

## December Birthdays

Mackenzie Lecco (Dec. 1)  
 Kathleen Hamilton (Dec. 2)  
 Mia Garcia (Dec. 5)  
 Carolyn Conner (Dec. 5)  
 Will McCabe (Dec. 8)  
 Betty Jo Wolfum (Dec. 15)  
 Christine Hamilton (Dec. 16)  
 Chere Tew (Dec. 16)  
 Dory Garcia (Dec. 17)  
 Emely Sofia Alvarado Garcia (Dec. 18)  
 Mary Metzinger (Dec. 20)  
 Don Smith (Dec. 22)  
 Jackie Johnson (Dec. 31)

## December Anniversaries

Tom & Mary Metzinger (Dec. 29)

# Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



## December 8, 2024 The Second Sunday of Advent

### Today's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9  
 Psalm 126  
 Philippians 1:4-6,8-11  
 Luke 3:1-6

### Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church

2938 Oakleigh Avenue (PO Box 668)  
 Appomattox VA 24522-0668

Pastor: Father James Gallagher 434-352-0104  
 For emergencies: Fr. Jim's cell number: 434-238-7030  
 or Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church 434-846-5245  
[www.olpcatholicchurch.org](http://www.olpcatholicchurch.org)

### Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:30 AM; Tuesday 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM  
 Thursday 12:15 PM

Bulletin news and requests for mass cards: contact  
 Bonnie Toth at [bonnie3871@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie3871@gmail.com)

Please continue to pray for the sick of our Parish. To add someone to the prayer list, call Fr. Jim or email Bonnie Toth at: [bonnie3871@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie3871@gmail.com).

Dylan Anderson	Elizabeth Gillam	Chris Moyer	Amy Tracy
Robert Berry	Lorraine Brennen Gilliam	Ray Moyer	Charles Watson
Patricia Bonnewitz	Lynn Goss	Don Notestein	Danielle Weedon
Millie Budney	Kathleen Hamilton	Patsy Notestein	Laura Williams
Michael Burke	Jeanne Harper	Angel Ortiz	Louise Williams
Sandra Burke	Holly Hewitt	George Perry	Michael Williams
Julie Byron	Jeannine Iannaco	Gary Peters	Travis Williams
Toni Capute	Pablo Ignacio	Laurie Peters	Betty Jo Wolfram
Deacon John Carey	Patrick Ignacio	Frank Powell	
Riordan Cavoris	Meja Irvin	Nelson Sanchez	
Jim Croushorn	Leslie Jarrett	Princess Sanchez	
Justin Curtis	Marge Lent	John Seaquist	
Alessia Destefano	Paul Lent	Ray Servis	
Carol Donato	Carolyn Martin	Jane Sliwinski	
Islea Duncan	Kimberly Martin	Margaret Smith	
John Evans	Greg Moore	Chere Tew	
Jack Fisher	Kathleen Moore	Jim Tew	
Linda Gardner	Beverly Moyer	Fred Toth	

### The Financial Corner

Collection for December 1: \$1180.00  
 Attendees: 79

Have you considered E-giving? It's safe and convenient. You can sign up on our website: [www.olpcatholicchurch.org](http://www.olpcatholicchurch.org) or scan the QR Code to the right. You may sign up for recurring donations or make a one-time gift.

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## A PASTORAL MOMENT WITH FR. JIM

"I went through the desert on a horse with no name. It felt good to get out of the rain." The song by the pop group America from 1972 reminds us of a positive experience in the desert. If one watches the Nature Channel, we find out that there is lots of life behind the scenes. On the surface and on first impressions, the desert is extremely hot, lifeless and without water.

But great spiritual life takes place in the desert in many scripture passages. Moses encounters the Lord God in the burning bush and finds out that our God is the God of the living (Abraham, Jacob, Miriam...) The Jewish people journeyed in the desert for forty years. They found out who they were and developed an identity. The Lord God was their God and these were the Lord God's people. They received water from the rock which would be the precursor of Jesus being for us the water of life. The manna from the sky - Jesus - The Bread of Life. Jesus went into the desert where he was tempted. Jesus discerned his mission and the Father's will in the desert.

Some have come to be and have said, "Pray with me, Fr. Jim, my life is a desert." As painful as it might be, it becomes a time of fruitful discernment. Conversion and spiritual growth are happening.

Today we hear in Luke 3:1-6 that John the Baptist is in the desert. His ministry is thriving as he goes through the whole region of the Jordan. His baptism is offered freely. Even the folks not allowed in the temple are welcome - free as water. One only has to be sorry. No wonder the Pharisees and Scribes were angry. They had people jumping through all kinds of hoops. It was almost like they believed in a different God than John did.

John's diet was locusts and wild honey. Locusts are a sign of judgement - judgement for those who won't accept mercy for themselves and others. Judgement so that one would have to live with guilt and regret. They would be sick and tired of being sick and tired. Blessing to accept the path of wholeness and psychological health. A Jubilee celebration of hope, not with perfect people like ourselves.

Yes, it is not Lent. It is Advent, And it is counter intuitive to go into the desert. But give yourself a break. Find some quietness and reflect on your shortcomings. Imagine the Baptist pouring water upon you as you let go of regrets in preparation for next week, which is Gaudete Sunday and we can come to an oasis and rejoice.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Advent 2024:** Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Our theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." Each Sunday of Advent, a candle will be processed and placed on the table. The lector will give a brief explanation regarding each week's candle. Today's candle is the Light Prophecy.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Monday, December 9.** Mass at Our Lady of Peace will be offered at 7:00 pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

**Reconciliation: December 14:** Fr. Jim is offering a Reconciliation Prayer Service on Saturday, December 14. at 10:30 am.

**Fr. Jim's Travel Schedule:** Fr. Jim will be away December 26-28 to visit Cousin Mike in Chesapeake and January 6-10 in Rhode Island to visit his Dad.

**Pregnancy Support Center Angel Tree:** Thanks to all who have adopted angels. There are still angels on the tree and we hope that you will consider helping out with this wonderful ministry. Presents with angels attached are due back by December 15, please.

**Lay Ministers:** Please see Bob Burke if you can serve on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (or both).

### Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Schedule:

#### Christmas Eve:

Parish Social: 6 pm with **light refreshments** before mass. No need to cook! Please see the signup sheet in the commons. Volunteers are also needed to help set up and clean up. Please see Jodi with any questions

At 7:00 pm we gather in the worship area for our Annual Christmas Program. See Bonnie if you'd like to share a talent. The children will present the Christmas Play at 7:30. Mass will begin at 7:45 pm.

Christmas Morning Mass: 8:30 am