



Church of St. Uriel the Archangel

December 24-25, 2017

*"Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of Peace, and Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end."
(Is. 9:1, 5 and Lk. 1:33)*

With these words, the Sacred Liturgy announces the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. It is truly a joyous day in which we join Christians all over the world in welcoming into our hearts the King and Ruler of all creation, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I pray that this Christmas finds you and your family in good health and grace.

I am filled with gratitude to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon St. Uriel's over this past year. The Church gives praise and thanksgiving to almighty God for his redemptive work through his Son Jesus Christ. Through the Incarnation of God in his Son, God has joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven. My thoughts also turn to our love of and dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary who intercedes for us to her Son. She points us to Jesus and in turn, she comes to the aid of her sons and daughters. We therefore remember and honor His most holy Mother.

I am particularly thankful for all the ministries and work carried out by so many of you in our parish over this past year. We have continued to support the work of missionaries throughout the world. Our care packages sent out every six weeks to our troops overseas have meant so much to them and their families. At Thanksgiving, we assisted in the feeding of over 45 families. We continue to support two community food pantries along with Trinity Church's feeding of the homeless. We have supported the work of many of our brothers and sisters who have lost so much through the three destructive hurricanes. Our youth group this summer again went on their mission trip where they assisted in the renovation of homes for the elderly and needy. We continue to raise awareness in defense of the dignity of human life. We have seen the spiritual transformation in the lives of those individuals who have participated in our Alpha program. All of these ministries are just a drop in the bucket of all the work, prayer and spiritual growth that has been carried out this past year.

Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord Jesus gives us the opportunity to return once again to the true spirit and joy of this blessed season. The danger for us is to get too caught up in the commercialization of the holiday that we forget the heart of what we celebrate. The greatest sin of our modern culture today is the sin of complacency and indifference. Many are satisfied with stripping this holy season of Jesus Christ. You and I must be witnesses of the Lord Jesus, reminding all of our neighbors and friends of the Incarnation of God in Christ Jesus. In our present western culture, Christmas has become the season of little more than black Friday and who can find the best deals. We must make Christmas a season of faith and charity, announcing to the world the great love and mercy of God.

May the Infant Child Jesus and His most Blessed Mother grant you the joy and peace of this holy season and keep you and your loved ones safe.

Pax Christi,
Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC
Rector

Saturday, December 2 – Youth Day!

2–4pm

Ginger Bread House Making and Movie Afternoon

Youth of every age in the parish invited

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday – December 3 [Advent Wreath Party]

Immaculate Conception

Friday – December 8, 9:30AM Mass [Lady Chapel]

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

Thursday – December 21

9:30AM Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24

9:00am Mass only

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Christmas Eve

Sunday – December 24

5PM Mass

Christmas Day

Monday – December 25

10AM Mass

Christmas Flowers

In order to have the names of loved ones included on the Memorial list, please have flower memorials to St. Uriel's by Thursday, December 21st.

St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Tuesday – December 26

9:30AM Mass

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday – December 27

9:00am Holy Rosary, 9:30AM Mass

Holy Innocents

Thursday – December 28

9:30AM Mass

The Holy Name of Jesus / Mary Mother of God

Monday – January 1, 2018

9:30AM Mass

The Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday – January 6, 2018

9:30AM, Mass

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday, January 29, 2018

6PM Mass and 7PM Meeting

Confessions: As scheduled or contact Fr. Griffin for appointment.