

*The Second Sunday
of Advent
December 4, 2011*



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

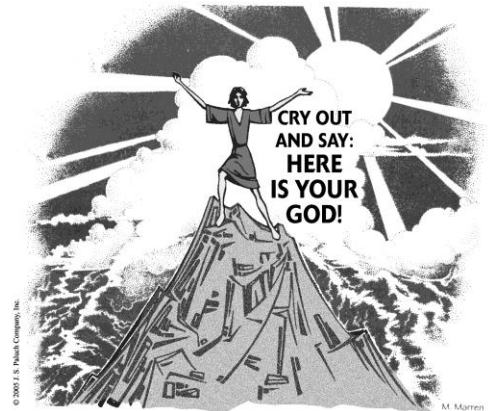
THE PROPHET'S SONG

The rapturous lines we hear at the very beginning of the Liturgy of the Word today are some of the most familiar of this season. They were written by an author whom scripture scholars call “Second Isaiah,” since this one writes with a different style, vocabulary, and content from the author of the first thirty-nine chapters of this book of the Bible. The beautiful words of trust, confidence, and faith were written when Israel was in one of its most profound periods of sadness and turmoil: exile from their land, their Temple, and (some would have believed) their God. Scholars also tell us that this passage was most likely a song or canticle sung by the exiled Israelites during prayer or worship. Like today’s psalm, it calls us to look forward in confidence to that day when “kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss” (Psalm 85:11).



THE HERALD'S CALL

Few of us know what it is like to be in exile. Perhaps we have, at one time or another, been homesick or estranged from family. But we do many things in life that exile us, put us at a great distance from God. John the Baptist, herald of Christ, today is shown calling people to end that exile by his baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It is this repentance, Peter tells us in his letter, that we ought to be about as we await the return of the Lord. Even though Advent is not focused on repentance in the same way or to the same degree that Lent is, our repentance is definitely one component of our own making straight a path for the coming of the Lord. We remember Jesus’ words from last week’s parable to be watchful; for the master does not necessarily end our exile, our distancing, by returning us to him, but by returning to us, and expecting us to be prepared and ready when our days of separation are at an end. Copyright © 2005, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tieltacks and earrings twinkle with “microlights.” Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today’s Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. “Give some evidence that you mean to reform!” he cries.

What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness; it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting. This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: “May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word.” One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

œ Father Ed Connelly

MASS INTENTIONS		
December 4 - 11, 2011		
Sun	8:00am	John Costa-D
	9:30am	Parishioners
	11:00am	Ruth Knight-D
	5:30pm	Margarita Lopez-D
Tues	9:15am	Charles Scott-D
Wed	9:15am	
	6:00pm	
Thurs	10:00am	
	7:00pm	
Sat	4:30pm	Alan Jones-D
Sun	8:00am	Evelyn Costa-D
	9:30am	Margarita Lopez-D
	11:00am	Parishioners
	5:30pm	Sophia Kruchelski-D

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



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Monthly Budget Requirement	\$89,350.00
Total Attendance Nov.19&20	1,349
Total Attendance Nov.26&27	1,372
Monthly Electronic Giving	\$23,296.00
Envelopes Month-to-Date	\$42,108.84
Non-Envelopes Month-to-Date	\$8,835.00
Children's Envelopes	\$14.61
Month-to-Date	



POOR BOX

NOVEMBER 19 & 20, 2011

Crofton Christian Caring Council
\$351.69

NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2011

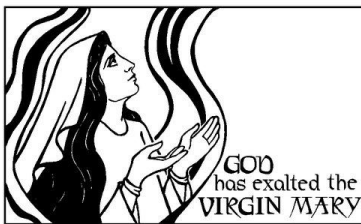
My Sister's Place - \$429.91

Next week's Poor Box will be for
Haiti Outreach



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We would appreciate your prayers for those who are ill. **Bounnhang Vilaythong, Charles, Damron, Jim Morris, William Moore, Mary Stanton, David Barns, Andre Gaudreau, Suzanne Paridis, Peter Bouffard & Anthony Rossi**



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mass Times

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – 6pm Vigil
Thursday, Dec. 8 – 10am & 7pm

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.) All coded EAS presents are due tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 5th. Food & money donations will be accepted this week through Friday. 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 info, contact Marianne Cernosek at 410-721-7578 or cernosek@verizon.net or Pat O'Berry at 240-687-0015 or kmmp1922@aol.com.



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.

Food Pantry News

Thank you for the many boxes of macaroni and cheese you donated during November. December will be Spaghetti Sauce month. Please bring a jar or can of spaghetti sauce each week during December. Remember that we cannot use expired food in the pantry. We sent 39 macaroni and cheese casseroles to St. Gregory's in October! Thank you to all who brought in casseroles. Empty foil pans to use are in the entrance to the church, or you can bring in frozen store-bought mac & cheese to the new freezer in the pantry.

Calendars for the Homeless

If you have any 2012 Calendars that you don't need or want, please drop them off in the box in the narthex to be delivered to the homeless. Thank you.

Music Ministry

Hymnbooks

Those that wish to take home their old hymnbook may do so. They are arranged in alphabetical order in front of the music office. Hymnbooks that are not picked up by December 15 are being donated to St. Patrick's Parish in Rolla, MD in time for Christmas.

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. More voices are needed!

Join the Choir

The 9:30 Choir needs more voices! Please join us. For more information, contact Brendan Walls at 410-721-5770x231 or e-mail Brendan.walls@seaseton.org.

Sarah's House

Sarah's house has an immediate need for the following items: men's deodorant, bars of soap, new pillows, towels, wash cloths, blankets (beds are twin, but will accept any size), baby shampoo & soap, new children's underwear and undershirts (infant to size 16). Donations can be dropped off in the narthex and are greatly appreciated!

Our Respect Life Message

The beginning of the Liturgical Year helps us live anew the expectation of God who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, God who makes himself little, who becomes a child; it speaks to us of the coming of a God who is close, who chose to experience human life from the very beginning in order to save it totally, in its fullness. And so the mystery of Lord's Incarnation and the beginning of human life are closely and harmoniously connected and in tune with each other in the one saving plan of God, the Lord of the life of each and everyone. ~Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily at Celebration of First Vespers of the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2010*

Thank You!

Thank you so very much for the kind donations of yarn for the 100 hats for the needy. I now have enough yarn to keep me going for another few years and no room to store more. May God bless you for your generosity.

Calling All Moms!

Interested in meeting other moms and kids from church? The Mom's Group meets every Wednesday from 10-11 upstairs in the Ark. While your children are lovingly cared for in the room next door, you can have some adult time to share a cup of coffee and chat. Contact Nancy at 410-721-5770 ext. 222.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

On Your Way Home

This is an opportunity for the men of our parish to meet on their way home from work to reflect on and share the Sunday Readings. The next meeting will be this week, **December 6 at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. *All are welcome!* For more information, contact Bill Conroy at 410-721-9327 or e-mail WJConroy@verizon.net.

Caregivers' Support Group

We will meet on **Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00pm** in the Ark. For many years, we have been blessed to have Mary Fridley BSN, RNC facilitate this group. If you are feeling the stress of caring for an ill or elderly loved one, please join us for these monthly meetings.

Faith Formation



Lessons for December 8th

Grade K Faith First Chapter 10, Jesus Lived in a Family
Grade 1 Faith First Chapter 9, The First Christians Follow Jesus
Grade 2 Faith First Chapter 10, The Church
Grade 3 Family Life
Grade 4 Faith First Chapter 12, Sharing in Christ's Life and Work
Grade 5 Faith First Chapter 12, Baptism and Confirmation
Grade 6 Faith First Chapter 13, Baptism and Confirmation
Grade 7 Mystery of God Chapter 10, Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension; Chapter 11, A Resurrection Story
Grade 8 Morality/Life in Christ Chapter 11, The Eighth and Tenth Commandments
Grade 9 Understanding the Catechism/Liturgy and Sacraments Chapter 10, Matrimony
Grade 10 Catholic & Capable/Moral Life Chapter 2, Distinguishing Between Right and Wrong

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.

Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party!

Join us for fun and games as we celebrate the season this Sunday, December 4th at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. Bring \$2 for Pizza and a wrapped unisex gift \$5 or below.

High School Youth Group Christmas Party!

Join us on December 11th at 6:30pm in the Parish Center to celebrate the season! Bring \$2 for Pizza and a wrapped unisex gift \$5 or below.

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

Healing Mass

Are you or a loved one in need of spiritual, physical or emotional healing? If so, you are invited to a Mass of Healing on December 2nd at 7:30pm at Our Lady of the Fields Church. Fr. JoJo Opalda and Msgr. John Auer will be concelebrating the Mass. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 410-923-7060

Advent Day of Prayer for Women

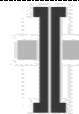
Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND from Notre Dame of Maryland University will present "Advent Day of Prayer for Women" on Saturday, December 10th from 10am-12pm at Villa Assumpta (6401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore). To register please contact Sister Maria Iannuccillo, SSND at 203-762-4152 or miannuccillo@amssnd.org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

Evening Mass in Bowie

St. Edward's in Bowie has evening Masses every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm. All are welcome! Address - 1940 Mitchellville Rd. Parish phone - 301-249-9199

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 - SOTI 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.

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!

Pastoral Spanish Classes/Spring 2012

Notre Dame of Maryland University *Spanish Language and Culture for Pastoral Settings* is for professionals or volunteers who currently work with or will work with Hispanic communities in parishes, schools, hospitals or other pastoral settings. No prior experience in Spanish is necessary. For more information and class schedule, visit www.ndm.edu/PastoralSpanish. Contact: Linda Stilling, SSND at 410-532-5306 or lstillings@ndm.edu.

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

A little boy watches anxiously as his grandmother prepares the batter for chocolate chip cookies. Once in the oven, he asks repeatedly if they're done. "Not yet" comes the reply. Even when the cookies come out of the oven, there will still be more waiting. All good things come in time.

Stores have long had their Christmas goods on display and carols playing, but it is still not time. St. Paul tells us that we should derive hope from the lessons of patience and words of encouragement of Scripture. Our waiting is not in vain as the prophets and patriarchs can testify. The fulfillment of God's Promises comes to those who look and wait and hope and trust.

Advent is our time of patient expectation, seeing how we can best prepare for the coming of the Lord. Fasting, charitable works, prayer and Bible study all help us avoid sin and turn to grace. More than just penance for the sake of penance, spiritual practices open us to the workings of God's grace, making us more sensitive and more aware of the Lord's presence in our lives. Christmas is still 'not yet,' but God is present with us always.

CALENDAR ♦ December 5 - 11, 2011

Monday	4:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
	6:00 p.m.	Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committee Meeting	Youth Room
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Session 3	Connelly Parish Center
	7:00 p.m.	Baptism Preparation	Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Communications Committee Meeting	Dove
Tuesday	9:45 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	1:00 p.m.	Cooking for Sarah's House	Kitchen
	6:00 p.m.	On Your Way Home	Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Caregiver's Support Group	Ark
	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Meeting	Dove
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	11:00 Choir Rehearsal	Church
	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	6:30 p.m.	Faith Formation	SOTI
Saturday	5:45 p.m.	Baptism	Church
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa	Connelly Parish Center
	9:30 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Children	Youth Room
	11:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Children	Youth Room
	12:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass Rehearsal	Church
	4:30 p.m.	Teen Choir Rehearsal	Church
	6:00p.m.	Youth Group	Youth Room

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 December 5-11, 2011

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Psalm 85:9ab-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Psalm Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Priest Presiders December 10 & 11, 2011

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