

DECEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 No Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent Women's Council 11:30A St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A	2 Zumba Class 6P Liturgy Meeting 7P <i>Life After the Pink Slip 7P</i>	3 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6P Baptismal Prep 7P Lector Prep 7P	4 <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> AGLD Rehearsal 7P	5 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir & AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P	6 YAG Meeting 7:30P	7 SVDP Meeting 9A Lector Prep 10:30A Dance by Kenya 1:30P New Members Meet & Greet 3P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A KPCLA Meeting 1:30P Jr. Division Meeting 1:30P Dancer's Benefit 3:30P	9 Feast of Immaculate Conception Stand Up for Kids 4P Zumba Class 6P Advent Retreat 7P	10 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Atlanta Beltline 6:30P Zumba Class 6P Advent Retreat 7P	11 <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> AGLD Rehearsal 7P Advent Retreat 7P	12 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Advent Retreat 7P	13 YAG Meeting 7:30P	14 SVDP Meeting 9A Usher Training 9A Eractism 11A Advent Penance 2:00PM ASHS Meeting 2P Life Issues 4P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A Haiti Committee 12N	16 Zumba Class 6P Pastoral Council 7P	17 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6P	18 <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> AGLD Rehearsal 7P	19 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir & AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P	20 1st Day of Winter YAG Meeting 7:30P <i>Men's Ministry</i> <i>Movie Night for Edgewood 7:30P</i>	21 SVDP Meeting 9A Pastoral Care Meeting 10A Dance by Kenya 1:30P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
22 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A Lay Dominicans 2P	23 Taize Prayer Group 8:00PM	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 4PM - Family Mass 7PM - Children's Mass 12Midnight Mass @ Ebenezer Sanctuary Caroling starts at 11:30P	25 Christmas Day 10:00AM Eucharist Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
29 No Sunday School The Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Years Eve Church Office Closed Watchnight 11:00PM	1 New Years Day Church Office Closed	2 January 2014 Church Office Re-Opens at 9A		

Join us for Sunday Breakfast, December 15th & 22nd
 Sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver

Holiday Schedule ~ Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th ~ 4PM Family Mass; 7PM Children's Mass;
Midnight Mass Held at the Horizon Sanctuary, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 402 Auburn Avenue
 ~ Music Program starts 11:30PM

Life Notes

December 2013

MAMA HILL'S HELP

Millicent Hill ought to be getting some well-deserved rest. Suffering from asthma and crippled by severe arthritis, the 73-year-old could easily look back with pride on her accomplishments as a pianist and opera singer and on her three decades of service as a popular middle-school and high-school instructor in South Los Angeles. Besides, her Watts neighborhood had become so ridden with gang-related gun violence that she once calculated that she had personally known (or known of) 2,000 young murder victims. One of her favorites was a boy nicknamed Scooby Doo who took pride in reciting Shakespeare in her class; he was shot in the mouth for a pair of sneakers.

But her early retirement has brought Hill even closer to young people at risk. Volunteering as a tutor, she drew so many youngsters that she turned her living room into a community center. There she set up a 501(c)(3) organization called Mama Hill's Help, an after-school program that has served nearly 3,000 kids ages 5 to 18 over the past decade. Recognized as a safe haven, the program provides kids with both academic help and compassionate guidance on manners and getting along with others.

A CIVIL RIGHTS CONNECTION

Interviewed for the Oprah Network's *Soul Pancake*, Mama Hill produced a rock that grazed her cheek when she was confronted by a mob of white teens in Nashville early in the Civil Rights movement. She keeps it, she says, partly because the rock reminds her to be humble but also because the young man who threw it backed away when she looked him in the eye, perhaps in recognition of their common humanity. At that moment, she says, she learned "there's always hope in the world . . . for peace."

"HURT PEOPLE HURT OTHER PEOPLE"

Mama Hill's work for peace begins with her analysis of the root cause of violence: "Hurt people hurt other people." She claims that you can tell the age when a person was badly hurt by seeing how old that person acts when he or she gets angry. So Hill's first question to every child entering her program is "Who hurt you?" Then she works on strategies to heal the pain, providing love (in the forms ranging from birthday cakes to new foster homes) and holding children accountable for bad behavior. "What we're trying to do here," she says, "is stop them from hurting so they won't hurt anyone else."

TO MAKE MUSIC IN THE HEART

"They're looking for family," Mama Hill says of her young charges. "They're looking for somewhere to have love and to be accepted." When they find it, most of them thrive. But their success goes even beyond their documented achievements in school or in the workforce. As one young lady told *Soul Pancake*, "I'm living something I never thought I'd be able to live. I'm living at peace." No wonder Mama Hill chose the poetic words of theologian Howard Thurman as her program's mission statement: "To find the lost/ To heal the broken/ To feed the hungry/ To free the prisoners/ To rebuild nations/ To bring peace among brothers/ To make music in the heart."

Want some serious Advent inspiration? See how a handicapped older lady keeps the Christmas spirit alive all year by visiting <http://www.mamahillshelp.org>