

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

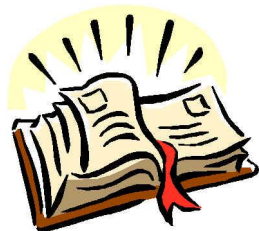
### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

#### Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.



#### Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

### For the Week of December 21<sup>st</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

#### Friday

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

#### Saturday

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

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 20<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Jim Bennette

### Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

10:00 a.m. Raymond Rusden

### Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30 a.m. Mass for the People

### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

### Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>

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

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

### Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

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

### Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

### Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

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,  
Thomas Parson,  
Barbara Darrah,  
John Troffo, Ed  
Yianakis, Valerie  
Lindyberg, Patricia  
Dana, and Jim  
Kestell and all*

those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the front foyer of the Sacred Heart and St. John's.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### PREP

#### Parish Religious Education Program

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

#### December PREP Class Schedule:

Sunday, December 21st - NO CLASSES

Sunday, December 28th - NO CLASSES

Sunday, January 5th - RE Class

#### 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)

**BIBLE LITERACY CATECHESIS:** Sunday, January 4th is our next special class on Biblical Literacy for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The topic this week will be "Who wrote the Bible? It is so old... Is it really important to us today?"

**PREP SUNDAY:** Our next PREP Sunday will take place on **Sunday, Jan. 4th**. Please make every effort to have your child attend the 10:00 a.m. mass and sit with PREP classmates and catechists in the first row in church.

*The PREP Catechists are wishing every family a very Merry Christmas!*

**DAILY REFLECTIONS:** For the past three years, the Youth Leadership Team of the Diocese of Wilmington has composed short reflections on the daily readings during Advent, which are posted through the Twitter feed of the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

These 140-character "tweets" offer a young person's perspective on the daily readings, and how these readings are integrated into our life of prayer and worldly living. Please follow the CYM Twitter feed and share with your followers these daily reflections of our young Church. The CYM Twitter feed is @cdowcym.



## MINISTRIES AND MUSIC

**USHER MINISTRY:** We are in need of a few more people to help as ushers. The task of the usher involves helping with the collection at mass and handing out materials at the church doors from time to time. Your commitment is flexible and can be tailored to your mass preference time and your special scheduling needs through our online scheduling program. Please consider stepping up to offer service in this important ministry. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Frank Creegan at [fcreegan2@washcoll.edu](mailto:fcreegan2@washcoll.edu).

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**MUSIC NOTES:** As Cantors and Leaders of Music, it is our joy to provide music and prayer at mass and we take our ministry role very seriously. We remind all of you that our primary role as minister is to "promote active participation" of the assembly in the mass. **Please join with us in song and in prayer.** We are not praying **FOR** you through song but **WITH** you. God knows what your voice sounds like and He loves it! Praise Him! Consider making this your Advent gift. **SING TO THE LORD, PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!**

## TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS

**TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH:** This Adult Formation activity meets **each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass** in the front foyer of Sacred Heart Church.

#### Today's Topic: THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is the time we primarily celebrate the coming down of the Son of God who became one of the poor children of men and women. If that is so, what impact has that had on the world? When we look at the state of the world, what evidence is there that Christ becoming human has had any impact whatsoever? What evidence is there in your own life?

**Dec. 28 – NO SESSION – HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**



## PARISH LIFE

### CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY MASSES:

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**SACRED HEART: 4:00 P.M.**

**ST. JOHN'S: 6:00 P.M.**

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY:**

**SACRED HEART: 10:00 A.M.**

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY:**

**ST. JOHN'S: 8:00 A.M.**

**SACRED HEART: 10:00 A.M.**

**ADVENT WREATH:** Thank you to *Bill and Ann Anderson and to the Will Family* for representing the hope of the season in the lighting of the Advent Wreath last weekend at mass.

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**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** The offertory envelopes for 2015 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 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 or would like to sign up, please call John Davis at 443-875-6898.

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**HOSPITAL VISITS:** We are not able to access patient records from the Chester River Hospital Center. If you or someone in your family is a patient, and you wish to receive Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 410-778-3160, and provide us with the patient's name and room number and we will do our best to accommodate the request.

### FLOWER DONATIONS:

Parishioners are invited to donate flowers in celebration of weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events. If you would like to donate flowers or place flowers in memory of a loved one, please inform Becky Davis for Sacred Heart, at 410-778-3160; or Mary Johnson for St. John's at 410-778-2230.

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**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 Burritt at 410-708-8048 with any questions.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### OFFERTORY 12/7/14:

SACRED HEART:	\$	3,914
ST. JOHN:	\$	1,924
ELECTRONIC GIVING:	\$	2,098

### OFFERTORY 12/14/14:

SACRED HEART:	\$	3,696
ST. JOHN'S	\$	791
ELECTRONIC GIVING:	\$	403
POOR BOX	\$	52

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

SACRED HEART:	\$	643
ST. JOHN:	\$	118

### RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT:

SACRED HEART:	\$	1,573
ST. JOHN:	\$	415

