

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.



Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.



For the Week of December 20th through
December 26th

Sunday

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Friday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22



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 19th

4:00 p.m. Ross and Peg Lyons

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. Mass for the People

10:00 a.m. Ken Burns

Monday December 21st

8:30 a.m. Phil Mench

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday December 23rd

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. (SH) Mass for the People

6:00 p.m. (SJ) Mass for the People

Friday, December 25th

10:00 a.m. (SH) Mass for the People

Saturday, December 26th

8:30 a.m. Phil Mench

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 27th

8:00 a.m. Ray Brilz, II

10:00 a.m. Sue Kolsun

REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:
Julia Ridgely, Barron Scott, Barbara Darrah, John Troffo, Valerie

Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Ryan Elizabeth

Quintero, Edith

Follin, Elizabeth

Montague, Sandy

Bugni, Angela

Wilmer, Amy Rhodes,

and all those whose

names appear in the

PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the
front foyer of Sacred Heart/St. John's.



PREP

Parish Religious Education Program

*"Come, Come Emmanuel! Son of God appear! Heaven and earth rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near!"*

PREP Class Schedule:

Sunday December 20th – Class
Sunday December 27th – NO CLASSES
Sunday January 3rd – NO CLASSES



*The PREP Catechists would like
to wish every RE family a very
Merry Christmas!*

Looking ahead to January....

CONFIRMATION RETREAT PRAYER SUPPORT: Please pray for the young people who will be attending the Confirmation Retreat in January. This time away is a continuation of their preparation for the reception of the sacrament. Also, please pray for the catechists who are journeying with these students.

"...by the sacrament of Confirmation, you are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence you are, as witnesses of Christ, more obliged and better equipped to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (from The Introduction to the Rite of Confirmation)

ADVENT OUTREACH: Last Saturday, 8 of our RE middle and high school students, spent the morning assembling and placing Christmas swags at the St. John's Cemetery. With profound respect and a simple prayer they placed each swag on a grave to honor those who have passed on heaven. Thank you to Bob and Donna House for allowing our youth to be a part of living out their faith.

TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS

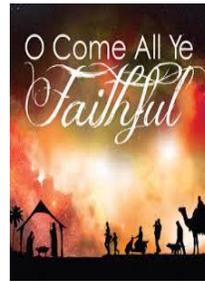
JOURNEY OF Faith

Teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Faith meets weekly **following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday**. The readings of the day are discussed so that we can better

apply them to our daily lives; and a particular piece of Catholic doctrine is then presented and explored. This is a wonderful way to grow in knowledge of our faith!

Won't you join us?

PARISH LIFE



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

December 24th – Sacred Heart at 4:00 p.m. and St. John's at 6:00 p.m.

December 25th – Sacred Heart at 10:00 a.m.

42ND ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

It is time to sign up for the March For Life for 2016 in Washington D.C. The Knights of Columbus will once again be providing a bus to the event on **Friday, January 22, 2016**. While the bus is free, a \$10.00 contribution per seat will go to Choices Pregnancy Center in Easton to further their good works. Contact Craig Clagett at 301-266-0669 or clagett994@aol.com, or Kenny Platt Sr. at 443-926-2801 or plattkpc@aol.com

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: The schedule for the January through March Masses has been finalized. Please take a moment to log into MSP and confirm that you are able to serve on the dates you've been scheduled. Thank you for your continued commitment to service in our community.

AN INVITATION TO MINISTRY: Volunteers are needed to fill a need on the Sacred Heart Ministry Team for **Ushers and Greeters**. Please consider serving your community in this capacity. Contact Ann Ashe if you are interested in learning more.

ELVES NEEDED: Elves are needed on **Tuesday, Dec 22nd at 9:00 a.m.** to set the Christmas environment at Sacred Heart. Please RSVP to Louise Shearer 410-810-9095.



December 20th: The Incarnation

Facilitator: Mary Jo Frohlich

The reason for the season of Advent is preparation for the Incarnation of God's Son. As Christmas fast approaches we will focus today on what we believe about the incarnation of God's son, Jesus Christ.

Next Week: No Session

SALT AND LIGHT MINISTRIES



It is once again the “season of giving”, but for us Catholic Christians, our season of giving should last all year! There are so many opportunities for us to share our faith by volunteering in our community.

The Salvation Army Kettles are in need of bell ringers each weekend through **December 22nd** for two hour shifts. Families are especially encouraged to volunteer. Almost all of the money collected in the Chestertown kettles stays in the Kent County area. Call Pat McDonald at 410-928-5160 if you can help.



During the months of **January, February and March**, we have an opportunity to help those in our community who have no permanent housing, by serving as volunteers at the **Samaritan Group Winter Shelter**. Many of you volunteered last year and can speak to others about how rewarding this experience is. **Two volunteers are needed each night from 5:30 until 11:00**. Dinner and conversation with the residents of the shelter is a bonus! To select your night(s) please contact Barbara Harrison at barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com

St. Martin's House in Ridgely, a transitional shelter for women with young children, is in need of volunteer drivers to help these young moms get their little ones to doctors' appointments, etc. Volunteers are also needed to help the paid staff, or just to come and play with the little ones to give these frazzled moms a little time off! Contact Barbara Kelly at bksquared01@aol.com for more information.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The offertory envelopes for 2016 are at the back of the Church in Sacred Heart and St. John's. *Please note that even if you are contributing through Electronic Giving, you will still need to pick up envelopes because special and second collections are not part of Electronic Giving.* We have sent envelopes up to St. John's for anybody with a Rock Hall address. If you do not attend the church where the envelopes were placed, give our office a call at 410-778-3160, and let us know. **PLEASE BE ADVISED, WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A TAX STATEMENT FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IF YOU USE ELECTRONIC GIVING OR THE OFFERTORY ENVELOPES.** PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ENVELOPES AND THERE ARE NO ENVELOPES WITH YOUR NAME AND WE WILL MAKE SURE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A SET. Call Becky Davis, 410-778-3160 if you wish to start receiving envelopes or, with any questions. If you have questions about Electronic Giving please call Senta Burton at 410-778-3160.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We will be collecting for Christmas Flowers during the entire month of December. Envelopes are at the doors of the Church for your donation.



ELECTRONIC GIVING: It is possible to make your weekly financial commitment to the Parish using Electronic Funds Transfer. We are encouraging everyone to consider using this contribution method. Contact Senta Burton with any questions at 410-778-3160, or senta.burton@sacredparish.org. Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

Offertory - Weeks Ending 12/13/15 (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	\$4,969	\$565	\$6,442	-\$908
YTD				
Wk. 24	\$128,377	\$27,589	\$154,608	\$1,358

