2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. —Mt 3:5-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Readings for the Week of 4 December 2016
Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Advent II

Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed-or-cursed-with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human beings: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.

Thus, we hope for the same things as the Old Testament people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, as partial fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ from the Old Testament people because Jesus had revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognize the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

(Taken from "The Spirit of Advent," Mark Searle, in Assembly, Volume 7:1. Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, 5 December—NEST Continues
Fr. Joe's Day Off
8:00 am Church Opens (Monday—Friday)
9:00 am Office Opens (Monday –Friday)
7:00 pm Theology on Tap-SmartMouth, $
Social Hall Closed Through 31 December

Tuesday, 6 December—NEST Continues
8:00 am Staff Meeting
9:00 am Mass offered for Patricia Mason
11:00 am Women of Faith
11:00 am Bishop Sullivan Catholic High Recon.

Wednesday, 7 December—NEST Ends
9:30 am Mass at Province Place
11:00 am FABulous Seniors Christmas Party
(bring a gift, $ 5-10, bring a friend, bring a dish)

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
6:00 pm Virgil Mass offered for Parishioners (+)
6:30 pm Youth Group Caroling
No RCIA

Thursday, 8 December
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
8:00 am Mass offered for Tom Stupak Jr. (+)
12:00 pm Mass (at the Barry Robinson Center)
5:00 pm Adoration/ Benediction
6:00 pm Vespers—Sung Evening Prayer
6:00 pm Parish Council Christmas Party
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 9 December
9:00 am Mass offered for Fred Westin (+)

ADVENT III

2nd Collection After All Masses-SMILES Outreach

Saturday, 10 December
10:00 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
1:30 pm Youth Group at Busch Gardens
(meet here)
3:00 pm First Reconciliations
4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:00 pm Vigil Mass offered for
Madeline & Frank Ferri (+), w/ Baptisms

Sunday, 11 December—Angel Tree Toy Drive Ends
8:00 am Mass offered for Parishioners (+)
9:30 am Religious Ed. (grades K-5)
9:30 am Edge (grades 6-8)
No Adult Ed.
9:30 am Christmas Pageant
10:30 am Mass offered for Charlie Hill (+)
12:00 pm Confirmation Class
4:00 pm Strolling Strings FREE Concert
6:00 pm Life Teen (grades 9-12)

Celebrate the presence or memory of a loved one and add joy and beauty to our Christmas liturgy by donating $ 20 or more for Christmas flowers for the Altar. Please use your Christmas flower offertory envelope or call the office, 423-8305, for more information.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and in entering into the Sacred Mysteries of our faith through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, please see or contact: Deacon Derek Turrietta at dturrietta@blessed-sacrament.com. If you are Catholic and have yet to receive some of the Sacraments, please contact Deacon Derek Turrietta to reserve your space for our sessions that start in January. The classes are held on Wednesdays, 6:30 pm—7:30 pm.

RELIGIOUS ED. CLASS SCHEDULE, SUNDAYS

Grades K-5……9:00 am—10:10 am
Edge (Grades 6-8)……9:00 am—10:10 am
LifeTeen (Grades 9-12)…..6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Adult Ed……9:00 am—10:10 am

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

The next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, 8 January 2017. The next celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is scheduled for Saturday, 10 December. Active members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic parish who wish to have a child baptized will need to complete a Baptismal form and attend the preparation class. Please call Margaret Eshenour, 757-423-8305, Monday – Wednesday to register.

2016 Sacrament of Baptism:
10 December, 5:00 pm
17 December, 5:00 pm, Deacon Derek

2017

2017 Baptism Class (Sundays, 11:30 am):
8 January, 26 February, 23 April,14 May,
18 June, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October
5 November, 3 December

2017 Sacrament of Baptism:
14 January, 5:00 pm, Deacon Derek,
Lent— No Baptisms
13 May, 5:00 pm
11 June, 10:30 am, Deacon Derek,
13 August, 10:30 am
16 September, 5:00 pm, Deacon Derek,
18 November, 5:00 pm
16 December, 5:00 pm

Blessed Sacrament Living Our Mission Campaign

If you made a pledge to the Living Our Mission campaign and chose to receive a reminder, the Diocese should be sending you reminders so you can fulfill your pledge. However, please keep in mind that reminders may come at different times for different people as some signed up for monthly, some quarterly and some annually. Please note that if you chose an auto-debit off your checking account or credit card, you will not receive a reminder. It is important for all of us to complete our pledges. Not only do they benefit many important ministries such as Retired Priests, Seminarian Education and Youth Ministry, it also benefits Blessed Sacrament. Our parish receives $170,000 (or 1/3) up to our parish goal of $511,000 and 2/3 for anything collected over the goal. So far, the Diocese has returned $ 941,587.12 over the nine rounds of funding; which has been used for laying the plans for our upcoming building project. The more funds collected, the more our parish benefits. Thank you for your continued support of our parish and the Diocese through the Living Our Mission Campaign.

Please make your check payable to:

Living Our Mission
PO Box 28450
Richmond, VA 23228

The **FABulous Senior Group** will have their Christmas gathering THIS Wednesday, 7 December at 11:00 am. We will have our fun gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift ($5 -$10). Also bring a covered dish to share. All are welcome!

Christmas Pageant

Please join us for our annual Christmas Pageant **next Sunday, 11 December** from 9:30 am – 10:00 am in the church. The pageant tells the story of the birth of Jesus and is performed by our 3rd – 5th graders (with a few parts going to our 6th – 8th graders) and our entire 1st grade as a host of angels. This is great fun for all parishioners and families, so please attend and encourage our students!

STROLLING SILVER STRINGS
FREE CONCERT
NEXT SUNDAY, 11 DECEMBR, 4 PM

Please remember our sick and shut-ins with your prayers, calls, cards, and presence:
OUR PARISHIONERS: Elsa Bard, Candi Bell, Barbara Brady, Betty Dean Brown, Lisa Callaham, Brian Daniel, Theresa Davis, Jim Dellaripa, Kelli Floyd, Pattie Gambardella, Betty Guille, Ruth Harrell, Grace Hart, Samantha Jackson, Allegra Kenyon, Denise McCue, Josie Murtz, Dorothy Sink, Helen & Isaac Smallwood, Frank Smith, Peg Thoben, Mary Grace Thompson, Dottie Jo Whalen, and Ron Zoby
FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF PARISHIONERS: Joan Gross Baum, Granddaughter of Sharon Bourgoyne, Maureen Brady, Carter Brooks, Heather Clayton, Michael Conner, Stefanie Craig, Katrina Cullice, Nancy Curles, Joe Dallison, Frank Davis, Christie Dixon, Sr. Katherine Durney, Charlie Edwards, Lupe Escolante, Carter F., Sheila Farr, Margaret Gangewere, Bill Henry, Lynn Hess, Fr. Dan Klem, Christopher Koss, Pam Lane, Caoilinn McLane, Bob O'Connor, Richard Q, Daniel Rafferty, John Ramsey, Estelle Sherman, Joe Smith, Jane Stepanik, Scott Stone, Kay Stubbs, Sylvia Walker, Michael Vasko Jr., and the Zien family

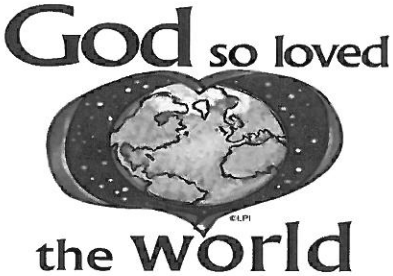
YEAR END GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

As we draw near to the end of the year, many individuals and families are reviewing their charitable contributions for 2016 in light of future tax returns. Each year the community of Blessed Sacrament is blessed to receive gifts (stocks, bonds, real estate) from generous parishioners, who want to make an additional gift prior to the end of the calendar year. Those who wish to donate appreciated stocks or bonds should contact Larry McDonnell at Merrill Lynch, 757-631-5519. Please check with your tax advisor before taking any action.

Holy Day:

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (when Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Ann) will be celebrated this Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Thursday at 8:00 am. A noon Mass will be celebrated at The Barry Robinson Center.

If you have never received your offertory envelopes mailed from the parish, you are not registered at Blessed Sacrament. If you have considered yourself a member, please ensure that you are registered, for only then can Blessed Sacrament write on your behalf to other parishes authorizing you to be a sponsor at a Baptism, or a witness at a wedding or even have the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage conferred on yourself or members of your family. Registration forms are available on the cabinet by the front doors.



DECEMBER

4—Young Musicians Reh. ..... 4:30 pm
4—No Life Teen .....
4-6—NEST-house the homeless ..... 7:00 pm
5—Theology on Tap-$, SmartMouth ..... 7:00 pm
6—Piano Tuned .....
6—Women of Faith ..... 11:00 am
6—BS Catholic High Reconciliation ..... 11:00 am
7—Mass at Province Place .....9:30 am
7—FABulous Seniors Christmas Party ... 11:00 am
7—Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
Vigil Mass ..... 6:00 pm
7—Youth Group Caroling ..... 6:30 pm
7—No RCIA .....
8—Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
Mass .....8:00 am
Mass at The Barry Robinson Ctr. .....12:00 pm
8,15—Adoration/Benediction ..... 5:00 pm
8,15—Vespers- Sung Evening Prayer ..... 6:00 pm
8—Parish Council Christmas Party ..... 6:00 pm
8,15—Adult Choir Reh. ..... 7:00 pm
10—Christmas Pageant Reh. .....10:00 am
10—Youth Group @ Busch Gardens ..... 1:30 pm
10—First Reconciliations ..... 3:00 pm
10,17—Sacrament of Reconciliation ..... 4:00 pm
10—Baptisms ..... 5:00 pm
11—Religious Ed (grades K-5) .....9:30 am
11—Edge (grades 6-8) .....9:30 am
11—No Adult Ed. .....
11—Christmas Pageant .....9:30 am
11—Confirmation Class .....12:00 pm
11—Strolling Strings Free Concert ..... 4:00 pm
11—Life Teen (grades 9-12) ..... 6:00 pm
11—Angel Tree Toy Drive Ends .....

Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church
6400 Newport Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23505
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Fax: (757) 451-3335
Residence: (757) 489-9636
Email: office@blessed-sacrament.com
Website: www.blessed-sacrament.com
Daily Mass: Tues., Wed., 9:00 am
Saturday, 5:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:30 am
(Nursery Available at the 10:30 am Mass)

Another Form of Prayer is Offered

Please join us during Advent for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 pm and Benediction at 5:45 pm. From 6:00 pm—6:20 pm, we will have Vespers—Sung Evening Prayer, the prayer of the church. Please take time to join us in these ancient and beautiful modes of prayer.

ADVENT

Thursday, 8 December
5:00 pm Adoration
5:45 pm Benediction
6:00 pm—6:20 pm Sung Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Thursday, 15 December
5:00 pm Adoration
5:45 pm Benediction
6:00 pm—6:20 pm Sung Evening Prayer (Vespers)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass:
4:00 pm (in the church & social hall)
6:00 pm
10:00 pm

Lessons & Carols:
9:00 pm

Christmas Morning Mass:
9:00 am

BLESSED NEW YEAR 2017

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Vigil Mass, Saturday, 31 December, 5:00 pm
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God:
Masses, Sunday, 1 January, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

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