

*The First Sunday
of Advent
November 27, 2011*



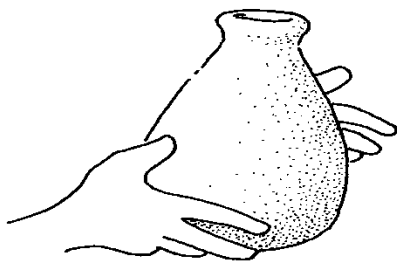
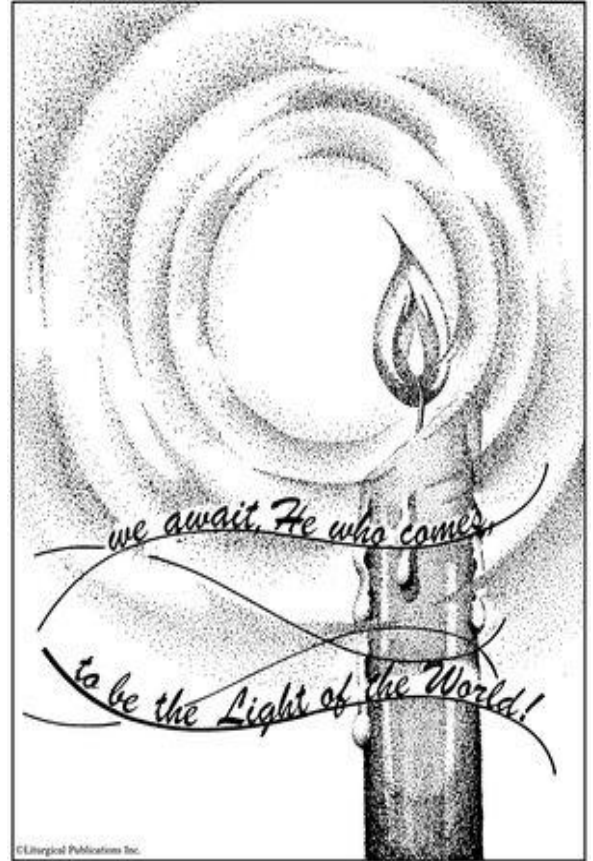
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WAITING GAME

Every Sunday, after the Lord's Prayer, we hear the words of an Advent Prayer: "We wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." In Latin, these words are *Expectantes beatam spem et adventum Salvatoris nostri Jesu Christi*. We see our own words "expectant" and "advent" in them. Another way to say this might be "We are expectant, in joyful hope, at the advent of our Savior, Jesus Christ." Mothers and fathers know that being expectant, while it is a time of joyful hope, is not always an easy time. It is a mistake for us to think that our waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Christ can be a passive, uninvolved time. Quite the contrary! Like expectant parents, we must constantly be working to make sure everything is ready for the important arrival. As Isaiah prays to the coming Lord: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" (Isaiah 64:4).

WATCHING, NOT WAITING

In the Gospel, Jesus moves us from passive waiting to the attitude of waiting in its active form – watchfulness. It is possible, when we are merely waiting, to occupy ourselves with other things. What Jesus tells us today is that we must be occupied with the work of the master; we must be alert, we must be met by him upon his return doing right and being mindful of him in our ways. Paul consoles us that this vigilant watchfulness need not tire us out, for Christ himself has enriched us and strengthened us to remain firm in our expectation, our joyful hope. It is in this way that we wait and watch for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he is revealed to us in glory. Copyright ©2005, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



**YOU
ARE
THE
POTTER**

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

✠ *Father Ed Connelly*

MASS INTENTIONS
November 27 – December 4, 2011

Sun	8:00am	Parishioners
	9:30am	Stephan Kurylas-D
	11:00am	Betsy Dunlap-D
	5:30pm	Earl Datz-D
Tues	9:15am	Patrick Anastasi-D
Wed	9:15am	Patrick Anastasi-D
Thurs	9:15am	
Sat	4:30pm	Catherine Bogan-D
Sun	8:00am	John Costa-D
	9:30am	Parishioners
	11:00am	Ruth Knight-D
	5:30pm	Margarita Lopez-D

Lord, grant each one listed in our Parish Book of Intentions, health of spirit, mind and body.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT
 THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
 We would appreciate your prayers for those who are ill. **Bounnhang Vilaythong, Joyce Yore, Vincent Graas, Liz Cunningham, Allison Carroll, Kathy Pierce, Charles Damron & Jim Morris**

Advent



Quietly, in whispered softness the curtain of night descends. A restless world stands hushed, a special time begins...



Inter-Parish Presentation
*St. Joseph-Holy Apostle~
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*
THIS TUESDAY - November 29!
 The second of the series for this season will be held at St. Joseph Parish in Odenton at 7:00pm. Dr. Michael J. Gorman, Professor of Sacred Scripture and Dean, Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary will present "*Reclaiming Advent: A Spiritual Season for a Secular Age*". In the midst of all the preparations for Christmas, this is a wonderful opportunity to focus on the true meaning of this great feast. Plan to come and bring a friend!

Christmas Adopt-A-Family
 Pink slips for Christmas Adopt-A-Family are available in the narthex. All levels of participation are possible. Please fill out the form and return it immediately. (The food list is the same as Thanksgiving.) Thank you!

Christmas Giving
 It's that time of year to think of Christmas giving. Gift suggestions for senior citizens at Saint Gregory the Great parish in Baltimore (sweat suits) and for the residents of Spring Grove Hospital Center (long sleeved T shirts) are available after every Mass. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as your gift will likely be the only gift most of these individuals will receive this holiday season. For more information, contact Marianne Cernosek at 410-721-7578 or cernosek@verizon.net or Pat O'Berry at 240-687-0015 or kmmp1922@aol.com.



Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 11 in the Connelly Parish Center. There will be two seatings, 9am and 10:30am. Tickets are on sale. The cost is \$7/adults, \$5/kids and children under 3 are free. Make sure you get your tickets in advance as this event sells out fast! Volunteers are needed for setup, decorating and food serving as well as extra elves to help Santa with picture taking. For more info, contact Jennifer O'Malley at j_omalley@yahoo.com.

Music Ministry
New Hymnal Dedication
 Please feel free to take home an old Hymnal after today, November 27th.
Children's Christmas Choir
 Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal has begun. All children are welcome to join us on Mondays at 4pm in the Church.

Our Respect Life Message
40 Days for Life Update: The fall campaign of 40 Days for Life concluded November 6 with a record number of 732 babies and 8 abortion workers quitting!! A total of 301 cities across North America and around the world involved 135,000 participants and 4,000 churches. Since the inception of 40 Days for Life in 2007, a total of 5,045 babies have been saved with 61 abortion workers quitting and 16 abortion facilities closed! Thank you for your prayers & sacrifices.

Adoption – The Loving Option:
 November is *National Adoption Awareness Month!* Adoption is a life-giving, loving option for women in a crisis pregnancy. For information about adoption, visit www.catholiccharitiesusa.org or www.directory.adoption.com/domestic/Maryland.html.

Maryland Right to Life Convention:
 Come be inspired, educated and enjoy the fellowship of others on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Rosensteel Council of the Knights of Columbus, 9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The day begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Price: \$25 individual, \$10 students, pastors, and religious. Breakfast and lunch included. Silent auction, door prizes, raffle! Register at www.mdrtl.org.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

"Five Minutes with the Word"
 This pocket size edition of "The Word Among Us" is available in the narthex after all the Masses. This booklet contains meditations for each day of Advent based on the Mass readings. Please take one and use it for "five minutes a day" to prepare for Christmas.

RCIA
Do you know anyone who might be interested in joining the Catholic Church? The **R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the way in which people explore the possibility of joining the Catholic Christian Community. It's a process of informal instruction, prayer, and sharing in a community setting that leads to full membership in the Catholic Church. **Who is this for?** Anyone never baptized, those of another faith or those who have no affiliation with any church, and Catholics who have never completed full initiation (celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist). For more information, please contact Sister Katherine - 410-721-5770 x233 Katherine.Odonnell@seaseton.org.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment (continued)

Little Rock Scripture Study

Monday Evening – Our last meeting will be November 28 at 7:00pm in the Ark and the Tuesday morning meeting ended last week. Many thanks to all who participated in these sessions. We hope it has been an enriching experience for you. Please check our website at www.seaseton.org for the next sessions of Little Rock Scripture Study.

Faith Formation



Faith Formation

Lessons for December 1st

Grade K Faith First Chapter 9, My Church Family is a Sign of God's Love

Grade 1 Faith First Chapter 8, Jesus Gave us the Church

Grade 2 Faith First Chapter 9, The Holy Spirit

Grade 3 Family Life

Grade 4 Faith First Chapter 11, Celebrating God's Love for Us

Grade 5 Faith First Chapter 11, Celebrating the Liturgy

Grade 6 Faith First Chapter 11, Celebrating the Liturgy; Chapter 12, Passover and the Sabbath

Grade 7 Mystery of God Chapter 9, Jesus' Passion and Death

Grade 8 Morality/Life in Christ Chapter 10, The Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Commandments

Grade 9 Understanding the Catechism/Liturgy and Sacraments Chapter 9, Holy Orders

Grade 10 Catholic & Capable/Moral Life Chapter 1, Recognizing Virtues

Confirmation



Session 3

General Session 3 will be held on **Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm** in the Great Hall. All candidates are required to attend.

Youth Ministry

Volunteers are needed!

Middle School and High School volunteers are needed to help with *Breakfast with Santa*. If you're interested, contact Jennifer O'Malley at j_omalley@yahoo.com.

Youth Rally & Mass for Life

Any High Schoolers interested in attending the January 23rd Youth Rally and Mass for Life should contact Nancy at nancy.connell@seaseton.org. We have been allotted 12 tickets to attend this national event! Tickets will be reserved on a first come/first served basis with a completed permission slip.

Parish Interest

Marriage Encounter

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is February 17-19, 2012. An early application is recommended. For more information and to apply online visit their website at wwme.net.



School of the Incarnation

Pre-school – SOIT is opening a 4yr old pre-school program in Fall 2012. We would like you to take a moment and fill out a survey if you have an interest for your child to attend in the coming years. Please copy and paste the following link in your internet address bar. www.surveymonkey.com/s/FF5S2LB

We appreciate your time and efforts to help us offer a wonderful pre-school to our Catholic community.

Come watch the SOTI basketball teams play the SOTI Faculty and Coaches at Spalding High School Gym! Friday Dec. 2, 2012 at 7pm Admission is \$5; Students & children \$2. Pom-poms and spirit sticks will be sold!

SOTI Annual Christmas Basketball Tournament - Thurs & Fri Dec. 15 & 16th 5pm Saturday Dec. 17 9:00am

Take a break from your shopping and baking and catch some b-ball!!!

Entire basketball schedule can be found on the School website!

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Please help support SOTI by dropping your Box Tops and Labels for Education in the bin in the Vestibule (remember to include the UPC)! Thank you!



Welcoming the New Translation of the Roman Missal

Eternal God, whose Spirit wove the many voices of humankind into one tongue of proclamation at Pentecost, bless our community of faith as we begin the use of this new translation of the Roman Missal.

Help us faithfully to praise your majesty and give thanks for your goodness to your people.

May the words we use, as inadequate as they are to express your greatness and your love, help us to draw closer to you, the source of life.

May this new translation foster true devotion among your people, and bind us together in one community of faith, always ready to seek your will and prepared to serve our brothers and sisters in charity and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Advent Day of Prayer for Women

Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND from Notre Dame of Maryland University will present "Advent Day of Prayer for Women" on Saturday, December 10th from 10am-12pm at Villa Assumpta (6401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore). To register please contact Sister Maria Iannuccillo, SSND at 203-762-4152 or miannuccillo@amssnd.org or Cheryl Fameli at 203-762-4393.org or cfameli@amssnd.org.

Events at Bon Secours Spiritual Center

Bon Secours offers events and activities on an ongoing basis. On the calendar for December are Taize Prayer Service, The Birthing of God – Advent Day of Prayer, The Gift of Magi, Music at Marriottsville with Anthony Brown and much more. For a full schedule and more info, visit www.BonSecoursSpiritualCenter.org.

www.seaseton.org

REFLECTIONS

Although these reflections usually focus on the Gospels, during the Advent/Christmas season this year, we'll turn to the first reading, which generally comes from the prophet Isaiah. Biblical scholars have long recognized that the Book of the Prophet Isaiah comes out of three different historical periods of the people of Israel. The first part (chapters 1-39) was written in the years before the Exile in Babylon. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were well off, confident, and self-reliant. Worship of God was an afterthought. Chapters 40-55 were written during the Exile, which lasted from 587 BC to 538 BC. This section of Isaiah is filled with words of comfort and consolation. The final part of Isaiah (chapters 56-66) was composed after the return to Jerusalem and includes some of the most hopeful writing in the Old Testament, with promises of a new heaven and a new earth.

It's little wonder that the church turns to the latter part of Isaiah during the Advent/Christmas season, when we celebrate the birth of the Savior who is the fulfillment of all our longing.

Much was made earlier this year of the prognostications of radio preacher Harold Camping who suggested that the world would end on May 21. Some people were so caught up in his prediction that they stopped working and spent their time spreading the message of judgment day. Camping's message resonated with those who were looking for certainty in a very uncertain world.

The writer of the third part of Isaiah had to contend with the same thing. The Jewish people had just returned to Jerusalem after fifty years of captivity. Their city was in ruins, and their future was unsure. Isaiah proclaimed that they should focus on the Lord, and at the same time rebuild their city. It is that balance of the heavenly and the worldly that we must especially strive for at this time of year in our own culture.

©2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Prayer for Advent

Dear God, as an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world.

But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at his birth. Amen.

©Liturgical Publications Inc

CALENDAR ♦ November 28 – December 4, 2011

Monday	4:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Scripture Study	Ark
	7:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign Report Meeting	Youth Room
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Sarah's House Cooking	Kitchen
Tuesday	9:45 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	7:00 p.m.	Inter-Parish Lecture Series	St. Joseph's, Odenton
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Mom's Morning Out	Ark/Dove
	4:30 p.m.	Teen Instrumentalist Rehearsal	Brendan's Office
	7:30 p.m.	9:30 Choir Rehearsal	Church
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	RCIA Celebration	Ark
	6:30 p.m.	Faith Formation	SOTI
	7:30 p.m.	Respect Life Meeting	Conference Room
	7:30 p.m.	11:00 Choir Rehearsal	Church
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Children	Youth Room
	11:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Children	Youth Room
	12:15 p.m.	Midnight Mass Rehearsal	Church
	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Meeting	Connelly Parish Center
	4:30 p.m.	Teen Choir Rehearsal	Church
	5:30 p.m.	Youth Group Christmas Party	Connelly Parish Center



CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Mass is signed for the hearing impaired*

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Nursery available at the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses (September through June)

Eucharist at Neighboring Parishes

Holy Family, Davidsonville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Church of the Holy Apostles, Gambrills, Sun., 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

St. Joseph, Odenton, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00

Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNION CALLS

Please advise us if you would like Communion brought to a member of your family.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Attendance at a baptismal preparation program is required before Baptism can be scheduled. Please call the Parish Office as early as possible to make arrangements. Preparation may begin any time during pregnancy.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

According to Archdiocesan policy, couples are required to make an appointment with a priest or deacon of the Parish at least six months in advance of the date they plan to celebrate their wedding in order to accommodate mandatory marriage preparation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

Adults interested in full membership in the Catholic faith are asked to call the Parish Office for information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN (R.C.I.C.)

Children, ages 8-17, whose families are interested in initiation into the Catholic faith, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Readings for November 28 – December 4, 2011

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Psalm 19:2-5; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Priest Presiders December 3 & 4, 2011

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Father Vince Cushing
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Father Jim Sabak
	9:30 a.m.	Father Jim Sabak
	11:00 a.m.	Father Ed Connelly
	5:30 p.m.	Father Ed Connelly

Sick or Hospitalized?

Please notify the office or a staff member when someone in your family is sick, hospitalized or homebound. If you or a family member is admitted to Anne Arundel Medical Center, **please inform them that you are Catholic and your affiliation is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.** This should be part of your admission process.