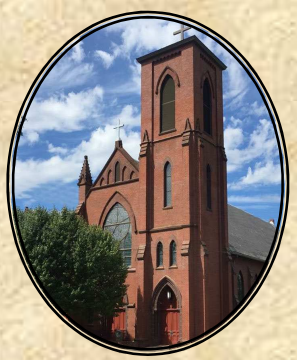
Mary, Mother of the Church Parish

ST. MARY
45 Crosswicks Street
Bordentown, N.J. 08505



REV. MARTIN O'REILLY, Pastor
REV. CESAR R. ANSON, Parochial Vicar
REV. STEPHEN SCHULER, SVD, Weekend Assistant

Deacons
Gary T. Richardson Ronald Schwoebel

Parish Office: 609-298-0261
Fax: 609-298-7178
Web Address: mmotcp.org

Retired Deacons
Lawrence W. Finn Thomas F. Shea
Ronald Zalegowski

HOLY ASSUMPTION
1290 Hornberger Avenue
Roebling, N.J. 08554

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Photo: Mosaic, the Annunciation of Mary, Santa Maria del Fonte, Caravaggio, Italy; matthia/Adobe Stock; Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

MASSES

Saturday Vigil: Holy Assumption—4:00 PM
St. Mary, Bordentown—5:00 PM
Sunday: Holy Assumption—10:30 AM
St. Mary, 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Holy Assumption—Saturday from 3:00-3:45 PM
St. Mary—Saturday 4:00-4:45 PM; also by appt.

WEEKDAY MASS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

St. Mary, Bordentown 7:30 AM Chapel of Saints
Holy Assumption, Roebling 8:30 AM
(Monday -Eucharistic Service)

No morning Mass on Saturdays

Eve of the Holy Day: St. Mary, Bordentown 7:00 PM
Holy Day: St. Mary, Bordentown —7:30 AM
Holy Assumption, Roebling —8:30 AM & 7:00 PM

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, 1:00 PM at St. Mary Church; and on the 3rd Sunday during the 10:30 AM Mass at Holy Assumption. Please call the rectory office to register, provide the required documents, and schedule a Baptism Prep class.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements are to be made at least 1 year in advance.

SICK CALLS/COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Urgent calls any time of day or night. Arrangements for Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion for those confined to the home are to be made by contacting the rectory.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The chapel is open daily. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for solemn adoration: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-8:45AM; Sat. 8:00-10:00AM. Evening hours are Wed. 7-8 PM Quarterly, special adoration times & events are offered.

PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome new parishioners to the parish, and we ask them to register as soon as possible. If you are not registered, we are not able to issue letters for sponsorship for the Sacraments or character references to schools or for employment. If you move from the parish please notify the rectory.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Altar Linen Ministry
Helene Shea 609-298-7612 (SM)
Barbara Boldizar 609-499-0900 (HA)

Church Ushers
Ron Marino 609-298-5469 (SM)
Dominick Cipriano 609-634-2482(HA)

Contemporary Choir
Cathy Alphonse 609-291-9204 (MMOTCP)

Eucharistic Ministers
Contact the Parish Office—609-298-0261

Food Pantry
Mike Novalis 609-298-4664 (SM);
Sue Oros 609-499-0022 (HA)

Holy Name Society
Paul Ordog 609-499-9259 (MMOTCP)

Knights of Columbus
Robert Pecht 609-865-0014 (MMOTCP)

Lectors
Contact the Parish Office—609-298-0261

Legion of Mary
Anne Eccles 609-298-0261

Open Hearts, Willing Hands
(Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County)
609-393-9922

Music Ministry
Alfonso Gonzalez, Coordinator - 609-222-2335

Altar & Rosary Society
Stephanie Salewski 609-291-1816 (SM)
Donna Frappolli 609-221-1957 (HA)

Sports Committee
John Bacovin 609-638-9054 (MMOTCP)

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Jeff Burns 609-298-1414 (MMOTCP)

Third Order
Maria Schultes (MMOTCP)

Word of Life Prayer Group
Pat Baylog 609-298-4249 (MMOTCP)

MEETINGS & EVENTS OF THE WEEK

December 23

7:00 PM Mary's Weavers—Parish Office, Downstairs
7:00 PM Word of Life Prayer Group—Chapel
8:00 PM KofC Meeting—Parish Office, Upstairs

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

DECEMBER 24
through
DECEMBER 29

Have A Blessed Christmas!

Parish Office Hours: Monday 9:00-7:00 Tuesday—Friday: 9:00-3:00
45 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505
Phone: 609-298-0261 & 609-499-0161 | Religious Ed. Phone: 609-291-8281 | Fax: 609-298-7178

Fr. Martin O'Reilly, Pastor.....ext. 16
Fr. Cesar Anson, Parochial Vicar.....ext. 10
Larry Denney, Business Manager .....ext. 15
Cathy Alphonse, Accounts Payable .....ext. 11
.....calphonse@mmotcp.org
Peggy Schwoebel, Purchasing.....ext. 10
.....pschwoebel@mmotcp.org

Patricia Solimine, Parish Secretary.....ext. 12
.....psolimine@mmotcp.org
Margaret Zola, Coordinator, Religious Ed. .....ext. 18
..... mzola@mmotcp.org
Carol Schulz, RE Assistant.....ext. 17
.....cschulz@mmotcp.org
Richard Mercantini, Maintenance

MASS INTENTIONS

SAINT MARY CHURCH

Monday, December 23
7:30 AM Carol Kuronya (A) rb/Tim Martin
Betty Kinsley rb/Her Husband

Tuesday, December 24
5:00 PM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials
7:30 PM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials
10:00 PM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials

Wednesday, December 25
7:30 AM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials
9:30 AM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials
11:30 AM All Those Listed on the Christmas Flower Memorials

Thursday, December 26
9:30 AM Dominic Chen rb/Huang Family

Friday, December 27
9:30 AM Ada DiPietro rb/Ferd Loretangeli
George Z. Schipske rb/The Family

Saturday, December 28
5:00 PM In Thanksgiving rb/Edmund Pajarillo
Bill Szelingoski, Jr. rb/The Family

Lector: Pat McElven
EM: Joe Gramlich, Maravic dela Cruz, Karen Selmon, John J. Smith, Jr., Ann Ervin, Need 2 More
Server: Matthew & Jonathan Prihoda

Sunday, December 29
7:30 AM Albert Hujdich rb/His Family

Lector: Anne Egan
EM: Joyce Ingling, Maria & Steve Paczkowski, Roseann O'Donnell, Rose O'Connor, Dave Cleary, Need 1 More
Server: Kevin Ritter

9:30 AM Catherine Canallaro rb/Maggie & Jim Smith

Lector: Tracy Moody
EM: Anne Egan, Midge Rizzo, Raymond Moody, John Casserini, Cookie Richmond, Yolette Labissiere, Need 2 More
Servers: Sophia D'Artagnon, Gabriel Jarvie

11:30 AM Toni Laba rb/Patty Baylog

Lector: Paul Keller
EM: Anna DeChirara, Linda Yack, John & Sue Bacovin, Valerie Tomaszewski, Need 2 More
Servers: Ron Janssen Tarriela, Amelie Dela Cruz, Matthew Lutzker

HOLY ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Monday, December 23
8:30 Eucharistic Service

Tuesday, December 24
4:00 PM Carl Polizzutto rb/The Familuy
Debra Csik Kern rb/Virginia Csik

Wednesday, December 25
10:30 AM David Csik rb/Virginia Csik
Deceased Members of the Luttman Family rb/Virginia Csik

Thursday, December 26
10:00 AM Betty Opre rb/Barbara Opre
James Buonanno Sr. rb/Mary Filipponi & Maria Roan

Friday, December 27
8:30 AM Tibbott Csik rb/Theresa Elliott
Healing of Brian Boldizar rb/Joe & Donna Frappolli

Saturday, December 28
4:00 PM Zolie Nyiri rb/Elsie Nyiri
Virginia Foulks rb/David & JoAnn Foulks

Lectors: Emilia & Carla Winters
EM: Kim & Sheila Tkacs, Deborah Phillips, Ron Scully
Server: Graziella Carnassale, Ken Cruz

Sunday, December 29
10:30 AM Tom "Red" Kira rb/The Family
Josep Muha rb/Jack & Kristen Sweeney & Family

Lectors: Donna & Tom Waltz
EM: Rose Troyanovich, John Fratinardo, Mary Oros, Donna Frappolli
Server:

ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY

Week of December 22 Jeanne Zalegowski (SM)
Week of December 29 Marge Devennie

For more information, call Helene Shea (SM) at 609-298-7612 or Barbara Boldizar (HA) at 609-499-0900.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the Fourth Week of Advent and just three days away from celebrating the birthday of Jesus and the celebration of Christ's second coming. Do you feel as I do, these four weeks went so fast? We need to STOP and REFLECT. Let's reflect on the birth of Jesus, the impact this birth had on our world. The life Jesus lived, the impact this life had on our world. The words Jesus spoke, the impact these words had on our world. The healing Jesus brought, the impact this healing had on our world. Is there anything we can learn from Jesus? As we approach 2020, is there anything we should change that would make us more Christ like?

Do I appreciate my birth, the impact my birth has on this world? The life I live, the impact my life has on others. The words I speak, the impact my words have on others. The healing I bring, the impact my healing has on others. Is there anything others could learn from me? Remember, the impact Jesus had/has on our world, we can have the same impact by allowing the same Christ Child to be born in us and allowing the Christ Child work through us. All it takes is a 'YES' from us. My prayers for you are that you will proclaim that 'YES.'

I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas – I truly hope and pray that you will be able to gather all your family and loved ones together over the Christmas period to show appreciation to each other, to affirm each other, to love each other and to show forgiveness to each other where forgiveness is needed. For loved ones far from home I truly pray that they will feel the love of family and God in their hearts on Christmas Day and know they are missed and thought of often. I know for all of us we speak about Christmas in joyful terms but there are many who are grieving. Departed loved ones fill this period with fond memories of joy and laughter that can bring heartache and pain. Please know, I and the whole parish, are thinking of you and praying for you. May the Child Jesus bring you hope, love and comfort.

This is my second Christmas in Mary, Mother of the Church Parish and I truly feel as if I have been here all my life. I feel this way because of the warmth of your welcome, your ready support and encouragement and for all your help. This past year was a very special year for me because of my 25th Anniversary as a priest. It was made extra special by the celebration that was organized back in June. My family truly loved the warmth and welcome they received. Thank you for that, it truly is appreciated. I look forward to the year ahead with great excitement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who take an active part in the life of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, it would be impossible to do it without you. To the Office Staff, Cleaning Staff, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Coordinators and Cantors, Sacristans and Altar Servers thank you for all you do. To our clergy, thank you for all the support you give to the people of our parish both sacramentally and spiritually. It is appreciated by one and all. To Fr. Stephen and all the priests at the Divine Word, thank you for all your help and support. To Fr. Anson and to our Deacons, you do such great work and give great support, thank you! A special thank you to Margaret Zola and all our Religious Education teachers, classroom assistants and hall monitors, thank you. Your willingness to give of your time speaks volumes about who you are. To all our parish societies – Thank You!

May the love of the Christ Child fill your hearts, grow in your lives and guide you in the year ahead.

Fr. Martin

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM - HOLY ASSUMPTION
5:00 PM - ST. MARY
7:30 PM - ST. MARY
10:00 PM - ST. MARY

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 AM - HOLY ASSUMPTION
7:30 AM - ST. MARY
9:30 AM - ST. MARY
11:30 AM - ST. MARY

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 31, 2019
5:00 PM - ST. MARY

JANUARY 1, 2020
9:30 AM - ST. MARY
10:30 AM - HOLY ASSUMPTION

Parish Offerings for
December 21-22, 2019

Due to the early submission of the bulletin, totals are not available for the previous weekend.

Please Note Special Mass Times

Thursday, December 26, 2019
9:30 AM - St. Mary
10:00 AM - Holy Assumption

Please Note Special Mass Times

Friday, December 27, 2019
9:30 AM - St. Mary
8:30 AM - Holy Assumption

THE SICK who have been recommended to our prayers…

David Csik, Jr., Maria Corbett, Nancy Walls, Patricia Gates, Nichole Lynn Cochran, James Tomosi, Paul Darata, Fr. Mike Burns, Edward Gernhardt, Marie Pumilio, Edna Mae Cassidy, Marie Peterla, Warren "Pete" Bird, Josie Nolan, Ronald Bell, Jr., Blake Rogers, Brian Boldizar, Michael Nuzzi, Jean Blakeslee Malpus, Roy Cook, and all of the sick of the parish.

The 'Walk for Life' is on Friday, January 24, 2020. The cost remains the same, $25.00 per person, and includes dinner at the Golden Corral. Bus departs from St. Mary parking lot after the morning mass (about 8 AM). Our estimated return time is 9 PM. The bus will drop off those walking in the March at the park and then take everyone else to the Basilica of the National Shrine. The bus will park there until approximately 3:15. The bus will pickup the walkers at Union Station around 4 PM then drive to the Golden Corral in Maryland for dinner.

Word of Life Prayer Group
Praise & Worship, Chapel of the Saints
Mondays at 7 pm

Healing Mass—January 20, 2020—7 pm

BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS

There will be a special blessing of the baby Jesus figurines from your Creche at home during the Masses this weekend. Please place your baby Jesus figure in the church manger.

Mary, Mother of the Church
Community Food Pantry

St. Mary Site
Current needs: bar soap, pasta sauce, Chef Boyardee, and applesauce.

- If anyone wishes to donate a **frozen turkey, turkey breast or ham** to the pantry for Christmas, please drop off your donation when the pantry is open.
- In addition to food donations, we are also seeking donations of **new adult size socks** since there is a tremendous need.

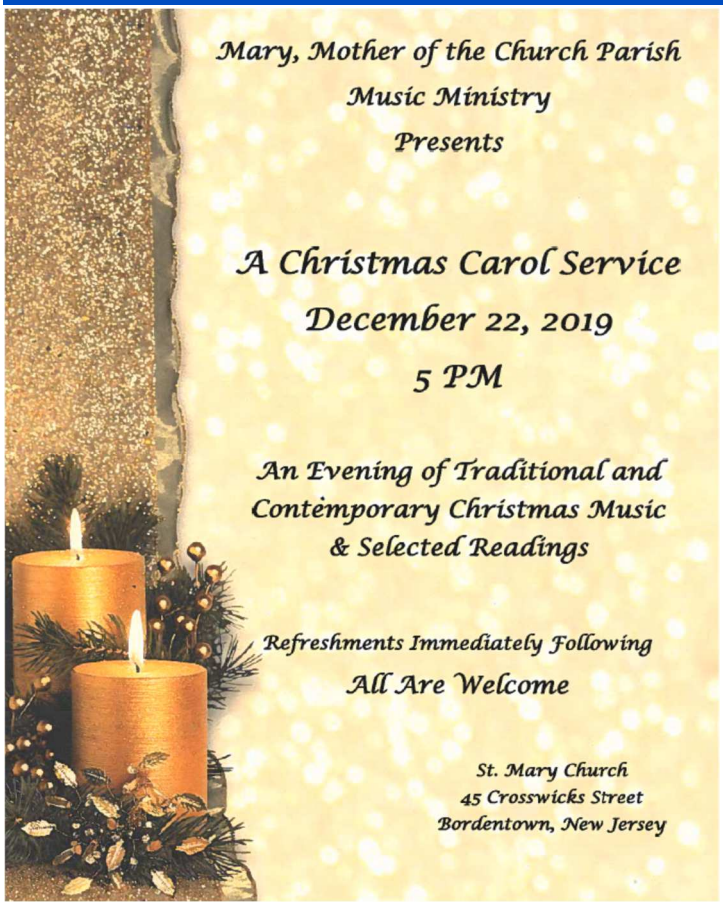
Open: M-W-F 2-3 PM;
Tuesday-Thursday 9-10 AM & 6-7 PM;
Saturday 9-10 AM

Holy Assumption Site
Current needs: cereal, pasta sauce, mac & cheese, toilet paper and juice.

Open: Tuesdays 2-3 PM

Each Food Pantry operates separately in different locations, please bring all donations to the church requesting the items needed. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

There is a children's song that begins: "Surprise! Surprise! God is a Surprise." We think of God as mighty, revealed in a column of fire, in a cloud, or even in a burning bush. But a God who would choose to come as a helpless infant, that kind of divinity was incomprehensible to the Jewish people, and is to us. Surprise!
Look for God's coming in your life today.



PLEASE JOIN US TONIGHT FOR AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING WITH THE CHOIRS OF THE PARISH

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent dePaul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."

We wish all of you a Blessed, Holy and Peaceful Christmas.

If you or anyone you know in our local communities of Bordentown, Roebling or Florence needs assistance, call our confidential helpline at 609-298-1414.
Together we can help them celebrate Christmas.

THE ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY

If you would like the Statue of the Blessed Mother to adorn your home, please contact Jeanne Zalegowski at (609) 298-6868.

Prayer Opportunities

ST. MARY, BORDENTOWN

Each Day:	7:00 AM—Chapel & 8:00 AM—Chapel
Tuesday:	From 2:00-3:00 PM—Chapel
Wednesday:	3:00 PM Chapel (For Priests & Religious)
Saturday:	9:00 AM—Chapel "Timeless Rosary"

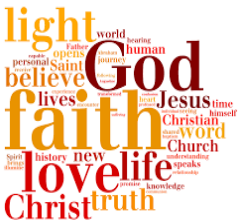
HOLY ASSUMPTION, ROEBLING

Weekdays:	8:00 AM—Church
Sunday:	10:00 AM—Church (Before Mass)

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA
Wednesday at 7:00 PM - St. Mary, Chapel
Monday at Holy Assumption—*Following Morning Mass*.

The silent night is so close now—and yet it seems so far away. Give me an Advent joy that gets richer in expectation as each day passes. Let the peace that is promised be mine today, and let it flow in and out of me all the way until Christmas Eve. Amen.

…… Religious Education News ……



January 5,12,26….....Sunday RE Classes St. Mary School 8AM, 10AM
January 6…….Monday Monthly RE Classes St. Mary School 6PM
January 7,14,28……...Tuesday RE Classes Holy Assumption 5:15PM, 6:45PM
January 4…….First Penance Retreat School Hall 10-11:30AM or 12:30-2PM

CLASS TO MASS

As Mass participation grows, we hope the journey with the Lord continues beyond the classroom. As Catholic's we know the Lord is ever present in our lives.

January 4….....B07 Holy Assumption 4PM
January 5.....C07 St. Mary's 9:30AM
January 5.....D07 St. Mary's 11:30AM
January 11…….B06 Holy Assumption 4PM
January 12.....C06 & A06 St. Mary's 9:30AM
January 12…….D06 & HS06 St. Mary's 11:30AM
January 26.....C05 & A05 St. Mary's 9:30AM
January 26…….D05 & HS05 St. Mary's 11:30AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER – *Light all four candles - Hope, Love, Joy and Peace*

Come, Lord Jesus! We hunger, we thirst, we wait for you! Come, Lord Jesus and do not delay! *Family members share a time when they have seen the Lord Jesus present in the home or community.*

As we prepare for the coming of your Son, O God, we are hungry and thirsty for signs of his love in our lives. We give you thanks for the season of waiting and hopefulness for Jesus to be even more present in the life of this family. We give you thanks for this food and drink, signs of your gracious love. May this meal strengthen us to love each other and our neighbors as we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Grant this through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS COLORING CONTEST WINNERS---

Thank you to all our students that submitted an entry in our coloring contest. We had over 57 entries to choose from. Special congratulations to our winners and runner-ups. A thank you to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the awards presented to our winners.

Grades 1-2 winner **Natalia C (B01)** and runner-up **Madison S (C02**)
Grades 3-4 winner **Josephine M (C04)** and runner-up **Olivia L (D03)**
Grades 5-6 winner **Pierce P (C05)** and runner-up **Matthew L (D06)**

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Confirmation Candidates are expected to attend an important session on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30-8:00PM in Holy Assumption Divine Mercy Meeting Room. Fr. Martin will be answering some of your "Catholicism 101" questions that you prepared in class.

MASS ATTENDANCE

The 3rd Commandment is to remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. It is our Catholic duty to attend Mass each week. During Advent make the effort to attend mass more often. Come talk to God in His house. For our religious education students, Mass and class attendance should go hand-in-hand.

Phone #: 609-291-8281 - Margaret Zola, CRE x18 , **Email:** mzola@mmotcp.org and
Carol Schulz, Assistant x17 - cschulz@mmotcp.org, **Website:** www.mmotcp.org

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel. [Isaiah 7:14]

Knights of Columbus
Council 570 -
Bordentown

Upcoming Events

- Coats for Kids Drive is happening now. If you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause, we are accepting cash and checks. Please make checks payable to ofC #570. All donations are welcome.
- Annual Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Sunday, December 22nd from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Rob at 609-865-0014. Cost is $10 for Adults, $5 for Kids ages 5-11 and FREE for Kids under 5.

Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center 84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501
609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net Please check **www.FHOP.org** for directions and for our other offerings!

END OF THE YEAR RETREAT
Tuesday, December 31 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer. Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2019 and expressing gratitude to God. The afternoon will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2020. Please bring a bag lunch. Love Offering.

SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR 2020
Thursday, January 2 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
What better way to spend this day! Start out 2020 with a morning retreat to set the direction for the year. "Well begun is half done," they say, and establishing a direction is essential for the journey. Where am I going in 2020? What is the desire of my heart, and God's as we begin this year together? Donation: $25, includes lunch.

TAKE THE ADVENT CHALLENGE!

Follow That Star!

The star is a common symbol in our culture. If someone is the best and brightest in their field they are often called a "star." Even Macy's uses a star as a symbol of shopping pleasure. During Advent we use the star as a symbol for Christ, the Light of the World, shining in the darkness, leading all who wander. Every time you see a star—whether in the sky or on a Macy's bag, take a moment to think of Christ and how we are all following his star.

Star Sugar Cookies

Ingredients:
2-3/4 cups flour
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 egg
1 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract

Directions
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and baking powder. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll dough out on a cutting board until flat and, using star cookie cutters, cut into large and small stars. Place star cookies onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet 2 minutes before removing to cool on wire racks. Decorate with white frosting and white or yellow sprinkles.

For those of us who are baking impaired, simply buy a roll of premade sugar cookie dough and plop it on a baking sheet. Kids love the decorating part more anyway!