

Resurrection Parish

December 8, 2019

A Catholic Christian Community

Second Sunday in Advent

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:30 a.m.
Tues. 7 p.m.

Reconciliation

Tues. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. 4:45 p.m.
or by appointment.

3000 Videre Drive
Wilmington DE 19808
302-368-0146
www.resurrectionde.org



Rev. William Graney, Pastor

Rev. Gregory Corrigan, Assoc. Pastor	ext. 102
John Falkowski, Deacon	ext. 115
Fran Huhn, Retired Deacon	ext. 110
Ruth Sanders, Liturgy/Music	ext. 106
Nancy Maloney, Christian Formation	ext. 104
Elaine Little, Youth Ministry	ext. 107
Tina Donald, Bookkeeper	ext. 105
Debbie Seymour, Admin. Asst.	ext. 0

Parish Office: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
6:00-8:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

Pastoral Council

Sharon Gidumal	Executive Officer
Mary Beth Coté	Asst. Executive
Pat Sormani	Secretary

Baptisms

Please contact Deacon John.

Marriage

Contact clergy one year prior.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

For hospital and home visits
contact clergy or the office.

Becoming Catholic

Learn more by contacting
Fr. Bill, Fr. Greg, or
Deacon John

Spirituality Outreach Stewardship

Some people say that if we didn't already have a season like Christmas we would probably invent it just the same. Why would we do that? We would do it because we need a means of escape; escape from the dreariness and the darkness, escape from the realities of a life that we would rather not have to face. We use Christmas as a way to delude ourselves by allowing us the opportunity to get caught up in the hype, the fantasy and the dazzle that is Christmas as a way to avoid the seriousness of the challenges of life. This is not a bad thing. Life does have its challenges and it is good to set them aside for one brief moment so that we can pretend that everything is okay; that our world is rosier than we imagined and that the hurts and disappointments we suffered in life are only illusions. And when we do this we are allowed to feel good about ourselves even though we put on a mask of our true selves to make this happen.

But is Christmas really about a fantasy, a time for just wishful thinking instead of living in the true hope that grounds the season? In the midst of our desire to escape, to allow the dazzle of the season to engross us, this weekend we instead get another dose of Advent; and this time Advent wakes us up to something quite contrary to fantasy. This time Advent confronts us with the reality of John the Baptist and of his talk of repentance; to let go of all that is illusory and to prepare our hearts for the reality that is the kingdom. Perhaps I hear faint whispers

that fantasy is just fine, thank you. We certainly do not want to have to do any heavy concentrating at a time when fantasy will do. But how about we explore what this idea of repentance is all about?

We hear the word repent and immediately we think of sin and all those things we know we shouldn't do, like tell lies, get upset with our children, our spouses and our neighbors. And wouldn't you know, just when we want to escape, the Church would want to talk about sin because that is what the Church does, right? But repentance has to do with more than just sin. It has to do with change. The Greek word we use for repentance is "metanoia." Metanoia literally means to change one's mind, to turn around. Essentially, metanoia has to do with changing one's mind about God and God's offer to love us. You see Jesus didn't come to change God's mind about us, but to change our minds about God; because this offer of love is God's invitation to us to accept who we are, children of God. It is also God's offer to become what God created us to be, God creatures who are created in the image and likeness of God. But accepting this offer and turning around toward God may be harder than we think. Turning around will mean facing some things that we would rather not like to admit, like pretending that if we live a fantasy life the world cannot hurt us. But life will hurt us at some point

that is the nature of living in a world where things are messy, where people will occasionally say things and do things that will be spiteful, hurtful and mean; where sorrow and suffering do exist. But trusting in God's love and trusting in the goodness of God's creation means that we have the power with the help of the Spirit, to see beyond the hurt and to see our way to that kingdom in which God wants us to share.

Christmas is not about a fantasy, but a reality, the reality that God is a God who saves and is faithful to what God promises. In the incarnate Jesus, who is really what Christmas is about, we see the visible image of the invisible God. This is the God who loves us so dearly that this God took our very image, first to raise up our fallen and hurtful humanity and second to show us what our humanity can become, creatures living in the image of God. Despite our sinful nature, despite a world that is full of hurts and despite the many ways that we try to avoid being who we truly are, Christmas does remind us of who we are meant to be. But before we can get to that Christmas expression, we need the season of Advent and the preaching of a John the Baptist to remind us of what we need to shed from ourselves – our false sense of self, our anxieties and fears, our hurts and our hardheartedness – in order to live in the true hope that grounds us. This hope is not just wishful thinking, but is a hope that comes from a Christ who envisions us and this world as living totally in God's love and making that love just as real for all our sisters and brothers.

Deacon John

INTENTIONS

Monday	Dec. 9	8:30 am	
		7:00 pm	Parish Community
Tuesday	Dec. 10	7:00 pm	
Wednesday	Dec. 11	8:30 am	
Thursday	Dec. 12	8:30 am	
Friday	Dec. 13	8:30 am	
Saturday	Dec. 14	5:30 pm	+Patricia O'Neill
Sunday	Dec. 15	8:15 am	+Kevin Rzucidlo
		10:30am	

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

In the fall each year we ask you to commit to the practice of giving. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have returned your green financial stewardship commitment card.

Your parish leadership does its best to operate the church on a sound financial basis, and having a good handle on the expected income enhances the ability to plan responsibly.

To quote the lyrics from the song "One" by U2

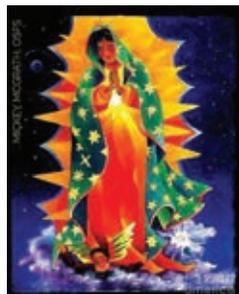
(which started as a Christian rock band), "We're one, but we're not the same, we get to carry each other". If we can all give a gift that is meaningful to us, we will be able to reach our goals.

God is the source of all healing and hope, to whom we lift up in prayer the needs of the sick and those who care for them. **Lord, allow your healing hand to assist**



Eva Skripchuk, Burt Strasser, JD Howell, Jack & Jane Tabaka, Bill Dorsey, Joseph Hemphill, Alyssa Stover, Chet Andruskiewicz, Jim Gambort, Helen Meys, Candi Smith, Sean McCormick, Janice Kane, Ralph Culver, Mike Pohlen, Cass Thomas, Patty Calhoun, Katie Fink, Beth Bell, Julie Edmiston, Anna Catriew, Annabelle Capritta, Patricia Barber, Joey (Morton) Scruggs, Steven Huhn, Ed Donaldson, Frank Maguire, Kathie Wisniewski, Ginnie Marzouca, Fran Huhn, Rick Markel, Peggy Wessel others mentioned in our parish book of intentions.

LITURGY



Join us at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 12th for Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Pope John XXIII invoked her as "Mother of the Americas" in 1961). After Mass, there will be Mexican hot chocolate and the traditional "pan dulce" (pastries). ¡Todos bienvenidos!

Masses for the Solemnity of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, Dec. 9 – 8:30 am and 7:00 pm

On this day we praise God for the hope and possibility that Mary embodies, as we turn to our Blessed Mother to learn from the first and most important relationship Jesus Christ experienced among us. This solemnity is the Patronal Feastday of the United States of America. (Sourcebook 2020)



Image: *The Immaculate Heart of Mary*, Stephen B. Whatley, 2010— <https://www.stephenbwhatley.com/prints>.

Local Advent Penance Services

- St. Catherine of Sienna - Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Assumption - Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.
- St. John Beloved - Dec. 10 at noon & 6:30 p.m.

Resurrection Parish – Expanding Our Visitation Ministry

Matthew 25:35-40 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Have you or a family member ever been sick for awhile? In a hospital or recovering at home? Did a visit from a friend make a difference?

Resurrection is expanding our Visitation Ministry, and would like more volunteers engaged in visits to the sick and homebound.

There are several options for this ministry:

- Visits to senior facilities, nursing homes, etc.
- Home visits to people temporarily unable to attend Mass (recovering from surgery or illness)
- Home visits to the long term disabled
- Visits to hospitals
- Transportation to Mass

Questions?

- **How often would I visit?** Visits can be routine, i.e. 1/week, or 1/month. Or visitors can be “on call” – at the request of Father Bill/Deacon John.
- **How do I find out who needs visits?** Father Bill/Deacon John coordinates the visits. They will assign volunteers to those who need the visits.
- **Do I need to be qualified?** It depends on the type of visit. Hospital visits require clearance and training, which can take some time. This can be coordinated by Father Bill/Deacon John. Eucharist Visits (taking Holy Communion) to the infirm require some training by Deacon John.
- **How do I sign up?** Please provide your name and level of interest to Father Bill or Deacon John, who will guide you through the process. *Thank you!*



Thank You!

PARISH LIFE

Parishioner Appreciation

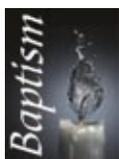


Christmas Brunch December 15
after the 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.
Refreshments served following the
Saturday evening Mass on December 14.
We appreciate you!

Contemplative Christianity

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.

WELCOME: On Sunday, December 8, 2019 at our 10:30 am Mass we will welcome two new members to our faith community through the sacrament of Baptism. They are Stephen Joseph Ohler and Matthew Piedimonte. Stephen is the son of David Ohler and Michaela McGowan. Michaela and David are friends of Fr. Greg. Michaela is also the daughter of Bobbie McGowan, who worked with Fr. Greg at St. Mark's and was also a member of Resurrection. Matthew is the son of Luca Piedimonte and Sarah Savery. Both Luca and Sarah are new members of Resurrection.



Please welcome Stephen and Matthew and be prepared to acknowledge our prayers and support for them as they begin their new journey in faith.

Tribunal Advocate

Fr. Mark Mealey the Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal is interested in soliciting Advocates for the Tribunal. Advocates are individuals who assist persons who either petition the Tribunal for an annulment or persons who must respond to an annulment petition. This role can be performed by either woman or men. For those who are interested there will be a training session by a prominent canonist on January 11, 2020 at Holy Cross in Dover at the Early Learning Center (behind the church). The training session will be from 9 am to 4 pm with lunch at noon.

If you are interested in this ministry or you have questions about it, you may contact Deacon John Falkowski at jfalkowski@resurrectionde.org. Names of those who wish to attend should be submitted to me so that this information can be passed on to Fr. Mealey. Bishop Malooly will confer the Office of Advocate-Procurator for a period of three years to those who attend.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAM



Our K to 5 Elementary Program will meet 12/8, and 12/15 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. See you there!

Would you like more information?
Contact Nancy Maloney, CFP

Coordinator, at nmaloney@resurrectionde.org or 368-0146 ext. 104.

CFP's Advent Adventure

Saturday, December 14th, 2:00-6:30 p.m.
Registration Required

First Reconciliation

Saturday, January 11th, 9:00 a.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Youth Group

December 15, 2019 6:30—8:15 p.m.
Topic: Mary and her "Yes" to God

High School Youth Group

December 15, 2019 6:30—8:15 p.m.
Come connect with old friends and

new. Let us know what you want to discuss! Light refreshments will be provided.

Confirmation

Registration for Confirmation has begun. Our first gathering for youth *and* a parent/guardian is Sunday December 8 at 12:00 Noon in the youth room. Register online at <https://resurrectionde.org/confirmation-registration>

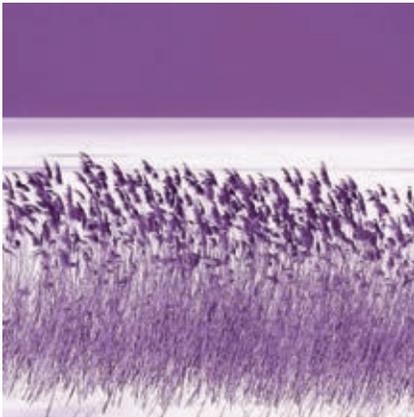
For information contact Elaine at 368-0146 ext. 107 elittle@resurrectionde.org

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Thanksgiving Thank You: The staff at Friendship House, Christina School District and Family Promise expressed their gratitude, and that of the families they will be able to assist, thanks to parishioners' donations of over \$600 in grocery gift cards, 70 plus boxes of food and many baby supplies. Much appreciation for your generosity.

Christmas Giving Tree

Please return **wrapped** gifts under the tree in the Gathering Space by December 8th



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GOSPEL – MATTHEW 11: 2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Gospel Reflection: Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from the gospel passage for 12/8 that John had a somewhat “fire and brimstone” perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John’s intention was for the disciples to recognize that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinize Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, “Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There’s your answer!”

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness, and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today’s readings emphasize the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

LEAST AND GREATEST: Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor, and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

JOHN THE BAPTIST: Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John’s wellbeing. He doesn’t appear to express any concern about John’s imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. John the Baptist and Jesus were related; they were cousins. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John’s greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

GAUDETE! The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.” When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the somber mood and was more celebratory. The rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath and rose-colored vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

*Q. In what way were the signs Jesus described an answer to John’s question?
Q. What evidence in this passage indicates that Jesus admired John the Baptist?
Q. How might Jesus’ audience have responded to the idea of the least being greatest in the kingdom? O. In what ways does this pose a challenge for us today?*

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#WHATSMYNAME
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