

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

There is a poem by Margaret Halaska called "Covenant" that I have come across several times in the past few months and found interesting enough to share. The central figure in the poem is a female landlord with rooms to rent. God comes to find a home for his son. The woman offers to rent him a room, but God wants to buy. The woman suggests that God might want to take a look around. God likes what he sees. The woman offers God a room or two for his son and God takes two with the idea that eventually the woman may be willing to offer God more. God is patient. As the rest of the poem plays out the woman is deciding whether to sell God the entire house, but then, she will need a place to live. God promises that she can live with him and his son and that she will have more space than she's ever had before. The only catch: for her to find out how this is possible she must give God the entire house. God is patient and likes what he sees. Two questions that arise from this poem are: Do we believe God likes what he sees when he looks at us? And Do we believe that God is patient with us? Obviously, the house is a metaphor for our lives and we are the landlord. Are we willing to offer God the entire house based on God's promise of our having more space than we could possibly imagine? We begin the season of Advent this weekend and the beginning of an entirely new church year. Perhaps, this poem can offer some guidance for us during the year. Perhaps, during the year we will be more and more willing to give God space in our lives. *Father Rick*

**PARISH NEWS**

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKET COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY**

**From now until Friday, December 21st**

Some ideas for nonperishable donations are peanut butter, canned meats, tuna fish, pasta, tomato sauces, spam, soups, mac and cheese, chili, canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, instant oatmeal, mixes of all kinds (muffin, cookie, cake, pudding, jello, brownie, pancake, bread, etc.). Donations of paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and napkins are needed as well as hygiene/cleaning supplies (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, plus dish soap and laundry detergent). **Please do NOT bring in turkeys--we have no space to store them.** You may leave your nonperishable donations on the altar steps. Monetary donations are also needed to purchase turkeys. Designate on the envelope or check (made out to St. Joseph Church) that the money is for **Christmas Food for the Needy** and place your envelope in the collection baskets during Mass or leave in the parish office or mail to the church address. Christmas basket packing will be on Dec.21st and delivery will be on Dec. 22nd. **This year packing and distribution will be at Holy Redeemer Church.**



**BEST ADVENT EVER**

'TIS (*almost*) THE SEASON!

Rediscover the joy in preparing for Christmas.

Sign up for free at [BestAdventEver.com/YoureInvited](http://BestAdventEver.com/YoureInvited)

**SECOND COLLECTION RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. See the bulletin insert this weekend for more details and please support this collection next weekend.

**ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES THIS WEEK**

St. Joseph Church—Monday, Dec.3rd—5:30—6:30pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 5th—4:30—5:30pm  
Holy Redeemer Church—Thursday, Dec 6th—Noon—1:00pm



**72 AND YOU MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us Monday, December 3rd at 7pm in Meyer Hall at St. Joseph Church for "*Mary of Nazareth*": an epic film on the Mother of Christ. The film is not rated. This first session runs approximately 80 minutes. The second session will be shown during Lent. Popcorn and beverages will be served.  
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**CCY MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us for "*The Star the Story of the First Christmas*" on **December 16th at St Joseph Educational Center at 6:00pm.** Come and celebrate the spirit of Christmas. Pizza, popcorn and drinks will be served. All ages are invited!

**A SPECIAL ADVENT EVENT**

**Ages 2-Grade 2 from 9:15-10:20am at Holy Redeemer Church on December 9th.** Come join us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with your faith community! See the bulletin insert this week for details!



**The Knights of Columbus District 85** is asking our participation in the program "**Coats for Kids**". **All money collected will be used locally.**

Envelopes will be available at the doors of the Church after Mass this weekend. As always a special thank you for your support of this wonderful program.



**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP 2019**

Join us in Cumberland, Maryland the week of June 16th-22nd. Those students going in 8th grade (in 2019) through 12th grade and adults are invited. Cost is \$175.00 per person and participation in fundraising. Pick up a brochure at the doors of the Church and in the gathering space at St Luke Church and mark your calendars! **Come and support CCY this Saturday at the Craft Fair. CCY will be selling Tiny Saints and Aprons just in time for Christmas. See this week's bulletin insert for all the details!**



**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH BOOK CLUB**

Is reading a good book one of your favorite things to do? The St Joseph Parish Book Club meets the last Monday of every month. Our next meeting will be January 28th. This month's book selection is Among Friends by Father Jim Sichko. For more information please call the Parish Office. All are welcome.

**LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 12/2** **First Sunday in Advent**  
 8:00am (St Luke) James Flynn by Mary Kushner  
 10:45am For the Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish

**Monday, 12/3** **St Frances Xavier, Priest**  
 12:00pm (St Luke) Richard Sowa by Wife

**Tuesday, 12/4** **St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church**  
 12:05pm Marianne Scheer by Victor & Kathy Amsdell

**Wednesday, 12/5** **Advent Weekday**  
 9:05am Joe & Sue Papalia by Family  
 2:00pm (Rouse Home) Margaret Wawrejko by Roman Kowalski Family

**Thursday, 12/6** **St Nicholas, Bishop**  
 12:05pm Lucy Notoro by Family

**Friday, 12/7** **St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**  
 8:00am Mr. & Mrs. Sam DeStefano by Carl DeStefano  
 5:30pm Meg Sabat by Jim & Vilma Siliano (Vigil Mass)

**Saturday, 12/8** **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 9:00am For Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish  
 5:30pm Sam & Jennie Castagnino by Grandchildren ( Vigil Mass)

**Sunday, 12/9** **Second Sunday in Advent**  
 8:00am (St Luke) For the Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish  
 10:45am Deceased Members of the Derr & Williams Families by Family

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday** Isaiah 2:1-5; Gospel Matthew 8:5-11

**Tuesday** Isaiah 11:1-10; Gospel Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday** Isaiah 25:6-10a; Gospel Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday** Isaiah 26:1-6; Gospel Matthew 7:21,24-27

**Friday** Isaiah 29:17-24; Gospel Matthew 9:27-31

**Saturday** Genesis 3:9-15,20; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Gospel Luke 1:26-38

**Sunday** Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Gospel Luke 3:1-6

**SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 2nd**  
 8:00am (St Luke) Mass  
 9:15-10:30am EDGE FF @ HR  
 9:15-10:45am CREW @ HR  
 9:15am 3rd Grade Parent Meeting @HR  
 10:10-10:35am Pageant Practice @ HR  
 10:45am Mass  
 11:45am-12:15pm Christmas Choir—PreK-1st Grade

**Monday, December 3rd**  
 12:00pm (St Luke) Mass  
 5:30-6:30pm Special Advent Confession Time

**Tuesday, December 4th**  
 10:30am (St Luke) Bible Study  
 12:05pm Mass  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen  
 6:00pm Pastoral Council Meeting (Boardroom)

**Wednesday, December 5th**  
 9:05am School Mass  
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)  
 2:00pm Mass @ The Rouse Home  
 4:30-5:30pm Special Advent Confession Time  
 5:15pm Prayer Shawl Meeting (Boardroom)

**Thursday, December 6th**  
 12:05pm Mass  
 12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:15pm Evening Prayer

**Friday, December 7th**  
 8:00am Mass  
 5:30pm Vigil Mass—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary


**Saturday, December 8th**  
 9:00am Mass—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 4:30-5:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:30pm Mass

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/7			
5:30pm	M Sandberg	3 Volunteers	2 Volunteers
12/8			
9:00am	Volunteer	3 Volunteers	2 Volunteers
5:30pm	B McGinn	S Courson, H Zaffino, R Kujawa, P Lobdell, F Perrin, R Sharp, D Labowski	A Courson R Courson Volunteer
12/9			
8:00am	M Donahue	T Mineweaser, S Mineweaser	Joey Mack
10:45am	P Nasman	C Zawacki, B Smelko, B & B Crowley, E Keeney, M Kirkpatrick, Volunteer	D Holmberg S Holmberg I Wortman

12-5—The Rouse Home— Fr Rick/ Mary Donahue/Sandi Mineweaser  
 12/9 -8:00am Mass Ushers—Pat & Bill Mascaro

*WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES IN MEMORY OF  
 Anthony & Susan Brazer by Jan Graziano & Family*

 In your charity please pray for the soul of **Anthony Mozick** father of **Barb & Mike Smelko** who passed away this past week. We extend our sympathy to his family and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

**St. Joseph Parish Weekly Offering—November 24th & 25th**  
 St Joseph - \$5297.00  
 St Luke - \$963.00  
*Thank you for your continued support of our Parish!*

**ST JOSEPH PARISH SOUP KITCHEN** serving dinners each Tuesday at 4:30pm. All are welcome!



**Thank You for your continued generosity!**

Items being collected in December are:

St Joseph Church: **Items for the Christmas Food Baskets**  
 St Luke Church: **Soup, beef stew, canned meat & tuna**

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

**ACTIVE LIVES CHIROPRACTIC CENTER**  
**DISK CARE CENTER**

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