



Dear Parish Family and Friends,

December 7, 2021

With the early Fall and Thanksgiving behind us, I hope you had a good Thanksgiving when you were able to share time with some family members and friends. I pray that you and yours are doing well and trust that the fall season has been flowing as smoothly for you as possible, especially considering how the time seems to be passing by more and more quickly.

We still seem to be a society in transition as we view the season and our efforts to move beyond the pandemic which has dominated for the past year and a half and we have been somewhat successful. In order to maintain our perspective, we can focus on the direction we want our future to be (heading) leading. One constant we can depend upon is our faith and maintaining our Catholic Christian values. Now that we have arrived at the season of Advent, we are given a new beginning of the new liturgical year; we are looking ahead toward Christmas.

Part of the beauty of Christmas well beyond the glitter and tinsel, is that it can serve as the opportunity to take time and assess how we have been doing in each segment of our lives, especially in the spiritual dimension. The Church welcomes us into this penitential season so that we have another chance to build or rebuild our relationship with Our Lord through the sacraments, drawing closer to Him and the heavenly reward that He wants to share with us in the next life, ultimately throughout eternity.

It always happens that though Our God's initiative, He is always waiting for us; He offers us His grace to choose to do good and build our relationship with Jesus. When Our Lord appeared at His first coming in Bethlehem, in a stable, Jesus intervened in human history and brought hope to mankind. His story was predicted through the prophets. This Jesus grew and fully experienced all that we do, except without any sin. Because of our God's infinite love for us, Jesus willingly came to us and suffered for that love of us so we could be restored in our relationship with God and follow His way. Ultimately the design for us was to be able to live with Him forever in Paradise.

As we draw closer to the Christmas season, we remember some of the traditions that may be well established in our families. Just like the values and practices of the faith that we cherish, we realize that this little Savior's birth in Bethlehem would prepare Him for a much greater role and that Jesus would be honored by Wise Men, Kings and others from far and honored by humble shepherds in their nearby fields as the Promised One who would bring about the change in humanity and its evolution.

Like some legacy passed down as parents can do with their family members we need to know the heritage of our faith. Value our Catholic heritage. Guard your faith in this world whose

environment is much like that of Our Lord's world two millennia ago. Treat your faith as the precious treasure that it is. It is a gift from God!

May you and your loved ones enjoy a Happy and Blessed Christmas, and many graces and blessings throughout the new year,

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The Schedule of Interpreted Masses for December- early March for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Diocese of Arlington and the Captioned Masses.

There will be additional announcements of the Caption Masses as they become available.

Date	Place	Time
Wed., Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale *Holy Day of Obligation	7:30 pm.
Sat., Dec. 11 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Dec. 12 3 rd Sun. of Advent	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
Sun., Dec. 12	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Sat., Dec. 18 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Dec. 19 4 th Sun. of Advent	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Fri., Dec. 24 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	4:00 pm.

Christmas Eve	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	4:00 pm.
Holy Day of	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	7:30 pm.
Obligation Or	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	11:30 pm. By request
Sat., Dec.25	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	8:00 am. By request
Christmas Day	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:00 am.
Sun., Dec. 26	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ridge	12:30 pm.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Sat., Jan. 1	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	11:00 am.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Not an Obligation, but a Holy Day	
Sun., Jan. 2	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ridge	12:30 pm. By request
Sat., Jan. 8 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Jan. 9	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Sun., Jan. 9 *Closed Captions	St. Mark's Parish, Vienna	11:00 am.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Sat., Jan. 15 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Jan. 16	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Sat., Jan. 22 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Jan. 23	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.

	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Sat., Jan. 29 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Jan. 30	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Sat., Feb. 5 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Feb. 6	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Sat., Feb. 12 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Feb 13	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
*Close Captions	St. Mark's Parish, Vienna	11:00 am.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Sat., Feb. 19 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Feb. 20	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 pm.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
Sat., Feb. 26 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.
Sun., Feb. 27	Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria	9:00 am.
	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	10:30 am.
	Christ the Redeemer Parish, Sterling	5:30 pm.
Wed., Mar. 2	Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale	7:30 pm.
Ash Wednesday	Day of Fast and Abstinence	
Sat., Mar. 5 *Vigil	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Lake Ridge	5:00 pm.

Sun., Mar. 6 *1st Sunday in Lent Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria 9:00 am.
Holy Spirit Parish, Annandale 10:30 am.