News From The Pews

November 29, 2026 | The First Sunday of Advent

The mission of All Souls Church is to be a Christ-centered sanctuary where a diverse and inclusive community worships and serves. We live this mission through faithful celebration of the Eucharist, Christian education, and loving nurture of both members and neighbor

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The Rev. Sara E. Palmer, Rector

11 am Holy Eucharist

All are welcome to the Lord's table for Holy Eucharist.

The First Lesson
Isaiah 64:1-9
Kevin LeGrand

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Choir

The Epistle
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Daniel Callis

The Gospel
Mark 13:24-37
Mother Sara

Prayers of the People
Embry Howell

All are invited downstairs to the Coffee hour following the service.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR



Faith Forum Series at 10 am with Jennifer Mindek Beckham



Faith Forum Series at 10 am with Jennifer Mindek Beckham



Faith Forum Series at 10 am with Sebastian Wellford

Advent Lessons and Carols at 11:00 am



Faith Forum Series at 10 am with Mother Sara

December 24, 2026
Thursday, Christmas Eve
5:00 pm, Family Service with Carols
8:30 pm, Festive Holy Eucharist with Choir
Carols begin at 8:30 pm | Service begins at 9:00 pm

December 25, 2026
Friday, Christmas Day
11:00 am, Holy Eucharist

ADVENT 2026

by Mother Sara

This Sunday, November 29th, we enter into a new season, Advent, the beginning of the Christian year. We will use the lectionary readings from Year B this new year. "Advent" comes from the Latin for "coming"; Adventus; we look forward and wait in expectant hope for Christ's first coming to earth at Christmas and also for His Second Coming with power and great glory at an unknown time; Christ will then usher in new and eternal heavens and a new earth.

In Western Christendom, Advent Sunday (the first in Advent) is the Sunday closest to Saint Andrew's Day, November 30th. The season lasts in the Western Church for the four Sundays preceding Christmas. The first clear references to the season in the West come from the latter half of the 6th century AD/CE. In the Eastern Church, Advent is a much longer season.

Advent was formerly kept the same as the penitential season of Lent before Easter, but with less strictness; fasting is no longer ordered. We will use the Advent blue (Mary's color) in the Nave instead of the more penitential purple which is reserved for Lent. You will notice the beautiful Advent wreath and candles at the front of the church that our outstanding Altar Guild Interim Chair, Mike McGee has kindly put up this Sunday; he will light the first blue candle. The third Sunday of Advent is special, called *Gaudete Sunday* (meaning Rejoice); we will use pink vestments and light the pink candle that Sunday as we rejoice that God has sent His beloved only Son, down to earth to live with us and die for us.

You will notice the change in liturgy in the bulletins to mark this new Advent season. We will use the traditional Rite I language for the whole service; Rite I was preferred in the past history of All Souls. Note the "thee" and "thy" language instead of "you." It is good for us to use a different liturgy periodically so that we have to really think about what we are saying. At All Souls we now use Rite I in the more penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. It is important for us to be flexible as a congregation so that everyone is blessed.

In our Forum hour, we will start this Sunday to study the beautiful meditative Advent book, *All Creation Waits* at 10 am in the Conference Room. Jennifer Beckham, Sebastian Wellford and I will take turns leading the study. I am also delighted that 15 people have signed up for my Advent Quiet Morning Retreat on Saturday December 5th from 10 am to 1 pm in the Conference Room. Our theme will be *Seeking God's Wisdom for Challenging Times*.

I hope that each day of this Advent season, you will make time and space for God to SHHHH! SLOW DOWN! in prayer and Bible study, using the Forward Day by Day. Please do share with me what God will say to you during this important waiting time: rector@allsoulsdc.org

COMING UP:

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE YOURSELF THE TREAT OF THE ADVENT QUIET MORNING RETREAT, SAT., DEC. 5th, 10am-1pm

"Come apart and rest awhile," Jesus says. Please come and join others in our All Souls family on Saturday, December 5th from 10 am to 1 pm. for an Advent Retreat. Bring a brown bag lunch for yourself.

Please email your interest in coming on December 5th to Mother Sara: rector@allsoulsdc.org

MEN'S HOLIDAY GATHERING EVENT is Thursday, Dec. 10 beginning at 5:30 pm
Join the Men's Fellowship for a festive evening of great food, drinks, and good company! We'll be gathering around the piano to sing your favorite Christmas carols, and we'd love to see you there. Ike Brannon and Joe Neal will be heading up the festivities.

THE WOODLEY HOUSE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION, Sun., Dec. 13.
A shopping list is available on the welcome table and the Outreach Committee that oversees this ministry thanks you in advance for your generosity, especially at this time of the year.

ALL ORNAMENTS WERE TAKEN HOME FROM THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE!
A reminder: please bring back presents by Sun., Dec. 13.

FAITH FORUM ON SUNDAYS MEETS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM at 10 AM

The Advent book is available on Amazon, Audible or Kindle and is titled, "All Creation Waits" by Gayle Boss.

PRAYER LIST

The Washington Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for:
St. Andrew's, College Park; St. Andrew's, Leonardtown; St. Andrew's Episcopal School and St. Andrew's Lower School, Potomac; Episcopal Church Women; United Thank Offering

In the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

For those who are sick or in need, we pray especially for: Larry Drell (husband of Vicki Drell), Kathy Mazzuchi and her incredible family (friends of Abbey Stuckless), Maria Orrett's friend Anna, Elaine Grierson, dear friend of Olivia & Ian Hodgson, Jesse Kim (friend of Carri Banholzer), Sandra Duncan (friend of Jody Koepp-Norris), Al Muller, Will Dawson's grandmother, Sally Cliff, Davis Ival, Cuba, Haiti, Palestine, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan; for all children everywhere.

We are thankful: for all who made our Thanksgiving potluck a success.



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Kurt Jacobs (2029)
John Longstreth (2027)
Nancy Morgan (2027)
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Will Stewart (2028)
Rick Taylor (2028)
Arthur Warren (2027)
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