

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."



#### Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

#### Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He was sent to prepare the way.



### For the Week of December 15<sup>th</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

#### Friday

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

#### Saturday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

#### Sunday

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

#### Sunday

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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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 14<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. James Schauber

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

8:00 a.m. Ray Brilz

10:00 a.m. Vivienne Hickman Wilson

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

8:30 a.m. Rev. Leonard Klein

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

8:30 a.m.

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

8:30 a.m.

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

4:00 p.m. Guy Calibey

### Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners,  
Living and Deceased

10:00 a.m. John Nicholas Daniels



### REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish: *John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Angela Wilmer,*

*Faith King, Eugenia Brooks, Alicia Bourne, Tom Blum,* and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.

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**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](http://sacredparish.org).

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### CHRISTMAS

**FLOWERS:** Christmas flower envelopes are at the doors of the Church. We will be collecting for the flowers through the month of December.



ALTAR FLOWERS



**Bringing the Gospel Home**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Matthew 11:2-11**

**Reflection for Parents**

It would have appeared to Jesus that John began to doubt. Perhaps it was the confinement of prison that let his mind question what he once so clearly understood. But even so, Jesus affirmed John in this scripture as the greatest of all prophets. From this experience, it is reassuring as parents to know that even when we doubt, either ourselves or God, we are still great in God's eyes. Our strength is in knowing God is with us as a loving parent.

**Bringing the Gospel into Your Family**

Today is the day we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, the pink one! Pink represents joy, and our families should come to know that it is with joy we await the return of Jesus. Ask each member of the family how he/she will bring joy to someone's life this week.

**Discussion Starters**

1. When I begin to doubt my skills at parenting, I always find strength in . . .
2. I come closest to understanding the joy of Jesus' return when . . .
3. A miracle I have seen in my lifetime that shows God's love is . . .



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“Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!”

**Sheepish Question:**

This week, what do I need to practice in order to make a positive difference in the lives of people around me?

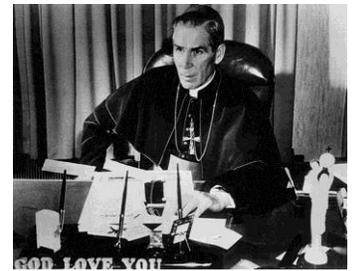
**ADVENT REFLCTIONS**

The parish is hosting a series of reflections: **A Season of Gracious Gifts:**

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> : 6:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m.** or  
**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> : 9:30 a.m. - noon**

**DECEMBER SAINTS**

**DECEMBER 9 –  
FULTON J.  
SHEEN**



Despite his humble beginnings, Fulton J. Sheen would accomplish great things for Christ. Fulton was born in 1895 in El Paso, Illinois. His family moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he served as an altar boy at St. Mary's Cathedral. Fulton was a very intelligent and gifted student. As a young man, Fulton went to several universities around the world. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1923.

Fulton was a gifted teacher and preacher. He taught theology and philosophy. He wrote many books, and he began a weekly radio broadcast. Fulton addressed many important issues of his day. He encouraged his fellow Catholics to become bolder in their faith. He wanted Catholics to integrate their faith and their daily lives together for all to see.

In 1951, Fulton was consecrated a bishop and served the Archdiocese of New York. In this same year, Fulton created a weekly television program called Life is Worth Living. His program became very popular. Millions of people watched him every week. Fulton would go on to serve as the director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He also started another television show called The Fulton Sheen Program. In 1969, Fulton was appointed Archbishop of Newport in the country of Wales.

Shortly before his death, Pope John Paul II visited Fulton and embraced him. He said to Fulton: “You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are a loyal son of the Church.” Fulton Sheen was a much beloved Catholic with a heart for showing people the way to truth.

# PARISH NEWS

## Offertory – Week Ending December 8<sup>th</sup> - Week 24

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 12/08 Wk. 24	\$3,806	\$4,791	\$6,635	\$1,962
YTD Wk. 24	\$109,709	\$42,026	\$159,240	-\$7,505

**WELCOME:** The people of Sacred Heart Parish welcome into our family Harper Rae Wiseley, who was baptized this past weekend. Congratulations to you, your parents & godparents. God bless you as you begin your faith journey.

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**NEW PARISHONERS:** The following people have registered in our parish recently: Lisa Dailey and Thomas Eucker of Chestertown. We pray that you will become closer to God through your participation in our Faith Community. We look forward to getting to know you. Welcome!

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### Art & Environment: Christmas Décor at Sacred Heart - Magnolia Branches Needed!

Sadly, we've lost the use of some of the magnolia trees we've used in the past. Thus, we are desperately looking for replacements. Might you have a (or more) tree from which we can cut some branches?

Additionally, we are asking for donations of spruce, juniper, pine or the like. **Please bring these donations to Sacred Heart by December 15** (we will begin working with them on Dec.

16). Please place your donations either in the garden area next to the garage in the parking lot OR on the grassy area left of the dumpster. Whether for the magnolia cutting or gentle pruning of other trees please contact Louise Shearer: 410-490-3595. In advance, we thank you for your generous donations.

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**COLLECTING WINTER OUTER WEAR:** The Chestertown food pantry is currently collecting gently used winter outerwear – coats, hats, gloves and scarves (no shoes please). We have collection bins at the doors of both churches. Thank you for your generosity.



**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:**  
4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart  
6:00 p.m. at St. John

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:**  
9:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:**  
5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart

**Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:**  
9:00 a.m. at St. John



### ETERNITY'S CLOCK AND CROWN

What is this Advent wreath whose four candles help us mark the passing of the weeks before Christmas? It is eternity's clock – a circle that says "In our ending is our beginning." It is the wheel of time – a circle of evergreen branches – cut and left to wither – revealing that death and life are both of a piece. It is also a crown, the victor's laurel garland, the sign that the race is done, the prize won. It is the crown of us as a people, a chosen race, a royal priesthood. It is the crown of each of us as individuals – baptized individuals (all of a piece) whose heads were smeared with that royal oil, chrism. We are marked for eternity. With four candles lit the Advent wreath is the fiery crown that we give to Christ the King, the Savior who returns in the growing gloom to gather us into our eternal home, the new and heavenly Jerusalem.

