

# Resurrection Parish

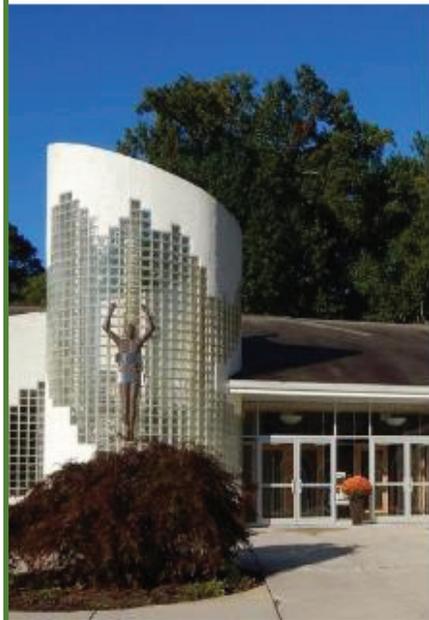
December 2, 2018

A Catholic Christian Community

First Sunday of Advent

3000 Videre Drive  
Wilmington DE 19808  
302-368-0146  
www.resurrectionde.org

**Mass Times**  
Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.  
Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:30 a.m.  
Tues. 7 p.m.



**Rev. William Graney, Pastor**  
Rev. Gregory Corrigan, Assoc. Pastor  
John Falkowski, Deacon  
Fran Huhn, Retired Deacon  
Ruth Sanders, Liturgy/Music  
Nancy Maloney, Christian Formation  
Elaine Little, Youth Ministry  
Sandy Landoll, Social Concerns  
Tina Donald, Bookkeeper  
Debbie Seymour, Admin. Asst.  
Parish Office: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.  
6:00-8:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

### Pastoral Council

Al Mercatante	Executive Officer
Sharon Gidumal	Asst. Executive
Mike Mitchell	Secretary
Maritza Poza-Grise	Trustee
Dick Schwer	Trustee

ext. 102  
ext. 115  
ext. 110  
  
ext. 106  
ext. 104  
ext. 107  
ext. 103  
ext. 105  
ext. 0

**Reconciliation**  
Tues. 6:30 p.m. Sat. 4:45 p.m.  
or by appointment.

**Baptisms**  
Please contact Deacon John.

**Marriage**  
Contact clergy one year prior.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick**  
For hospital and home visits  
contact clergy or the office.

**Becoming Catholic**  
Learn more by contacting  
Fr. Bill or Deacon John.

**Spirituality Outreach Stewardship**

Believers were once taught that “Everything that happens is God’s will.” This mindset had negative consequences. For example, when even the worst situations occurred, some would say, “God must have a reason.” Not so! God is about life and love. God does not will that children die of cancer or people die in traffic accidents.

Fortunately, “most” people no longer hold such a belief. Unfortunately, many people today do not put much, if any, consideration into “God’s will.” So, what has happened?

Individualism and secularism play a major role in shaping the faith of people and communities of worship. Individualism is the notion that our identity is something constructed from within. I create and decide who I am. All relationships are a matter of choice.

However, Catholics believe that we are called into being by the love of God. That means our existence, and our identity, is a gift. We exist foremost in relationship with God, and, by extension, in a loving relationship with all others and with Creation.

Secularism is the compartmentalization of faith and religion. Some say, “Faith is the most important part of their life.” Even this is a mistake. Our faith should not be a “part” of our life. Faith should be the reality that shapes and directs our entire existence.

“God’s will” means that God has a plan for humanity, for ALL people. As individuals, we are called to first recognize that we are designed for community. This is what St. Paul calls, “the Body of Christ.” Christians understand their responsibility, their stewardship, their duty is for the good of the community. That’s why it is crucial that we pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. This is especially true when we meet together in committees or small groups. “The Spirit of truth will guide you (plural: ‘you together’) into all truth” Jn 16:13.

(continued on page 2)

## LITURGY

Pope Francis reminds us that the Holy Spirit is the living presence of God in the church. The Holy Spirit “will teach us everything and remind us what Jesus taught us.”

It’s so natural for us to focus on “my” agenda, “my” desires, “my” will. Then, when things don’t go the way that “I” want, frustration follows. But if we’re serious about doing God’s will, it’s not about getting what we want, but doing what God desires. Should things not turn out the way I hoped or wanted, it’s important to remember to trust God, who is always with us. God is faithful and good and the things God calls us to do are the things God created us to do.

“Seek God’s will in all that you do and God will direct your path.” Proverbs 3:6

Peace,  
Fr. Greg

### INTENTIONS

Monday	Dec. 3	8:30 am	+Mary Lessik
Tuesday	Dec. 4	7:00 pm	+Dillon Scofield
Wednesday	Dec. 5	8:30 am	+Blake DiIorio
Friday	Dec. 7	8:30 am	Parish Community
Immaculate Conception	Dec. 8	9:00 am	Parish Community
Saturday	Dec. 8	5:30pm	+Agnes M. Wood
Sunday	Dec. 9	8:15 am	+Louise C. Poppiti
		10:30am	+Bill Maloney



God is the source of all healing and hope, to whom we lift up in prayer the needs of the sick and those who care for them. **Lord, allow your healing hand to assist** Richard McCracken, Eva Skripchuk, Linda Scarola, Burt

& Carol Strasser, Rachel Rose Boucher, JD Howell, Jack & Jane Tabaka, Bill Dorsey, Joseph Hemphill, Alyssa Stover, Chet Andruskiewicz, Jim Gambort, Helen Meys, Candi Smith, Sean McCormick, Janice Kane, Ralph Culver, Kevin Rzucidlo, Mike Pohlen, Cass Thomas, Courtney Corridori, Patty Calhoun, Laurel Milano, Katie Fink, Beth Bell, Julie Edmiston, Pete DeAscanis and others mentioned in our parish book of intentions.

### STEWARDSHIP

Please fill out your commitment card and return to the collection basket or to the box in the Gathering Space by December 9th. Thank You.

[www.resurrectionde.org](http://www.resurrectionde.org)

**Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention-December 2018 Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith:** That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**December 8, Saturday**  
**SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
Mass at 9:00 a.m.

A holy day of obligation.

**Adults** interested in joining the Resurrection Parish **Music Ministry** are most heartily welcomed! Please contact Ruth Sanders, 302-368-0146 Ext. 106, [rsanders@resurrectionde.org](mailto:rsanders@resurrectionde.org) .



We invite you to join other parishioners for Best Advent Ever, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don’t let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with Best Advent Ever. Each day, you’ll receive an email with short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories of hope.

All you have to do is sign up at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>

### PARISH LIFE



**WELCOME:** Next Sunday, December 9, at the 10:30 am mass we welcome Caitlin Nichols to our parish family through the sacrament of baptism. Caitlin is the daughter of Kristine and Jason Nichols.

They were married here at Resurrection by Fr. Greg in 2016. As Caitlin’s new parish family, we pledge to support her in faith and to shower upon her the love that makes her a child of God.

### 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.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

### Alternative Christmas, Giving Tuesday

Our parish contributes to a number of charities through our charitable giving program, listed below with links to their home pages. There you may read about what they do, and most include a link to donate on-line. But you may also consider your own charities. .

You may pick up cards to announce to loved ones that you have donated in their honor. The cards are available on a table in the Gathering Space. On behalf of all who benefit from your generosity, thank you.

### Supported Charities

*Friendship House*

<http://friendship-house.org/wordpress/>

*Jesus House*

<http://jesushousecenter.org/>

*Family Promise*

<http://www.familypromisede.org/>

*Sojourners*

<http://www.sojournersplace.org/index.html>

*Delaware Center for Justice*

<http://www.dcjustice.org/>

*St. Martin’s Ministries*

<http://stmartinsministries.org/>

*St. Damien Pediatric Hospital*

<https://www.nphusa.org/stdamien/>

*San Marcos Partnership* – make a check out to Resurrection and deposit in collection with memo designating your intention.

*Emmanuel Dining Room* – make a check out to Resurrection and deposit in collection with memo designating your intention.

*Resurrection Parish* – make a check out to Resurrection and deposit in collection with memo designating your intention.



**Christmas Giving Tree**  
Please return wrapped gifts to **Gathering Space and Resurrection Outreach Donations to Parish Office by December 9<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Cathy Blanchet 302-462-6700 or Betsi Gerber 302-354-0834 for information or to help sort and/or deliver.

### Grief Support Series at Jesus House

Nov. 19, 26; Dec. 3, 10 17; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 1:30-3 p.m.: Winter Grief Support Series, Nazareth House, Jesus House Prayer and Renewal Center, 2501 Milltown Rd., Wilmington. For those at any stage of struggling with the grieving process. Options to share, address emotional issues, and practical considerations for issues such as holiday. More information and to register, <http://www.jesushousecenter.org/grief-counseling/> or (484) 732-8026.

## ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Our K to 5 Elementary Program

will meet on 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16 from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Drop off begins at 9:10am. See you there!



See our website or gathering space for a full calendar and other registration forms.

### Would you like more information?

Contact Nancy Maloney, CFP Coordinator, at [nmaloney@resurrectionde.org](mailto:nmaloney@resurrectionde.org), 368-0146 ext. 104.

### Sacrament Preparation Classes

Church Tour, Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:45am-12:30pm

### Pass On the Good News!

What good news? - The Good News of Jesus and our Catholic Faith! Help our children of the parish grow in their faith by coming a substitute catechist or assistant for CFP (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)! With classes offered Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am. We provide you with training, materials, and support. For more information contact: Nancy Maloney (302) 368-0146 ext. 104 or [nmaloney@resurrectionde.org](mailto:nmaloney@resurrectionde.org).

## CFP: YOUTH MINISTRY



### Middle and High School Youth Group

**December 2 6:30-8:15-** *Middle school and high school youth group.*

Sign-in in the gathering space and gather in the youth room.



### Second Sunday Social

JOIN US December 9 at the **Christiana Skating Center 1:30-4:30 pm**. Bring a Friend or Friends. Friend not Catholic? No problem- all are welcome. All friends and

Resurrection youth need to bring a completed Form B. Download Form B here:

<https://www.cdowcym.org/documents/resources/Form B Revised 0715.pdf> Younger siblings are

welcome as long as a parent stays and is responsible for that child. Address:

801 Christiana Rd. (Rte 273) Newark, DE 19713

**1:30pm-4:30pm**

**\$7 per person/ Skate Rental \$4**  
(Non-skating parents admitted free).

Bring additional spending money if you want to purchase food or drink.

## Taking it Home

Today marks the beginning of the Advent-Christmas season, or better yet the Incarnational season. And as we begin this season, we begin with readings that sound vaguely familiar. Our readings for this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent sound much like the readings we heard for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of our last liturgical year. They sound familiar because the end of our last liturgical year and the beginning of Advent celebrate something familiar – the end of time.

Just as we focused on the end of time during the last weeks of our liturgical year, Advent too begins with a focus on the end of time. This is the two-fold nature of Advent; one is to focus on the time when Christ will return, which is at the end of time, and the other is to focus on the time when Jesus came in history. This is the in-between time of our current existence. This is the time when Jesus first came and the time when he will return in glory.

Because we live in this in-between time, we live in a world of uncertainty and anxiety. Theologian and author

John Shea described it as people who are living as “border walkers.” “We live at the intersection of the created and the uncreated, time and eternity, space and infinity, matter and spirit.” This is the time between the ever-changing, uncertainty of living life in its current flow, which we feel helpless to stop, and the time where everything is in harmony and togetherness, the place where God holds all things in balance. Unfortunately, because we are absorbed by the flow, we seldom feel the balance. We were supposed to live safely between these two points with Christ as our guiding light, leading us to the clear meaning of our existence, but we unfortunately went aimlessly in many different directions and many became cynics in the process.

And so now the reality of our lives feels much like our gospel reading, where things are falling apart; where we feel threatened, where even the Church seems to have abandoned us. We worry about the economic uncertainty of our times – will I have a job, will I ever be secure. We worry about our children’s future – will they have jobs and a secure future to look forward to; can we ever love and trust again. And because this is the place where we often live, we lose heart in the promise of our faith, the promise of Jesus – that the kingdom of God has indeed dawned. So we grow weary and impatient and we begin to look elsewhere for the comfort and the security we desire. As a result we now live in a postmodern world which denies the story of our lives and any ultimate meaning. It is a major crisis for us because we experience it as a loss of hope and purpose.

But the challenge for us as individuals and as a people is to engage both the world of flow and the world of balance because we live in both. How do we do that? Well, I think this is the reason that we celebrate a season like Advent for Advent reminds us of not just our falling apart nature, but also of our reason to have hope. Our hope as an Advent people is not the hope that is wishful thinking, but is the hope of a God who is faithful to the promises that God has made with us. This Advent hope is based on the incarnation, which is the promised fulfillment of that covenant. This is the incarnation, where we see the face of God in the person of Jesus, a God of compassion, mercy and love. It is the hope where God takes us completely to the God-self, shows us divine mercy and restores our ordinary humanity to its divine stature as creatures worthy of God’s love. Because of the incarnation we are re-created in blessedness, our world is restored to its sacred harmony and we are assured of God’s promise to be present everywhere in our need, especially in the ever growing uncertainty of our present circumstances.



**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
GOSPEL - LUKE 3: 1-6**

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

**Gospel Reflection:** The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun the first week of Advent, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, "Prepare a way for the Lord." (Often translated as "Prepare the way of the Lord.") The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasizes that John was preaching "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favor.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognize our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to "Prepare a way for the Lord" it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts—to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognize God's love if we "Prepare a way."

**Historical Context:** This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

**Have you thought? Baptism**

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

**Living the Gospel:** This gospel passage is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

*Q. Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves when we are assured God's forgiveness is there for the asking?*

*Q. What image captures for you the idea of "preparing a way"?*

*Q. How can you make the most of this season of Advent?*

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