

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."



#### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

#### Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.



For the Week of December 11<sup>th</sup> through  
December 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

#### Monday

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab;  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

#### Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

#### Wednesday

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

#### Thursday

Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

#### Friday

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36

#### Saturday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17



The US Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides a full listing of the Sunday and Daily Readings, in print and audio format, on its website, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Bernice Paradise

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Walter and Agnus Osterling

10:00 a.m. Ana Ras

Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> Bob Flick

8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. John Stockstill

Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Parishioners, living and deceased

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. (SH) Communion Service

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Anita Gelderman

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Ray Brilz

10:00 a.m. Sue Kolsun

REMEMBERING THE  
SICK OF THE  
PARISH: Remember in  
your prayers the sick of

the parish: *John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Bob Dunn, Elizabeth Montague, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Jennifer Willis, Joe Fick, and Delores Carmen*, and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the front foyer.



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**NEW TO THE PARISH:** Please be sure to register with the Parish Office and introduce yourself to Father Grasing after Mass. Registration forms are available at the doors of the Church, the Parish Office, or online. For additional information, please call 410-778-3160, or go to [sacredparish.org](http://sacredparish.org).

## PREP

### Parish Religious Education Program



### Bringing the Gospel Home

December 11, 2017 –  
Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

Today is the day we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, the pink one! Pink represents joy, and our families should come to know that it is with joy we await the return of Jesus. Ask each member of the family how he/she will bring joy to someone's life this week.

#### Discussion Starters

1. When I begin to doubt my skills at parenting, I always find strength in . . .
2. I come closest to understanding the joy of Jesus' return when . . .
3. A miracle I have seen in my lifetime that shows God's love is . . .

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

### YOU'RE INVITED!!

Our Parish Religious Education Christmas Program will be presented on **Saturday, December 17, following the 4:00**

**Mass.**

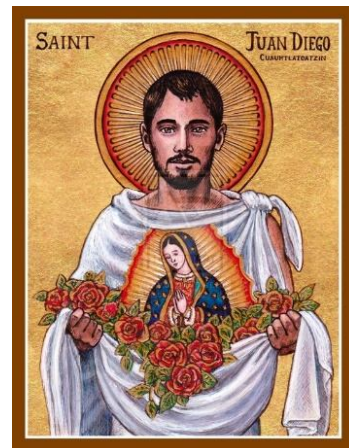
Please join the children of the Parish as they once again tell the story of our Lord's birth, accompanied by the singing of some of your favorite Christmas carols!



## SAINTS OF DECEMBER

### SAINT JUAN DIEGO

**Feast Day: December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Canonized: July 31, 2002**  
**Beatified: April 9, 1990**



Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin was born in Mexico in 1474. Every day he rose before dawn and walked 15 miles to Mass in what is

today Mexico City. On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan as he passed Tepeyac Hill. She said that she wanted a church to be built on that site. She told Juan to go and talk to the bishop.

The bishop listened to Juan, but was skeptical. He asked Juan to bring some kind of proof that he had really talked with the Virgin Mary.

Juan was a simple man – a weaver and laborer. Before he could return to the Lady, he found out that his uncle was dying. Juan rushed to find a priest. On his way, the Virgin Mary met him on the path. She told Juan that his uncle had been cured. Then she asked Juan to go to the top of the hill where they first met. On the snow-covered hill, Juan found beautiful roses, a kind that did not grow in Mexico, growing in the frozen ground. Juan filled his cloak with the flowers and ran to see the bishop.

Juan told the bishop what had happened and opened his cloak. The flowers fell to the floor. To their amazement, an image of the Lady was imprinted on Juan's open cloak. Soon after, the bishop had a church built on the site where the Virgin Mary had first appeared to Juan.

Juan Diego died in 1548 and was canonized in 2002.

Pope John Paul II traveled to Mexico City, to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to preside at the ceremony. He prayed, "Blessed Juan Diego, a good Christian Indian, whom simple people have always considered a saint! We ask you to accompany the Church on her pilgrimage in Mexico, so that she may be more evangelizing and more missionary each day."

# PARISH NEWS

## Offertory - Week Ending 12/04/16 - Week 23

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs and activities at Sacred Heart and St. John's are made possible. "Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold."

	Received	ACH	Budgeted	Diff.
Offertory 12/04-Wk.23	\$4,727	\$2,010	\$6,346	\$391
YTD Wk. 23	\$121,686	\$ 23,940	\$145,958	-\$ 332

## The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



**GIVING TREE:** All gifts are needed by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for distribution on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families. For more

information, contact Jeanne Yeager, [jyeager@mscfv.org](mailto:jyeager@mscfv.org) or 410-778-0554.

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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POSTER CONTEST:** The Father George S. Bradford Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. All children grades 1 - 8 are invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded in three grade categories: 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade; and 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **Please submit all posters to the Religious Education Office by THIS Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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**BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S:** The breakfast at St. John's which was scheduled for this Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. The next breakfast will be in January, 2017.

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**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** It is possible to make your weekly financial commitment to the Parish using Electronic Funds Transfer. We are encouraging everyone to consider using this contribution method. Contact Senta Burton with any questions at 410-778-3160, or [senta.burton@sacredparish.org](mailto:senta.burton@sacredparish.org). Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed -** Last year the Salvation Army distributed over \$15,000 in aid for 289 residents of our community who were in need. We are gearing up now for our Christmas Kettle Campaign, and we really need your help. Along with mail solicitations, this is how we collect money to help people in our community. Volunteers are needed for 1 ½ hour shifts outside of Redner's, and Acme or Downtown Chestertown through **December 24<sup>th</sup>**. If you can help with a shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please call Pat McDonald at 410-928-5160 or email her at [Pat\\_eieio@yahoo.com](mailto:Pat_eieio@yahoo.com). Students can earn community service hours and we welcome families. So grab your coat, hat and gloves and join in a very worthy cause! It's a great way to put our faith into action and enjoy the true Spirit of Christmas.

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**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The offertory envelopes for 2017 are at the back of the Church.

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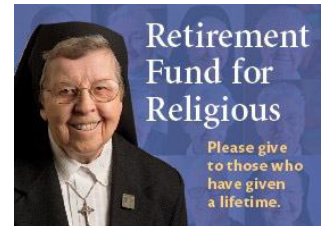
**2017 CALENDARS ARE AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH.**

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## RELIGIOUS

**RETIREMENT:** Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others –

educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. **Please give generously to today's second collection.**



## MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S WEEKENDS:

**Saturday, Dec. 24** Sacred Heart – 4:00 p.m.  
St. John's – 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 25** Sacred Heart – 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 31** Sacred Heart – 4:00 p.m.  
St. John's – 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 1** Sacred Heart – 10:00 a.m.

