

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.



Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."



For the Week of December 22nd through
December 29th

Sunday

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Monday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

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 21st

4:00 p.m. Guy Calibey

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00 a.m. Rosemary Diamond

10:00 a.m. John Nicholas Daniels

Monday, December 23rd

8:30 a.m. Charlie and Doris Moloney

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. (SH) For Our Parishioners,
Living and Deceased

6:00 p.m. (SJ) For Our Parishioners,
Living and Deceased

Wednesday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. (SH) For Our Parishioners,
Living and Deceased

Saturday, December 28th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 29th

8:00 a.m. Wyatt Clarke

10:00 a.m. Joe Duell



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 at the doors of the Church. We will be collecting for the flowers through the month of December.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

4th Sunday of Advent
Matthew 1:18-24

Reflection for Parents

How often have our young children called out to us in fear. Maybe they're afraid of the night, or a bad dream, or an insect. They call out to us with complete trust that we will run to their side as soon as we hear their cry. It's important that we remind our children that God is with us always. Like a loving parent, God is there when we call out. It is reassuring for our children to hear about examples from our own lives that recall times when we were afraid and God was present to us.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Light the fourth candle on your family's Advent wreath. Ask each person to recall one time during this Advent season when they were confused, unsure, or frightened about something. Encourage each person to share how Jesus helped them . . . or how they will call on Jesus the next time they're in a frightening situation.

Discussion Starters

1. I remember one time when I was afraid but knew that God was with me . . .
2. It's important to me that my children know I'll be there when they call me because . . .
3. This week I heard a news story that made me know God is with us. The story was about...



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"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us."

Sheepish Question:

Where have I recognized Christ coming into my life this week?

DECEMBER SAINTS

DECEMBER 26 – STEPHEN THE MARTYR



On Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The next day we celebrate the birth of Stephen. But Stephen's is a different kind of birth; it is his birth into eternal life. Death brought life for him. He is the first martyr of the Christian Church.

In the beginning of the Church, its members were Jews. Many of these Jews lived in Palestine, but others lived in distant cities around the Mediterranean Sea. We call them "Hellenized" Jews. As adults, many of them came to Jerusalem to live. Among these Hellenized Jews was Stephen. (He may have come from Alexandria in Egypt.) Hearing the preaching of the apostles in Jerusalem, he came to believe in Christ Jesus.

As the early Church grew, the apostles made an important decision. Preaching kept them busy, but many of their followers needed food and clothing. So the apostles selected seven people to collect and distribute these necessities. Stephen was one of the seven, who were known as deacons.

God filled Stephen with grace and power. He did good, just as Jesus had done. But around the year 34-35 AD, some Hellenized Jews felt that Stephen rejected God when he accepted Jesus. So they dragged Stephen out of Jerusalem and began to stone him.

As he died, Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Praying for those who were stoning him, he said, "Lord, do not hold this against them." With these words, Stephen died. In life as in death, he truly followed Jesus.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: It is with disappointment that Sacred Heart Parish discontinues the ministry of Children's Liturgy of the Word. It is fervently hoped that the numbers of children attending the 10:00 am Sunday Liturgy will increase and allow this ministry to resume at a future date.

PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Week Ending December 15th - 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 12/15 Wk. 25	\$4,862	\$879	\$6,635	-\$894
YTD Wk. 25	\$114,571	\$42,905	\$165,875	-\$8,399

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.

CHESTERTOWN FOOD PANTRY: The Chestertown Food Pantry would like to thank Sacred Heart for their generous weekly donations. They would like to remind us to please check the expiration date on all donated foods because they cannot use anything past the date on the label.

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.

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.



Tuesday, December 24th:
4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart
6:00 p.m. at St. John

Wednesday, December 25th:
9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart

Tuesday, December 31st:
5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart

Wednesday, January 1st:
9:00 a.m. at St. John



GIVING TREE 2019: Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Giving Tree. Through your generosity, we were able to provide gifts for 156 adults and children in the Chestertown community.

CORRECTION: In the annual letter to our parishioners, we incorrectly noted chairpersons of our Bull Roast. The chairperson of the Bull Roast was Steve Belcak. We sincerely regret the mistake.



