

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.



Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.



For the Week of December 8th through December 15th

Sunday

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

Monday

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Friday

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

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

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 7th

4:00 p.m. James Tater Schaubert

Sunday, December 8th

8:00 a.m. Stella Belcak

10:00 a.m. Marge Faucett

Monday, December 9th

8:30 a.m. Joseph Dawson

Tuesday, December 10th

8:30 a.m. Louis George Emerson

Wednesday, December 11th

8:30 a.m. Jerry Peterson

Saturday, December 14th

4:00 p.m. James Schaubert

Sunday, December 15th

8:00 a.m. Ray Brilz

10:00 a.m. Vivienne Hickman Wilson



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, 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 door of the Church. We will be collecting for the flowers through the month of December.



ALTAR FLOWERS



Bringing the Gospel Home

**2nd Sunday of Advent
Matthew 3:1-12**

Reflection for Parents

We Christians come in daily contact with other people whether at work, in our neighborhoods, or school. We have opportunities throughout the day to witness to our faith by our actions and words, but what greater audience do we have than our own children? They watch us and listen to us. They imitate our every action and mimic our expressions. It is important that we witness our faith to all we meet, but no audience is more important than our families. Sometimes we need to take some quiet “desert time” like we find in today’s Gospel in order to focus our lives more intentionally on what is truly important.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Continue using the Advent wreath as a tool for prayer. Light the second candle today and offer one suggestion of something you will do this week to take some quiet, reflective time. Think of at least one way you (individually or as a family) will create peace for yourself or someone near you.

Discussion Starters

1. It’s hard for me to slow down, but I know I need to when . . .
2. One way others (especially my family members) see the Kingdom of God in my actions is when . . .
3. In order to prepare the heart of our family for Christmas we need to . . .



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted.”

Sheepish Question:

How can I enhance my feelings of compassion with a deeper sense of justice?

ADVENT REFLCTIONS

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

**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**

DECEMBER SAINTS

DECEMBER 6 – NICHOLAS OF MYRA



Every year at Christmas, children await Santa Claus. When they get older, they think he is just make believe. But Santa Claus really lived—long, long ago. His generosity is based on a saint who was a great gift-giver.

Nicholas was born to a wealthy family in what is today Turkey in the latter part of the third century. When he grew up, he became the Bishop of Myra—a city in Asia Minor.

That really is all we know for certain about Nicholas. All the rest is legend. But legend is based on memory. The Church has collected many legends about Nicholas because many people had wonderful memories of his gift giving.

A favorite legend about Nicholas has to do with his gifts to three sisters. At that time, a woman had to have a dowry if she wanted to get married. Her husband would use the money to build their home or start a business. These three sisters had no dowry. So their father was going to force them into a bad life.

Hearing about this, Nicholas filled three bags with gold coins. He threw these bags over the back of a lovely silver donkey. With the donkey, Nicholas stole through the deserted streets of Myra one starry night. When they came to the sisters’ home, Nicholas tossed the three money sacks through the open window. How happy he must have been when he heard later that the three young women all married good men!

He is the patron saint of children and sailors/voyagers.

PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Week Ending November 24th and December 1st - Weeks 22 and 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 11/24 Wk. 22 | \$7,211 | \$889 | \$6,635 | \$1,465 |
| YTD Wk. 22 | \$102,089 | \$36,356 | \$145,970 | -\$7,525 |
| Offertory 12/1 Wk. 23 | \$3,814 | \$879 | \$6,635 | -\$1,942 |
| YTD Wk. 23 | \$105,903 | \$37,235 | \$152,605 | -\$9,467 |

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 & Environment: Christmas Décor at Sacred Heart - Magnolia Branches Needed!

Sadly, we've lost the use of some of the magnolia trees we've used in the past. Thus, we are desperately looking for replacements. Might you have a (or more) tree from which we can cut some branches?

Additionally, we are asking for donations of spruce, juniper, pine or the like. **Please bring these donations to Sacred Heart between Dec. 7 - Dec. 15** (we will begin working with them on Dec. 16). 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. Whether for the magnolia cutting or gentle pruning of other trees please contact Louise Shearer: 410-490-3595. In advance, we thank you for your generous donations.

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.

GIVING TREE: This year our parish once again is supporting our local community through donations to the "Giving Tree". I you have taken an ornament from the tree,

The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



please 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.

NEW PARISHONERS: The following people have registered in our parish recently: Michael and Mary Lubetski and Ann and Camden Lubetski, of Chestertown. We pray that you will become closer to God through your participation in our Faith Community. We look forward to getting to know you. Welcome!

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Our second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders.

Please be generous.



