

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America - December 8th

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Many people, including many Catholics, think that it refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas).

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.

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

Advent is not only a time of preparation and anticipation, but a time for reflection. In our busy lives the period before Christmas is a time for buying just the right gifts for our loved ones and friends. We plan the celebratory meals in great detail. Children are so excited and eagerly anticipating the jolly old elf and the wonderful things under the tree. These are the days when we're so busy decorating for the Christmas season that we hardly think about the coming of the Savior, let alone consider where we are in the Liturgical year. Isn't there more to Christmas? Something more than decorations? More than gifts under the tree? Stop for just a moment and think about what Christmas is all about. Yes, it is a time for giving. God gave us His Son. Mary generously gave herself to the will of God.

In Advent the Liturgy bids us to recall the period of expectation when the faithful awaited a Savior. With the birth of Jesus came the fulfillment of all of the desires of all of those centuries of anticipation and longing. This is the joy we mark at Christmas. The Church leads us through a period of longing for the Savior. This is the time we reflect on a world without Jesus. A time of longing for and lovingly anticipating His birth.

How will you prepare for Christmas this year?

Take a few moments in your busy life this week to read again the words of the Old and New Testament in today's Liturgy. Then be still and listen for the voice of God to speak to your heart.

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.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Last weekend kicked off our annual Christmas Angel Tree program. Angel Tree tags are still available on the Christmas tree in the Commons Area of the Church. Please take a tag and purchase the item on the tag. This year SEAS Parish is sponsoring six local families.

All wrapped gifts, with Angel tag attached, are **due back to the Church on Wednesday, December 16th.**



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

2631 Pocahontas Trail | P.O. Box 648, Quinton, VA 23141
 OFFICE: 804-932-4125 FAX: 804-932-8126 RECTORY: 804-557-3962
 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.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

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



The Immaculate Conception
 Guido Reni (The Metropolitan Museum of Art), 1627

<i>Parish Staff</i>		
Pastor:	Rev. J. Scott Duarte, J.C.D.	804-557-3962
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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

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 5—Vigil

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

Sunday, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM—Mass: Special Intention
9:30 AM—Rel. Ed. Classes (SEAS Social Hall)
11:00 AM—Mass: People of the Parish

Monday, December 7—Vigil

6:30 PM—Vigil Mass: People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

12:00 PM—Mass: †Bobby Johnson

Wed., December 9—St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

*Office Closed

Thursday, December 10—Advent Weekday

*Office Closed

Friday, December 11—St. Damasus I

Saturday, December 12—Vigil

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

Sunday, December 13—Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM—Mass: †Hubert John
9:30 AM—Rel. Ed. NO CLASSES
11:00 AM—Mass: People of the Parish

**Masses for the Immaculate Conception: 12/7 — 6:30 PM
12/8 — 12:00 PM**

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 in December on the following dates: December 9-10, December 23-28.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Masses will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 7th at 6:30PM and Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 12:00 PM.

NUN RUN FOOD DONATIONS

The first weekend of the month is our monthly food collection for the Poor Clare nuns and the Little Sisters of St. Francis. Please drop off all donations to the collection box in the Commons Area by this weekend: **Dec. 5/6**. Thank you for your support of this ongoing ministry!

Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5,9-11/Ps 85:9-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Lk 3:4,6/Mk 1:1-8

Monday, December 7 Memorial of St. Ambrose

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab&10-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:28/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 9 Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4,8&10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 10 Thursday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1&9-13ab/Is 45:8/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 11 Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4&6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17/Jd 13:18bcde,19/Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

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

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.