

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.



Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."



For the Week of December 13th through
December 19th

Sunday

Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25



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 12th

4:00 p.m. Anita Gelderman

Sunday, December 13th

8:00 a.m. Edna Shearer

10:00 a.m. Jack Depouler

Monday, December 14th

8:30 a.m. William Hoover

Tuesday, December 15th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday, December 16th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, December 17th

8:30 a.m. Jack and Julia Rosenwald

Friday, December 18th

8:30 a.m. David Schaubert

Saturday, December 19th

8:30 a.m. Mass for the People

4:00 p.m. Ross and Peg Lyons

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. Mass for the People

10:00 a.m. Ken Burns

REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:
Julia Ridgely, Barron Scott, Barbara Darrach, John

Troffo, Valerie

Lindyberg, Patricia

Dana, Ryan Elizabeth

Quintero, Edith

Follin, Elizabeth

Montague, Sandy

Bugni, Angela

Wilmer, Amy Rhodes,

and all those whose

names appear in the

PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the
front foyer of Sacred Heart/St. John's.



PREP

Parish Religious Education Program

"Let us give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds toward us" Psalm 107:8

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POSTER CONTEST: All children grades 1 - 8 are invited to participate in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest. Informational flyers and poster board can be obtained from the PREP Office. **Please submit all posters to the RE Office by Sunday, December 13th.**

PREP ATTENDANCE: Our attendance rates have been very inconsistent. When you consider that the catechists have *only 1 hour per week* with the students, you can understand how one or two absences a month takes away from quality catechesis and relationship building. Even though the holiday season is upon us, please make every effort to bring your children to PREP every week.

December PREP Class Schedule:

Sunday December 13th – Class
Sunday December 20th – Class
Sunday December 27th – NO CLASSES
Sunday January 3rd – NO CLASSES

TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS

Teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Faith meets weekly **following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.** The readings of the day are discussed so that we can better apply them to our daily lives; and a particular piece of Catholic doctrine is then presented and explored. This is a wonderful way to grow in knowledge of our faith! *Won't you join us??*

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

December 13th: Mary

Facilitator: Dick Swanson

Mary is a major character in the season of Advent. She is an example of the "yes" we should all say to God when it comes to living the Christian life. John the Baptist invites conversion of heart and repentance. MARY is our finest example of what it means to have a converted heart.

*Next Week: The Incarnation
Facilitator: Mary Jo Frohlich*

PARISH LIFE

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 priest knows 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.

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.

HELP NEEDED - WREATH MAKING: On **December 18th and 19th** we are asking parishioners to help decorate 17 wreaths for Sacred Heart Church. All materials will be supplied. We will meet in the Church Hall at 9:30 a.m. each day. We will be in the Upper Room on the 19th. Please RSVP to Louise Shearer at [410-810-9095](tel:410-810-9095) or shibshearer@gmail.com. Please come share in preparing a new and inspiring church environment for the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

December 24th – Sacred Heart at
4:00 p.m. and St. John's
at 6:00 p.m.

December 25th – Sacred Heart at
10:00 a.m.



SALT AND LIGHT MINISTRIES



It is once again the “season of giving”, but for us Catholic Christians, our season of giving should last all year! There are so many opportunities for us to share our faith by volunteering in our community.

The Salvation Army Kettles are in need of bell ringers each weekend **through December 22nd** for two hour shifts. Families are especially encouraged to volunteer. Almost all of the money collected in the Chestertown kettles stays in the Kent County area. Call Pat McDonald at 410-928-5160 if you can help.

The Giving Tree once again presents us with the privilege of making sure that some of our less fortunate neighbors are not forgotten during the Christmas season. **GIFTS MUST BE PLACED UNDER THE TREE BY NO LATER THAN THIS SUNDAY, THE 13TH OF DECEMBER. WE CANNOT DISTRIBUTE GIFTS LEFT AFTER THAT DATE.**

restoringHope

the Samaritan group



During the months of January, February and March, we have an opportunity to help those in our community who have no permanent housing, by serving as volunteers at the **Samaritan Group Winter Shelter**. Many of you volunteered last year and can speak to others about how rewarding this experience is. Two volunteers are needed each night from 5:30 until 11:00. Dinner and conversation with the residents of the shelter is a bonus! To select your night(s) please contact Barbara Harrison at barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com

St. Martin's House in Ridgely, a transitional shelter for women with young children, is in need of volunteer drivers to help these young moms get their little ones to doctors' appointments, etc. Volunteers are also needed to help the paid staff, or just to come and play with the little ones to give these frazzled moms a little time off! Contact Barbara Kelly at bksquared01@aol.com for more information.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The offertory envelopes for 2016 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 and second 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 please call Senta Burton at 410-778-3160.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We will be collecting for Christmas Flowers during the entire month of December. Envelopes are at the doors of the Church for your donation.



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.

Offertory - Weeks Ending 12/6/15 (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	\$4,925	\$2,340	\$6,442	\$823
YTD Wk. 23	\$123,408	\$27,024	\$148,166	\$2,266

