

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The words of Isaiah urge all people to forsake war and to live in peace forever. The tone reaches a climax in the words, "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."



Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul invites us to put away all the things of darkness and sin and to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

A comparison is made between the destruction caused by the flood in Noah's time and the need to be prepared for the second coming of Christ. "You must be prepared in the same way. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect."



For the Week of December 1st through December 8th

Sunday

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Monday

Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

First Friday

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

First Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

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, November 30th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 1st

8:00 a.m. John Bigelow, Sr.

10:00 a.m. James Schaubert

Monday, December 2nd

8:30 a.m. Phyllis Burns

Tuesday, December 3rd

8:30 a.m. George Glenn

Wednesday, December 4th

8:30 a.m. Dick Peterson

Saturday, December 7th

4:00 p.m. James Tater Schaubert

Sunday, December 8th

8:00 a.m. Stella Belcak

10:00 a.m. Marge Faucett

REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:

John Troffo, Valerie

Lindyberg, Patricia Dana,

Angela Wilmer, Faith King,

Rosemary Keating, Eugenia Brooks, Alicia Bourne,

Tom Blum, and all those whose names appear in the

PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:

Christmas flower envelopes are the doors of the Church. This weekend's second collection is for the flowers and we will be collecting throughout the month of December.





Bringing the Gospel Home

**1st Sunday of Advent
Matthew 24: 37-44**

Reflection for Parents

There is more work for parents to do in a day than will ever get done. Some of us work outside our homes while some stay at home. In either case there are always bills to pay, laundry to wash, meals to prepare, errands to run and things to fix. Unless we deliberately set aside time to prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus’ return, we will continue with the busyness of everyday life like the people of Noah’s time and the workers in the field and at the mill. Especially at this time of year, it is easy to get caught up in the demands centered upon Jesus’ birth rather than his return.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Make an Advent wreath this season with your family. You can make it from natural materials or construction paper, but basically you will need a green wreath (the green wreath represents God’s unending love). A green ribbon wrapped around a grapevine or straw or styrofoam wreath works, too. Three purple candles represent forgiveness and one pink candle represents joy and is usually lit on the third week of Advent. Each week as you light a new candle, encourage each member of the family to tell one thing s/he will do during the week to prepare for Jesus’ return. (An accompanying prayer can be found in *Family Prayer* on this site.)

Discussion Starters

1. If today were the last day of life on earth I would . . .
2. In order to help my family see the light of Christ this Advent season, one distraction I plan to eliminate is . . .
3. The joy I have in my heart this season is because . . .



Friday, December 6, 5:30-8:00 in the Parish Hall.

Drop the kiddies (PK-Grade 6) off and do some Christmas shopping in town!

Pizza, popcorn, water and lemonade will be served.

Children should bring blankets and pillows to get comfy for the movie “Elliot”.

So that we are sure to order enough pizza, an R.S.V.P. is requested.

R.S.V.P to barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com

(This event is sponsored by the Catholic Family Network under the direction of Natalie and Nathan Walls.)



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“It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”

Sheepish Question:

What holiday preparations are taking my attention away from the coming of the Lord?

DECEMBER SAINTS

DECEMBER 3 – FRANCIS XAVIER

The Catholic Church calls Saint Francis Xavier “the Apostle to the Indies” and “the Apostle of Japan.” The word apostle means “one who is sent.” Jesus sent his twelve apostles out to announce the coming of God’s kingdom. Hundreds of years later, the Church sent Francis Xavier out to preach the same good news.



Francis was born in Spain in 1506. He studied in Paris and with Ignatius Loyola was one of the seven men who founded the Jesuit order, the Society of Jesus, in 1534. Then in 1541 he sailed to Goa, India. There he preached about Jesus—the poor carpenter of Nazareth.

Francis knew that actions speak louder than words, so he did not only tell the people of India the message of the Gospels. He acted out this message by living, sleeping, eating, playing, and working among the poor. Did they live in rickety huts? So did he. Did they eat only rice? So did he. Did they work long hours in the hot sun? So did he. Because of his words and actions, many thousands came to believe in the Christian God of mercy and love and tenderness.

In 1547, Francis sailed to Japan. In the two years he was there, he baptized thousands of people. Francis Xavier is the patron saint of Catholic missionaries.

PARISH NEWS

OFFERTORY TOTALS FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 23/24TH WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.

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. Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT: The Art and Environment group is asking for donations of greens for our Christmas décor. If you have any magnolia, spruce, juniper, pine or the like that you are willing to share please bring branches to Sacred Heart between December 7th - December 15th. (We will begin working with them on December 16th). Please place your donations either in the garden area next to the garage in the parking lot OR on the grassy area left of the dumpster. We are also available to assist in gentle pruning- if you have any questions, please call 410-490-3595. In advance we thank you for your contributions and your time.

The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



GIVING TREE: This year our parish will once again support our local community through donations to the "Giving

Tree". Please take an ornament from the tree, read it for information about the recipient, purchase and wrap the gifts and attach the ornament securely to the outside of the gifts. Place gifts under the tree the next time you come to church.

All packages must be received by Sunday, December 15, 2019. Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas cheer to many families! For questions or to volunteer to help with this project, please contact Ann Anderson at 410-778-4243 or wmandersonfamily@verizon.net.

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 at the doors of both churches. Thank you for your generosity.



ADVENT IS COMING

The parish will be hosting a series of reflections: **A Season of Gracious Gifts:**

Monday, December 2nd : 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. or
Wednesday, December 4th : 9:30 a.m. - noon

Monday, December 9th : 6:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m. or
Wednesday, December 11th : 9:30 a.m. - noon

Monday, December 16th : 6:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m. or
Wednesday, December 18th : 9:30 a.m. - noon

REMINDER TO ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS AT SACRED HEART: Thank you to the ministers who volunteer to serve weekly at our liturgies. Please remember to "check in" before mass in the foyer of the church. Simply highlight your name on the schedule so that we know in advance if we need to fill positions or make changes. All ministers should check in...Lectors, Greeters, Cantors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers. Thank you for your attention to this request.

SEASONAL REMINDERS:

First, regarding the *weather*—

- Before venturing out, it is always prudent to call the parish office to check our open/closed status; personal safety is the main concern
- One is not put in a state of serious sin by missing Mass on a day when travel to/from church would be hazardous

Naturally, if there is an occasion that a State of Emergency is declared all parish offices will be closed and all activities cancelled.

And regarding *flu and other illnesses*—

- *If you are not feeling well you should stay at home.* The obligation to attend Mass does not mean coming to church when you are ill and at risk of infecting others.
- *Whether to drink of the cup of the Lord's Blood is, as always, a personal decision.* We will continue to offer communion under both forms, encouraging you to be prudent in your decision making. You may wish to consider receiving communion in the hand if you do not already do so.

