

ETHICAL CONCERNS ON THE NEW COVID-19 VACCINES

WASHINGTON— On December 14, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. In their statement, the bishops address the moral concerns raised by the fact that the three vaccines that appear to be ready for distribution in the United States all have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions. With regard to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, they concluded: “In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines. Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.” With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be “more morally compromised” and consequently concluded that this vaccine “should be avoided” if there are alternatives available. “It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one’s health and the health of others,” the bishop chairmen stated. “In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine.” At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics “must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.” The full statement from the bishop chairmen may be found at: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>.

ADVENT... A TIME FOR REFLECTION... A TIME OF PROMISE... A TIME FOR HOPE - Fourth Sunday of Advent

At last, it is the last week of Advent. Only a few more days until Jesus, the Christ, the savior of the world comes to us. This is Christmas. It is not about a day. Christmas is about a person, *Christ*. We spend four short weeks preparing for this long anticipated birth. These next few days will be hectic and our thoughts will be concentrated on the preparations for the Christmas holiday. Give yourself the most precious gift of all and take a moment to reflect in silence on this miracle of miracles. Take a moment to listen for the voice of God to speak to your heart. It is in these quiet moments that we can hear Him speak. It is in these quiet moments that we can know His will for our lives. It is in these quiet moments that we can tell Him how much we love Him and thank Him for His love for us. Without that love we are nothing. Without Christmas there can be no Easter, no redemption.

Parish Staff

Pastor:	Rev. J. Scott Duarte, J.C.D.	804-557-3962
Secretary & Bulletin Editor:	Rose Reed seassecretary@verizon.net	804-932-4125
Parish Council Chairman:	Greg Davis pcchair@seascatholicchurch.org	804-932-4125
Parish Council Members:	Greg Davis, Matt Luther, JoAnne Rial, Ginger Mary and Michelle Boyer	
Finance Council Chairman:	Greg Barlage	804-519-3276
Finance Council Members:	Greg Barlage, Harold Wayne, Irma Gregory and Paul Tran	
Sacristan & Altar Guild Coordinator:	Irma Gregory	804-932-8298
Parish Organist (Saturday):	Amos Goldie amosgold@gmail.com	804-932-4125
Parish Organist (Sunday):	Position Open	804-932-4125

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

A NOTE OF THANKS...

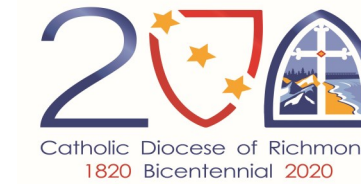
Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who donated for the Christmas poinsettias which will be delivered this week.

Also, a BIG thank you to all our SEAS volunteers who have worked tirelessly this year to improve our grounds, minister to our parishioners both young and old, and help out with our three weekend Masses and videotaping. Special thanks to Irma Gregory, Greg & Iris Davis, Mary & Bobby Brooks, Mike & Donna Thomson and Charles & Michelle Boyer and family for all their extra help.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Email: seascatholic@verizon.net; Website: www.seascatholicchurch.org



Facebook: facebook.com/SEASCatholic
Twitter: twitter.com/SEASQuinton
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 AM-2:30 PM
WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil—5:30 PM
Sunday—8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered Saturdays at 5:00 PM and by appointment.

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020*

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Adoration of the Shepherds (Domenico Ghirlandaio), 1485

On the mission of the Church...

“The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers.

It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach... to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.”
From Pope Francis’ *Evangelii Gaudium*

Parish Schedule

Saturday, December 19—Vigil

5:00 PM—Confessions
5:30 PM—Vigil Mass: Special Intention

Sunday, December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM—Mass: †Fr. James Guttendorf
11:00 AM—Mass: People of the Parish

Monday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

Tuesday, December 22—Late Advent Weekday

Wednesday, December 23—Late Advent Weekday

***Office Closed**

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Vigil

***Office Closed**
2:00 PM—Mass: †Paul Robert Mary
4:00 PM—Mass: †Tom & Eileen Dailey

Friday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

***Office Closed**
11:00 AM Mass: People of the Parish

Saturday, December 26—Vigil

5:00 PM—Confessions
5:30 PM—Vigil Mass: Special Intention

Sunday, December 27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 AM—Mass: Rosemary Comyn
11:00 AM—Mass: People of the Parish

SEAS Parish Prayer List

Prayer of Pope Francis to Our Lady, Health of the Sick, to implore her protection during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Parish Contributions

If you are a registered parishioner and would like contribution info, please contact the parish office at 804-932-4125. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who are mailing in contributions and utilizing the website for online electronic giving!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OPTIONS

The parish budget is 100% dependent on Offertory contributions. Half of the income comes by electronic means and half through the regular weekend collections. If you are able, please continue to support the parish through your donations:

- Sign-up for online e-giving through the parish's website at: seascatholicchurch.org and select the red "Donate Online" button at the top (<https://seascatholicchurch.org/support-your-parish/>).
- Mail your regular contributions to our mailing address: PO Box 648, Quinton, VA 23141.
- Drop your contributions off to the parish office during office hours. Thank you!

DECEMBER OFFICE CLOSINGS

The parish office will be closed for Christmas from December 23-28, 2020.

MASS FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Thursday, Dec. 24—Vigil Mass, 2:00 PM & 4:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 25—Mass, 11:00 AM

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Ps 89:2-5,27,29/Rom 16:25-27/
Lk 1:38/Lk 1:26-38

Monday, December 21 Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22 Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1,4-8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23 Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10&14/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24 Thursday of the Fourth Week of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Ps 89:2-5,27&29/Lk 1:67-79

Friday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3,11-13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:10-11/Lk 2:1-14

Saturday, December 26 Feast of St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4,6&8ab,16bc&17/Ps 118:26a,27a/Mt 10:17-22

Sunday, December 27 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6,12-14/Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Col 3:15a,16a/
Lk 2:22-40

Parish News

PUBLIC MASS GUIDELINES Occupancy—50% (70 Individuals) Guidelines:

Face coverings—All present for the liturgy ages 5 and older must wear a cloth face covering, as recommended by the CDC, WHO and Governor of Virginia when present for any Mass or liturgical celebration.

Vulnerable category—Those in the vulnerable category (65+ adults, people who are immunocompromised) are encouraged to remain home as per CDC and the governor recommendations.

Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass—Due to the capacity limit for liturgies which limits the number of faithful who can attend Mass and recognizing that those in the vulnerable category should remain home, Bishop Knestout dispenses all of the faithful of the Diocese of Richmond from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days until further notice.

Recorded Mass—will continue to be offered on our Facebook and web page for the present time.

The **5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass** is being recorded for use on SEAS and various Diocesan digital media accounts of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, including, but not limited to, the websites of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond and *The Catholic Virginian*, and social media platforms of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Photography and/or screenshot images from the livestream may be used for *The Catholic Virginian* print edition. If you do not wish to be captured by recordings, please refrain from attending the 5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass.

Additional Considerations:

Seating—Families/households will be seated on one side and individuals on the other, every other pew to maintain distancing.

Communion—Sanitize hands when entering/leaving Church. Bring personal supply to use before receiving Communion if possible. Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand. After receiving Communion, step 6 feet to the side, lower/lift mask, consume the host, put mask back in place and return to your seat.

Current Mass times are:
Saturday Vigil Mass, 5:30 PM;
Sundays, 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

We ask that you arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass to allow time to be seated.

Church Entrance Questions (Updated):

- Do you or anyone in your household have a fever (temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher)?
- In the past two (2) weeks, have you or anyone in your household presented symptoms of COVID-19, such as a fever, chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, with no alternative diagnosis?
- Have you had a positive diagnostic test for the virus that causes COVID-19 in the prior 10 days?
- In the past two (2) weeks, have you or anyone in your household been exposed—less than six (6) feet for a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24 hour period—to anyone who has tested positive for or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 (with no alternative diagnosis) without wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention?

If any individual or household responds "yes" to any question or are not wearing a cloth face covering (if they are age 5 and older), they are not permitted to enter the Church.

Please take a few minutes to review these questions prior to entering the Church.

Questions regarding public Mass should be directed to the SEAS Parish Office: 804-932-4125.



Schedule: Meetings have resumed virtually only, until further notice.

Prayer Request: Please remember in prayer: Jeffrey & Roberta Gargiulo, Levie Edmond, Leonard R. Rapozo, Cherie Gothreau & Wanda Pleva, Carol Trent, John (Jackie) J. Gothreau, Fred Graf, Joshua C. Gothreau, Cathy Iwaskey, Al Polson, Kate Nixon, Elizabeth Robertson, Tony Martinez, our law enforcement, military families, and those not known to us in need of prayers.

Family of the Month: The K of C November Family of the Month is parish secretary Rose Reed & family. Congratulations!

Membership: To learn more about the Knights of Columbus at SEAS Parish, please contact Membership Director, Tony Cassano; tony@gobucketlisttravel.com.

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus in Virginia, visit kofc.org/joinus.

SPECIAL REQUEST

A parish family that is new to the area is in search of someone to assist with staying with a disabled relative while they run errands a few times a week.

Residence is located past the New Kent Winery near Mt. Olivet Road. Compensation would be \$15 per hour. If interested, please contact the parish office at 932-4125 for further details and contact info.

DIocese of Richmond Office of the Bishop

Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to the confidential Victim Assistance Reporting 24-Hour Number at 1-877-887-9603.