

Welcome Home!

St. Ann Parish Newsletter

Praying. Loving God. Serving Neighbors.

December 2020

Vol. 1 Issue 3



Saint Ann Catholic Church

113 South Kemp Street, Florence, SC 29506
843.661.5012 Office Hours: M-F 8:00-4:00 PM
<https://stanncatholicparish.com/>

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKENDS

5:00 PM SATURDAY
8:30 AM SUNDAY
10:00 AM SUNDAY
12:00 PM SUNDAY
(FILIPINO/TAGALOG)
4TH SUNDAY / MONTH

WEEKDAYS

12:00 PM TUES.-FRI.

We Are Back! We Are Home!

Praying. Loving God. Serving Neighbors.

Waiting in Joyful Hope

Advent is the Church's liturgical season calling for vigilance yet brimming with hope! Again, we are given advice from scripture, "always be ready for the coming of Jesus and be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for the reason for your hope."

In the pandemic, the world that we live in seems devoid of genuine hope because of the chaos that is happening both inside and outside of our lives. At this moment, we are facing an exceedingly difficult challenge...effectively witnessing to hope in our broken world. How do we "bridge" people's fears and frustrations with Christian Hope?

As Christians, we must be a missionary of hope beginning with a profound acceptance of life's realities and peoples growing anxieties. As a missionary, we need to continue the true source of Christian hope--Christ our Savior. Ultimately, our words must always translate into concrete actions that will manifest with the suffering of those on the peripheries of society.

Let us join as a community of St. Ann to make our Advent Season-Christmas fruitful and may we always become a missionary of hope by praying and following our schedule carefully.

Since we are still in a pandemic, our normal time for Masses will be slightly different this year, especially on Christmas Eve as we will miss our Christmas Choir this year. (*Schedules to follow*)

Fr. Noel

Where to Find St. Ann Parish Online...

St. Ann Parish Website

www.stanncatholicparish.com/

St. Ann Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/StAnnFlorence

To Watch Sunday Mass Livestream

www.facebook.com/StAnnFlorence/live

To Watch Sunday Mass on YouTube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCYrMK-sE9ApU6kOGvHwgPOg

Simbang Gabi Celebration

Our Filipino community will celebrate **Simbang Gabi** again this year at St. Ann's!

There will be four days of Novena and Masses as we prepare for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, beginning Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30 PM (same time on each date) and continuing on Friday, December 18th, on Monday, December 21st and on Wednesday December 23rd.

Everyone is invited to join this traditional Filipino celebration!

May the faith and devotion of Mary, the Mother of God, and our Mother, inspire us to receive her in our hearts.

What is Simbang Gabi?

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine dawn masses on the days leading up to Christmas. It begins on December 16 and ends at midnight on the 24th of December, when a midnight mass is held. This tradition was introduced by the Spanish friars to allow the farmers to hear mass before going to the fields early in the morning. The masses can start as early as 4 in the morning. *Simbang Gabi* is also known by its popular Spanish name, *Misa de Gallo*, or "Mass of the Rooster."

How Did Simbang Gabi Begin?

In the olden days, the church bells start ringing as early as three o'clock, waking people up so they can get ready for the four o'clock dawn mass. The Roman Catholic churches across the nation start to open their doors shortly before the break of dawn to welcome the faithful to the Simbang Gabi mass.

Traditionally, Simbang Gabi is celebrated in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today in the Philippines, *Simbang Gabi* is celebrated "for the perseverance of the Filipino nation in the faith and for the preservation of our holy religion in this part of the world."

Saint Martin dePorres Food Pantry **We Need Volunteers & Canned Vegetables!**

Ms. Pat needs more folks to volunteer to cover an hour or two once a week, once a month—make it your New Year's resolution to add this ministry to your prayer life.

St. Martin dePorres Food Program will be open the first three weeks of December, on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and closed the week of Christmas. Come, join us! We need your donations of canned vegetables—all sizes!

St. Ann Ladies Guild **To Meet on Dec. 9th**

At our December meeting, Ladies, we will have our extremely popular Christmas Ornament Exchange! If you wish to participate, purchase a seasonal themed ornament, wrap it up and bring it with you! Sharpen your listening skills as this Christmas poem has twists and turns and makes you question which is right and or was it left, left, left, left?

We will also play a CD of "The Other Wiseman" narrated by Tom Kinard. "The *Other Wise Man*" has become a holiday tradition for many on the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand.

Tom Kinard, former Florence Radio Personality, shared the "Story of the Other Wise Man" as part of the Little Theater Christmas Show for many years. Tom shared that story to countless churches and civic organizations. At age 71, Tom died earlier this year. Many people knew Kinard from his local radio show "Kinard 'N Koffee" on WJMX and WSIM.

If you have any questions, please email Marianne Kennaghan or Mary Barcomb. We are trying to stay active but more importantly—to keep near our friends! We follow all social protocol (masks and distancing, no shared food, etc.) It is Christmas-so bring your own snacks & libations if you wish!

Please consider joining us for our next meeting on Wednesday, December 9th at 7:00 PM in the St. Ann Parish Life Center. St. Ann's Ladies Guild is open to all women of the parish.

Advent, A Time to Prepare for Christmas

By Deacon Bob Cox

Two weeks ago, during our R.C.I.A. class, we made an Advent Wreath for our candidate, Lewis. The prayers to pray for the lighting of the Advent candles were also distributed that night. We discussed the meaning of Advent.

Advent is the time to really prepare for the arrival of Jesus, commemorating his birth, and in anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time. In other words, we need to direct our hearts and minds to the expectation of the two comings of Christ.

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition that is a symbol of the passage of the four weeks of Advent leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. The wreath and candles are symbols that are connected to the Christmas season.

The color of the Advent candle corresponds with the color of the vestments that the deacon and priest wear on the Sundays of Advent. The wreath itself is a symbol of the circle of life. The roundness or circle of the wreath indicates that there is no beginning or end. It tells us of the everlasting life found in Jesus Christ, the eternity of God and the immortality of our own souls. We rejoice during Advent because Christ is coming for each of us! Jesus is the hope and the light of the world. By lighting the candles on the Advent wreath, the lit candles banish the darkness. This is a reminder of the Light of Christ, who has come into the world to be our Savior, and his light continues to glow and shine brightly in His church. Because of Jesus Christ entering humanity, He brings eternity to our world. To you. To me. To our families!

RCIA Classes Continue Weekly

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults continues weekly at St. Ann's. Classes resume from the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM, in the Classroom of the St. Ann Parish Life Center and then will break for the Christmas / New Year holiday. RCIA Classes are not scheduled on Thursday, December 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 7th, 2021.

For more information, contact Deacon Bob Cox, Mary Barcomb, Pat Weaver, or the Church Office.

Legion of Mary Meetings

Members of the Legion of Mary will meet in December on Monday mornings at 9:30 in the St. Ann Parish Life Center on Monday, December 7th, 14th, and 21st, and then break for the Christmas / New Year holidays. We will meet again on Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Dec. 8th: We Celebrate

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
A holy day of Obligation for Catholics

Many Christian communities around the world annually observe the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** on December 8. This **day** is a **holy day** of obligation in which many Christians, particularly of the Catholic faith, attend special church services for this occasion.

This year, Masses in honor of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be available at 12:00 Noon and at 6:00 PM.

This feast honors the conception of Mary in her mother's womb without original sin. By her **Immaculate Conception** she was conceived in the fullness of grace, in the state of closest possible union with God in view of her future role as the Mother of God.

Join Us for the Annual Hanging of the Greens

by Sue Cox

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ each year in a parish community brings back so many memories. Can you recall how beautiful our sanctuary looked last Christmas? This year, our to-do list has grown longer! We have the new St. Ann Parish Life Center to decorate, too! We would like to invite you and your creative spirit to participate in our annual Hanging of the Greens following the Fourth Sunday of Advent to prepare our parish campus for the celebration of the Christmas season.

Many hands make work light and quick! Yes, we are asking for help from those who can wear a mask and to help us to decorate on Tuesday, December 22nd, after the daily Mass noon. We want everyone to stay healthy and safe as we will work diligently in a manner to accomplish this goal. Come, join us!

We need your greenery to make our parish campus beautiful for the annual Christmas celebration. Please drop off your cuttings from your yards by noon on Tuesday, December 22nd & thank you!

What's Happening?

Dec. 8th We celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Masses celebrated at 12:00 PM & at 6:00 PM.

Dec. 12th Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec. 12th & 13th Please return all Angel Tree Gifts for your 'little angels' this weekend to St. Ann Church.

Dec. 15th Advent Penance Service, 7:00 PM, St. Anthony's Church, 2536 West Hoffmeyer Road, Florence

Dec. 16th Simbang Gabi celebration begins at St. Ann's

Dec. 22nd Annual Hanging of the Greens after Mass.

Dec. 23rd- Jan. 4th St. Ann Parish Office closes at 1:00 PM in observance of Christmas / New Year's & will reopen on Monday, January 4th, 2021.

Dec. 24th & 25th Christmas Eve Services are 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM (midnight Mass not scheduled). Christmas Day Services are 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM (also livestream).

Dec. 28th – 30th No Daily Mass

Dec. 31st & Jan 1st Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation for all Catholics. Vigil Mass (Dec. 31st) at 5:00 PM; Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, (Jan. 1st) 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM.



From the Pastor's Desk

Advent Penance Services

"Secondly, (during this pandemic) our Advent Penance Service will not be the same. Those who wish to have confession may do so by calling the St. Ann Parish office for an appointment.

I will hear confessions Tuesday- Friday either before or after the 12:00 daily Mass.

If you wish to attend a Penance Service, St. Anthony's will have their Advent Penance Service on Tuesday, December 15th at 7PM."

Fr. Noel