

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Baruch tells Jerusalem to rejoice because of God's plan to bring his exiled people back to Jerusalem. He emphasizes God's power and describes his plan to lower mountains and fill gorges to make their journey easier.



Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Paul encourages the Philippians to love each other completely. He hopes that their love and understanding will continue to grow so that they are prepared for the return of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Luke describes the work John the Baptist carried out to help people prepare for the birth of Jesus. Luke also discusses who was in power at the time, which helped historians to figure out the exact dates of certain events, including Jesus' birth.



For the Week of December 9th through
December 15th

Sunday

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a,
10ab;

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Thursday

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

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 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

Monday, December 10th

8:30 a.m. Helen Calloway

Tuesday, December 11th

8:30 a.m.

Wednesday December 12th

8:30 a.m. Julia Marie Ortmann

Thursday, December 13th

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, December 14th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 15th

4:00 p.m. Adam Schaubert

Sunday, December 16th

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

10:00 a.m. Owen Pierce

**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.



PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Luke 3:1-6

Reflection for Parents

Valleys, mountains, winding roads, and rough ways are all a part of the journey of life. As parents, our task is to teach our children how to apply faith in God and Christian values to help straighten out or make right what is wrong, and to help make smooth what is difficult or rough. Seeking forgiveness from one another and from God is one of the greatest ways we can do so. Take a few moments to ask God to place within you a forgiving heart so that you may teach your children to walk in the ways of forgiveness and love.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

As a family, recall the bumpiest, hilliest, most snow-covered, pothole-full, curviest, narrowest, and scariest roads you have ever driven on. Talk about things that create the bumps, hills, potholes, curves, and dangers on the road to Heaven. For example, anger creates a bump on the road to Heaven and little white lies create curves in the straight path to God. Then brainstorm things you can do this Advent to smooth and straighten the road to God, including forgiving one another and following God's Word.

Discussion Starters

1. If I could give one message about God to everyone I know, my message would be . . .
2. Something that keeps getting in my way on the road to Heaven is . . .
3. One thing I can do to make the way of the Lord straighter is . . .

PARENTING POINTERS: There are usually many preparations to make for Christmas. Help your child focus on preparing and wait for the celebration.



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“Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.”

Sheepish Question:

How can I bring real hope to someone suffering in a difficult time?

NOTE OF THANKS: The winner of the cash raffle at the bull roast chose to in turn donate the winnings to the food pantry in Rock Hall. This anonymous winner/donor has truly made an impact on many lives. Our parish received the following note from the food pantry:

“Dear Kind Hearted Ones,

We are grateful for your very generous gift of \$350.00 in gift cards to the Rock Hall Community Food Pantry.

Although it may not always be evident, there does exist a need for our food pantry in the Rock Hall community.

We are an extra resource to our town's unemployed seasonal workers, families with children who cannot keep up with the rising cost of food, those whose food stamps have been reduced, and senior citizens living on small Social Security allotments. Every donation affords us the opportunity to see they do not go hungry.”

PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Weeks Ending December 2nd – Week 23

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 12/02 Wk. 23	\$4,046	\$2,750	\$6,346	\$450
YTD Wk. 23	\$111,537	\$28,483	\$145,958	-\$5,938

AGING RELIGIOUS NEED YOUR HELP:

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

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.

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.

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.

SAINTS OF DECEMBER



Juan Diego – December 9

Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin was born in Mexico in 1474. Everyday, he rose before dawn and walked 15 miles to Mass in what is today Mexico City. On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan as he passed Tepeyac Hill. She said that she wanted a church to be built on that site. She told Juan to go and talk to the bishop.

The bishop listened to Juan, but was skeptical. He asked Juan to bring some kind of proof that he had really talked with the Virgin Mary.

Juan was a simple man—a weaver and laborer. Before he could return to the Lady, he found out that his uncle was dying. Juan rushed to find a priest. On his way, the Virgin Mary met him on the path. She told Juan that his uncle had been cured. Then she asked Juan to go to the top of the hill where they first met. On the snow-covered hill, Juan found beautiful roses, a kind that did not grow in Mexico, growing in the frozen ground. Juan filed his cloak with the flowers and ran to see the bishop.

Juan told the bishop what had happened and opened his cloak. The flowers fell to the floor. To their amazement, an image of the Lady was imprinted on Juan’s open cloak. Soon after, the bishop had a church built on the site where the Virgin Mary had first appeared to Juan.

