

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.



Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."



For the Week of December 16th through December 22nd

Sunday

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Friday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

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 15th

4:00 p.m. Adam Schauber

Sunday, December 16th

8:00 a.m. Peggy Eidman (living)

10:00 a.m. Owen Pierce

Monday, December 17th

8:30 a.m. Philip Broadhurst

Tuesday, December 18th

8:30 a.m. Therese Stumpf

Wednesday December 19th

8:30 a.m. Pamela Prue

Thursday, December 20th

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, December 21st

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 22nd

4:00 p.m. Harry Burton

Sunday, December 23rd

8:00 a.m. Anna Graziano

10:00 a.m. Charlie and Doris Moloney



REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH: Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish: *John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Elizabeth Montague, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Rosemary Keating, Eugenia Brooks, Mary Ann Abeska, Alicia Bourne, Pamela Prue*, and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES:

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

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

New Year's Liturgies:

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

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

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.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Luke 3:10-18

Reflection for Parents

This Gospel highlights several Christian values that are learned in the home—generosity, fairness, truthfulness, and contentment with what you have. Take some time today to think about each of these values. How are your children learning these values through your example? How can you make these values more a part of your family life as Christmas nears?

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

At this halfway point in Advent, choose as a family one way you can share what you have with others. Perhaps you can donate gently used coats and sweaters or new hats and mittens to a local shelter. If your parish food pantry is in need of donations, go grocery shopping and help meet the need for food. If you are a musically gifted family, plan to carol in your neighborhood or at a local care facility.

Discussion Starters

1. Something that I have more than enough of is . . .
2. I can share the extra that I have with . . .
3. Something that is hard for me to share is . . .

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: December's Households of Faith gathering last Sunday featured various activity stations for families that provided an assortment of cards and Christmas favors for nursing homes, first responders, deployed military and even something for our "feathered friends"! Thank you to all those who helped man the activity tables, and especially to the families who gathered to remember others during this Advent season of hope. They truly were preparing a place for our Lord in their lives.



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"With thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Sheepish Question:

Here in Advent, how can my attitude in prayer quell my anxieties and open me to God's peace?

WINTER SHELTER: Beginning January 2nd, The Samaritan Group of Kent County will open its emergency winter shelter to provide a warm, safe place for the less fortunate residents of Kent County. The shelter is hosted by area churches (Chestertown Church of the Nazarene, First United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church of Chestertown) and staffed by a multitude of volunteers! There are two opportunities each evening to fulfill our Christian responsibilities of caring for the marginalized in our society.

If you would like to provide an evening meal for shelter guests, please contact Janet Hilty at ghjh@atlanticbb.net. Meals are delivered hot and ready to eat and you are encouraged to sit and share the meal and conversation with the guests. If you are an early riser, you may choose to be a breakfast volunteer, again by contacting Janet at the address above.

Evening volunteers are also needed from 5:30-11:00 p.m. to provide oversight and companionship to the shelter guests. If you have volunteered in this capacity in past years, you only need to contact Barbara Harrison at barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot. If you are new to this position you will need to complete an application form first. These can be obtained through Barbara Harrison at the address above, or from Barbara Kelly at barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com.

Offertory – Weeks Ending December 8th – Week 24

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 12/08 Wk. 24	\$4,129	\$1,500	\$6,346	-\$717
YTD Wk. 24	\$115,666	\$29,983	\$152,304	-\$6,655



The weekly coffees will not be held from December 23-January 13.

We invite everyone to visit the creche in the foyer during the Christmas Liturgical Season.

Coffees will resume on Sunday, January 20, 2019.

DIALOG: Next week, look for the Christmas Edition of The Dialog. In it you will find Bishop Malooly’s annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore, plus a special 150th anniversary tribute to priests in service to our diocese and parishes.



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 in the foyer of Sacred Heart and the front of St. John. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are being sent directly to your home, bi-monthly. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to do so, please contact Becky Davis at 410-778-3160.

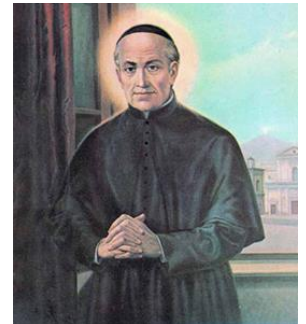


We were recently notified by the Rise Against Hunger organization that meals packaged in Chestertown on September 29, 2018 were included in a shipment of 285,120 meals that was sent to Madagascar for distribution through their partner organization Adventist Development and Relief Agency. To learn more, visit the Rise Against Hunger website at www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid/. Since 2005, RAH has distributed over 310 million meals worldwide. May God continue to bless the work of our hands and hearts.

SAINTS OF DECEMBER

**Vincenzo Romano –
December 20**

Vincenzo Romano was born into a poor family in June of 1751. Despite this, he was able to study. He was impacted by the life and teachings of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, and he developed a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In 1775, he was ordained a priest.



Vincenzo lived a very simple life. He spent his time in the service of others, caring for the poor and needy. French invaders and various Italian political groups tried to discourage him in his work, but he remained committed to his ministry.

After the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1794, Vincent helped organize volunteers to join in the work of rebuilding structures that had been destroyed. This included rebuilding his parish church.

Father Vincenzo Romano died on December 20, 1831. On the path to sainthood, he was recognized for his heroic virtue. On October 14, 2018, Pope Francis canonized Vincenzo Romano. He is now a saint of the Church.



