

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT · DECEMBER 20, 2020

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John A. Grasing, *Pastor*

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John L. Davis, *Deacon*

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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."



For the Week of December 20th through December 27th

Sunday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday

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

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Lk 1:67-79

Friday

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Sunday

Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



**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 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)

Saturday, December 26th

4:00 p.m. Betty and George Glenn

Sunday, December 27th

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

10:00 a.m. Wilmer and Millie Moseman

**Mass will also be offered for Santa Carnuccio
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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:26-38

Reflection for Parents

As Christmas nears, what seems most impossible to you? Does it seem impossible that all the gifts will be bought, wrapped, and under the tree in time for Christmas morning? Does it seem impossible that you will have time to complete the preparations for and cooking of the Christmas meal? Does it seem impossible that family members will get along? Take time to talk to the Lord about these seeming impossibilities. Quietly repeat the promise of the angel Gabriel, "nothing will be impossible for God."

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Continue the above reflection with your family members. Light the four candles of the Advent wreath and invite each family member to name something that seems impossible—perhaps a difficult task or deadline—that he or she must take care of by Christmas Day. Then pray together the words of the angel Gabriel; "Nothing will be impossible for God." Support and encourage each other in the days between today and Christmas Day.

Discussion Starters

1. If the angel Gabriel came to me and told me the things he told Mary, I would . . .
2. Like Mary, I know the Lord is with me because . . .
3. As Christmas nears, I . . .

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.

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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

FRANCES SCHERVIER

When Mary Frances Schervier was 16, her mother and sisters died from tuberculosis, a highly contagious disease at the time. So when Frances told her father she wanted to visit the poor and the sick in their city of Aachen, Germany, he was worried that his daughter might bring disease into their home or grow ill herself. He told her she could not perform this act of charity.



Frances was torn between her need to obey her father and her desire to serve others. Even as a young girl she had been inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi. So she began to help a parish priest who ran a soup kitchen for the poor and quietly managed to make her sick calls while doing this. When Frances' father died and she was left alone in the world, a family friend told her that she was called to serve God, but that God would show her in whose company she would do this.

She believed that this meant she was to become a nun and thought perhaps to join the Trappistine order. But rather than join an existing convent, Frances and four other women started their own religious order to care for the poor, the Poor Sisters of St. Francis, on Pentecost in 1845. They took sick people into their own homes to care for them. They opened more soup kitchens. They visited women who were in prison. Since Frances insisted they use only donations to do this, the Sisters were very poor themselves. Frances, who was only 26 at the time, wanted the Sisters to be as poor as the people they helped.

The number of Sisters grew quickly, despite the sacrifices they made. Soon Poor Sisters of St. Francis went to the United States to help German immigrants in New York, New Jersey, and Ohio. Mother Frances, as she was then known, opened hospitals in Europe and the U.S. for people suffering from tuberculosis. In 1863, she came to the United States to help her Sisters help American soldiers injured in the Civil War.

Mother Frances Schervier died in 1876. In the 31 years since her congregation had been formed, the number of Sisters had grown to 2,500! She was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1974. Frances Schervier saw the face of God in every poor and sick person she cared for.



PARISH NEWS

Offertory – Week Ending December 13th Week 25

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 12/13 Wk. 25	\$3,601	\$874	\$5,769	-\$1,294
YTD Wk. 25	\$88,757	\$51,802	\$144,225	-\$3,666



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 participated in the Giving Tree Project 2020. We were able to brighten the holidays for 23 families by providing gifts for 95 adults, teenagers and children in our local community. May we all experience the Joy, the Hope, the Peace and the Love of Christmas especially at this unprecedented time.

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.

CHESTERTOWN FOOD PANTRY: The Chestertown Food Pantry would like to thank Sacred Heart for their generous weekly donations. They would like to remind us to please check the expiration date on all donated foods because they cannot use anything past the date on the label.

DIALOG: In addition to the newspaper edition of The Dialog that's available in church every two weeks, the newspaper's website, www.thedialog.org, is updated every weekday with stories from the diocese and around the world, including many that don't appear in the newspaper due to space considerations. Stay on top of national and international issues of concern to Catholics, each Sunday's Scripture reading commentaries by Dialog columnists and the work of the church in the nation and world by visiting www.thedialog.org.

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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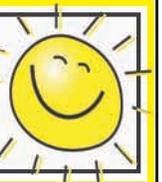
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