

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.



#### Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

#### Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.



For the Week of December 23<sup>rd</sup> through  
December 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

#### Monday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;  
Lk 1:67-79

#### Tuesday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

#### Wednesday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

#### Thursday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

#### Friday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-1

#### Saturday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35



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 22<sup>nd</sup>

4:00 p.m. Harry Burton

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 a.m. Anna Graziao

10:00 a.m. Charlie and Doris Moloney

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m. (SH) Mass for Our Parishioners  
Living and Deceased

6:00 p.m. (SJ) Mass for Our Parishioners  
Living and Deceased

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. (SH) Mass for Our Parishioners  
Living and Deceased

Wednesday December 26<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Charlie and Doris Moloney

Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Anna Graziano

10:00 a.m. James Breger



**REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH:** Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish: *John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Elizabeth Montague, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Rosemary Keating, Eugenia Brooks, Mary Ann Abeska, Alicia Bourne, Pamela Prue*, and all those whose names appear in the **PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.**

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 1:39-45

### Reflection for Parents

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he told her that Elizabeth was already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Mary again models true discipleship for us. Even though she too is with child and could easily choose to stay home, she says yes to helping and serving her elderly cousin. Today's Gospel tells us that she traveled "in haste" to do so. Take time today to consider older family members or neighbors who need your help and support. As Advent days continue, how will you say yes to serving them?

### Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

Plan a family visit to an older friend or relative you haven't seen in awhile. Decide on a special gift or treat to take to that person. Once with him or her, give your friend or relative the gift of your presence—a listening ear, time, and a helping hand.

### Discussion Starters

1. One of my favorite relatives is . . .
2. Something that fills me with joy is . . .

**PARENTING POINTERS:** December 30 is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Often this feast gets lost amidst the hustle of Christmas. Take 5 minutes today to share with your family at least one thing that makes your family holy. *Hint:* It need not be about saying prayers; it could be examples of selflessness.

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### DID YOU KNOW.....

that our Parish Religious Education Program is now called *Households of Faith*? This family centered approach to catechesis emphasizes the role of the family in sharing our Catholic faith with others, particularly our children. The goal of family catechesis is to provide parents with the tools and information needed to live the faith more fully within the "domestic church" - the home. The household is the place where our faith is lived daily, and so is the natural place for handing on our cherished beliefs and traditions.

Well, this opportunity for learning more about our Lord and His Church is too good to limit to only parents of young children. Whether you are a household of one, or a household of many, you are invited to join us on the second Sunday of each month to grow in faith and knowledge!

*Households of Faith* begins at 11:00 a.m. with a light meal followed by age appropriate faith formation sessions. Children's groups are led by our dedicated catechists while adults and older students remain in the Hall. This year our focus is on the Sacraments. Thus far we have discussed Baptism, Marriage and Holy Orders. Our January 13<sup>th</sup> gathering will be facilitated by Ed Gordon, a fellow parishioner who was previously the Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Wilmington. Our topic is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

So you think you know what Confirmation is all about??  
**Join us on January 13<sup>th</sup> and see!**



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"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

### Sheepish Question:

As I await Christ's coming, when do I recall God blessing me beyond what I wanted?

## PARISH NEWS

### Offertory – Weeks Ending December 16<sup>th</sup> Week 25

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 12/16 Wk. 25	\$7,476	\$500	\$6,346	\$1,630
YTD Wk. 25	\$123,142	\$30,483	\$158,650	-\$5,025

### CHRISTMAS LITURGIES:

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Sacred Heart at 4:00 p.m.  
St. John at 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:** Sacred Heart at 9:00 a.m.

### NEW YEAR'S LITURGIES:

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:** Sacred Heart at 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:** St. John at 9:00 a.m.

**WINTER SHELTER:** Beginning January 2nd, The Samaritan Group of Kent County will open its emergency winter shelter to provide a warm, safe place for the less fortunate residents of Kent County. The shelter is hosted by area churches (Chestertown Church of the Nazarene, First United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church of Chestertown) and staffed by a multitude of volunteers! There are two opportunities each evening to fulfill our Christian responsibilities of caring for the marginalized in our society.

If you would like to provide an evening meal for shelter guests, please contact Janet Hilty at [ghjh@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ghjh@atlanticbb.net). Meals are delivered hot and ready to eat and you are encouraged to sit and share the meal and conversation with the guests. If you are an early riser, you may choose to be a breakfast volunteer, again by contacting Janet at the address above.

Evening volunteers are also needed from 5:30-11:00 p.m. to provide oversight and companionship to the shelter guests. If you have volunteered in this capacity in past years, you only need to contact Barbara Harrison at [barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com) to sign up for a time slot. If you are new to this position you will need to complete an application form first. These can be obtained through Barbara Harrison at the address above, or from Barbara Kelly at [barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com).

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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 Mary Jo Frohlich with any questions at 410-778-3160, or [mfrohlich@sacredparish.org](mailto:mfrohlich@sacredparish.org). Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.



The weekly coffees will not be held from December 23-January 13.

We invite everyone to visit the creche in the foyer during the Christmas Liturgical Season.

Coffees will resume on Sunday, January 20, 2019.

**DIALOG:** This weekend's Dialog is the Christmas Edition. In it you will find Bishop Malooly's annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, plus a special 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary tribute to priests in service to our diocese and parishes.

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### COLLECTING WINTER OUTER

**WEAR:** The Chestertown food pantry is currently collecting gently used winter outerwear – coats, hats, gloves and scarves (no shoes please).



We have collection bins in the foyer of Sacred Heart and the front of St. John. Thank you for your generosity.

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**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are being sent directly to your home, bi-monthly. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to do so, please contact Becky Davis at 410-778-3160.

