

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 4th through
December 10th

Sunday

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

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

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



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 3rd

4:00 p.m. Bennett Lamond

Sunday, December 4th

8:00 a.m. Stella Belcak

10:00 a.m. Jack DePoulter

Monday December 5th

8:30 a.m. Phil Mench

Tuesday, December 6th

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday December 7th

8:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m. (SJ) Parishioners, living and deceased

Thursday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception)

8:30 a.m. (SH) Parishioners, living and deceased

7:00 p.m. (SH) Parishioners, living and deceased

Friday, December 9th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 10th

4:00 p.m. Bernice Paradise

Sunday, December 11th

8:00 a.m. Walter and Agnes Osterling

10:00 a.m. Ana Ras

REMEMBERING THE
SICK OF THE
PARISH: Remember in
your prayers the sick of

the parish: *John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Bob Dunn, Elizabeth Montague, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Jennifer Willis, Joe Fick, and Delores Carmen, and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the front foyer.*



WELCOME: The people of Sacred Heart Parish welcome into our family Kinsley Jane Kirwan, who was baptized on November 24th. Congratulations to you, your parents & godparents. God bless you as you begin your faith journey.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

December 4, 2017 – Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

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 . . .

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

YOU'RE INVITED!!

Our Parish Religious Education Christmas Program will be presented on **Saturday, December 17, following the 4:00 Mass.**

Please join the children of the Parish as they once again tell the story of our Lord's birth, accompanied by the singing of some of your favorite Christmas carols!



SAINTS OF NOVEMBER

NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Feast Day: December 6th
Canonized: Pre-Congregation

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.

Nicholas died around 343 in Myra, Lycia (modern day Turkey). He is the patron saint of children and sailors/voyagers. The day of his death, December 6, is his feast day and is widely celebrated throughout Europe still today.

NICHOLAS OF MYRA
THE STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS

PARISH NEWS

Offertory - Weeks Ending 11/20/16 and 11/27/16 - Weeks 21 and 22

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 11/20-Wk.21	\$3,840	\$750	\$6,346	-\$1,756
YTD Wk. 21	\$112,045	\$21,560	\$133,266	\$339
Offertory 11/27-Wk. 22	\$4,914	\$370	\$6,346	-\$1,062
YTD Wk. 22	\$116,959	\$21,930	\$139,612	-\$723

GIVING TREE: Sacred Heart Parish will once again support our community this Christmas through donations to the Giving Tree. Please take an ornament, read it for information about the recipient, purchase and wrap the gift and attach the ornament securely to the outside of the gift. Please place the gift under the tree located in Church. **All gifts are needed by Sunday, December 18th.** Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families. For more information, contact Jeanne Yeager, jyeager@mscfv.org or 410-778-0554.



MASS TIMES FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. John's: Dec. 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart: Dec. 8th at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POSTER CONTEST: The Father George S. Bradford Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. All children grades 1 - 8 are invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded in three grade categories: 1st through 3rd grade; 4th through 6th grade; and 7th through 8th grade. **Please submit all posters to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, December 11th.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BIBLE STUDY! First Corinthians

Monday December 5 – Lesson 10

BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S: The breakfast at St. John's which was scheduled for December 11th has been cancelled. The next breakfast will be in January, 2017.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed - Last



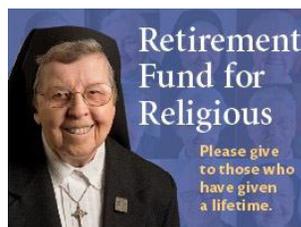
VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

year the Salvation Army distributed over \$15,000 in aid for 289 residents of our community who were in need. We are gearing up now for our Christmas Kettle Campaign, and we really need your help. Along with mail solicitations, this is how we collect money to help people in our community. Volunteers are needed for 1 ½ hour shifts outside of Redner's, and Acme or Downtown Chestertown through **December 24th.** If you can help with a shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please call Pat McDonald at 410-928-5160 or email me at Pat_eieio@yahoo.com. Students can earn community service hours and we welcome families. So grab your coat, hat and gloves and join in a very worthy cause! It's a great way to put our faith into action and enjoy the true Spirit of Christmas.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The offertory envelopes for 2017 are at the back of the Church.

2017 CALENDARS ARE AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH.



RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT: Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. *Please give generously to next weekend's second collection.*

