

SCRIPTURE READINGS

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

First Reading: Gn 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3

Abram shows us the Lord keeps His promises, for his offspring were indeed many, like the stars in heaven. We, too, must trust in the Lord, so like Abram, our families might prosper.



Second Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

By faith Abraham and Sarah were blessed with Isaac, and through him, many descendants because they trusted in God's promise and believed in what they could not see. We see that faith, trust and prayer bring forth God's miracles in our lives.

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Jesus was brought to Jerusalem to be consecrated according to the law of Moses. A man named Simeon had learned he would not die until he had seen God's anointed. Upon seeing Jesus, he immediately declared he had witnessed "the glory of your people of Israel." The prophetess Anna also gave thanks and spoke of Jesus to all who would listen. Both recognized the power of Jesus, although he was still an infant.

For the Week of December 28th through January 3rd

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

First Friday

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

First Saturday

1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34

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 27th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 28th

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

10:00 a.m. Sue Kolsun

Monday December 29th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Tuesday, December 30th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Wednesday December 31st

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, January 1st

HAPPY NEW YEAR

8:00 a.m. (S.J.) Mass for the People

10:00 a.m. (S.H.) Mass for the People

Friday, January 2nd

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, January 3rd

8:30 a.m. Harold Buehler

4:00 p.m. Libby Stoops

Sunday, January 4th

8:00 a.m. Rosetta Lins

10:00 a.m. Kathleen Moore

REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:

*Julia Ridgely,
Barron Scott,
Thomas Parson,
Barbara Darrah,
John Troffo, Ed
Yianakis, Valerie
Lindyberg, Patricia
Dana, and Jim
Kestell* and all

those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS located in the front foyer of the Sacred Heart and St. John's.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! God with us!

Sunday, Dec. 28th - NO CLASSES

Sunday, Jan. 4th - RE Class

CONFIRMATION RETREAT PRAYER

SUPPORT: Please pray for the young people who will be attending the Confirmation Retreat in January. This time away is a continuation of their preparation for the reception of the sacrament. Also, please pray for the catechists who are journeying with these students.

"...by the sacrament of Confirmation, you are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence you are, as witnesses of Christ, more obliged and better equipped to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (from

The Introduction to the Rite of Confirmation)

BIBLE LITERACY CATECHESIS: Sunday, January 4th is our next special class on Biblical Literacy for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The topic this week will be "Who wrote the Bible? It is so old... Is it really important to us today?"

PREP SUNDAY: Our next PREP Sunday will take place on **Sunday, Jan. 4th**. Please make every effort to have your child attend the 10:00 a.m. mass and sit with PREP classmates and catechists in the first row in church.

The PREP Catechists are wishing every family a very Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS – A LIVING REALITY

John Paul II, in his Angelus message of December 19, 1999, explained that Christmas is not simply the remembrance of the Event that took place 2000 years ago when, according to the Gospel, the power of God took on the frailty of a baby. It is really about a living reality that is repeated every year in the heart of believers.

"The mystery of the Holy Night, which historically happened two thousand years ago, must be lived as a spiritual event in the 'today' of the Liturgy," the Pope clarified. "The Word who found a dwelling in Mary's womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas."

SOCIAL OUTREACH



Thank you to everyone that took an ornament from our Giving Tree this year. Your generous giving allows us to bring Christmas joy to many families.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT WINTER SHELTER IN CHESTERTOWN: The Winter Shelter is in urgent need of volunteers to help staff the shelter in January, February and March. This is an important ministry for our whole community. The shelter opens on January 2nd at the Presbyterian Church of Chestertown and moves to First United Methodist Church on February 1st, staying until the end of March. They are in need of two volunteers each night for the 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. shift. They need one sleeper from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. each evening (bring your own bedding). They need one breakfast person from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. each morning. If you can help, please e-mail barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com or call 410-778-0165. Thank you so much.

TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS

TEACHINGS AND TRADITIONS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH: This Adult Formation activity meets **each Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass** in the front foyer of Sacred Heart Church. *Coordinator: Barbara Kelly*
Today: NO SESSION

JANUARY 4 TOPIC: EVANGELIZATION

PARISH LIFE

Holiday Mass
Schedules



NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

ST. JOHN'S: 8:00 A.M.

SACRED HEART: 10:00 A.M.

ADVENT WREATH: Thank you to *Bill and Ann Anderson and to the Will Family* for representing the hope of the season in the lighting of the Advent Wreath last weekend at mass.

HOSPITAL VISITS: We are not able to access patient records from the Chester River Hospital Center. If you or someone in your family is a patient, and you wish to receive Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 410-778-3160, and provide us with the patient's name and room number and we will do our best to accommodate the request.

FLOWER DONATIONS:

Parishioners are invited to donate flowers in celebration of weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special events. If you would like to donate flowers or place flowers in memory of a loved one, please inform Becky Davis for Sacred Heart, at 410-778-3160; or Mary Johnson for St. John's at 410-778-2230.

LET'S DANCE for fun, smiles and exercise!! Zumba Gold® is being offered at Sacred Heart - for the active, older adult/beginner. There is no fee to our Sacred Heart & St. John's parishioners. The class is led by a certified Zumba Gold® instructor. **Classes are every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m.** in the Church Hall. Please contact Sharon Burritt at 410-708-8048 with any questions.

May your *Home* be warm,
your *Holidays* grand,
& may your *Heart* be
held gently in the Lord's hands.
ozziejunction.com

42ND ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE

Come, March for Life!! The 42nd Annual March for Life is scheduled for **January 22, 2015** in Washington D.C. There is a **free bus** leaving Sacred Heart Church at 9:30 a.m. making stops in Centreville, at Chesapeake

College, and on Kent Island. Return time is approximately 5:00 p.m. The bus is compliments of District 26 Knights of Columbus. If you are interested in joining us for the March, please contact Kenny Platt at plattkpc@aol.com or 443-926-2801.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The offertory envelopes for 2015 are at the back of the Church in Sacred Heart and St. John's. *Please note that even if you are contributing through Electronic Giving, you will still need to pick up envelopes because special collections are not part of Electronic Giving.* We have sent envelopes up to St. John's for anybody with a Rock Hall address. If you do not attend the church where the envelopes were placed, give our office a call at 410-778-3160, and let us know. **PLEASE BE ADVISED, WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A TAX STATEMENT FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IF YOU USE ELECTRONIC GIVING OR THE OFFERTORY ENVELOPES. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ENVELOPES AND THERE ARE NO ENVELOPES WITH YOUR NAME AND WE WILL MAKE SURE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A SET.** Call Becky Davis, 410-778-3160 if you wish to start receiving envelopes or, with any questions.

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 Deacon John Davis with any questions at 443-875-6898 or deaconjohn@sacredparish.org.

Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church. Thank you.

