

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Lord tells of fulfilling the promise he had made to Israel. He will send a replacement for David, someone who "shall do what is right and just in the land," believed by most to mean Jesus.



Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be ready for the coming of the Lord. He explains that although they are conducting themselves in a way that would please God, they should always strive to do even better.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus warns his followers to be prepared for the end of the world. He reminds them not to be preoccupied with unimportant events, or they will be caught unaware rather than being on watch as they should.



For the Week of December 2nd through
December 8th

Sunday

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

First Friday

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

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

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 1st

4:00 p.m. Lorraine Stork

Sunday, December 2nd

8:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners
Living and Deceased

10:00 a.m. Humbert Zappia

Monday, December 3rd

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Tuesday, December 4th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday December 5th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, December 6th

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, December 7th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

5:00 p.m. (SJ) For Our Parishioners
Living and Deceased

Saturday, December 8th

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

4:00 p.m. Doris Moloney

Sunday, December 9th

8:00 a.m. Stella Belcak
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*, 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.

Liturgy for Immaculate Conception is celebrated at: 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 7th at St. John and 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 8th at Sacred Heart. *Please note:* The Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday December 8th is for the First Sunday of Advent.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Reflection for Parents

Yes, it is important to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ, but it is also important to be prepared for his arrival into every moment of every day. He may come to us through a conversation, in the form of a beggar on the streets, through the words or actions of our children, or through the kindness of a stranger. Are our hearts open to receiving him? Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ's coming today, at Christmas, and at the end of all time. This Advent, open your eyes, your ears, and your heart to the coming of Christ in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

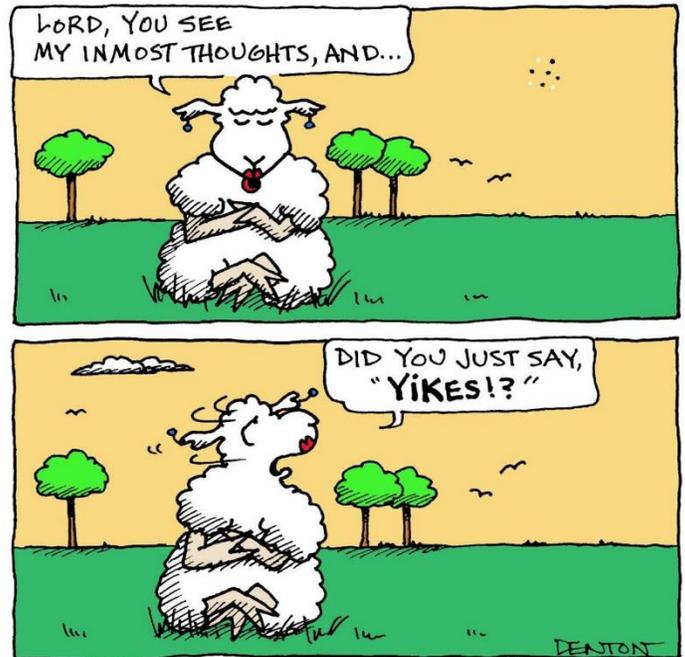
Take time today to make a family Advent plan. Create a family Advent calendar or Advent chain listing ways your family will spiritually and physically prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming at Christmas. Include on your calendar or chain parish Advent opportunities, such as an Advent Penance and Reconciliation service or shopping for and wrapping gifts for the parish Advent Giving Tree.

Discussion Starters

1. One way I have been lazy about my faith is . . .
2. One thing I can do to become more ready for Christ's coming at Christmas is . . .
3. One thing I am looking forward to doing with my family this Advent is . . .



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“May the Lord strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God.”

Sheepish Question:

What do I want my life to show when I stand before Jesus?

WINTER REMINDERS

A couple of seasonal reminders:

First, regarding the *weather*—

- Before venturing out, it is always prudent to call the parish office to check our open/closed status; personal safety is the main concern
- One is not put in a state of serious sin by missing Mass on a day when travel to/from church would be hazardous

Naturally, if there is an occasion that a State of Emergency is declared all parish offices will be closed and all activities cancelled.

And regarding *flu and other illnesses*—

- *If you are not feeling well you should stay at home.* The obligation to attend Mass does not mean coming to church when you are ill and at risk of infecting others.
- *Whether to drink of the cup of the Lord's Blood is, as always, a personal decision.* We will continue to offer communion under both forms, encouraging you to be prudent in your decision making. You may wish to consider receiving communion in the hand if you do not already do so.

PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Weeks Ending November 18 and 25th – 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 11/18 Wk. 21	\$4,372	\$485	\$6,346	-\$1,489
YTD Wk. 21	\$103,061	\$25,248	\$133,266	-\$4,957
Offertory 11/25 Wk. 22	\$4,430	\$485	\$6,346	-\$1,431
YTD Wk. 22	\$107,491	\$25,733	\$139,612	-\$6,388

SUPPORT THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: A donor writes, “Your flyer touched my heart – seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced.” Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. *Please give to next week’s second collection.*

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS NEEDED – In 2017 the Salvation Army distributed over \$20,000 in aid for 286 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 hour shifts on weekends outside of Redner’s, Acme or Downtown Chestertown through December 23rd.** If you can help with a shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please call Bob Barrows at 443-282-0291 or email him at cota22@aol.com or Andy Meehan at 443-480-3798 or email at ameehan@mlg-lawyers.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.

NEW PARISHONERS: The following people have registered in our parish recently: Earl and Kathleen Guy of Rock Hall. We pray that you will become closer to God through your participation in our Faith Community. We look forward to getting to know you. Welcome!

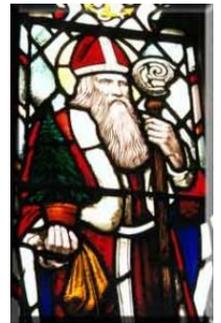
GIVING TREE: Thank you to everyone that took an ornament from our Giving Tree this year. Please place your gifts under the tree, along with the tag, on or before **Sunday, December 16th**. Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families. For more information, contact Ann Anderson at 410-778-4243 or wmandersonfamily@verizon.net.

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.

SAINTS OF DECEMBER

Nicholas of Myra

December 6



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.