

Resurrection Parish

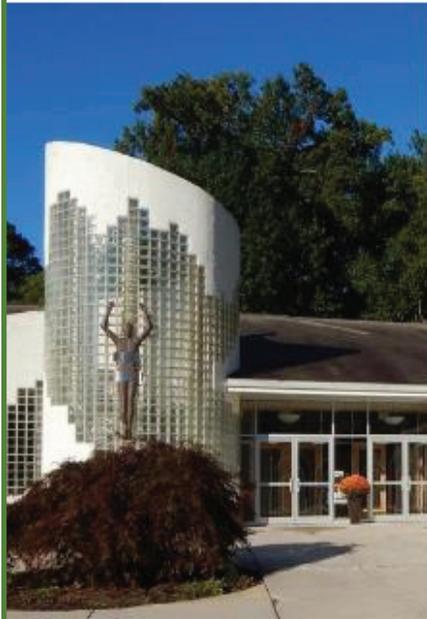
December 16, 2018

A Catholic Christian Community

Third 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.

ext. 102
ext. 115
ext. 110

ext. 106
ext. 104
ext. 107
ext. 103
ext. 105
ext. 0

Pastoral Council

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

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

WELCOMING THE SPIRIT OF CHAOS

At the beginning of the Advent season, Cory Zolandz posted the following on Facebook. Cory's perspective, shaped by her many, diverse roles, is filled with wisdom and common sense. We don't need to separate our faith life from our daily activities. Cory reflects an integrated spirituality-- keeping prayer, faith, and love of Jesus present in the midst of our busy, hectic lives. Thank you Cory! *Fr. Greg*

For years I have been super intentional about taking time "for Advent," setting aside Christmas music and decorations until at least the third Sunday, fighting against consumerism and over consumption. From every Advent reflection and homily, I hear the refrain of "don't rush, wait, prepare your heart—don't enter Christmas with a frazzled spirit."

"Honestly it creates a lot of stress in my heart that I AM so frazzled and I "shouldn't" be...

This year I'm trying something different. I'm welcoming the things my kids want to do to prepare—the tree, the music, while still keeping the prayers of Advent alive and well.

I will welcome the spirit of chaos—of mismatched Christmas shoes and holes in little girl tights—while giving thanks that these are the problems of my day...not separation, violence or death.

*Fighting against the chaos of caring for five young kids at Christmas time or "any time" just doesn't work. When I am able to welcome **what is** and be grateful to have children to care for and be frazzled by, I am a better Mom, a better Catholic, and a better person.*

Advent...is not necessarily a quiet, frazzle free time, as any parent knows.

So we wait with our ancestors in the desert, in joyful anticipation, with noise, music, and a lot of shopping, even more prayers, and five awesome kids (Who I can hear are fussing right now as I write this reflection!)."

Happy Advent!
Cory Zolandz



"Best Advent Ever" -- NIGHT

**An evening of friendship and reflection
Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 pm**

Have the "Best Advent Ever" video emails been impacting you in a new and exciting way? (See below if you'd like to sign up or get more information.)

Take a moment for your faith
Enjoy the friendship of others
Talk about what Advent has meant to you and your hopes for the Christmas season

We will gather in the home of Ellen Turano and share about that day's Best Advent Ever reflection as well as the coming Sunday's Gospel reading. Please RSVP to secretary@resurrectionde.org or 302-368-0146 ext.0

Interested in receiving Best Advent Ever daily emails?
Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com.

INTENTIONS

Monday	Dec. 17	8:30 am	+Bea Snyder
Tuesday	Dec. 18	7:00 pm	
Wednesday	Dec. 19	8:30 am	
Friday	Dec. 21	8:30 am	
Saturday	Dec. 22	5:30pm	Parish Community
Sunday	Dec. 23	8:15 am	+Michael Warner
		10:30am	+Ronald Stutzman



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.

LITURGY

HOLY DAY MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE – Monday 12/24
4:00 pm and 11:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MORNING – Tuesday 12/25
10:00 am

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – Tuesday 1/1
10:00 am

ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER



**RESURRECTION, HOLY ANGELS,
& IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISHES**

PRAY TOGETHER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6:00 PM

AT HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

82 POSSUM PARK ROAD, NEWARK, DE

To open the gates of trust in God, nothing can replace the beauty of human voices united in song. This beauty can give us a glimpse of "heaven's joy on earth" -- Eastern Christians put it -- and an inner life begins to blossom within us. Come pray in song, scripture and silence.

TWO ENVIRONMENT PREP DATES for

CHRISTMAS: This year, we'll prepare our Worship Space for Christmas on two different dates. On Sunday **December 16** we'll put up the Nativity Scene and complete other tasks that can be done early. On Sunday

December 23 we'll change banners, put up and decorate trees, add chairs, and generally make Resurrection ready to welcome Christ in all our guests and parishioners! We'll work beginning at 11:30 am (after the 10:30 am Mass) on both dates. **Thank you** for any and all help you can offer.



MUSIC for Christmas Eve: All newly interested and currently serving singers are invited to **join the choir** for our **11:00 pm Christmas Eve** Mass. **Rehearsals** are Monday,

December 17, 6:30-8:30 pm and **Sunday December 23, 6:00-8:00 pm**. We'd love to have music ready for you, so if you plan to join in, please contact Ruth Sanders, 302-368-0146 Ext. 106, rsanders@resurrectionde.org

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Family Promise:

Sincere thanks to you for another successful hosting week supporting families who are experiencing homelessness! Along with Ebenezer UMC, Resurrection parishioners ministered to 14 individuals (4 parents and 10 children ranging in age from 1 to 13 years old).

Thanks to your generosity, Resurrection provided food and refreshments for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks, provided two dinners (Spaghetti & Meatballs Night and Pizza Night), transported families to/from the Family Promise Day Center to Ebenezer, and served as overnight hosts. How amazing is that?

Regarding the new Hospitality Center which opened on November 26, by the end of the day on November 27 the center was filled to capacity -- 5 families totally 20 members! So think about it -- the "rotational network" which Resurrection helped to recently host had 14 people PLUS the new Hospitality Center had an additional 20 people. Unfortunately, there continues to

be a real need to help folks experiencing homelessness in our area; however, the good news is that there are AMAZING people like each of you who are doing an incredible job to help these folks get back on their own. Thank the Lord! Deb Buckels

PARISH LIFE

Prayer for Christian Unity: On Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7pm, at Simpson United Methodist church, all are invited to attend a service of prayer for Christian Unity with special attention to the students and teachers of our local school districts. Because these children and teenagers are our future, we urge everyone to take part.



Save the Date!
Annual Winter Arts Festival
Saturday
January 26, 2019
Contact Elaine at

elittle@resurrectionde.org if you have an item or service you would like to donate to our silent auction. Thank you in Advance.

ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our K to 5 Elementary Program

will meet on 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, 368-0146 ext. 104.

Sacramental Prep

Saturday, January 5th, 9am **First Reconciliation**

Epiphany Party

Sunday, January 6th (after the 10:30am Mass)

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-5th 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.

CFP: YOUTH MINISTRY



Middle and High School Youth Group

December 16 6:30-8:15- Middle school and high school youth group.

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

College students are welcome to join the high school students when we discuss how we make decisions both large and small in light of our faith. We would love you to share your wisdom!

Taking it Home

The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!

Now, please don't ask the reason. No one quite knows the reason.

It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.

It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight.

But I think that the most likely reason of all

May have been that his heart was two sizes too small!

At one time or another we will identify with Grinch. Over time our hearts shrink and they become two sizes too small. Why? Because over time we grow anxious. In a world where there should be sufficient resources for everyone, we are made to feel as though we will never have enough; that we will never become somebody; that we can never let others take advantage of us or that we can never show signs of weakness. Such anxiousness is only heightened by the times in which we live; a time of future uncertainty; a time of growing fear about the world in which we live. And because of this anxiousness about what we possess, who we are, what power we have and the prospects of a terrifying future, we grow smaller instead of larger in stature. We harden and become jealous and distrustful. In effect, our hearts become two sizes too small and the joys of life as well as a season like Christmas becomes a burden instead of a saving grace.

In the midst of this world of abundance, John the Baptist this weekend preaches the good news. And the good news is that Christ, the promised one, is about to come. In anticipation of this Jesus, the people ask John what they should do. John tells them that they should share with those in need; they should not cheat and they should not take advantage of others. Sounds like decent advice. If our world is to become a better place, we should all share with those in need. We should not cheat others out of what is theirs and we should be satisfied with who we are and what we have. But if John's advice is all that good, why hasn't it been done yet? Not just in John's time, but also our own.

In our gospel, John tells his audience that if they don't change, that if they fail to share, continue to cheat and aren't satisfied that something is coming which will make them change. "A winnowing fan" will come and separate the good from the bad and that the bad "will burn in unquenchable fire." In other words, if people don't change, damnation will reign instead. But in John's time the people failed to change, and neither has the threat of damnation forced change in our own time as well. Why? Because our anxiety weighs heavier than the threat of punishment and because it does, the tendency to become a Grinch becomes our only recourse. But must it always be this way?

It need not be this way if we are attentive to the one to whom John points, Jesus. John is right about Jesus; that he is "mightier than John." He is mightier because he can offer the cure for our anxiousness. We simply need to open our hearts and let it be so. You see John appeals to our worst instincts by trying to scare us out of them. But Jesus appeals directly to our anxiety by seeking to remove it altogether. Jesus seeks to remove it because in his mind there is no reason for us to be anxious because all the things we seek - security, recognition, trust and love - are already given to us in our relationship with God. God, in God's goodness, creates goodness in us, begins the good work in us, accepts us and loves us without condition. This is the good news that Jesus comes to proclaim that we are God's creation and God has endowed us with every gift that will provide the power for us to overcome our anxiety. Unfortunately, we would rather trust the demons we think we know rather than put our faith in Jesus. In this case we choose to live anxiously. But if we could allow ourselves to be open to God's grace and the Christmas message, that we are God's children, endowed with the light of God's Spirit and loved beyond imagining, perhaps we can then let that Spirit expand our hearts in joy, let our fears go and learn to share God's love with others. If Grinch can find a way to expand his heart, than just maybe in this Christmas season and beyond, we can too. Deacon John



**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GOSPEL - LUKE 1:39-45**

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Gospel Reflection: The gospel passages of the second and third weeks of Advent this year featured John the Baptist in his role of preparing the way for the coming of Jesus; the one who announces the arrival of the Christ. In this passage for the fourth Sunday of Advent, which goes back to an earlier point in the gospel of Luke, we might say that the as yet unborn John is already recognizing the presence of the Christ. When Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the child within Elizabeth's womb—John—leaps for joy. At the time of the Annunciation, when Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she was to give birth to a child, Mary is also told that Elizabeth and Zechariah, although very old, were to also give birth to a child. Mary rushes to visit Elizabeth, not to make sure that the angel was telling her the truth, but because the fact that Elizabeth was also pregnant was a sign of confirmation to Mary that she had indeed made the right decision. Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy confirms for Mary the even greater truth of her own pregnancy. These two women, separated by age and distance, share a common experience of God acting in their lives to bring about unlikely events. The lives of their two children will be inextricably linked such that the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb will eventually baptize the other and announce the arrival of his ministry to the people of Israel.

The joy expressed by Elizabeth and her child reflects the joy of all people of faith as we draw so close to the celebration of Christmas and the greatest expression of God's love—to enter into the world as one just like us and share our experience.

Q. Why do you think Luke's gospel is the only one to deal with the Visitation and John's birth?

Q. Why is Mary regarded as a role model for humankind?

Q. How does this gospel help to focus our preparation towards Christmas?

Q. In response to this gospel, is there anyone that you should make the effort to visit?

Blessed are you: *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.* Elizabeth's greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke's gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

John the Baptist: The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John's birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunner of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

Looking for signs: When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

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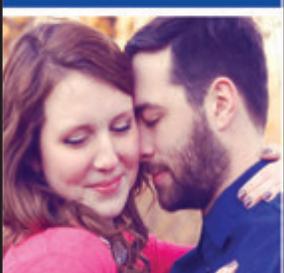
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