



Loaves & Fishes

DECEMBER

In the bleak midwinter

the left-hand column

☞ Our Silent Auction—plus bake shop—netted \$2,000. Another success; thanks to everyone who worked so hard to produce it.

☞ The Thrift Shop Christmas luncheon is back, another little milestone on the way to normalcy. Everyone who's volunteered is invited. This year we're having it in the parish hall right after the shop closes December 10. Bring a small, wrapped gift, about \$5.00 (from the Thrift Shop, of course).

☞ Grab your rake and get a free cardio workout helping clean up the campus, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

☞ There's a potluck supper with cookie exchange coming up on the 17th. Contact Cindy Kilcoyne (cynandjess@verizon.net), 240 577-3737)

☞ Our parish family lost several beloved members in 2022: Eleanor Young (who likely was a mainstay at St. Andrew's longer than anyone else in the congregation), Caroline Bradford, George Hill, Maggie Slingluff. And, just at the end of 2021, Sue Evans. All loved, all missed.

I am going home with thee,
Thou child of my love,
To the dear Son of blessings,
To the Father of Grace.

~from "Elegy," *Women Pray*

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give
Him, poor as I
am?
If I were a
shepherd, I would
bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise
Man, I would do
my part;
Yet what I can I
give Him: give my
heart.*



In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti, born in 1830 to Italian poet and political exile Gabriele Rossetti and Frances Polidori, was the youngest in a family of writers and artists. Even before learning to write, she was creating stories, dedicating her first to her mother.

She is remembered for numerous stories and poems, including two that became beloved Christmas hymns, "In the Bleak Midwinter," published in 1872, and "Love Came Down at Christmas," published in 1885.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



Photographs by Steve Carroll



Time for Fall Cleanup

All summer the Holy Mowers have kept our campus beautiful. Now the Righteous Rakers to take over.

It's time for that long-honored ritual of autumn: leaf-and-twig cleanup.

Join the party, 9:00 a.m. till noon December 3. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, tarps.

Who knows? Maybe someone will bring hot dogs and/or hot chocolate for afterward.

Questions—John McKendrew,
mckendrewjb@msm.com 301 481-2306.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

~~James 1:27

**December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
Verger-led pre-consecrated Eucharist**

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

8:00 a.m.

Verger: Don Schramm
Lector: Priscilla Bromley
Altar duty: Lynn Duff and Margaret Hallau

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Make
Lector: Joyce Austin

**December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist with The Rev. John Ball**

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 or Canticle 15
or Canticle 3
James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Ron Leonard
Altar duty: Susan Bennett and Susan Gill

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Dee McRae
Lector: Ginni Stein

**December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist with The Rev. John Ball**

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

8:00 a.m.

Lector: Dan Donnelly
Altar duty: Bob and Helen Rotzinger

10:30 a.m.

Verger: Mary Maker
Lector: Beth Wagner

**December 24 Christmas I
Holy Eucharist with The Rev. John Ball**

5:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

Verger:
Lector
Altar Guild: Mary Maker

December 28 Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31:15-17 Psalm 124
Revelation 21:1-7 Matthew 2:13-18

January 1 Holy Name

9:00 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols



Please Hold in Your Prayers

Steve Adrian, Bonnie Anderson, Jan Barnes, Robert Bennett, the Bradford family, Carol Brimm, Cameron, Judy Cavin, Judy and Victor Consoli, Lanette Cowles, McKenna Cox, Dan Donnelly, Billy Doughty, Phyllis Doughty, Ruby Dyson, the Fulz family, Brian Gardner, Susan Geary, Brad Gehrig, Gloria Gehrig, the Girard family, Maria Goris, Ronnie Guy, Mary Ellen Gwynn, Pete Himmelheber, Ryker Hurst, Greta, the Johnson family, the Johnston family, Patti Johnston, the Johnston Family, Salty Joyner, Judy LaMarque, the Larson family, Jack Lawrence, Dee McRae, Elinor Mattingly, the Mattingly family, Bernice Nunes, Kyle Patrick, Chase Phifer, Michael Porter, Lisa Powell, Father Michael Pumphrey, Davi Elizabeth Reznik, Bob and Helen Rotzinger, Diane Rudish, Alice Snyder, Vera Standing, Jonathan Tanner, Tegan, Isabella Tenczar, Sharleen Wagner, Walter and Deborah Walton, Angelica Wilkinson, Stuart A. Wood, Tom Zonarich, and all who serve in the military and their families.



Congratulations

22 Jon and Pam Baake
24 Tom & Jan Barnes

and Felicitations

2 Becky Edwards
4 Shannon Hargreaves
6 Beverly Ziner
9 Zachary R. Brigham
12 Win Everett
13 Mildred Rivers
14 Steve Carroll, Sarah Duff
18 Lisa Saunders
20 Beth Eaton, Kai Drury
21 Natalie Hetmanski
22 Joe Saunders
24 Mary Drury
25 Jessie Kilcoyne Beaver
27 Jean Torgerson
30 Nancy Edwards
31 Jeana Johnson

December

- 1 **Thursday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 2 **Friday**
6:30 p.m. AA
- 3 **Saturday**
9:00 a.m.—noon campus cleanup
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
- 4 **Sunday**
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 5 **Monday**
- 6 **Tuesday**
- 7 **Wednesday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 8 **Thursday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 9 **Friday**
6:30 p.m. AA
- 10 **Saturday**
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
1:00 p.m. Thrift Shop luncheon
- 11 **Sunday**
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 12 **Monday**
- 13 **Tuesday**
- 14 **Wednesday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
- 15 **Thursday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 16 **Friday**
6:30 p.m. AA
- 17 **Saturday**
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m Thrift Shop
5:00 p.m. —potluck supper/cookie exchange
- 18 **Sunday**
8:00 a.m. H.E. I
10:30 a.m. H.E. II
- 19 **Monday**
- 20 **Tuesday**
- 21 **Wednesday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop

- 22 **Thursday**
9:00 a.m.—noon Thrift Shop
7:00 p.m. AA
- 23 **Friday**
6:30 p.m. AA
- 24 **Saturday**
Shop closed
- 25 **Sunday** Christmas Day
- 26 **Monday**
- 27 **Tuesday**
- 28 **Wednesday**
Shop closed
- 29 **Thursday**
Shop closed
7:00 p.m. AA
- 30 **Friday**
- 31 **Saturday**
Shop closed
- January 1**
One Service
9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols



*Master of beauty, craftsman of the snowflake,
inimitable contriver,
endower of Earth so gorgeous & different from the boring
Moon,
thank you for such as it is my gift.*

*I have made up a morning prayer to you
containing with precision everything that most matters.
'According to Thy will' the thing begins.
It took me off & on two days. It does not aim at eloquence.*

*You have come to my rescue again & again
in my impassable, sometimes despairing years.
You have allowed my brilliant friends to destroy themselves
and I am still here, severely damaged, but functioning*

*Unknowable, as I am unknown to my guinea pigs:
How can I 'love' you?
I only as far as gratitude & awe
confidently & absolutely go.*

Looking for Someone?

Parish Administrator: Donna Triplett 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org
Senior Warden: Mary Maker
Junior Warden: John McKendrew
Secretary, Beth Wagner
Cindy Kilcoyne
Fundraising Steve Carroll
Robert Abell 7
Jessie Kilcoyne-Beaver
Bobbi Brown 3
Michael Dyson
Linda Himmelheber
Treasurer: Chuck Stein
Andy Walls
Minister of Music, Amy Foster
Newsletter, Dee McRae
Director of Sanford Concert Program: Lyn Schramm
To give flowers for the altar 301 862-2247 parishadmin@standrewsleonardtown.org
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 301 862-2247 <http://standrewsleonardtown.org/>
The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde 202 537-6550
The Diocese of Washington 202 537-6555 <http://www.edow.org/>



Food for Thought

The Rev. Richard Rohr is a Franciscan friar, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His teachings emphasize "the paramount centrality of relationship with God, and neighbor." Rather than be bound by dogma and exclusivity, he says, we must "fall in love with the divine presence, under whatever name." Rohr sees his work as prophetic, calling attention to the need for change in a "church that he sees as failing to transform people, and thus increasingly irrelevant." You can find his daily meditations and join the mailing list at cac.org.

It is strange that it took us almost all of our two-thousand-year history to get back to the "ecumenical" attitude Jesus had at the very beginning! He goes out of his way to make non-Jews the heroes of many of his stories and teachings. He is quick to point out the failures and fallacies of his own religion, Judaism, while still remaining faithful to it. Jesus held a very critical stance toward his own religion, but for some reason few of us think we can do the same.

On the other hand, sadly, many people think that if they no longer believe in the absolute primacy of their own religion, then it has no absolute call on them and they often give up on it entirely. But I am convinced that the biblical tradition is saying that the only absolute available to us is the faithful love of God, and not any concept or structure—even our religious traditions themselves. God's love itself is the center and the still point of the turning world. But if we have never actually experienced this love, we will most assuredly look for absolutes in other ways.

What is unique about Jesus is his inclusivity itself! He is so grounded in the absoluteness of the Divine relationship that he is quite free to relativize the Law, simplify the Prophets, and find God outside of his own tradition. He is constantly and consistently inclusive—without denying his Jewish foundation and faith. I believe we can only be inclusive when we have a deeply held and shared experience that we can include people "into." We have to have a "home" to bring people home to.