

# Good News

Volume XLIV Number 4

November 2020

804-746-4911

## Message from Father Jim

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Welcome to Church of the Redeemer's *Special Edition* of Good News. We happily share hope-filled stories and reflections from your parish staff and Redeemer ministries. It has truly been a wild six months we have just experienced. First the Covid-19 outbreak wreaked havoc worldwide.

People have been separated from their friends, schools have been moved online, our churches have had to re-imagine how we will gather to offer our thanksgiving and praise.

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Then our country erupted with protests over shootings, some protests peaceful and necessary, others turned to rioting, violent and destructive. Our lives have been turned upside down and we wonder when all this chaos will leave us. Many are scared, discouraged, lonely, and angry. We must face these days of fear and testing – not passively accept or resign to them. These can and should be days of renewed worship, rededicated service, care, friendship, and love.

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Followers of Christ are people of hope. And our hope is not in vain. Here in the midst of chaos, make no mistake, God is at work. God's plans will not be thwarted and God's people will not be overcome. In many ways the world has been caught by surprise, but God most certainly has not.

**Script Card Order/ Family Order Form** 7-8

My personal offering to this edition is an excerpt from a poem written by Brother Richard Hendrick, a priest-friar of the Capuchin Franciscan order in Ireland. The poem is: *LOCKDOWN*. Here are a few lines from this beautiful reflection on the experience of Covid-19:

**RCIA** 9

*They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing  
to each other across the empty squares.  
All over the world, people are slowing down and  
reflecting and waking up to a new reality....  
to how little control we really have, to what really matters.*

**Advent Family Activity** 10-11

*Yes, there is fear, but there does not have to be hate.  
Yes, there is isolation, but there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes, there is sickness, but there does not have to be disease of the soul.  
Yes, there is even death, but there can always be a rebirth of love.*

*Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.  
The birds are singing again, the sky is clearing... and we are always  
encompassed by love.*

*Open the windows of your soul, and though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square, Sing!*

# Welcome



Have you had occasion lately to call into the church office? If so, surely you must have recognized that the sweet voice on the other end of the line was a new one, one that belongs to our new secretary, Laurie Richman. Laurie has been on the job since mid-September and is, of course, still learning the ropes.

The Richman family – Laurie, husband Josh, daughter Sarah and sons Thomas and Andrew – have been members of Redeemer for about twelve years. They regularly attend the 5:30 liturgy, as do Laurie's parents (Linda and Tom Taylor). Laurie has a sister, Debbie DuBrueler, who also visits occasionally.

As often happens in families, twins seem to run in Laurie's. She and husband Josh have fraternal twins, Sarah and Thomas, who are juniors at Mechanicsville High School. Her sister Debbie has identical twin boys who are sophomores at Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, and another family member had three sets of twins. (What "fun" that must have been!) Laurie and Josh have another son, Andrew, who is in the seventh grade at Bell Creek Middle School. She also has an older sister who lives in Roswell, Georgia. Two indoor cats – Bentley and Mabry – complete their family and add much entertainment, excitement and love to it.

Laurie was born in St. Louis, Missouri; her family moved to Winchester when her dad was transferred there by General Electric when she was six years old. She attended Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. She is a cradle Catholic, born and raised in the Church. Josh was raised in the Methodist Church but became a Catholic at the Easter Vigil in 2004. He is a Branch Manager for Chapel Valley Landscape Company.

Laurie and Josh spend much of their time attending their children's sporting events – and getting them back and forth. Thomas is the kicker for the varsity football team and plays on the varsity soccer team. Sarah is on the varsity tennis team and Andrew plays for Richmond United Soccer Club. Josh is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knight, but not as active as when the children were younger because he and Laurie are always having to divide and conquer to get their kids to all their games and activities. In her spare time (What working mother of three has any spare time?) Laurie likes to read, shop and watch Hallmark Christmas movies. All of the Richman's love spending time with family and especially enjoy Sunday dinners at Laurie's parents when time allows.

Most of Laurie's previous job experience has been as a pre-kindergarten teacher. Prior to joining the staff at Redeemer, she was with Shady Grove United Methodist Church in their pre-school. It's easy to understand why she was ready for something new and different. Secretarial work has always held an interest for her, so the time was right for a change. As she put it, "What better way than to serve at her own church."

Laurie is still learning all the ramifications of her new position, but it is so nice to see her sitting in the secretary's chair . . . and we hope she'll be there for a long, long while. If you happen to be at church or at 5:30 liturgy, say "Hi!" and make yourself known. WELCOME, LAURIE, WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

By : Mary Atkinson



## Yes Redeemer there will be a 13<sup>th</sup> annual **No Room at the Inn!**

Please join us for our 13th annual No Room at the Inn Nativity Exhibit and Fundraiser and our first **VIRTUAL** Preview Gala and Nativity Exhibit. Help us continue our mission of celebrating the true joy and hope of Christmas and supporting our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

In this year of fear, anxiety, and struggle we need the hope and joy of Christmas in extra measure. Our 13<sup>th</sup> annual No Room at the Inn will be a virtual event beginning with a live online Preview Gala on **Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020** from 7-8 pm featuring music, beneficiaries' stories, a jewelry raffle, and auction fun. The virtual Nativity Exhibit and Children's Play will be available online through Christmas. Funds raised will be shared with My Path Forward (formerly The Possibilities Project) providing shelter and support to teens aging out of foster care, Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions emergency housing assistance program, and AFAL in Haiti building modest homes for their neediest families.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Preview Gala. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, & coworkers from around the country to join us in easing the suffering of homelessness. Visit us online at <https://www.churchredeemer.org/no-room> for details. Like and share our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/No-Room-At-The-Inn-Mechanicsville-VA-419132368145343/>

Make a donation to Friends of No Room at the Inn to help us win a \$5,000 matching grant challenge at <https://churchredeemer.weshareonline.org/>

### Hope is Blooming at the AFAL School in Haiti

For over 24 years our Redeemer community has supported the women of AFAL as they work to improve their lives and the lives of their families and their community. The AFAL members have completed many projects but their main focus has always been the education of their children.

The AFAL School has grown to a two story cinderblock building housing classrooms for preschool to sixth grade children. Enrollment has grown to over 500 children. Until recently the AFAL School used traditional Haitian educational practices. Thousands of children have learned reading and math skills at the AFAL School demonstrating strong pass rates on the Haitian national exams.

With encouragement and support from Redeemer's Haiti Ministry the AFAL teachers are now implementing new teaching strategies based on the Matenwa Learning Center initiative. Matenwa is a Haitian led model school to improve teachers' skills and student outcomes. Teaching is student centered and focuses on building community, including families, using hands on learning, and forming good citizens. Many AFAL teachers and the AFAL principal have already been trained at Matenwa with remaining teachers eager to begin the training.

Haitian children are the **HOPE** for change and progress in Haiti. Education for the children is key to this transformation. The Matenwa learning model will help our AFAL students not only with reading and math skills but in becoming leaders in the future. Thank you to all at Redeemer for your prayers





Redeemer's Music Ministry has gone virtual!

With Covid restrictions in place for singers and musicians, Redeemer's Music Ministry has moved online to Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RedeemerMusicMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerMusicMinistry)

Check out a different musical offering from our choir members and instrumentalists through the end of the year every Tuesday for our special Tune in Tuesdays series.

Wednesday-Saturday you can dive into the upcoming weekend's readings and hear a companion song to help you connect with the reading each day.

Every Sunday enjoy some light musical humor as we celebrate Sunday Funday each week. We are thrilled to announce our next Virtual Choir Video will premiere at the No Room at the Inn Virtual Gala in December and mid-December we will present our Advent/Christmas Concert as a 3 video virtual concert series.

More information and lots of prayerful music to follow! Thank you for your support!



### **Finding Hope in Faith and Racial Equity**

As Catholics, our faith stands fundamentally opposed to racism in all of its forms. In 1 Corinthians 12:26 we hear "If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering" What would it mean to share in the suffering of our brothers and sisters of color? What does it mean to work for racial healing in the face of America's racial divide? What can the leadership of our Catholic church offer in navigating us through these difficult issues?

A group of 12 here at Redeemer have been meeting weekly to ask these and other questions as they stretch their faith and "do the work" of bringing about racial healing in our community. These 12 parishioners are gathering via zoom to have difficult and meaningful conversations around the history of racism in our country, how to be antiracist, and how to always bring our faith into this work.

Racial healing is a commitment at the heart of the gospel. If we say we belong to Christ, we must believe that mission of reconciliation is ours too. As Catholics, we believe that all are made in the image of God...and so, we must work together to exclaim the truth that it takes every tribe, tongue, and nation to reflect the image of God in his fullness. We work together to bring about the Kingdom here on Earth.

Redeemer's small and brave group of 12 are lifting up God's ideals and learning a lot about how to move from good intentions to genuine heart transformation and meaningful action. This group is doing the work to end racism. In doing this work, they are filling our Redeemer community with hope for a future where we truly see the image of God in one another.

Would you like to join a Faith and Racial Equity Group? Contact Diane in the office for details.

## Father McGivney Beatification



On October 31, 2020, Knights of Columbus founder Father McGivney (1852-1890), a hero of working-class Catholics and son of Irish immigrants, will be beatified during a special Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in the Archdiocese of New Haven, Connecticut. He originally started the Knights as a service organization to help widows and orphans.

Focused on Catholic men remaining steadfast in faith while providing for their families, the fraternal order that he created has grown and is now the largest lay Catholic organization in the world with two-million members engaged in a wide range of educational, charitable and religious activities.

"Father McGivney has inspired generations of Catholic men to roll up their sleeves and put their faith into action," Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said. "He was decades ahead of his time in giving the laity an important role within the church. Today, his spirit continues to shape the extraordinary charitable work of Knights as they continue to serve those on the margins of society as he served widows and orphans in the 1880s."

After the announcement that the priest would be beatified, Anderson told Catholic News Service in an interview: "We've been praying for years for this to occur, and finally this day has arrived."



## The HOPE Word Search Puzzle

ANTICIPATION  
ARRIVAL  
AWAITING  
BELIEF  
BERKHAMSTED  
CAROLS  
CELEBRATION  
CHRISTMAS  
CONFIDENT  
DESIRE  
ENDURANCE  
EXCITED  
EXPECTATION  
FAITH  
FORESEE  
GIFTS  
HEMEL  
HOPE  
PRESENTS  
PROMISE  
SNOW  
SURPRISE  
TRING

B Z T I P R E S E N T S Y J B G Y B B E  
O Y F N H W Z M E J H G O T N X D S C Y  
D L M D E Q G U B D N K N H M T B U E G  
U G R H D D R Q F L O A O P O W G R W C  
D C S R D E I U P B I C I A G M V R Q D  
H X Y S E N T F A I T H T F O R E S E E  
L P M O T N O I N C A N A F Y E M H B N  
P G C E S R Q I C O T I R R D R S J Y U  
A R Y N M U G W T X C E B E L I E F X V  
T R O L A V I R R A E E E R B C G V D S  
V W M J H O P E W N P S L J G U N W Q T  
A M D H K E U B D N X I E Z N B I C D L  
L J E Q R Z M U M Q E R C A I G T T U B  
E Q S E E Y R E Q W M P A I R P I Y N L  
K G I M B A M Y L J I R R Y T S A I J H  
Q I R D N M M E V O G U O O X N W R X P  
O F E C H R I S T M A S L Y M H A Z K S  
K T E C F C X C S V I L S W E I V I X G  
G S X X L L U Z K U T Y C M T B S U V H  
L E M D G Q W U S T I U F K H W S E H F



*Thanksgiving*  
**PRAYER SERVICE**

PRAY WITH YOUR REDEEMER FAMILY  
WEDNESDAY, 11/25 AT 1:00  
IN-PERSON OR LIVE-STREAM



**Christmas Mass Schedule:** Our Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass will be as follows:

**Thursday, December 24th: 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the Worship Space** and we are still working on the details, but one or more will be livestreamed.

**Friday, December 25th: 10 a.m. in the Worship Space and livestreamed.**

Church of the Redeemer

# Script Cards

December 14, 2020

Last day to place your order to receive your cards in time for Christmas!

Please remember our youth receives a percentage of each gift card purchased.

There are hundreds of retailers to choose from. You can also order online at:

[www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com)  
using the Redeemer enrollment code:  
**D96F4DE67446**

## Christmas Gift Card Orders

### Greetings, Redeemer Families!

Due to COVID-19 concerns, **SCRIP** Christmas Gift Card Orders and distribution will be handled differently this year. **Order Forms** cannot be distributed after Masses, however, they can be accessed on our website at:

[www.churchredeemer.org/Script-Cards](http://www.churchredeemer.org/Script-Cards)

If you are unable to access the **Order Form** you can come to the office or contact Laurie Richman, our Parish Secretary at (804) 746-4911 or e-mail her at [Lrichman@churchredeemer.org](mailto:Lrichman@churchredeemer.org) to get the form.

**Order Forms** can be dropped in the mail slot in the Office Door or come by during regular office hours from **8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.**

The **Order Form** must be completed with order/contact information, and the payment attached.

Checks should be made payable to **Church of the Redeemer**. We only accept cash if the **Order Form** is brought to the office and given directly to staff.

Gift Cards will be available for pick-up in the Church Office during regular hours following the schedule below:

Gift Card Orders in by	Gift Cards will be available on:
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	November 19 <sup>th</sup>
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	November 30 <sup>th</sup>
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	December 10 <sup>th</sup>
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	December 17 <sup>th</sup>

**Thank you for your support!**

Family Order Form

Created: 11/21/2019 1:45:12 PM

Church of the Redeemer/Mechanicsville, VA

Thank you for supporting our Youth Ministry!

Name	Check / Cash
	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
A.C. Moore \$25.00	5%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$	Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Amazon.com \$10.00	2.25%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	Halmark \$25.00	4%		\$	Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	Home Depot \$100.00	4%		\$	Ruby Tuesday \$25.00	8%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$	Sally Beauty \$25.00	12%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$	Sheetz \$25.00	3%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$	Shell \$25.00	1.5%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$5.00	8%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$	Shell \$50.00	1.5%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	iTunes \$15.00	5%		\$	Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	iTunes \$25.00	5%		\$	Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$	Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
Red Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Little Caesars Pizza \$20.00	8%		\$	Subway Restaurants \$10.00	8%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$	T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$	Taco Bell \$10.00	8%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$	Taco Bell \$5.00	6%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	Maggiano's Little Italy \$25.00	11%		\$	Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$	Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Burlington \$25.00	8%		\$	Noodles & Company \$10.00	8%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Carabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	8%		\$	O'Charley's \$25.00	13%		\$	TGI Fridays \$25.00	8%		\$
City's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	Office Depot / Office Max \$25.00	6%		\$	ULTA \$25.00	4%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$	Uno Pizzeria & Grill \$25.00	12%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$	Visa Five Back Gift Card \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	Wegmans \$25.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$50.00	8%		\$	Wawa \$100.00	1%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	8%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$	Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Dave & Buster's \$25.00	13%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	9%		\$				
Dillard's \$25.00	9%		\$	Peebles \$25.00	8%		\$				
Discover Universal Gift Card \$50.00	1.25%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$				
Dominos \$10.00	8%		\$	Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$				
Dominos \$25.00	8%		\$	Red Lobster \$10.00	8%		\$				
				Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$				

Make Checks Payable To: Church of the Redeemer

Total Due All Columns: \$

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?

Are you unbaptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life?

Are you baptized Catholic or baptized into another religion but never received any formal religious education?

Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass but just don't know what the next step is to become one of the Catholic faithful?

Are you yearning for something more in your life?

Maybe you have been looking for enrichment in your life in all the wrong places.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)  
is the place for you.

Every year adults are welcomed into the Catholic  
Community through RCIA.

It is a learning and loving process in which  
conversion of the heart brings you to Jesus Christ  
who is our Lord and Savior

Contact Deacon Ron for details

**LIGHT UP THE CHRISTMAS SKY!**

Each of the Advent activities below is a way you can bring light to the world around you. Each day, complete an action from the calendar (even if it's on a different date) or another kind of loving deed, and color in one of the stars on the opposite page. These are also ways we show honor, respect, and gratitude to Christ, our King, so don't forget to add a jewel to your family's crown.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p><b>First Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>I will do my work well today and with joy for God.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>I will be kind in a special way to someone I do not like much.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.</p>	<p>3 <i>St. Francis Xavier</i></p> <p>I will secretly do a kind act for someone.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.</p>
<p>6 <i>St. Nicholas</i></p> <p><b>Second Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>I will donate like-new toys and books I've outgrown to needy families.</p>	<p>7 <i>St. Ambrose</i></p> <p>I will work hard today and do my best.</p>	<p>8 <i>Immaculate Conception of Mary</i></p> <p>I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>I will do some work for my parents to help them rest after a day of work.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>I will be satisfied with the things I have instead of asking my family for more.</p>	<p>12 <i>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i></p> <p>I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart.</p>
<p>13 <i>St. Lucy</i></p> <p><b>Third Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.</p>	<p>14 <i>St. John of the Cross</i></p> <p>I will try to be more thoughtful of others.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>I will try to be patient today.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>I will speak kindly to all I meet today.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>I will not complain today, even if I must do things I do not want to do.</p>
<p>20</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>I will thank God for all he gives to me.</p>	<p>21 <i>St. Peter Canisius</i></p> <p>I will give a smile to all I meet today.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>I will be grateful and thank God today for all the food I have.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>I will do a kind act for each member of my family.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>I welcome Jesus with great love and offer him all the good acts I have performed and the prayers I have said during Advent.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT <b>2020</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.</i></p>	<p><b>LOYOLA PRESS.</b> A JESUIT MINISTRY Copyright ©LOYOLAPRESS.</p>
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Church of the Redeemer  
8275 Meadowbridge Rd  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Church of the Redeemer



Good News

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

#### REDEEMER'S REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

1. **canned beef stew**
2. **brown rice**
3. **toilet paper**
4. **unsalted mixed nuts**
5. **cereal**
6. **peanut butter**
7. **soups**
8. **toothpaste**
9. **pancake mix**
10. **oatmeal**
11. **juice**
12. **pasta**
13. **laundry detergent**
14. **applesauce**
15. **mac & cheese**
16. **shampoo**
17. **canned beans**
18. **spaghetti sauce**
19. **chocolate kisses**
20. **bar of soap**
21. **canned vegetable**
22. **jelly**
23. **box of cookies**
24. **crackers**

**Drop off in Church Commons  
on Christmas Eve/Day**

*all donations support our  
local food pantry*