

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT · DECEMBER 13, 2020

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John A. Grasing, *Pastor*

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John L. Davis, *Deacon*

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Becky Davis, *Administrative Assistant / Bulletin Editor*

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Mary Jo Frohlich, *Business Office*

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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

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: 1 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 irreproachable 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 13th through
December 20th

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

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-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

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; 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 12th

4:00 p.m. John Willock

Sunday, December 13th

8:00 a.m. Our Parishioners,

Living and Deceased

10:00 a.m. Steve and Mary Ellen Holt (living)

Saturday, December 19th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. Our Parishioners,

Living and Deceased

10:00 a.m. Evie Siegrist (living)

Mass will also be offered for Our Parishioners, Living and Deceased 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, Judy Hagerty, Willmer and Millie

Moseman, and all those whose names appear in the

PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.

PRIVATE PRAYER: Sacred Heart Church is open for private prayer from 9:00 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday. The Chapel will not be available.

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

Third Sunday of Advent
John 1:6, 19-28

Reflection for Parents

Tony's mom. Maria's dad. Michael's wife. Angela's husband. How many times and in how many ways do we define ourselves by who we are? And, like John the Baptist, are there times and ways we define ourselves by who we are not? John made it clear that he was not the Christ, not Elijah, and not the Prophet. What he was is what we are called to be—ones who testify to the light, ones who prepare the way of the Lord, and ones who proclaim his message of truth to all. Today, pray to be who you are as a disciple of Christ. Proclaim the Good News through your words and actions, and point the way to Jesus, the One who is to come.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, often called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is a word that means "rejoice." Light two purple and one rose (pink) candles on your Advent wreath and invite family members to recall things that brought them joy in the past week. Decide as a family on one thing you will do to share joy with a family member, friend, or neighbor in the coming week. Then turn out all the lights and sit together in the light of the Advent wreath candles for a few moments of quiet prayer.

Discussion Starters

1. If someone were to ask me who I am, I would say . . .
2. If someone were to ask me who I am not, I would say . . .
3. If I could be the light of Christ to one person today, it would be . . .
because . . .

FLOCKNOTES: Do you want to know what's going on in our parish?? Sign up for Flocknotes. It's easy. You can choose what info you would like to receive – via email or text message and you can unsubscribe at any time. There are two easy ways to connect:

*Visit flocknote.com/SHParish on your computer
OR

*Text SHPARISH508 to 84576 from your phone to
subscribe to updates.

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy and conditions at www.flocknote.com/txt.

DECEMBER SAINTS

JOHN OF THE CROSS

Born in 1542, John was raised in Spain by a widowed mother who could barely provide for her sons. At a young age, he worked in a hospital and developed a great love for the poor and the sick. He sometimes felt that he was in the presence of Jesus when he was tending the patients. But John wanted to become even closer to God. He became a Carmelite friar when he was almost 20 years old.



John was disappointed that the Carmelites no longer lived by the strict Rule that they were known for, and he considered joining a more austere cloistered order. But Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun who became a famous saint and Doctor of the Church, told John that she had been given permission to begin convents based on the original Rule. She asked John to join her in this work.

Teresa and John's reforms meet with anger and resistance. They called themselves "discalced," or barefoot, Carmelites to make clear the differences between them and other Carmelites who opposed their stricter Rule. Some friars did not like the changes John suggested. They imprisoned John in a dark and dirty cell. It was in those terrible conditions that John wrote some of his most beautiful poetry and prayers. Through these nine months of being shut away, John became a mystic, a person who deeply experiences the spiritual presence of God in their lives. He wrote of the "dark night of soul," an expression still used today to describe people's doubts and challenges in their faith.

John escaped his tiny prison cell and returned to his work of reforming and founding new monasteries.

Even though John died long ago, in 1591, his spiritual writings and poetry are still read today by people who want to grow in their relationship with the Lord. One of John's most famous sayings is, "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone." He was canonized in 1726 and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.



PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Week Ending December 6th 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 12/06 Wk. 24	\$4,722	\$5,371	\$5,769	\$4,324
YTD Wk. 24	\$85,156	\$50,928	\$138,456	-\$2,372



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.



THE GIVING TREE:

Thank you to all who picked up giving tree tags. **All gifts must be brought back to Sacred**

Heart by THIS Sunday, December 13. Gifts should be wrapped and the giving tree tag should be attached securely to the outside of the gift. Please leave the gifts in the front lobby of the church or in the Kent Street vestibule during church office hours. We understand that shopping may be challenging due to Covid19, but this is an opportunity for us to be a sign of God's love during this difficult time. Questions: please, contact Ann Anderson at [410-778-4243](tel:410-778-4243)/wmandersonfamily@verizon.net or call the parish office. May God bless the work of our hands and hearts.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are being sent directly to your home, bi-monthly. If you are not receiving envelopes and wish to do so, please contact Becky Davis at 410-778-3160.

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.

HELP NEEDED: The Art and Environment team needs evergreens to create a welcoming Christmas environment inside and outside our churches. We can use evergreens such as cedar, fir, pine, spruce, juniper, yew. If you have any that could use a gentle pruning, please bring cut branches to Sacred Heart churchyard (on the grass next to the dumpster) **the weekend of December 12/13.** Thank you!

SACRED HEART PARISH CELEBRATES THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



ALL MASSES CELEBRATED ON CHRISTMAS EVE

2:00pm – Sacred Heart, Chestertown

4:00pm – Sacred Heart, Chestertown*†

6:00pm – St. John, Rock Hall

8:00pm – Sacred Heart, Chestertown*

*Livestreamed via Facebook Live : facebook.com/sacredheartforyou

†Parish Hall will be set up with video; communion will be distributed in the hall

Due to the unusual circumstances this year

Reservations Required for All Liturgies

For Reservations: <https://parishreservations.com/shchestertown>

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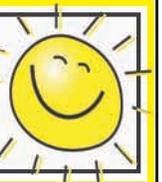
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