

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The words of Isaiah urge all people to forsake war and to live in peace forever. The tone reaches a climax in the words, "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."



Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul invites us to put away all the things of darkness and sin and to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

A comparison is made between the destruction caused by the flood in Noah's time and the need to be prepared for the second coming of Christ. "You must be prepared in the same way. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect."



For the Week of November 27th through
December 3rd

Sunday

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Monday

Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

First Friday

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

First Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8



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, November 26th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, November 27th

8:00 a.m. Ray Brilz

10:00 a.m. Kathleen Kolsun

Monday November 28th

8:30 a.m. Mass for our parishioners,
living and deceased

Tuesday, November 29th

8:30 a.m. Ray Brilz

Wednesday November 30th

8:30 a.m. Mass for our parishioners,
living and deceased

Thursday, December 1st

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, December 2nd

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, December 3rd

4:00 p.m. Bennett Lamond

Sunday, December 4th

8:00 a.m. Stella Belcak

10:00 a.m. Jack Depoulter

REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE

PARISH: Remember in
your prayers the sick of

the parish: *John*

Troffo, Valerie

Lindyberg, Patricia

Dana, Bob Dunn,

Elizabeth Montague,

Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Jennifer Willis, Joe

Fick, and Delores Carmen, and all those whose

names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF
INTENTIONS located in the front foyer.



NEW TO THE PARISH: Please be sure to register with the Parish Office and introduce yourself to Father Grasing after Mass. Registration forms are available at the doors of the Church, the Parish Office, or online. For additional information, please call 410-778-3160, or go to sacredparish.org.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

Nov. 27 – First Sunday of Advent
Matthew 24:37-44

Make an Advent wreath this season with your family. You can make it from natural materials or construction paper, but basically you will need a green wreath (the green wreath represents God's unending love). A green ribbon wrapped around a grapevine or straw or styrofoam wreath works too. Three purple candles represent forgiveness and one pink candle represents joy and is usually lit on the third week of Advent. Each week as you light a new candle, encourage each member of the family to tell one thing s/he will do during the week to prepare for Jesus' return.

Discussion Starters

1. If today were the last day of life on earth, I would . . .
2. In order to help my family see the light of Christ this Advent season, one distraction I plan to eliminate is . . .
3. The joy I have in my heart this season is because . . .



Advent Parish Service Project Opportunity! All Are Welcome!!!

The students in grades 6-10 are invited to participate in assembling and placing Christmas greens on the graves in St. John's cemetery on **Saturday morning, December 3rd**. This project provides the students with the opportunity to live out their faith by completing a Corporal Act of Mercy – "bury the dead".

This project is a large undertaking, as there are approximately 200 graves in the cemetery! We would like to invite the entire parish to join with the students that morning in whatever way is possible. You can pray for them, you can provide some of the cut greens needed, **or you can actually join us in this act of Christian charity!!** We will be at St. John's by 9:00 am on that morning. You are welcome to come for the entire morning, or for whatever portion of the morning you can give to this Act of Mercy.

Contact Barbara Kelly with any questions:
barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com or 410-778-4650.

SAINTS OF NOVEMBER



GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Feast Day: November 16th

Canonized: 1677

There are several saints who have the words "the great" after their names, but St. Gertrude the Great is the only female to have that honor.

Gertrude of Helfra was a Benedictine nun, a mystic, writer and a theologian who was born in what is now

Germany in 1256. Some histories say she was an orphan who came to the monastery as a young girl of about five years of age. After receiving an education she decided to become a nun, but while she was very interested in learning, the spiritual side of her education was not as important to her.

It wasn't until she was about 25 years old that Gertrude began to truly feel the intensity of her vocation. At that time she had a vision of Jesus, who promised he would bring her Salvation.

From that time on, Gertrude was dedicated to God.

She became a Scripture scholar and a writer, and people came from all over seeking her guidance. She was a happy woman who led people to love God as she did.

She died around the year 1301 following a long and painful illness in which she offered her suffering up for others. Many of her writings have been lost, but some of her books are still studied today. Pope Clement XII declared that she was a saint in 1677.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI said of St. Gertrude: "She is one of the most famous mystics, the only German woman to be called "Great" because of her cultural and evangelical stature: her life and her thought had a unique impact on Christian spirituality."

PARISH NEWS

GIVING TREE: Sacred Heart Parish will once again support our community this Christmas through donations to the Giving Tree. Please take an ornament, read it for information about the



recipient, purchase and wrap the gift and attach the ornament securely to the outside of the gift. Please place the gift under the tree located in Church. **All gifts are needed by Sunday, December 18th.** Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families. For more information, contact Jeanne Yeager, jyeager@mscfv.org or 410-778-0554.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POSTER CONTEST: The Father George S. Bradford Council of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. All children grades 1 - 8 are invited to participate. Prizes will be awarded in three grade categories: 1st through 3rd grade; 4th through 6th grade; and 7th through 8th grade. **Please submit all posters to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, December 11th.**

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU for your overwhelming, and record breaking donation of **769 pounds of food** to the Special



Thanksgiving Food Drive. This will help feed the 150-175 families served by the Community Food Pantry each month.

WINTER COAT COLLECTION - The Food Pantry of Chestertown has lost a major source of winter coats for the less fortunate of Kent County with the closing of the Admiral Cleaners. If you have any winter coats that are clean, repaired, and in good condition, please bring them to Mass and deposit them in the box in the church vestibule on or before the weekend of December 4 and 5. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY TOTALS FOR THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 20TH WILL BE POSTED IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.

FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND AT SACRED HEART WERE DONATED BY JANE NIGHTINGALE IN MEMORY OF ANNA FIERKO, WIFE OF FRANCIS FIERKO, AND MOTHER OF JANE NIGHTINGALE.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BIBLE STUDY! First Corinthians

Monday November 28th – Lesson 9

HELP NEEDED: Helping hands are needed to prepare boughs to decorate the graves at St. John's cemetery. If you can help make 200 bows on Wednesday, November 30th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Church Hall, please contact Becky Davis at the Church office to sign up. Thank you.

EVERGREEN CUTTINGS: If you have evergreen cuttings and would like to donate them to assist with the boughs, please leave them alongside the garage at Sacred Heart or behind St. John's Church.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Needed - Last

year the Salvation Army distributed over \$15,000 in aid for 289 residents of our community who were in need. We are gearing up now for our Christmas Kettle Campaign, and we really need your help. Along with mail solicitations, this is how we collect money to help people in our community. Volunteers are needed for 1 ½ hour shifts outside of Redner's, and Acme or Downtown Chestertown beginning **November 26th thru December 24th.** If you can help with a shift on a Saturday or Sunday, please call Pat McDonald at 410-928-5160 or email me at Pat_eieio@yahoo.com. Students can earn community service hours and we welcome families. So grab your coat, hat and gloves and join in a very worthy cause! It's a great way to put our faith into action and enjoy the true Spirit of Christmas.

MASS TIMES FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. John's: Dec. 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart: Dec. 8th at 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

