

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.



#### Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irrefragable when Jesus does arrive.

#### Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

### For the Week of December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

#### Friday

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

#### Saturday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

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 13<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Anita Gelderman

#### Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

10:00 a.m. Ken Burns

#### Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Pauline Koleszar

#### Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

#### Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

#### Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Mass for the People

#### Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Mass for the People

#### Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Jane Spray

4:00 p.m. Jim Bennette

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

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

10:00 a.m. Raymond Rusden

## 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!*

**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 Religious Education Office by **THIS Sunday, December 14th.**

#### December PREP Class Schedule:

**Sunday, December 14th - RE Class**

**Sunday, December 21st - NO CLASSES**

**Sunday, December 28th - NO CLASSES**

**Sunday, January 5th - RE Class**

**PREP OUTREACH PROJECT REPORT:** Thank you to the PREP families for providing *7 bags of groceries and 2 dozen winter items* (hats, gloves, scarves) to our local Food Pantry and Shelter for those less fortunate than ourselves.

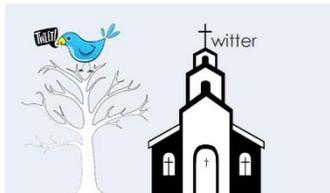
These items totaled over 149 lbs. of food delivered and received with much appreciation in this season of giving and love. Thank you for your faithful participation.

**CHRISTMAS GIFT:** The PREP students received a Christmas Caroling Booklet from their catechists this week as a gift from the Religious Education Program and Sacred Heart Parish. May the singing of carols remind your family of the true meaning of this season and may it bring you abundant JOY!

**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.



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REVIVAL”

COME ONE, COME ALL



Join us for a revival of the 1995 Sacred Heart Christmas Pageant Saturday December 20, 2014 immediately following the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart. Please bring a dessert to share at the social following the pageant in the Hall.

## 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).

**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. *This week's topic:*

### THE INCARNATION

- What wonderful thing happened to human beings as a result of Jesus taking human form?
- How does Jesus' "Incarnation" relate to your life—to an experience in your life?
- How does it relate to what is going on in our world right now (lack of health care, joblessness, war, and so forth)?

Next Week, Dec. 21 – **THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

## PARISH LIFE

**GIVING TREE:** Thank you to everyone that took an ornament from our Giving Tree this year. Please place your gifts under the tree located in Sacred Heart Church by **THIS SUNDAY, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families. For more information, contact Jeanne Yeager, [jyeager@mscfv.org](mailto:jyeager@mscfv.org) or 410-778-0554.



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**ADVENT WREATH:** Thank you to *Leo & Kris Vollmer* and to the *Cannon Family* for representing the hope of the season in the lighting of the Advent Wreath last weekend at mass.

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**PARISH MEETING:** On a monthly basis, interested parishioners meet to discuss upcoming parish events, projects and liturgies. They share ideas for ways we can continue to work to "Make Church Matter More". Everyone is invited to participate in these meetings. The Parish Meeting was held on Thursday, Dec. 11th. These were some of the topics on the agenda at the meeting:



- Advent Adult Formation Opportunities
- PREP Report
- Need to develop a "Welcome Packet" for new parishioners
- Social Outreach Kickoff in January
- Small Groups Adult Formation Discussion
- CFC & Parish Meeting Recruitment

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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.

**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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## Christmas Elves!

**We are asking parishioners to join in preparation of the Sacred Heart Christmas environment. There are a variety of opportunities. On the morning of December 22<sup>nd</sup> we need four elves to help decorate the church – to fluff bows, hang wreaths, set up window candles and the gathering space Christmas tree. In addition, four volunteers are needed to create a welcoming holiday arrangement, either for one of the three Sacred Heart entrances or for the chapel. Your choice of flowers, greens, berries, etc. to be reimbursed. Church vases are available as are floral foam and ribbon.**



**Contact Louise Shearer: 410-490-3595;**  
[shibshearer@verizon.net](mailto:shibshearer@verizon.net)

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**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 Deacon John Davis with any questions at 443-875-6898 or [deaconjohn@sacredparish.org](mailto:deaconjohn@sacredparish.org). Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.