00 pm

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Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Gisele Schultz,** our parishioner. *May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to Holy City, the new and eternal Jerusalem.*

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Please keep in prayers the **servicemen and women** who are defending our freedom, their families who are awaiting their safe return home, and for those who have given their lives, the ultimate sacrifice.

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Please **pray for the sick** of our parish and for the families and friends of our parishioners listed on the Prayer List. The revised list is located in the Commons Area.

CHURCH:

Adult Choir Christmas Eve Concert: Please come at 9:30 pm to hear some of your favorite Sacred Carols before the 10:00 pm Mass begins.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
Thursday, December 19th

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths…" Ten Visiting Priests be available to hear confessions in our parish during this **evening at 7:00 P.M.** Let us dispose ourselves as we anticipate coming of Jesus in the season of Advent by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation.

The Filipino Traditional Mass; Simbang Gabi will be held at St. Bede, 3686 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg 23188 on Sunday, December 22 at 7pm. A small reception will follow in the Kaplan Parish Hall. All are welcome!!

MASS TIMES

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS
Tuesday, December 24th
Vigil Mass, 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 24th
Mass during the Night, 10:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 25th
Mass during the Day, 10:00 A.M

Tuesday, December 31st
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Vigil Mass, 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 1st Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – (Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, January 2nd
Daily Mass
8:00 A.M.

January 3rd – Regular Mass schedule resumes

Please Note: The Parish Office will be CLOSED for the Holiday starting December 24th thru January 1st 2020.

No DAILY Mass on December 26 - 27, 2019

CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

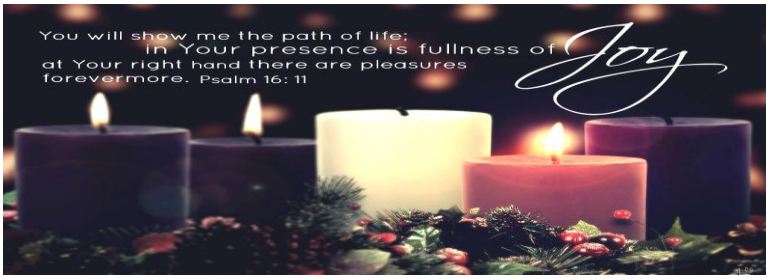
Sunday school reminders: This Sunday, 15 December, Elementary through High School will have a mini advent retreat with their appropriate age groups and will end with lunch in the Faith and Life Center at 1pm. The New Year begins with sacramental prep meeting on 5 January and an Ordinary Time retreat on 12 January. Regular classes resume on 19 January at regular time.

This weekend, the youth group is selling jewelry in the foyer area of the church to help raise money for retreats. Please stop by and see what we have! Great Christmas gifts!

The Youth Group is making luminaries to light the pathway to the entrance of the Church and they will be placed on Christmas Eve for the 5pm and 10pm Masses. If you would like to have a loved one remembered or honored, please stop by the scrip counter and fill out a card with the person's name. (Donations to help cover the cost of the materials are always appreciated but not necessary.)

Do you have some mason jars in boxes that you don't know what to do with? Bring them up to the church! The youth group will use them for some upcoming projects. Any size will do. Please place in the library in a box marked "Mason Jars". Thanks in advance!

All middle and high school teens are asked to help make luminaries on 22 December at 10:15am in the HS youth group room. Bagels and doughnuts will be provided.

The Elementary children are presenting the Epiphany Play this year on 5 January at the 9am and Noon Masses. If your child is interested in participating, please pick up a costume today at 1pm in the Faith and Life Center. Many roles are still available; please email margie@stjeromennva.org for more information. The first practice is on 16 December at 6:30 in the Church.

All young men grades 8 through 12 are invited to attend the First Annual Young Men's Retreat on 3 – 4 January beginning at 1pm. The cost is $25 and reservation is necessary. Email or text Margie today to reserve a spot!