

# GOOD NEWS

Church of the Redeemer's Monthly Newsletter



## Pastor's Advent Reflection

By Fr. Jim Cowles

Welcome to Advent and the beginning of our new liturgical year. Advent is a season of hope and longing, of joyful expectation and peaceful preparation. It is a time of anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ, both in His historical incarnation in Bethlehem and His future return in glory at the end of time. The readings during this season evoke a sense of longing, repentance, and vigilance – not just for Christmas but also for the destiny of all Christian life.

In Advent we are invited to recall our faith history, to assume the posture of the expectant people, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Messiah. Witnessing what is happening in our world today, we realize, like our ancestors in the faith, that we have a very real need for a Savior. Words like yearning, hoping, listening, and staying awake while we wait, are Advent words/concepts.

When we are 'AWAKE', we are on the alert for someone or something. "Waiting in hope" is at the very heart of Advent. This year, perhaps more than ever, we long to hear the melody of hope in our lives. There is divisiveness in politics like I have never witnessed before: raging wars with little desire for peaceful solutions, the erosion of respect for ALL life and legitimate authority, and so much more.

During the season of Advent, we are called to seek the light of Christ, and BE the light of Christ, even amid the darkness. We are invited to face the darkness in our own lives and in the world around us. The prophets assure us that the darkness will not overcome us. They call us to watch for the light.

*I pray, O God, who dispels all darkness, come to be with us, to live among us and in us. Come to fill the distances that divide and separate us. Come to reconcile us with you and with one another. Turn oppression to justice and transform conflict to peaceful accord. Come Lord Jesus. Come!*

### What's inside:

**PASTOR'S ADVENT  
REFLECTION - 1**

**BAPTISMS - 2**

**KNIGHTS UPDATE - 3**

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT - 4**

**CATHOLIC VIRGINIAN  
SPOTLIGHT - 5**

**CHRISTMAS PLAY - 6**

**NO ROOM WTVR - 7**

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS  
SCHEDULE - 8**



[churchredeemer.org](http://churchredeemer.org)



[facebook.com/ChurchRedeemer](https://facebook.com/ChurchRedeemer)



[youtube.com/@ChurchRedeemerMechVA](https://youtube.com/@ChurchRedeemerMechVA)



[churchofthereedeemer.flocknote.com](https://churchofthereedeemer.flocknote.com)



## You Have Put On Christ

In the month of November, Abigail Good and Addison Toots were baptized into the Body of Christ!

*Heavenly Father, grant that these children grow in grace and love. May they learn to follow Jesus through the influence of the Holy Spirit. They are true children of yours, and we pray they serve you faithfully all their days. We pray for guidance and strength for the parents and family of these children. May their example, wise counsel, and love lead them to live a life of strength, righteousness, faith, love, joy, and peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary! *This solemnity is a holy day of obligation.* Redeemer will have Masses at 12 Noon and 7 PM.

“Mary, the only human being in history without sin, is with us in the battle, she is our sister and, above all, our Mother. And we, who struggle to choose good, can *entrust ourselves to her*. By entrusting ourselves, consecrating ourselves to Mary, we say to her: “Take me by the hand, Mother, guide me: with you I will have more strength in the battle against evil; with you I will rediscover my original beauty”. Let us entrust ourselves to Mary today, let us entrust ourselves to Mary every day, repeating to her: “Mary, I entrust my life to you, I entrust my family, my work, I entrust my heart and my struggles. I consecrate myself to you”. May Mary Immaculate help us to safeguard our beauty from evil.”

*Pope Francis  
Angelus Homily  
Saint Peter's Square  
Thursday, 8 December 2022*

*O Most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit,  
look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.  
O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God.  
O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son.  
O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.  
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.  
Amen.*



## Redeemer Knights of Columbus Update

By Patrick Eavey, Grand Knight

In October, 2023, we were humbled by the amazing support we received from the Church of the Redeemer community and the many volunteers who made our annual Brunswick Stew Sale an incredible success. The sale raised essential funds that underpin our charitable mission, and your participation in last month's brunch, when supplemented by a KofC contribution, resulted in a \$1,000 donation to Project 11 that supports parents whose babies have died in delivery or shortly thereafter. The Knights and nearly 100 needy individuals/families served by the Hanover Food Bank every Tuesday are grateful for the volunteers who staff this ministry:

Immediate Past Grand Knight Bill Adams, Dave Baker & sons, Rick & Sandy Balducci, Mike Bonelli, Mark Borysewicz, Norm & Betty Carter, Art Chavez, + Mark Condon, Dan Corso, Susan Darling, Pat Davis, Jeff Decker, Pat Duke, Allan Draper, Mark Evans, Gary Hall, Bill & Rosemary Gilhooly, Dee & Avery Jenkins, Ray & Chris Kirby, Greg Lee. PGK Dick Letter, Rick Long, Mike & Brianne Marchelletta & sons, Phil Martin, Joe Massino, PGK Kirk & Tommy McClure, Mike & Jill McCurry, Pat Quisenberry, Matt Santucci, Ed & Ellen Schmidt, Larry Seymour, Ryan Smith, PGK Tad Stillwell, Tom Taylor, PGK Jeff & Maureen Uerz, Donald Van Armen, PGK Dave & Debbie Ward, Greg & Dale Woodfin, and Dave & Terry Worland. This undertaking also received two much-needed shopping carts which were donated by the Home Depot in Mechanicsville thanks to Joe Massino.

We are also grateful for America's veterans who contributed to the freedom we enjoy, including KofC veterans:

**Joseph Brown**, E-7, CTRC, US Navy Reserves

**Norman Carter**, E-5, Communications, US Marine Corps

**Greg Chew**, Lt. Col., VA Air Nat'l Guard, Medical Service Corp., Commander, 192 Medical Group Det. 1

**Dan Corso**, 1st Lt., US Army Combat Engineers, Saigon & Cu Chi, Vietnam

**Tom Deaner**, US Marine Corps

**Jeff Decker**, BMCS, US Coast Guard, Operation Uphold Democracy

**Allen Draper**, Green Beret, US Army

**Frank Eckert**, US Navy, Damage Control E-5, Santa Domingo & Cypress Crises, 1965

**Dennis Fiore**, E-7, RPC, US Navy

**Peter Florey**, US Navy

**Norman Gallagher**, US Army Reserve

**Terry Gay**, BM3, US Coast Guard

**Karl Glotzl**, E-5, US Army National Guard

**Jack Hayek**, Lt. Col., US Army Transportation Corps, Pleiku & Quy Nhon, Vietnam

**Bob Jennings**, E-5, US Army, Korea

**Bob Kemmler**, US Army

**Dick Letter**, E-6, US Air Force, Tactical Fighter Wing, Vietnam era

**Phil Martin**, Captain, US Army Signal Corps, National Guard

**Walt Mason**, US Army

**Bob Nelson**, US Army, Vietnam era

**Stephen Phillips**, E-4, CTR, Communications Tech., US Navy

**Bob Seifert**, Brigadier General, Fighter Pilot, US Air Force, Iraq

**Tom Taylor**, Petty Officer 3rd Class PN3, US Navy, Vietnam era

**Rich White**, US Army Reserve

*continued on page 5*





**ADVENT /  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

*Sing through the season!*

**The Details:**

3:00 pm  
Sunday, December 10th  
Church of the Redeemer  
Reception to follow

◆

**Featuring:**  
Combined 35+ member Adult Choir  
Redeemer Ringers, our 3-octave  
Handbell Choir  
Children's/Youth Choir  
Instrumentalists  
Seasonal Sing-a-longs

## Advent/Christmas Concert

Redeemer's Music Ministry presents their annual Advent/Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 10th at 3:00 pm in the Worship Space. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted to help purchase a new sound system for Genesis Hall. We are thrilled to announce we have an anonymous donor who will match all donations received up to \$3,000! Join us as we sing through the Advent/Christmas season with the Children's/Youth Choir, Redeemer's Combined Adult Choir, the Redeemer Ringers, and Instrumentalists. You'll hear new tunes, old favorites, and of course, our seasonal sing-alongs. More information can be found at [www.facebook.com/RedeemerMusicMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerMusicMinistry).





*cont. from page 3*

And lastly, we thank those Redeemer parishioners and Knights who have previously contributed to our Food for Kids program—the inspiration of Jeff Uerz. This ministry nourishes students who depend on school programs while they are on vacation. The 2023 Christmas Food for Kids is now accepting donations made out to KofC Council 11042 (if a tax receipt is not needed) or MCMA (if a tax receipt is needed). Please write “Christmas Food for Kids” on the memo line and give the check to the parish office or PGK Jeff Uerz.

For information on the KofC, visit <https://redeemerknights.org>



(Below) **Ecumenical prayer service for peace:** Members of the faithful from Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville, and neighboring Messiah Lutheran Church gathered on Nov. 13 to pray for peace in our world. The prayer service was led by Father Jim Cowles, pastor of Church of the Redeemer, and Ryan Radtke, pastor of Messiah Lutheran. (Photo/Diane Atkins)

## Catholic Virginian Spotlight

The ecumenical prayer service held at Redeemer in collaboration with Messiah Lutheran on November 13 was recently featured in the Catholic Virginian! May we continue to pray for peace in our world. Thank you to Diane Atkins for the photo!



## Stellar Christmas Play

Join our youngest parishioners December 17 at 4 pm in Genesis Hall as they proudly present the nativity story told with a stellar twist!





## No Room Exhibit WTVR Segment

Parishioner Martha O'Keefe recently stopped by WTVR studios to talk about this month's No Room at the Inn Annual Exhibit. Now in its 16th year, the exhibit raises funds to provide housing both locally and in Haiti. Watch the full segment at <https://www.wtvr.com/on-air/virginia-this-morning/the-2023-no-room-at-the-inn-exhibit>. *Photo above courtesy of WTVR.*



## Craft Bazaar Success

This year the Craft Bazaar raised over \$18,000! Thank you to our many vendors, volunteers, and participants who contributed to this wonderful event. A special thank you to Dave and Terry Worland for their leadership during their final year heading up the bazaar!





CHURCH OF THE  
**REDEEMER**

Roman Catholic Church

## *Advent 2023*

Dec. 1 — No Room at the Inn Gala (Adults Only) | 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Dec. 2 & 3 — No Room at the Inn Nativity Exhibit & Children's Room  
Sat. 10:00 am – 8:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Dec. 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception (**Holy Day of Obligation**)  
12:00 Noon & 7:00 pm

Dec. 10 — Advent/Christmas Concert & Reception | 3:00 pm

Dec. 13 — Parish Reconciliation Service | 7:00 pm

Dec. 16 — Simbang Gabi Mass | 5:30 pm

Dec. 17 — Gaudete Sunday | Children's Christmas Play | 4:00 PM

Dec. 17 — Taize Prayer Service | 6:30 pm

Dec. 24 — 4th Sunday of Advent | 10:00 am\*

### **Christmas Liturgies**

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve | 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm\*

Dec. 25 — Christmas Day | 10:00 am

Dec. 31 — Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
5:30 pm vigil, 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Jan. 1 — Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God | 12 noon

\*This year the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day. Catholics are obligated to go to Mass for both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas, so only going to a Christmas Eve Mass will not satisfy that obligation.