

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 vestment 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.

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:

10333 Northfield Drive
Syracuse, NY 13212

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway/P.O. Box 38
Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone: 804-758-5160
E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net
Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org
Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

2nd Sunday of Advent [Year B] December 6, 2020

The Season of Advent is a Season of Grace. It is a time given to us as a Church to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to welcome Christ the Savior in our lives. This is what this time is all about, welcoming Jesus. Jesus should be the reason for all that we do in preparation for Christmas. During this time of Advent, as a Church, and as a people, we are invited to live in hope. The words of Isaiah in the first reading are such vivid representations of that hope: "comfort, give comfort to my people" says your God! We all want to see a world where Love and peace prevail. So, these beautiful words Of Prophet Isaiah give hope to all of us that the world can be a better place if we work hard and if we allow the Spirit of God to Govern us.

And indeed, these words of Isaiah are a challenge or better, a call for us. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Birth of Jesus, we have to ask ourselves: How can I help to bring about peace, justice and love, what can I do however small and limited, to make a difference to those who are afflicted, who live without hope, those whom the society has left behind. Ask yourself: what Have I done in my life, in this year, which made someone feel loved and happy.

Jesus came to bring Hope, Joy and Justice to all people, and it is upon us as Christians to put these things at the center of our preparation for Christmas. In other words, put Jesus and his message in our preparations for His Birth.

But more than ever these days, this fundamental message of Christmas is overshadowed in our preparations by other things, which are important, but not what Christmas is all about. Because Christmas is about Jesus, the son of God Coming to live among us, bringing us forgiveness, real joy, real peace, and real love. So, Advent, is a time to prepare for the celebration of God's presence among us and all the gifts he brings.

The Gospel tells us through John the Baptist how we should prepare to receive Jesus the Savior in our lives. It is by changing our lives. This is the real meaning of Advent: repentance and renewal of one's life. John the Baptist told his people to repent and put on new lives.

We are reminded therefore, by the Gospel, of what we have to do as we prepare for the Coming of Jesus. We need to prepare the way of the Lord. We are reminded that we can count on God's grace, but we have to act, we have to "produce good fruit as we make our ways, our lives straight.

Listening to John's cry, people understood that they have to be proactive, no time to waste, they rushed up to him to receive his baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. They were able to make straight the way of the Lord, coming out of their dark despair to the new light of hope. Their newfound faith in God was able to make them happy, and a life that appeared to be terribly rough was made smooth.

So when we hear today the words of John the Baptist, and of Prophet Isaiah, let us look for ways which can bring comfort to those we meet, let us try to remove suffering from our communities, from our lives. Let us be the source of happiness for others not despair.

Jesus is coming to bring us Joy and happiness, to bring us God's love. We should be ready to open up our lives, and our hearts to him to receive him by living as Christians, good Christians. Loving one another, encouraging one another, and seeking peace and unity with one another.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let us see you kindness, and grant us your salvation

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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

Marty Hawksworth, Brent Wilkins, Mary Ellen Nause, Marianne Wagner & Scott Vajda



PARISHIONERS

Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Toni Traynor, Sandi Delagrange, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanelly, 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, Allen Hines, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Krop Family, Andrea Bordgen, Jennifer Sanders, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aqela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, Frank & Gerri Lohrs daughter, 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

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, Ashley 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: NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Collection: \$ 2,299
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 48,055
Total Budget Projection: \$ 44,966



Our Second Collection Today is for Christmas Flowers.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$277 Music License; \$118 New Phone.



As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website 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?

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal "in remembrance" of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation. As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have in both material and non-material things have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?



Potential, Purpose, Promise

Before Mass Sunday on December 6th, we will celebrate two parishioners (*Pearce and Sychterz*) Legacy Gifts by placing fish on the Legacy Tree in the Alcove. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early that day.

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.*



Father Gerry

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Church attendance was 51 this past Sunday with 6 guests.

This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in **Group A-K**

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

Three Sundays ago we commenced a Rosary Service before Mass starting at 8:30AM. Parishioner Cindy Jessee who successfully lead the ministry in her former parish will lead the Rosary Prayer. If you have any questions, contact her at 804-510-4688 or email cindyjessee6@gmail.com.

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 December 13th.

If there are any questions or if there is difficulty in having the presents ready by the 13th, please call me at 804:815-0353. Mary Sychterz

E-GIVING



In a tedious process for now, we are slowly developing the system that will be employed by COV for e-giving in conjunction with Parish Soft, our present administrative and financial system providers. Our goal is to have it developed by January 1st for your convenience.

NEW WORSHIP AREA

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



THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The second candle of the Advent Wreath is called the **Bethlehem Candle** and represents Faith. At your family dinner on Sunday discuss how you might better practice your faith during this pandemic.



Advent Candle Lighting Song

Light the Advent candle, two;
Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight of
the child of Christmas night.

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

Jesus, today we remember all that happened
on the journey to Bethlehem. Like Mary and
Joseph, we are on a journey too. Guide us,
Lord, when things don't go our way.
Give us faith to keep looking ahead.

A hearty welcome to our new parishioners



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



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.

Address update:

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

Barbara Rigney phone # update: 201-919-5576