



Holy Redeemer Newsletter

Advent 2020



As we enter the beautiful Season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child at Christmas in just a few short weeks, we wanted to get in touch with you who might feel a little isolated and disconnected from parish life as we enter our ninth month in pandemic.

Ways to connect with our parishioners remain at the forefront of our minds. We want those who remain homebound to be "in the know" about parish and Church life around Holy Redeemer. Right now, for safety reasons, we are discouraged by the Archdiocese from passing out bulletins on the weekends, so we have decided that we will mail to the older members of our parish family and any others who request it a monthly newsletter with all of the information concerning our upcoming events and with reports on our past ones.

Our prayer is that we will all be back together in church for worship and prayer before long. You and your families and all you love remain in our prayers.

Ways to Keep Connected

Do you have a computer or tablet?

Most information that we send out these days is delivered via email.

Please consider signing up for our Holy Redeemer Email Newsletter, **Holy Redeemer Happenings**. You can do this easily on parish home page. We send out Holy Redeemer Happenings on **Wednesdays** with updates on parish news, on **Fridays** with all you'll need to know to get ready for the Sunday Mass, and on **Sunday mornings** with the recorded Sunday Mass so that we can worship together virtually.

Do you need help setting these up on you tablet or computer?

Let your family know, or Fr. Andrew or Carol Savard, who are making home visits, could lend a hand.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, 2020!

For Catholics, the liturgical season of Advent helps us focus on the spiritual preparation for Christmas and on the coming of Our Lord. So here are some good suggestions to prepare for Christmas this Advent:

First, make an Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: God is eternal, and His love for us is everlasting. The wreath is made of fresh plant material because Christ came to give us new, everlasting life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Do you need help finding one? Contact Marie in the Parish Office for assistance.

Second, pray. Hopefully, prayer already is part of your daily routine, but if not, try making it one this Advent. Schedule a regular time for prayer. And pray for the intentions of those listed in this Advent Newsletter.

Third, read sacred Scripture. This liturgical year, the Sunday Gospel passages will be taken primarily from St. Mark. However, do not just read the Gospel; rather, spend a few minutes reflecting upon it, inserting yourself into the passage, and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak in the quiet of your heart.

Fourth, take the time for Confession. Fr. Andrew would love to come by for a visit, to hear your Confession, and to bring you the Blessed Sacrament. This would be done using all the safety measures required to assure pandemic protection.

Fifth, preach. To preach, you do not have to stand before a crowd or on the corner shouting Bible verses. There are subtle ways to preach Christmas: Most of us send some kind of greeting card - use religious cards and religious stamps and sign them with "May God bless you" or "I'll be praying for you at Christmas."

Finally, give. Start with a blank calendar. Each day do a good work - say a prayer for a person or make a sacrifice for a special intention. Whatever the good work, write it in the blank space. At the end of Advent, you will have a beautiful gift for the Lord.

So, prepare this Advent to receive Christ as though He were coming for the first time. Make this Christmas a celebration of the birth of Our Savior and the great gift of faith we have received. By striving to live in the presence of Christ during Advent, we will receive the best present of all — Our Savior.

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH—COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND



Dear Holy Redeemer Family-

As many of you know, Fr. Charles Smarsh was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease more than 5 years ago. He is still living happily at Riderwood Assisted Living; although, recently he has gotten weaker and suffers from intermittent confusion. I am most certain he would appreciate being remembered in your prayers.

He is also always moved to hear from a friend. In case you want to drop him a note or a holiday card, his mailing address is: 3160 Gracefield Road Apt OP311, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Fr. Charles served this parish for more than 45 years, most of it while heading the physics lab at University of Maryland and living close by in Berwyn Heights. I'm sure he would be celebrating Mass here still if his health permitted it. He has a great love for Holy Redeemer and all of his friends here. May God bless him for his faithful service.



Fraternally,
Fr. Mark

Sacraments by the Numbers

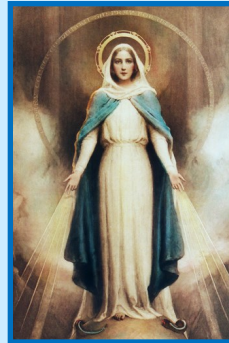
The life of the Church continues even through the pandemic...

So far in 2020 we have celebrated:

- Nine Infant Baptisms at Holy Redeemer with a handful more scheduled before the end of the year,
- Two adults welcomed into Full Communion through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at Holy Redeemer,
- Eighteen First Communions at Holy Redeemer for our patient parish 3rd graders from July to November after their original celebration in April was postponed,
- Twelve Confirmations at Holy Redeemer administered by Fr. Mark for our patient parish 9th graders on August 26th after their original celebration in April was postponed, too,
- Two weddings at Holy Redeemer,
- The ordinations of eight new Archdiocese of Washington priests including Holy Redeemer's own, Fr. Stefan Yap, and our former summer seminarian, Fr. Nate Anderson



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary Tuesday, December 8, 2020



We celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary. That "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

Masses will be celebrated for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m., & 7:30 p.m. at Holy Redeemer.**

Christmas Masses December 24 & 25, 2020



In order to accommodate the Covid safety measures required by PG County, Holy Redeemer will be adding an additional Mass to our Christmas schedule so that we will all have the comfort of being able to safely spread out in the church and worship together.

Currently, our scheduled Christmas Masses will be celebrated on **Christmas Eve at:**

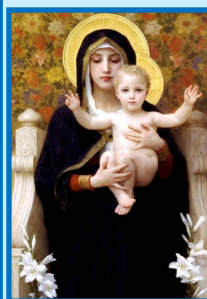
**5:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
Midnight**

And on Christmas Day at:

10:00 a.m.

We're taking a survey. What do you think? Should we add an additional Mass on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. or an additional Mass on Christmas morning at 8:00 a.m.?

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1, 2021



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her motherhood of Jesus Christ, the Lord, Son of God.

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God will be celebrated on **January 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Redeemer.**

ADVENT 2020

A Catechesis: Anointing of the Sick vs. Last Rites

At times even some "seasoned Catholics" get stumped by the question "What is the difference between Anointing of the Sick and Last Rites?" Many of us get confused and believe it is the same thing just a different way of naming it. Well, there is a difference, and it is important for us to know these differences so that we can better understand and take full advantage of both sacramental signs.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Most of us usually think of asking for this anointing only when we are nearing death through sickness or old age. However, if this is the case, we would be missing out on the opportunity for God to heal and help us at times when we might need Him the most - when we are having surgery, dealing with a physical, mental, emotional, or even spiritual affliction. It is during these difficult times that we need the Holy Spirit's gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage. It is during these times, as well, that we should seek to receive this God given sacrament. And if you are still unsure, when in doubt... ask a priest!

The Anointing of the Sick is administered, by a bishop or priest, to bring spiritual and even physical strength during an illness. This sacrament, unlike some of our other sacraments, can be administered more than once, especially if a person has a chronic illness. ***Does a person have to be dying to receive this sacrament? No.***

Last Rites & Viaticum

Last Rites, on the other hand, is the final Sacrament received when death is near. It includes the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum, Holy Communion or "Food for the Journey"!

We Remember...

Please keep these people from Holy Redeemer who passed away 2020 in your prayers for the peaceful repose of their souls.

Mary Jean Wenzel – d. February 18, 2020

Joseph Hudak – d. April 25, 2020

James Cooley – d. April 28, 2020

Rita Sorge – d. June 13, 2020

Elaine Colihan – d. July 29, 2020

Marie-Flore Gooch – d. August 12, 2020

Lydia Timbers – d. August 23, 2020

Philip Carroll McGuire – d. September 4, 2020

Mary Louise Barkley – d. September 5, 2020

Luz "Lucy" Maria Cruz – d. September 24, 2020

Theresa J. Sefcik – d. October 28, 2020

Erlindo "Erl" N. de Guia – d. November 10, 2020

Laura M. (Somin) Glaser – d. November 11, 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Romans 6:8



Holy Redeemer School Update

Holy Redeemer School remains focused on the health and learning success of its students. Despite the challenges we face navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, our school manages, by the grace of God, to continue to thrive as a school community.

Currently, 25% of our student roster is learning in the building throughout the week. That includes our Pre K to 3rd graders learning in school every day. Recently, we added a new Learning Pod that consists of a small group of 4th to 8th grade students. These students come to HRS a couple of times a week to learn together in a classroom with a moderator watching over them. We utilize Archdiocese of Washington and CDC guidelines to maintain a rigorous program of consistent cleaning, social distancing, and health screening regimens.

We are proud of our students and their hard work. So much so, recently we celebrated first quarter academic achievements with our first virtual awards ceremony.

We believe by keeping God first and continuing to instill the Gospel values in our students daily we will pull through together as a unified HRS community.

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH—COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

School of Religion Update



School of Religion started this year on Sunday, November 1st with online classes for our parish Pre K through 8th graders under the leadership of **Fr. Andrew** and his team,

Mrs. Barbara Asbury and Mr. Tim McGrath.

Our catechists are:

Mrs. Sara Perrotta: Pre K & K

Miss Mary Keane: 1st Grade

Mrs. Barbara Asbury: 2nd Grade

Mrs. Michelle Hall: 3rd & 4th Grades

Mrs. Ellen Jasinski: 5th & 6th Grades

Mr. Dennis McGrath: 7th & 8th Grades

Our School of Religion catechists are teaching remotely online, either from Holy Redeemer or from home. We are a month in and so far, so good...

Harvest Bazaar Recap

We just wrapped up another Harvest Bazaar, and what a time we had! Starting over the summer, **our Harvest Bazaar General Chairs, Lisa Smith and David Rohrer Budiash**, hosted a series of online brainstorming sessions to discuss how we could safely hold a Harvest Bazaar in the midst of a pandemic. After many, many online meetings, a plan was formed.

We determined that all in person events that we held would need to be out of doors for the safety of all. And we would spread out the Harvest Bazaar over two weekends rather than just one as we normally do. We would also utilize as many online options for activities as possible while doing our best to include those who are not tech savvy.

Our **Online Auction** began on Sunday, November 1st with just around 40 lots to bid on. By the end of the Online Auction on Saturday, November 14th at 9:00 p.m., through the generous donations of so many parishioners, the Online Auction contained 178 lots, and we had raised \$6,271.55. A remarkable first go at an Online Auction! (**Elizabeth Darnell and Paul Fontaine, Chairpersons**)

Nanette Mack, our Yard Sale chair, had been working for months on collecting and selling donated yard sale items, so by the time we got to the first weekend, she had already sold more than \$10,000 worth of items. On November 7th & 8th, a beautiful, warm fall weekend, all the items in Fealy Hall were hauled out and spread out across the Fealy Hall and Rectory yards and the Rectory parking lot behind Fealy Hall. Table after table after table of stuff! By the end of that

one weekend, **Nanette, Mary Grimley, and their team** had more than doubled their sales! A record-setting year!!

In the week between our first and second Harvest Bazaar weekends, Governor Hogan and PG County issued alarming news about the increasing numbers of Covid cases in our area. The Harvest Bazaar organizers quickly held an emergency online meeting and wisely decided to scale down plans for Saturday, November 14th out of an abundance of caution for the safety of all involved. This meant postponing the second Yard Sale Saturday, the White Elephant, Craft Sale, and the Boy Scout lunch. All the items that **Barbara Asbury** had collected for the Harvest Raffle were donated to the Online Auction.

On Friday, November 13th & Saturday, November 14th, **Rick & Carol Boettinger, John Mudd, & their awesome Kitchen Crew served up delicious dinners, and a group of young Holy Redeemer School graduates delivered them curbside** for quick and easy pick up. **Roma Strathman** organized a way to order and pay for the dinners online in advance so that we didn't have to handle any money and so we had just the right amount of food. **Fr. Andrew and Gregg & Carol Savard** delivered dinners each night to our home-bound by request.



Before and throughout the pandemic, for nearly a year, our **Holy Redeemer Piecemakers Quilters (Maggie Lippert, Janet McGrath, Mary Lou Milstead, Carol Savard, Gregg Sa-**

vard, Joan Weisgerber, & Carole Wilkinson) had taken turns creating a really gorgeous quilt, "**Roses In December**" for the Quilt Raffle. On Saturday evening of the Bazaar we drew names for the winner of the quilt and for the winners of the Cash Raffle. This was recorded and can be viewed on the home page of our parish website.



Here are the winners:
\$100 - **Margaret Smith**
\$200 - **David Zubres**
\$300 - **Joyce Dasher**
\$500 - **Kathy Nieman**
\$1,500 - **Buffington / Badrak**

"Roses in December" Quilt - **Tom Colihan**

ADVENT 2020

Thanks to **Rita Thompson and Jim & Ginger Thompson** for organizing the Raffle Tickets this year!

Here are more activities that we were able to safely hold:

- **A Friday Drive-In Movie (The Lion King) in the school parking lot (Amanda Krot, Chairperson)**
- **An Online Art Show & Contest (Lisa Parsons, Chairperson)**
- **Saturday Afternoon Online Games & Activities for kids (Demi McAndrew, Chairperson)**
- **Saturday Night Online Bingo (Lisa Smith, Chairperson)**

We are also so grateful to:

- **Mary Katherine Theis** for navigating the challenging world of PG County online permits.
- Our security expert, **Brian McAllister**, and PG County police officer (and parishioner), **Brendan Boettinger** for making sure we were always safe.
- **Tim McGrath and Gregg Savard**, our money counters.

As I write this, our White Elephant chairs, Sarah Cutler & Elena Gonzalez are still selling their items by appointment on the Mezzanine. Folks are invited to stop by during Parish Office Hours, after weekend Masses, or by appointment to take a walk through and check out the White Elephant treasures.

And we still have a Craft Sale to look forward to! Our Holy Redeemer Crafters: Pat Hughes, Nanette Mack, Tricia Meyers, Carol Savard, & Rita Thompson spent much of the last 8 months either spread out in different corners in Fealy Hall or working alone at home so that we would have wonderful crafts to sell.

Yes, this year's Harvest Bazaar was unlike any we have experienced in the past, but it was a true labor of love guided by the Holy Spirit without a doubt. We didn't give up on it, and through perseverance and imagination we managed to pull off a remarkable event even in the face of seemingly impossible hurdles!

In Your Prayers

FOR THE ILL & INFIRM: Gary Albright, *friend of the Krug family*, Ana Andura, Nancy Baker, Kathie Bernitt, Clarice Briscoe, Michael Chismar, *husband of Carmen Chismar and step-father of Marlyne & Sofia Anaya*, Dorothy Day, Debbie Garner, *cousin of Pat Krug & Sharon O'Brien*, Tom & Kathy Hallica, Leslie Hilliard, Margie Holt, Cathleen Izzo, Janet Kidwell, Barbara Krug, *cousin of Pat Krug & Sharon O'Brien*, Lucy Krug, *aunt of Pat Krug & Sharon O'Brien*, Marcela Maes, *aunt of Marie Winterson*, Simon McNabb, Jaime Morales, *father of Ricardo Morales, Sr.*, Dorothy Myrtle, Roy & Anne Nelson, Ethel Newman, *sister-in-law of Agnes Newman*, Ferenc Payerle, *father of Tom Payerle*, Stacey Rehsenberg, *niece of Pat Krug & Sharon O'Brien*, Alan Richwald, Mia Rojas, Fran Ropko, Patrice Sheppard, *sister of Agnes Newman*, Martha Sheridan, Fr. Charles Smarsh, Argene Stockhausen, Art Streeter, Eileen Walters, Jennifer Wilburn & the Wilburn Family, *relatives of Larry Bleau*, Marion Wilkinson, *aunt of Carole Wilkinson*, All who are ill this week throughout the world

FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD: Louise Barkley, Patricia Berard, *aunt of Kevin Berard*, Pia Cataldi, *mother of Joanne Campbell*, Elaine Colihan, Lucy Cruz, Erlindo deGuia, *uncle of George Franco*, Laura M. Glaser, Flore Gooch, Mary Ann Johnston, *grandmother of Beth Berard*, Philip Carroll McGuire, *brother of Mollie Huitema*, Cynthia Ray, *sister of Mary Armstrong*, Randolph Richardson, *uncle of Alissa Umanzor*, Gaye Schiller, *sister of Jennee Chin*, Theresa Sefcik, James Sinio, Rita Sorge, Lydia Timbers, All who have died this week throughout the world

Communion Calls & Safe Visits



Fr. Andrew & our Eucharistic Ministers can visit your home to pray with you, bring you Communion, and safely visit you. We all need the strength that Eucharist provides now more than ever!

Would you like a visit to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Or are you ill or injured or will you be undergoing surgery or have a hospital stay? Please contact the Parish Office to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. These are both powerful Sacraments of Healing.

Our priests and a number of other Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are happy to visit and bring you this beautiful Sacrament, so please do not hesitate to ask! Just contact Marie Winterson in the Parish Office at 301-474-3920.

Are you feeling isolated or lonely? Please let us know, and we will arrange for someone to safely visit you wearing masks and gloves. We can even arrange for someone to sit on your front porch or in your yard for a visit. We miss you, too!

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH—COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

Mass Intentions for December 2020

Tuesday, December 1, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Special Intentions of Anna Winterson by the Winterson Family
Wednesday, December 2, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Flore Gooch, RIP by Robyn Connor
Thursday, December 3, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Anderson Marquez, RIP by Robyn Connor
Friday, December 4, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Kathy Hageman, RIP by the Hageman Family
Saturday, December 5, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Max & Kay Swoboda, RIP by the Swoboda Family 5:00 p.m. Jason Wines, RIP by the Wines Family
Sunday, December 6, 2020:	8:00 a.m. Norman Robitaille, RIP by Rick & Carol Boettinger 10:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the DeFranco & Williams Families, RIP by Wayne & Ginny Williams 12:00 noon ALL PARISHIONERS
Monday, December 7, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Flore Gooch, RIP by the Winterson Family
	The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Tuesday, December 8, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Remedios Pardo, RIP by Lorna Pardo 12:10 p.m. Pia Cataldi, RIP by Jenn Eller 7:30 p.m. Gaye Schiller, RIP by Jennee Chin
Wednesday, December 9, 2020:	8:30 a.m. John L. O'Brien, RIP by Pat Krug
Thursday, December 10, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Sara Walukonis, RIP by the Walukonis Family
Friday, December 11, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Louise Barkley, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis
Saturday, December 12, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Millicent Hilderbrand, RIP by Jennee Chin 5:00 p.m. Edna Fink, RIP by Dorothy Day
Sunday, December 13, 2020:	8:00 a.m. ALL PARISHIONERS 10:00 a.m. Randolph Richardson, RIP by Jenn Eller 12:00 noon Kathy Whisenhunt, RIP by Ray Smith
Monday, December 14, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Bob Angell, RIP by Joe Kelly
Tuesday, December 15, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Anthony & Edith Provenzano, RIP by the Winterson Family
Wednesday, December 16, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Louise Barkley, RIP by Gregg & Carol Savard
Thursday, December 17, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Flore Gooch, RIP by Pat Krug
Friday, December 18, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Steve Flavin, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis
Saturday, December 19, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Don Norman, RIP by Ray Smith
Sunday, December 20, 2020:	8:00 a.m. ALL PARISHIONERS 10:00 a.m. Pia Cataldi, RIP by Larry & Val Bleau 12:00 noon George DeVaughn, RIP by the DeVaughn Family
Monday, December 21, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Lucy Cruz, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis
Tuesday, December 22, 2020:	8:30 a.m. James Sinio, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis
Wednesday, December 23, 2020:	8:30 a.m. David Schoffstall, RIP by Kathy Schoffstall
Thursday, December 24, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Gaye Schiller, RIP by Jennee Chin
	Christmas Eve of the Nativity of the Lord
Thursday, December 24, 2020:	5:00 p.m. ALL PARISHIONERS 7:30 p.m. Special Intentions of Pat Krug 12:00 Midnight Bill Barkley by the Barkley Family
	Christmas Day of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday, December 25, 2020:	10:00 a.m. Eloi Paquet, RIP by Marie-Claire Paquet
Saturday, December 26, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Elaine Harris by Ray Smith 5:00 p.m. Tyler Yates by Betty Yanchulis
Sunday, December 27, 2020:	8:00 a.m. Theresa Sefcik, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis 10:00 a.m. Gaye Schiller, RIP by Jennee Chin 12:00 noon ALL PARISHIONERS
Monday, December 28, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Mark Cavanaugh, RIP by Joe & Mary Katherine Theis
Tuesday, December 29, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Patricia Berard, RIP by Kevin & Beth Berard
Wednesday, December 30, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Nicholas Garner, RIP by the Garner Family
Thursday, December 31, 2020:	8:30 a.m. Brian Hickerson, RIP by the Winterson Family

HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Email: parish@holy-redeemer.org * Website: <https://parish.holy-redeemer.org/>