

Resurrection Parish

December 3, 2017

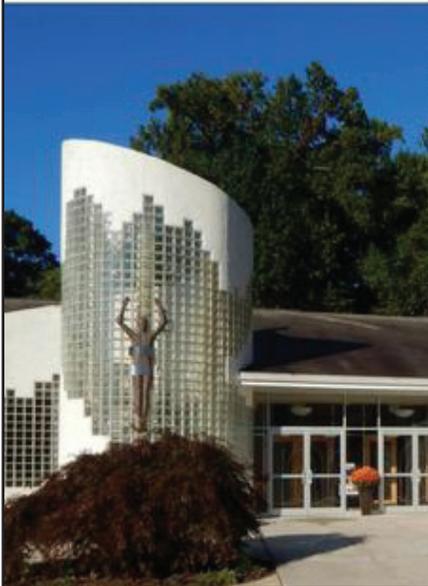
1st Sunday in Advent

A Catholic Christian Community

3000 Videre Drive
Wilmington DE 19808
302-368-0146
www.resurrectionde.org

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Mon. Wed. Fri. 8:30 a.m.
Tues. 7 p.m.



Rev. William Graney, Pastor

John Falkowski, Deacon
Fran Huhn, Retired Deacon
Ruth Sanders, Liturgy/Music
Nancy Maloney, Christian Formation
Elaine Little, Youth Ministry
Sandy Landoll, Social Concerns
Bookkeeper
Debbie Seymour, Admin. Asst.
Parish Office: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
6:30-8:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.

ext 102
ext. 110

ext. 106
ext. 104
ext. 107
ext. 103
ext. 105
ext. 0

Pastoral Council

Al Mercatante	Executive Officer
Sharon Gidumal	Asst. Executive
Mike Mitchell	Secretary
Maritza Poza-Grise	Trustee
Dick Schwer	Trustee

Reconciliation

Tues. 6:30 p.m. Sat. 4:45 p.m.
or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please contact Deacon John.

Marriage

Contact clergy one year prior.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

For hospital and home visits
contact clergy or the office.

Becoming Catholic

Learn more by contacting
Fr. Bill or Deacon John.

Spirituality Outreach Stewardship

Roof repairs

As most of you recall we did replace the shingle part of the roof a few years ago. This past week the flat roof (over the worship area) was replaced. Because of your past giving (in savings) and funds from the Capital Campaign (Sustaining Hope for the Future) we have enough to pay for these repairs.

Some people did not want to give to the Diocesan campaign for a few reasons. But if those donors/ parishioners would like to help pay for the roof it is a very welcome end of the year cause. This would help replace the savings used for the two roofing projects. The other two causes that the funds from Sustaining Hope for the Future are covering to a limited extent is ministry development and kitchen expansion. We have used some funds for ministry development and adult formation. More on kitchen expansion later.

Thanks to all who actively support this parish in your time and talent besides your financial support. Thanks especially to those who have turned in the blue pledge forms for the coming calendar year. It is good evidence to all concerned that we are a vital community furthering the Gospel message.

With great appreciation,
Fr. Bill Graney

INTENTIONS

Monday	Dec. 4	8:30 am	+ Jim Pohlen
Tuesday	Dec. 5	7:00pm	
Wednesday	Dec. 6	8:30 am	
Friday	Dec. 8	8:30 am	
	Dec. 8	7:00 pm	Parish Community
Saturday	Dec. 9	5:30pm	+Beth Callahan
Sunday	Dec. 10	8:15 am	Parish Community
		10:30am	+Bette Duff



God is the source of all healing and hope, to whom we lift up in prayer the needs of the sick and those who care for them.

Pray for all the needs in our Book of Intentions and for those

in our Parish Family who are sick: **Lord, allow your healing hand to assist** JD Howell, Jack & Jane Tabaka, Joseph Hemphill, Alyssa Stover, Chet Andruskiewicz, Jim Gambort, Maryann Ciabattone, Helen Meys, Candi Smith, Sean McCormick, Janice Kane, Ralph Culver, Kevin Rzuclidlo, Mike Pohlen, Cass Thomas, Courtney Corridori, Joel Rivera, David Heckman, Carol Strasser, Burt Strasser, Patty Calhoun, Laurel Milano, Ed Baum, Gloria Oosterom, and others mentioned in our parish book of intentions.

LITURGY

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention--December 2017

The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

December 8, Friday

FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Masses at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm



**Penance Service
December 12 at 7:00 pm
St. John Beloved,
Wilmington**

**Taize Prayer and
Reconciliation Service
Wednesday, December
20th at 7:00 pm
Immaculate Conception
Elkton, MD**

ADVENT POCKETS OF PRAYER

First Sunday of Advent-

Our Gospel this Sunday urges us to “Be watchful! Be alert!” for we do not know when the Master will return. Set candles in your windows or around your Advent wreath at the dinner table. Pray about what you are waiting for in your own life, in the lives of those you love. If Christ were to come to you this Christmas Day, would you be ready?

Saint of the Week --

St. Nicholas: A 4th century Bishop who is believed to have tossed bags of coins through the windows of a poor man, under the cover of night. Challenge yourself to find someone you can help in secret!



MUSIC Preparation for Christmas: Adults interested in joining the Resurrection Parish Music Ministry are most heartily welcomed! All newly interested and currently serving singers are invited to join the choir for our 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals will be announced as soon as possible. Please contact Ruth Sanders, 302-368-0146 Ext. 106, rsanders@resurrectionde.org .

ENVIRONMENT Preparation for Christmas: HOLY CRECHE and CHAIRS and BANNERS and TREES and ... well you name it! Christmas Eve is on SUNDAY December 24 this year! We'll be preparing on Sunday December 17, a week earlier than usual. Thanks for all help you can offer and for putting the date on your calendars.

I'd like to invite you to join your fellow parishioners for Best Advent Ever, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with Best Advent Ever. Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories of hope. All you have to do is sign up at BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope.

PARISH LIFE

You are all welcome to attend your next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4. The agenda will include an update on the progress of Teams to Improve Pastoral Council; to Improve Parish Communications; to Develop a New Parish Model; to Attract New Parishioners; and to Grow and Promote Ministries. Pastoral Council will discuss the format for introducing, to the parish, the objectives of each Team. Also on the agenda is a report from the Grounds and Property Committee.

Congratulations to our pastor, Fr. Bill Graney who celebrates his birthday on Friday, December 8th. For everything you do, in every season of our lives... Thank You.



With your help, Neighbors to Nicaragua, last week, completed their literacy center “Centro de Oportunidad” which will be dedicated and fully operational at the end of January. We could not have done this without you, your shared their generosity, and your support. We thank you for your faith in our work and your joining with us to help those we serve.

Chuck Selvaggio and Rob Short

Welcoming...Christmas Greeting

Zac Davis, age 24, is editor in Catholic media. He writes: “I have spent plenty of time parish shopping—it took me a while to find a sacramental home. I have been the youngest person in the pews too many times. I can no longer count the number of churches I have walked in and out of without anyone saying hello and asking what my name was, or if I was new.”

*Over the holidays (especially Christmas) there will be hundreds we don’t usually see at Resurrection, and some of them will be new. **I want to have at least 20 greeters for the Christmas Eve Masses.** So, please think ahead and decide which Mass you are attending and then if feasible contact the office to sign up to be greeter at a Christmas Mass. Thanks for helping us plan ahead and be ready to greet the unknown potential in our midst. Fr. Bill Graney*

Your gift to next weekend’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Emmanuel Dining Room Ministry --- Fabulous November volunteers at the Emmanuel Dining Room were: Ed Hedrick, Bea and Al Mercatante, and Linda and Mike Duffy. Working together, we prepared a hearty hot meal that served about 165 hungry people. Our shepherd’s pie, served with fruit and a slice of cake always seems to be a hit! Getting to experience the humble joy of serving God’s needy while working side by side with other Resurrection parishioners, helping to strengthen our relationships with one another is always fun. If you are interested in volunteering for this wonderful ministry, which Resurrection does on the 12th of every month, please sign up on the parish website using “Sign Up Genius ” by clicking on the volunteer link or by signing up in the notebook in the Gathering Space. We would also like to thank Cannon’s bakery and Bachetti Brothers market for their continued support



Please return wrapped gifts to the tree in the Gathering Space and Resurrection Outreach Donations to Church Office By December 10th

Contact Cathy Blanchet 302-462-6700 or Betsi Gerber 302-354-0834 for information or to help sort and/or deliver.

Thank you to all the very generous Resurrection parishioners who provided over 120 boxes of food and baby supplies, over \$700 in gift cards and turkey feathers to help families in need. Staff at Friendship House, Christina School District and Family Promise expressed their appreciation and the appreciation of their clients in need. Your generosity allowed them to assist a total of at least 50 families. Also, a special thank you to the folks who helped load food in vehicles and those who drove it to Friendship House.

ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sacramental Preparation: Church Tour Class is Sunday, December 3rd at 11:45am-12:30pm



Welcome! K-5 Christian Formation Program (CFP) will meet on 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17 from 9:15-10:15. Drop off begins at 9:10. See you there!

Would you like more information about Christian Formation for Children (Religious Education or Sacramental Preparation)? Contact Nancy Maloney, CFP Coordinator, at nmaloney@resurrectionde.org

CFP: YOUTH MINISTRY



Middle and High School Youth Group

December 3, 17 6:30-8:15 PM

Confirmation 2018

Current 8th and 9th graders are invited to register and prepare to be confirmed fall of 2018. We will begin with a parent meeting on December 10 at 12:00 noon in the youth room. The first gathering for the youth will be on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 12:00 noon-2:30 PM.

TAKING IT HOME

Our focus now is the new season of Advent. Advent, as you know, has a two-fold purpose: one as a season that looks to the coming of Christ at the end of time, and two, as a season that looks to the coming of Christ in history with his birth, that we celebrate at Christmas. But in between these two comings, I like to think that Advent also has a third character, the coming of Christ now in our lives. I call it giving birth to Christ. Yes, we look to the time when Christ will come again and we remember the birth of Christ in history, but in the now of this moment, in this time, how do we make Jesus a living, breathing reality for us and our world? Jesus came and Jesus will come again, but in between these two comings our challenge is to make Jesus come alive for us and for our time and to see what difference this makes for us and our world. And this, my friends, is how we will give birth to Jesus, now at this time and in this moment.

The readings we hear on this first Sunday of Advent give us a hint as to how we might just make this happen. We need to be watchful and alert! In essence, as Mark implies, we are to wake up. But just what does this mean?

Often times we look for the presence of Jesus in the spectacular, the feel good moments or we look for something outside of ourselves, like a brilliant sunrise or sunset or through the eyes of a child (this is not to say that these things are unimportant). But seldom do we expect Jesus to be present in the silence, in a chance encounter with a stranger, in the darkness of death or even in the depth of our hearts. But the thing is all of these moments are in fact times of Jesus' presence. But all of us know too how difficult it is for us to be inside the present moment when our lives are filled with distractions and worries. These distractions and worries so consume us that that we fail to see what is most precious to us: our health, our loves and friendships and the gift of life itself. We go through our daily lives not only with a lack of reflectiveness and a lack of gratitude, but also with a bit of resentment and a chronic bit of depression for what seems to be missing in our lives. We are very much asleep both to God and to our own lives.

Perhaps spiritual wisdom offers a way out of this predicament. Yes it is true that the distractions and pressures of everyday life will keep us from being mindful of the God who is present in all things and prevent us from being awake. But it is for this reason that every spiritual tradition has daily rituals designed precisely to wake us from such sleep.

We need to begin each day with prayer. Prayer you say! Yes prayer. Prayer is not designed to keep us from God's wrath, but rather to help us to awaken in our lives the goodness of each day so that we are not trapped inside the dullness of our hearts. Prayer is the subtle reminder that God is truly present to us and that we can call on this God to help us be mindful of the richness of each day. Liturgical prayer and Eucharist, have the same intent; to regularly call us out of our sleep.

None of us lives each day as if it is our last; our heartaches, distractions and worries will invariably lull us to sleep. We can be forgiven for that; we are human after all. So we should ensure that we have regular spiritual rituals, some would say spiritual alarm clocks to jolt us awake so that it doesn't take a heart attack, or a stroke or cancer or even death to wake us up.

Deacon John



**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GOSPEL – MARK 1: 1-8**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Gospel Reflection: This gospel passage captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterizes the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to "do the groundwork" preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city center or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus—heralded by John—brought out of the wilderness as well.

Historical Context: The way we understand baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins—a new interpretation at the time. He emphasized that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

Scriptural context – Mark: The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a "no fuss" gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

Gospel Focus: This gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord." The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey aligns him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. The gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets

- Q. Why is the wilderness an appropriate image for preparation?*
- Q. Why does the gospel writer go to such lengths to associate John with the prophecies of history?*
- Q. How does this gospel passage relate to the Advent season?*
- Q. How can you continue to prepare the way for the Lord?*

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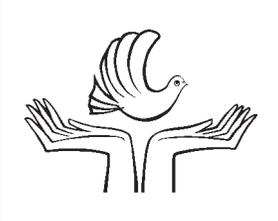
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