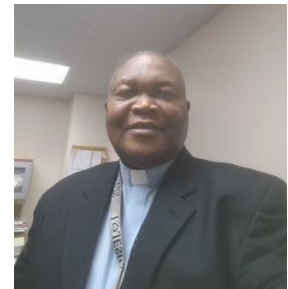
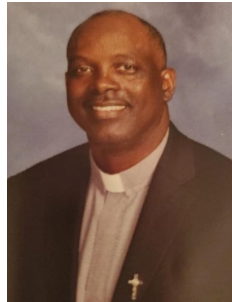


STMOS NEWS NOVEMBER 24, 2020



Father Mike Moran, SMA Deacon Keith Somerville Father Austin Ochu,

The First Sunday of Advent 2020

When I was a child I couldn't wait for Christmas so much that I promised myself that I'd never run away from home unless it was right after Christmas.

The season of Advent is the time in the Church we set aside for "waiting." We are waiting for the birth of Christ. We are waiting for the final reconciliation of God's kingdom and all of creation. We are waiting.

And, truth be told, if we are honest with ourselves, in this society, we don't like to wait on anything! But the reality is, we do...we do have to wait for a wide variety things in life, and waiting creates in us a range of feelings and emotions. At the top of the list is probably impatience. In our everyday lives we encounter longer lines than we want at the grocery store; going to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to renew tags or a driver's license, or sitting in traffic or at a long stop light because of construction. People all around get impatient. We get impatient. How long must we wait in this line?

Waiting also produces anticipation and yearning. "We haven't seen our loved ones in months—perhaps years. They've made arrangements for a visit. They're arriving today. Let's tidy up. Now we just wait expectantly -- hopefully -- joyfully -- looking at the door, waiting for their arrival. How long will we wait before they arrive?" As you can see, waiting can generate anxiety. "There was a swab test for COVID-19. The doctor said there would be a call when the lab results come in. Is it positive? Or is it negative? How long do we have to wait to receive these results?"

Waiting can be so difficult. Knowing that God is with us won't speed up the lines at the grocery store or ease congestion at the traffic light or in the in the DMV. It won't make our loved ones arrive at our doors any sooner. Believing God is present won't make the doctor call with lab results any sooner. But knowing God is with us in the midst of this waiting can ease the impatience, guide the anticipation, and comfort the anxiety in these situations.

And as God's faithful people, we, like the prophet, must find our own voices to speak words of comfort and healing and hope to anyone who feels separated or abandoned by God. God will come. God will enter the experience of all who wait. God will bring them peace. And God will bring us peace.

Amen and God Bless,

Deacon Keith Somerville



Mass will be offered on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 am. Feel free to bring in a prepared dish or rolls for blessing before placing on your table to eat. At this time we are also collecting non-perishable items to help restock the food pantry.

The December 2020 issue of the Word Among Us is available for \$1.00 at the church.

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NEWS & UPDATES



Greetings!

This week we begin the season of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "Adventus" or coming and is believed to have the same connotation as Parousia (Greek). These were the words used to indicate that a visit by the King or emperor was going to occur.

In the New Testament the word was used about 24 times and 16 of them referred to the Second Coming of Jesus. During the time of St. Paul and the Early Church the words could be used interchangeably. Two centuries later Advent has become our time of preparation, "Prepare the way of the Lord". We look for the Parousia, the Second Coming, during this season.

Historically it was seen as a time of fasting and prayer and sometimes referred to as a "little lent", thus the purple altar cloths. There was a time you would not dare to play any Christmas music until the day, and for the more liberal at heart, it would begin during the time of the O antiphons. Well things have changed but the time of preparation is still the same.

It is a time of joy, we are preparing to receive a very special guest. We will begin the menial tasks of decorating the Church, preparing the liturgies and looking for ways to celebrate as a family. We also have to take time to look after our spiritual needs during this season of preparation: take a little more time in prayer, participate a little more in the liturgies, participate in the Reconciliation service, look for ways to spread the Christmas joy we anticipate with the Parousia.

This year may not have been the most exhilarating but let's try and close it with a festive spirit. Christmas will be a good time for us to wish peace to all, Joy for all and God's Blessing on Everyone.

As we light each of the advent candles lets remind ourselves to their meanings:

- *The first candle or The Prophecy Candle symbolizes **HOPE** and God's forgiveness toward us.*
- *The second candle or the Bethlehem Candle symbolizes **FAITH** and reminds Catholics about the experience of Joseph and Mary in the city of Bethlehem.*
- *The third candle or the Shepherd's Candle which is pink, represents Gaudette Sunday and the **JOY** that the birth of Christ brought to the world.*
- *The fourth candle or the Angel's Candle represents the **PEACE** and **JUSTICE** that the angels and Christ bring to the world.*

*The Christ Candle is the one in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve. It represents Christ among us and His **LIGHT** is the center of all that is and the guides us from darkness into light.*

God Bless,

Fr. Mike Moran, SMA Administrator



November Novena Prayer For Poor Souls in Purgatory

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Out of the Depths [De Profundis] Prayer:

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive my voice in supplication: If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord who can stand? But with You is forgiveness, You may be revered. I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in His word. My soul waits for the Lord, more than sentinels wait for the dawn. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord; For with the Lord is kindness and with Him is plenteous redemption; And He will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

Most Sweet Jesus

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before your altar. We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but, to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your most Sacred Heart

Lectors Schedule

Thursday, 11/26 Thanksgiving Mass
10:00 AM Volunteer

Saturday, 11/28
4:00 PM Ophelia Lee

Sunday, 11/29
8:00 AM Whitney Hubbard
11:00 AM Velma Marshall

Saturday, 12/05
4:00 PM Dorothy Carter

Sunday, 12/06
8:00 AM Whitney Hubbard
11:00 AM Al Pearson

Saturday, 12/12
4:00 PM Patty Pflieger

Sunday, 12/13
8:00 AM Lynn Young
11:00 AM Vanessa Holley

Wed, 12/16 Advent Reconciliation
7:00 PM Volunteer

Saturday, 12/19
4:00 PM Beverly Glover-Adegbaye

Sunday, 12/20
8:00 AM Whitney Hubbard
11:00 AM Al Pearson

Thursday, 12/24 Christmas Vigil
7:00 PM Ophelia Lee

Friday, 12/25 Christmas Day Mass
10:00 AM Volunteer

ANNOUNCEMENT: Previous Lectors wishing to return to the roster should contact Lynn Young at LLSweeney@att.net or 301-919-596

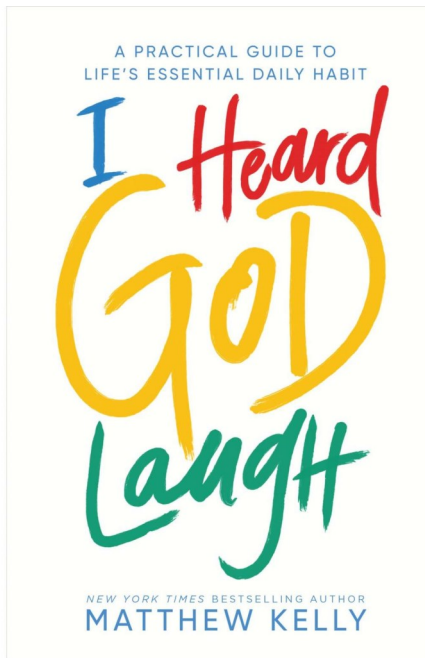


Eucharistic Service From Your Vehicle

Date: December 20th (Every 3rd Sunday)

Time: 10:00 am

Missing the Eucharist, but are still nervous about coming into the church building? St. Margaret's of Scotland will be offering an outdoor communion service. You will not have to get out of your vehicle. Father will bring Communion to you. We will continue to offer this service on the 3rd Sunday of every month. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to take survey so we can get an accurate account of participants.

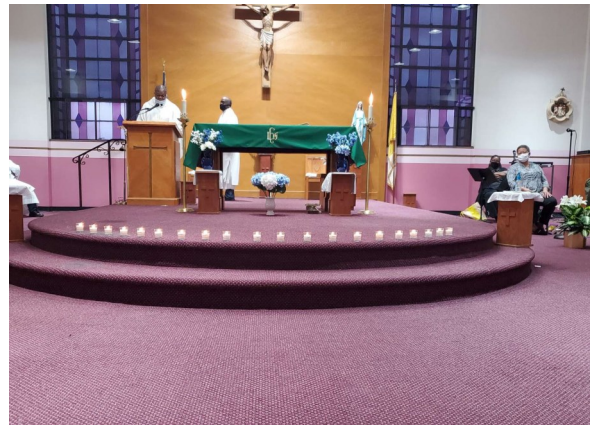
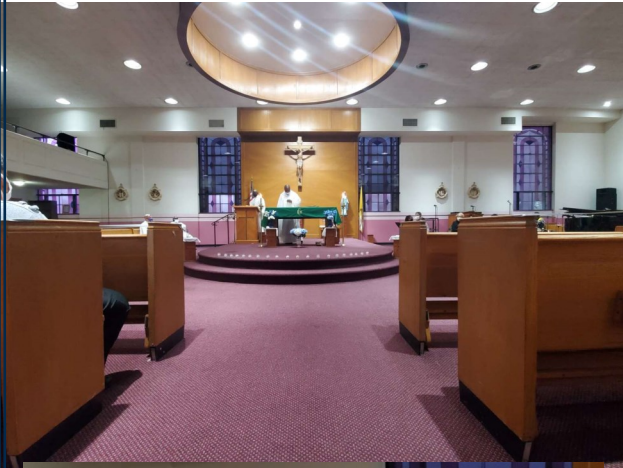


A must read during these challenging times!

Thanks to Gail Carter and Virginia Richardson for ordering these books for our parish.

Copies are available for pickup at the church and the rectory.

Photos from Memorial Mass



CAR DONATION VEHICLE STILL AVAILABLE!

MRS. ALMA SAVAGE, OUR BELOVED PARISHIONER AND PILLAR OF THE ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND COMMUNITY WHO PASSED IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR LEFT THE CHURCH A GIFT OF HER VEHICLE. THIS VEHICLE, A 2007 SATURN ION WAS WELL MAINTAINED AND HAS 75,000 ORIGINAL MILES. THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF MRS. SAVAGE, THE CHURCH IS OFFERING THE VEHICLE FOR SALE. PROCEEDS FROM THE VEHICLE WILL BE USED TO ESTABLISH A PERPETUAL FUND TO BE A BLESSING TO SOMEONE IN NEED.

CASH OFFERS, \$2000 OBO, WILL BE COLLECTED VIA EMAIL BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 30TH. PLEASE SEND ALL OFFERS TO STMARGPAR@VERIZON.NET . THE PERSON WITH THE BEST OFFER WILL BE CONTACTED THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7TH.

