

SCRIPTURE READINGS



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah rejoices that God is bringing his exiled people home to Jerusalem. He calls out to the people to be glad because God will restore Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Paul explains to the Hebrews that although God had spoken through the prophets, people could not always completely understand the message. Now God has spoken to us by sending Jesus, the son, a reflection of God's glory and forgiver of our sins.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.



For the Week of December 25th through
December 31st

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Friday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17;

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18



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 24th

4:00 p.m. (SH) Parishioners, living and deceased

6:00 p.m. (SJ) Parishioners, living and deceased

Sunday, December 25th

10:00 a.m. (SH) Parishioners, living and deceased

Monday December 26th

8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 27th

8:30 a.m. Patrick McCurdy

Wednesday December 28th

8:30 a.m. Amy Rhodes

Thursday, December 29th

8:30 a.m. (SH) Communion Service

Friday, December 30th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 31st

4:00 p.m. (SH) Marie Gruber

6:00 p.m. (SJ) Parishioners, living and deceased

Sunday, January 1st

10:00 a.m. (SH) Parishioners, living and deceased

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.



Merry
Christmas!

DID YOU KNOW... (about)

The Twelve Days of Christmas?



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On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me....” Did you ever wonder why we sing about twelve days of Christmas? Our secular world begins the “Christmas season” right after Halloween and ends it abruptly right after Christmas Day. The Catholic Church, in her wisdom, **begins** the celebration of the Christmas season on Christmas Day and continues it for twelve days, until the feast of the Epiphany.

Christmas Day celebrates the day that God sent his son Jesus to us in human form – the Incarnation. The twelve days following Christmas Day give us time to reflect on ***what the Incarnation means in our lives*** and how we can share the light of Christ with others.

There are several feast days in the liturgical calendar following Christmas that give us examples of how some of the Saints reflected the light of Jesus to the world. December 26 is the feast of St. Stephen – the forerunner of all those who show the love of Christ by their generosity to the needy. Additionally, he was the first martyr, witnessing to Christ by the ultimate gift of his own life. On December 27 we celebrate the feast day of St. John the Evangelist. John witnessed to the Incarnation through his words, “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14) December 28, observes the feast of the Holy Innocents. They were not martyrs like Stephen; or inspired like John to speak the Word of life and understand the mysteries of God, since they did not have a chance to come to know God, but they died for Christ nonetheless. Through them we renew our faith that the coming of Christ brings hope to the most hopeless. On January 1st we celebrate the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. One of Mary’s most outstanding characteristics is her willingness to know and do God’s will.

The Christmas season continues with daily celebrations of saints who inspire us and show us how to live the life of a Christian.

Finally, we arrive at the Feast of the Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6. Epiphany commemorates the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel – Christ’s manifestation to the nations as shown in the visit of the Magi. How blessed we are to have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas for twelve days! This year, let’s use the **entire** Christmas season to try to know Christ better and look for ways to let His light shine through us.

PARISH NEWS



P.R.E.P.: All the catechists in our Parish Religious Education Program and Children's Liturgy of the Word wish you a Blessed Christmas season and a Happy and Holy New Year!

2017 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES and CALENDARS are at the back of the Church.

Offertory - Week Ending 12/18/16 - Week 25				
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 12/18-Wk.25	\$4,762	\$630	\$6,346	-\$954
YTD Wk. 245	\$131,597	\$ 25,345	\$158,650	-\$1,708

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.

LET'S DANCE for fun, smiles and exercise!! Zumba Gold® is being offered at Sacred Heart - for the active, older adult/beginner. There is no fee to our Sacred Heart & St. John's parishioners. The class is led by a certified Zumba Gold® instructor. **Classes are every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m.** in the Church Hall. Please contact Sharon Burrirt at 410-708-8048 with any questions.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE: Church Offices will be closed Monday December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th in observance of the Christmas Holiday. Offices will also be closed December 30th through January 2nd for the New Year's holiday.

ALTAR FLOWERS - We have not budgeted for flowers or floral supplies. If you would like to make a donation please call Louise Shearer at 410-490-3595 or Mary Johnson at 410-778-2230.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2017: Be a voice for the voiceless! Come and March for Life on **January 27, 2017** in Washington D.C. The Rally begins at 12 noon and the March at 1:00 p.m. The District 26 Knights of Columbus have provided us with a free bus to the Rally. The bus will be leaving Sacred Heart Church at 9:30 a.m. with stops in Centreville, Chesapeake College, and Kent Island, returning to Chestertown by 5:00 p.m. For reservations, please contact Kenny Platt at plattkpc@aol.com or call 443-926-2801.



REMINDER TO ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS AT SACRED HEART: Thank you to the ministers who volunteer to serve weekly at our liturgies. Please remember to "check in" before mass in the foyer of the church. Simply highlight your name on the schedule so that we know in advance if we need to fill positions or make changes. All ministers should check in...Lectors, Greeters, Cantors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers. Thank you for your attention to this request.

DIALOG: In addition to the newspaper edition of The Dialog that's available in church every two weeks, the newspaper's website, www.thedialog.org, is updated every weekday with stories from the diocese and around the world, including many that don't appear in the newspaper due to space considerations. Stay on top of national and international issues of concern to Catholics, each Sunday's Scripture reading commentaries by Dialog columnists and the work of the church in the nation and world by visiting www.thedialog.org.

<u>MASS TIMES FOR NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND:</u>		
Saturday, Dec. 31	Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m.
	St. John's	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 1	Sacred Heart	10:00 a.m.

