

## ADVENT

### General Background on the Season.

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Advent begins with Evening Prayer of the Sunday that falls on or closest to November 30th and ends before Evening Prayer of Christmas.

With the beginning of Advent is, too, the beginning of the new liturgical year. (Year B)

**Advent Wreath.** The use of the Advent wreath has become a popular practice in the Church. The Advent Wreath should be large enough to be visible to the members of the assembly in a given church building. In some churches, it is suspended from the ceiling. Others use a stand or a table for the wreath and candles. If the Advent Wreath is placed in or near the presbyterium (sanctuary), it should not be placed in such a way as to interfere with the ritual actions of the liturgy or obscure the visibility of the altar, ambo, or presider's chair.

**Vestments.** The color of the Season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between Advent and Lent, the bluer hues of violet may be used. Blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States and rose-colored vesture may be worn on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is termed *Gaudete Sunday*.

### Music and Environment

During Advent, the playing of the organ and other musical instruments, as well as the floral decoration of the altar, should be marked with a moderation that reflects the character of this season, but does not anticipate the full joy of Christmas itself. The secular world focuses on decorating, shopping, and rushing towards the celebration of Christmas. However, the Church gives us the Season of Advent as way to practice discipline and patience in preparation for the great mystery of the Birth of Christ. Projecting the celebration of Christmas onto a season that is to be marked by waiting and spiritual preparation seems to miss the point of Advent.

*As you are aware, present COVID-19 guidelines preclude us from singing in church and prevent the use of our melodious choir. As a substitute, Mike Dreelin has been downloading music from several sources, and we recently purchased a license to continue that practice. Our choir is not forgotten, however. They recorded the music we hear each Sunday during the lighting of the Advent wreath, and as a special treat, they will record carols for us to listen to before Mass on Christmas Eve. Thank you Carol, Mike, and the members of the choir.*

## NEW WORSHIP AREA

Site preparation has begun and the asphalt where the church will stand has been removed and replaced with dirt and sand. The portico was removed this week. Handicapped parking is now available in front of the fountain. The church entrance and exit is now exclusively through the alcove doors.



## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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December 13, 2020  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
"Gaudete"  
Year B

## The Third Sunday of Advent, 2020 Year B "Gaudete Sunday"

The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday because the opening antiphon of today's Mass says: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" – "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" This is to remind us that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. And the main theme of this Sunday's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the most joyful event of lives. We are reminded that the coming of Jesus in our heart/lives is always a source and reason for rejoicing.

Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. Prophet Isaiah also rejoices because God has called to proclaim Good news to his people. Good news 'of glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.' St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to "*rejoice always*" by leading blameless, holy, and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, as they wait the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose coming is near, he is faithful to all his promises.

Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The John wanted all the Jews to rejoice and be prepared to receive the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, who will remove the darkness of sin from the world. In humility John says I am not the one, but "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord." John the Baptist was committed to preparing people and be a witness for the long-awaited Messiah. We too, like John, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

Our mission, as a Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our unlimited love for all people, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light by being united with God through our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible, and by performing works of charity and mercy wherever we see these are needed.

John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness, a voice to invite people into relationship with God. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known. We can use our gift of communication to spread faith in Christ and illustrate his values and his attitudes. In our behavior too, we can let the Lord communicate through us. If we realize our calling to be witnesses to the light, it can shape how we live and explains why we live the way we do. Advent is a good time to reclaim our fundamental identity, our Christ-linked identity. If Jesus is to be born anywhere today, it will be in the hearts of his followers who are renewed and ready to be witnesses of our faith.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

### TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Father suggests you say the Prayer for  
Spiritual Communion during communion* ➡

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are truly  
Present in the Most  
Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things  
And I desire to possess  
You within my soul.  
Since I am unable at this  
Moment to receive You  
Sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually  
Into my heart.  
I embrace You as being  
Already there, and unite  
Myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be  
Separated from you.  
Amen.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Chris Schueckler, Nennie Lennon, Mary Elbourn, Charles Alter,  
Dave Marchant and Carter Williams*



#### PARISHIONERS

Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Toni Traynor, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanely, Donna Lange, Jack & Louise Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Min Tassone, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Pat Paul, Georgia Beville, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Michelle Chmiel, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Peggy Williams, Karen Dame, Joe Nolte, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Chris Henkel, Vincent Recupido, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Becky Nunn, Bill & Linda Gray, Peg Meushaw, Carol Smith, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

#### FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Dave Hersh, Carol Hollingsworth, Mike Shea, Krop Family, Andrea Bordgen, Jennifer Sanders, Patty Bowman, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, Lucy Walker, Suzanne Whelan, Jim Rundle, Rundle-Kehl family, Doris & Arthur Green, Rachel, Brian & Marcus Pittman, Robbie Beasley, Sandra Bush & Children, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Sal Messina Jr., Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, Sarah Kobezak, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, Shirley Schultz, LC Warren, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

#### FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Chuck Taylor, Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Steve Sohles, Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, Auggie Bain, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, Steve Smith, Susie Loustaunau, Elizabeth Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, Joan & John Rychtarik.

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office by email or phone.*

### MAIL IN OFFERTORY, AND ON LINE DONATIONS: DECEMBER 6, 2020

Collection:	\$ 2,821
Second Collection: Christmas Flowers	\$ 612
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 50,876
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 47,637



There is no Second Collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$1,959 Diocesan Assessments; \$362 Rectory Expenses for November.



As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org). Click the Red Donation button, select our church, a donation amount and fill in the information. Use the green secure button and done.

### BIRTHDAY'S FOR DECEMBER

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 2nd-Mollie McMurtrie, 4th-Karin Wilkins & Mike Ballato;  
5th-Louise Petralia; 8th-Frank Lohr; 10th-Larry Dame; 11th-Vera England; 12th-Jerry Suyes; 15th-Dennis Lynch; 16th-Cindy Powers; 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne McMurtrie; 19th-Lois Kramb; 20th-Roger Scott; 22nd-Georgia Beville & Linda Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams; 25th-Colleen Hoffman; 26th-Tom Hawksworth; Anne Costello, Betsy Brown & Patricia Figueroa; 29th-Jack Petralia; 30th-Doug Olson.

### ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR DECEMBER



1st-Chuck & Carol Walsh; 10th-Tom & Cherianne Johnson; 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden; 20th-Fritz & Peper Heunemann; 22nd-Edmund & Michele Meanley; 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

### MANY ITEMS FOR PICKUP

In the corridor by the office are many items for pickup, as you desire. We have 2021 Calendars, The Little Blue Books for Advent devotion, you 2021 Envelopes, and Lectors' Workbooks. When you drop by to pick up an item(s), Please exit through the doors by the office. Inserted in the collection books are envelopes designated for donations for the New Worship Area. We presently plan to have these monthly during 2021. For those parishioners who do not attend Mass, but desire to receive any of these items, Mike & Lynne Dreelin have offered to deliver them as a convenience to you. Another way to receive them is to come by the church and pick them up during office hours.

### WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

One of the simplest ways to leave a gift to our church is to use the beneficiary designation on savings and retirement accounts, as well as life insurance policies. These can be done with no cost, and typically only require us to sign a new beneficiary designation form.

Retirement assets and similar accounts are called Income in Respect of a Decedent (IRD) assets. This is taxable income that's earned during life but not received before death, so it is never included in an income tax return. This may be assets in Individual Retirement Accounts or 403(b) plans, accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and savings bonds, nonqualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains, or other income that is earned but not acquired.

In most cases, naming the church as the beneficiary of these types of assets gives the estate and heirs the best tax benefits, since it avoids both income and estate taxes.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we look forward to the Festive Season beginning with Thanksgiving, we all agree that year 2020 has certainly been a challenging year for our country, Diocese, and for our parish community. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed all of our routines from the way we work, shop, study, worship and gather, to the way we relate to friends and family, Race related tensions and the very divisive political campaigns and elections. have added to our stress. All these may make one lose the mood of celebration, but then we have to accept the fact that despite all these challenges, the Lord has been good to us. Many of our parishioners and friends have so far been spared from this pandemic and to those affected we pray that they get better soon. So, as I wish each one of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and all the Feasts to come, I urge you to celebrate and be mindful of your safety and that of your loved ones.

Another reason to be grateful is that during this difficult time, The Church has continued to be a faith-filled community. This is largely due to your continued spiritual and financial support. You are greatly appreciated.

As we look forward to the Advent Season and the beginning of a new ecclesiastic year, it is my hope that the Holy Spirit will keep you safe and healthy. In addition, I pray that the Spirit will guide you to continue your support of our parish, and you will keep in mind and your prayers all our parish members especially those we have not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. Remember those who have lost loved ones, and those who were affected by the recent storms in our area. Pray also for all our projects especially the construction of the Church. We are all happy that at long last work has begun, but the journey is still long, and it will need the effort of each parishioner to achieve a successful completion.

With faith in God and in you and your support, I am confident that we will continue to maintain a living and vibrant parish which is driven by our strong Catholic Faith.

*God's blessings to each one of you  
and your loved ones.*



### CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-12:00.

Church attendance was 57 this past Sunday with 2 guests. This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in **Group L-Z**.

The important thing to remember is to notify the office if you are planning to attend Mass and are not in the proper alphabetical grouping.

**We continue to offer daily Mass on Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend. All are welcome!**



### ROSARY MINISTRY

Our thanks to Cindy Jessee for her initiative and community spirit in shepherding the Rosary Ministry before Mass each Sunday at 8:30AM. It will continue indefinitely and please consider participating.



### ANGEL TREE

A big **THANK YOU** to all who chose to be Christmas Angels this year. Just a reminder that all presents are to be wrapped, placed in a bag if there are multiple for your child, the star securely attached, and back to the church no later than this SUNDAY.

*If there are any questions or if there is difficulty please call me at 804-815-0353. Mary Sychterz*

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION

For those of you who made a donation for Christmas Flowers, if you wish to have someone recognized in the Christmas Bulletin for your donation, please e-mail or call the office.



### FRONT LINE WORKER

We have been notified that Kevin Walsh, in his second year of residency in Syracuse, New York, is on the front line during this COVID-19 crisis and upsurge in cases. He is presently working over 70 hours weekly, and we thought his former parishioners might want to support him with notes and cards of comfort and thanks. His address is:

*103 Northfield Drive Syracuse, NY 13212*

### PARISHIONER INFORMATION

This week we said goodbye to Peg Meushaw, who is moving to Norfolk to be closer to family. Peg joined the parish in 1993 and is known for her many contributions to the Parish, notably as the head of Parish Life. Peg's new address and e-mail are:

1525 Holland Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23509  
Cell only: 804-694-6690  
Email: 4Gram49@cox.net

### THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This week's candle is the Shepherd's Candle which is pink or rose, representing Gaudete Sunday and the Joy that the Birth of Christ brought to the world.



### Advent Candle Lighting Song

Light the Advent candle, three  
Think o heavenly harmony  
Angles singing "Peace on earth"  
at the blessed Savior's birth.

Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the  
cold winter night, Candle, candle, burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

What is special about the Third Sunday of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name. "Gaudete"

Sunday. On this day the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

A hearty welcome to our new parishioner families.



Mike and Noelle Harvey  
1268 Coachpoint Road  
Hartfield, VA 23071  
317-549-5653



James Peddicord &  
Ingebourg O'Bourn  
PO Box 538 Topping,  
VA 2369  
757-200-5414

Zygmunt Krzyzewski  
73 Skipjack Lane  
Saluda, VA 23149  
203-219-1403

### Address update:

Tom & Cindy Jessee: 1172 North End Road Deltaville, VA 23043

Michelle Leitch: 1351 Schooner Loop Solomons, MD 20688

Barbara Rigney phone # update: 201-919-5576

Please remember to keep the office informed of address, family, email, and phone number changes. If any of these items has changed in the last few months, please inform us, and if you are doubtful about telling us about a change that occurred last year, give us a call to verify if we have the right information.

Or if you are not seeing your name in the *Birthday/Anniversary* list and would like to—that would be an update as well.