My Dear People,

We are now in the great season of Advent. In years gone by the Church has called this season the “Little Lent.” It has always been a time of preparation in order to celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ, Our Savior.

May we all share this special season preparing ourselves for the celebration of His birth and always longing for His return to glory.

A good practice for each of us would be to set aside each day of Advent about 15 minutes to contemplate on Jesus Christ, the great gift of God the Father to you and me.

On behalf of your staff, as well as Father Hugo and myself, we wish you a Blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,
Msgr. Rowland

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**EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

**MEN'S BOOK GROUP**
Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am in the FLC. Contact: Paul McLaughlin at (336) 918-1194.

**SOJOURNERS BOOK GROUP** *(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS PARACLETE BOOK GROUP)*
Due to many commitments during December, the group is canceling their December agenda. The first meeting of the New Year will be Thurs., January 17th: “Amazing Grace” by author, Eric Metaxas will be discussed. In February the regular schedule of the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 pm (FLC) will resume. Contact: Marie D'Ambrosio

**EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY OPEN**
1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month—new volunteers always welcome!

**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**
Weekend of December 28—29. Current needs list available [here](#).

**MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY & OUTREACH**
Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am in the Family Life Center Conference Room. Parishioners are encouraged to attend to learn about ways to get involved in our many ministries and events. Attending the meeting does not commit you, but you may find yourself wanting to volunteer. If you’d like to receive notices of meetings and the Minutes, email Laurie Propheter.

**WING-ITS CHOIR PRACTICE (9 AM MASS CHOIR)**
Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, except for Dec. 12th due to the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.

Click [HERE](#) for our Parish Google Calendar. A link to the Saint of the Day is available on the web calendar. The Religious Education Calendar for 2018-2019 is available for download on our website. Click [here](#).

Check our website [homepage](#) for current happenings!

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**Dates to Remember**

- Thank you to everyone who helped with the St. Nicholas’ Feast Day celebration on Sunday, Dec. 2nd. Thank you to the Men’s Group (under the direction of Al Mikula) for a delicious Pancake Breakfast, to our Family Life Ministry for organizing the event and to Ralph Lloyd for arranging to have St. Nicholas visit us!

- The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation (Sat., Dec. 8th). A Vigil Mass in English will be celebrated on Fri., Dec. 7th at 5:30 pm and in Spanish at 7 p.m. On Sat., Dec. 8th Mass will be celebrated in the church at 10 am in English.

- The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Wed., Dec. 12th. The celebration begins in the morning at 6 am with Adoration in the church. In the evening a procession around the parking lot will occur at 6 pm, followed by Mass in Spanish at 7 pm. A reception will be held in the Family Life Center following the Mass.

- If you volunteered to help with our Christmas Adopt—a—Family Program, please meet us in the Sanctuary of the church at the following times:
  - Unpacking — Thursday, Dec. 13 at 9:00 am;
  - Bagging — Friday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm;
  - Delivering — Saturday, Dec. 15 at 8:00 am

- Christmas Mass Schedule:
  - Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24
    - 4:30 pm Children and Young at Heart
    - 8:00 pm in Spanish
    - 10:00 pm (instead of a Midnight Christmas Eve Mass)
  - Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25
    - 10:00 am Bilingual

- Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
  - New Year’s Eve, Monday, Dec. 31
    - 5:30 pm Vigil in English
    - 8:00 pm in Spanish
  - New Year’s Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1

Photo credit: Catholic Miscellany
Las Posadas

Las Posadas, a nine day celebration that begins on Dec. 16, is a Latin tradition that is over 400 years old. It commemorates the difficult journey that Mary and Joseph endured from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a warm place to stay the night. (Posadas means lodgings). More information about this tradition can be found here. On Sunday, Dec. 23rd, at 7 pm in the Family Life Center a bilingual version will be celebrated for the whole parish to experience. Enrich your observance of Advent by participating in this beloved tradition.

What’s New?

Have you noticed the new electronic bulletin board hanging in the Narthex? Check it out the next time you’re at church. Requests for promotion of a Parish event or organization should be emailed to holyspiritcatholicsc@gmail.org.

Magnificat booklets for Advent 2018 are now available in the Narthex and at the side entrance of the church. Pick up your free copy today.

Lector Workbooks for the new liturgical year are available in the closet near the water fountains. If you are a lector, please pick up a copy. This invaluable resource helps with pronunciation and understanding the weekly Scripture readings.

The office will be closed on the following dates:
- For Christmas from Dec. 20 through Dec. 27
- For New Year’s from Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

Music Notes

The Advent season embodies the spirit of waiting and expectation. In the music liturgy, we represent this as we simplify parts of the mass - the Gloria is not sung in Advent, we use pieces of ancient chants in the parts of the Mass, and familiar modal carols remind us that something exciting is coming. As we prepare for the return of Light in the birth of the Savior, we are able to meditate in the darkness and look for the hope to which we are all called. Come, Lord Jesus!

~Laura Ball, Director of Music

Catechist Spotlight

Sallie Dalton and her husband, Jeff moved from Lewisburg, WV located near the Greenbrier Hotel and Resort in November of 2017. They moved to be near their oldest daughter, Anne, and her husband along with their grandsons, Bretten (5) and Ethan (27 months). Sallie retired in July of 2016 after spending 37 yrs. in education as a teacher, school district administrator, and finally as the superintendent of the school district in which she resided. Sallie’s youngest daughter, Allison, has lived in Manhattan for nearly 12 yrs. and will be getting married on April 27, 2019. Sallie feels very blessed to be a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and to have the opportunity to teach the precious children of our parish.

Volunteers Needed to Provide Lunch for Respite Care

It’s time to fill the 2019 volunteer calendar to provide lunch for Respite Care participants. A pair of volunteers make and deliver lunch on the third Thursday each month for 16 Respite guests and staff. Our parish coordinator, Gay Hull, has a list of menu ideas that run the gamut from chicken salad sandwiches to baked ziti and fruit salad to cookies! The food needs to be delivered to St. John’s Parish on Maybank Highway before 11:30 a.m. If you are looking for a way to ease into volunteering in our community, and have one Thursday morning free, this ministry is a very easy way to help! If interested in volunteering, contact Gay Hull by email or call (505) 453-3448.

The Advent Wreath

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

(Find more resources for Advent at the USCCB website, click here)

Have your BEST ADVENT EVER!

Dynamic Catholic offers a daily, email based program to help you rediscover the joy in preparing for Christmas. Sign up for free at BestAdventEver.com/Joy

Parish website: www.holyspiritsc.org
Facebook: Holy Spirit Catholic Church
myParish App (download on an Android or iOS device)
Sign up for this eNewsletter: holyspiritcatholicsc@gmail.com

Contact info change? Remember to notify the Parish Office—this includes phone numbers and email addresses.
December 2018

Daily Mass is held in the Chapel (C) at 8:30 am (M-F)
Reconciliation is held in the Church (S) from 8—8:15 am (M-F)
Saturday Morning Mass is held in the Chapel at 9 am
Reconciliation is held on Saturdays in the Church from 3:50—4:50 pm
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar below)

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<thead>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td><strong>Santo Rosario</strong> 7 am (S)</td>
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<td>Food Pantry 10 – 12 FLC</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Breakfast w/St. Nicholas</strong> (10am—1pm FLC)</td>
<td><strong>Angel Tree Gifts due</strong></td>
<td><strong>Men’s Book Group</strong> 9 am FLC</td>
<td><strong>Ministry of Hospitality &amp; Outreach</strong> 9:30 FLC</td>
<td><strong>Eucarístico, adoración al Santísimo</strong> 7 pm (S)</td>
<td><strong>1st Friday Mass</strong> 8:30 AM (S) <strong>Anointing of the Sick</strong> <strong>Holy Hour &amp; Benediction</strong> <strong>Holy Day Vigil</strong> 5:30 pm 7 pm Español</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Santo Rosario y Confesiones de 12:30 a 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Our Lady of Guadalupe</strong> 5 am Adoration 6 pm Procession 7 pm Mass 8 pm Reception in FLC</td>
<td><strong>Christian Life Community</strong> 7 pm FLC</td>
<td><strong>Religious Education</strong> 6 pm FLC</td>
<td><strong>Eucarístico, adoración al Santísimo</strong> 7:00 S <strong>Adopt-A-Family Unpacking</strong> 9:00 am</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Santo Rosario y Confesiones de 12:30 a 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Las Posadas (bilingual)</strong> 7 pm FLC</td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Santo Rosario y Confesiones de 12:30 a 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve Liturgies</strong> 4:30 pm Children 8 pm Español 10 pm</td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Food Pantry Collection</strong></td>
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<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Santo Rosario y Confesiones de 12:30 a 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christmas Day Liturgy</strong> 10 am Bilingual</td>
<td><strong>No RE Classes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>Food Pantry Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>Confesiones de 12:30 a 1:00 pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>31</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</strong> 10 am Bilingual (S)</td>
<td><strong>January 1st:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office closed</strong></td>
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Holy Spirit Catholic Church
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