

SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church

508 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm

Sunday Mass: 10:00 am

*Disciples
In Mission*



St. John Church

Catholic & Main Streets
Rock Hall, MD 21661

Sunday Mass: 8:00 am

Phone: 410-778-3160

Fax: 410-810-0427

Web: www.sacredparish.org

Kent Street entrance to Sacred Heart Church

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME › SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John A. Grasing, *Pastor*

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PARISH REGISTRATION

We welcome all of our parish community. At this time we have been asked to suspend having hand-out materials in the bins at the doors of the Church. If you are new member, or if you need to make a change to your current registration, please visit or contact the Church office to obtain a registration form. Please return the forms to the Parish Office. Please note that registration is required for Baptism, Marriage, and participation in PREP.

As the CDC, Kent County Health Office and the Diocese of Wilmington remind us there is a risk to entering public buildings at this time. Individuals are the primary protectors of their own health (CDOW: "Restoring Public Celebration of Mass").

To help reduce the risk of illness, please be mindful of the following:

- The Bishop's dispensation from Sunday Mass remains in effect
- If you feel ill do not enter any parish facilities
- At risk persons/those caring for at risk persons should refrain from attending liturgy
- We are limited to one-third building capacity per order of the Bishop
- Use High Street entrance (Sacred Heart) and Main Street (St. John)
- You may leave through any door, maintaining social distance
- Masks/face coverings (those over 2 years of age) must be worn while in church
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times
- Limit restroom use

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Isaiah expresses an urgent plea that all should seek the Lord and turn to him for mercy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

In a strongly personal message from Paul while in prison, he says that he wishes "to be freed from this life and to be with Christ," but he realizes that he still has much important work to do.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus tells the parable of the owner of an estate who hires workmen for his vineyard. When, at the end of the day, he pays a full day's wage to those who worked only one hour, those who worked all day complained bitterly. But the owner says, "I am free to do as I please, am I not?" Jesus reminds us through this parable that "the last shall be first and the first shall be last."



For the Week of September 20th through
September 27th

Sunday

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Prv 30:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Ecc 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Ecc 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Ecc 11:9—12:8; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

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, September 19th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, September 20th

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

10:00 a.m. Franklin Vukich

Saturday, September 26th

4:00 p.m. Jerry Peterson

Sunday, September 27th

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

10:00 a.m. Basil Karukas

Mass will also be offered for Charlie and Doris Moloney and Emily M. Durham during the week. At this time these are private masses. We will let you know when public weekday masses resume.

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,

Betty Ann Strong, Joseph William,

Ed Yiannakis, Judy Hagerty, and

all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF

INTENTIONS.



OFFICES CLOSED: Church offices will be closed from September 21st through September 25th. The side door will be open during regular office hours of 9-12 on these days for deliveries and for food drop off in the vestibule.

Also the Church will be open for prayer during office hours.

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 20:1-16a

Reflection for Parents

How many times a day do our children point out that someone got more than they did? Enough, I'm sure, for us to know that today's Gospel illustrates a human response! But our human ways are not God's ways. God's generosity is sometimes beyond our understanding. But imagine what a world it would be if we rejoiced in generosity and good fortune of others.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Make a list of the gifts God has given your family. They may be things that you can see and touch, or they may be intangible gifts like character, health, or intelligence. Ask yourselves: Do you think your family has more gifts than some other families? Do all the gifts have to have material value? Are there some families you know who have gifts that can't be measured in dollars and cents? What does all this say to you about God's generosity?

Discussion Starters

1. I remember once giving someone something (or doing something for them) without a specific reason. I remember feeling...
2. I can remember an incident where someone got something I didn't. It was when...
3. Once I got a full day's wage for only working part of the day. I think there is a connection between that time and this gospel because...

For the Sake of God's Children



FAITH ENVIRONMENT/SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that in the fall of 2006 the Diocese began full implementation of "Keeping Our Promises", a safe environment curriculum for pre-k through grade 12? It is based on the elements of a safe environment such as keeping secrets, bullying, harassment, healing, life as a gift from God and others.

Each is developed in an age appropriate way and is integrated into the normal teaching activities in both Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs. For more information go to www.cdow.org and click on For the Sake of God's Children.

SEPTEMBER SAINTS

MATTHEW THE APOSTLE – SEPTEMBER 21



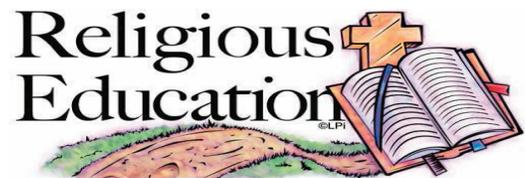
Matthew, the Evangelist who wrote the Gospel that appears first in the New Testament, was different from the other Apostles. He was not a popular man. Many people felt that he was unworthy to be a chosen as a follower of Jesus. Matthew worked for the Romans as a tax collector. The Romans ruled Palestine and the Jewish people in the time of Jesus. They forced the Jewish people to pay taxes to them. Many of the tax collectors cheated the people by charging more taxes than required and keeping the extra money for themselves. The Jews considered tax collectors to be traitors.

Matthew wrote his Gospel for Jewish people who had become followers of Christ. He wanted his audience to know that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to send to save all people. Matthew's Gospel makes clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything said by the prophets in the Old Testament.

Matthew is also the only Evangelist who shares the eight Beatitudes with his readers. His Gospel faithfully reports how Jesus described who will be truly blessed by God in the Kingdom and the attitudes and actions that are required for those who follow the new Law Jesus came to bring.

After Jesus' Ascension, Matthew preached the Gospel, as Jesus asked his disciples to do. It is believed that he established Christian communities in Ethiopia and other sections of the continent of Africa. Tradition tells us that he died as a martyr.

St. Matthew is the patron saint of accountants.



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
COLLECTION:** The second collection this weekend is for Religious Education expenses. Your generosity is appreciated.

PARISH NEWS

SHARE IN THE SPIRIT

Offertory – Week Ending September 13th Week 12

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 09/13 Wk. 12	\$3,886	\$869	\$5,769	-\$1,014
YTD Wk. 12	\$42,901	\$25,504	\$69,228	-\$933



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM While baptisms are generally celebrated at a weekend liturgy at either of our churches, this is not possible due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Baptisms are now celebrated outside of Mass and may be scheduled by calling the parish office. Parents are required to attend a formation session prior to the baptism; Godparents are welcome to attend as well. Please call the parish office for more information and to schedule your child's baptism.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Please contact the parish office to make an appointment to celebrate the sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Anyone seeking to celebrate the Sacrament of matrimony in either of our churches must contact the parish office at least one year in advance of the proposed date. No date may be held until the bride and groom meet with the pastor (or his designate).

COMMUNION TO THE SICK, HOMEBOUND AND HOSPITALIZED At this time in accordance with directives from the Diocese of Wilmington, we are unable to schedule visits in health care or home settings. Only those in danger of death may be visited until further notice. We will return to our regular practice of sending Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick as soon as possible.

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 Mary Jo Frohlich with any questions at 410-778-3160, or mfrohlich@sacredparish.org. Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

Next week, parishioners throughout the diocese will be asked to help make the dream of a Catholic education a reality for struggling Catholic families. Monies raised through this collection coupled with the diocese's tuition assistance endowment provides financial assistance to hundreds of deserving families who seek a Catholic education for their children but who cannot afford the full cost of tuition.



Through this collection, our Bishop is reaching out to believing and worshipping Catholics like you to assist him in ensuring that the Catholic commitment to total education of our children does not fade away because people cannot afford it. Since the Church has the mission to educate and since this mission directly affects the quality of life we experience as Catholics, all of us have a stake in Catholic education.

It is in light of this reality that we ask you to consider supporting next week's *Share in the Spirit* collection. God bless you for your goodness.

To learn more about the *Share in the Spirit* collection and its importance, go to the diocesan website at www.cdow.org/sharespirit.html.



After much prayerful discussion and discernment, the difficult decision has been made to cancel the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event that was scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2020. The nature of the activity, the limited physical space in which it was to be held, and our concern for the safety of volunteers all played a part in our decision. Through the generosity of our parishioners, Sacred Heart Parish raised \$2007.00 this year for Rise Against Hunger. A check in that amount has been sent to the RAH organization to further their work in feeding the hungry. Just as we have had to make adjustments, RAH has had to change the way they are doing things as well. To read more about RAH's response, during this time of COVID19, go to their website: <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/category/emergency-relief>

Thank you for your faith-filled support of this project. Let us continue to pray for an end to hunger, even as we do what we can for the hungry in our local community. For more information, contact Ann Anderson at 410-778-4243 or wmandersonfamily@verizon.net

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER GRASING

While Religious Education for our parish children will be remote learning, at least for the fall session, it is still important that families register their children. I realize that there are many demands placed on parents due to ongoing pandemic concerns. At the same time, I do not want our children to miss being formed in the faith. If you have a child who should be enrolled in Religious Ed but have not done so, please take the time to register them. Our catechists, who are equally disappointed that we are unable to offer in person classes this fall, are anxious to assist parents in passing along our cherished traditions.

I want to call your attention to three articles in the Dialog (available at the doors of our churches). Over the last several months two diocesan priests and one priest with many years of service to the diocese completed their earthly course. Fr. Bill Lawler and Fr. Hilary Rodgers of the Diocese of Wilmington and Fr. Chris Posch, OFM were each grounded in humility and service to God's people. Kindly pray for the happy repose of their souls.

Let us keep in prayer all those suffering, endangered and exhausted from the wildfires in California. We pray that God's continued strength and grace be with those who are fighting the fires as well as those now faced with rebuilding their lives. We also remember all who are impacted by the recent hurricanes.

Next weekend parishes throughout the Diocese of Wilmington will participate in the Share in the Spirit collection. Funds from this collection help provide tuition assistance to families with children in any of our diocesan schools.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Be kind to all. Treat everyone with respect. And may God continue to bless and inspire those who are working so diligently to bring the pandemic under control.

Fr. Grasing



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- Jerry Engel

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