



THE MISSION OF CHRIST CHURCH is to bring all persons to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through Word, Sacraments, and instruction, as taught through the Episcopal tradition, that all may know the joy and grace of faith, and to share that grace through outreach.

# *The Chronicler*

December 2017

Spotsylvania, VA

Nearly two thousand years ago, the men we call the Magi set out on their journey from the East. To say that theirs was a strange journey is an understatement. They did not know where they were going nor why. The terrain they traversed was alien to them. And they did not know what they would find at their journey's end. But they did have the star to guide them, the star which had not only caught their eye but had also fired their hope and expectation.

The Magi made that journey but once. We make it many times in the course of a lifetime. We call the journey *Advent*. Unlike those Magi, we know our journey's goal: Bethlehem's manger. And we know what we will find anew each time we make that journey. We find the Son of God, the savior of the world, who comes to us not in splendor and glory but in all the humility and weakness of a babe born of woman.

But each year that *Advent* journey seems to be attended by new difficulties and hardships. That star which once shone so brightly and clearly has become dimmed by a 21<sup>st</sup> century smog: The crass and calloused commercialization, ennui, and apathy which have crept into the lives of so many; and the uncertainty and doubt that there really is a God who cares for us enough to become one of us in Mary's child. Despite the dimming of that star, however, there are still landmarks by which we can pursue our yearly journey. These landmarks are fixed, unchanged, and abiding; yet ever new, refreshing and renewing. They are the landmarks we find in art and poetry, in Scripture and tradition, in reflection and prayer.

And so we pray as we journey: Father, you have already come near to us in the gift of Christ Jesus, your Son and our brother. Otherwise we would not be waiting, otherwise we would not be looking for the birth of love in our world. The light we await is already shining, the source of the pain of our longing, the small voice which will not let us rest content with what we are. Father, we turn our minds and hearts to you because we are waiting for your coming.

Fr. Ron

## DECEMBER 2017 LAY MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Lector	Chalice Bearer	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild	Nursery/Sunday School
<b><u>December 3</u></b>					
8:00 Dana Houck	Edd Houck		Marv Pixton	<b>Magin Team</b>	
10:30 Anne Williams	Werner Wieland Tim Watts	Aaron, Jack & Drew DiFilippo	Frank Stewart Gregory Hall		Lindsey Bates/ Erin Senters
<b><u>December 10</u></b>					
8:00 Joseph Ilk	Deacon Margaret		Jeri Phillips	<b>Wieland Team</b>	
10:30 Mary Williams	Kristi Gross Judi O'Neill	Alli Ayres-Brown; Stephen & Lilly Wallach	Hank Mausolf Tim Watts		Lindsey Bates/ McKenzie Goldberg
<b><u>December 17</u></b>					
8:00 Thom Smelter	Tricia Smelter		Joseph L. Ilk	<b>Williams Team</b>	
10:30 Roy Smith	Linda Rooney Stephanie Smith	Trevor & Andrew Mills Parker Hilderbrand	Ron Magin Bob Massey		Lindsey Bates/ Kristi DiFilippo
<b><u>December 17</u></b> <b><u>BLUE CHRISTMAS</u></b>					
Martha Clark	Mary Peterman Werner Wieland	Ethan & Brady Goldberg; Jenna Phillips	Frank Carosella Werner Wieland	<b>Wieland Team</b>	Nursery Closed
<b><u>December 24</u></b>					
10:30 AM Anne Williams	Tim Watts Steve Clifford	Colby Clifford Stephen Wallach TBA	Cecil Jarman Missie Jarman	<b>Magin Team</b>	Lindsey Bates/ Sunday School Pageant
10:30 PM Ann Woolford (Midnight Cantata)	Jeff Massey Mary Peterman	TBA	Joseph L. Ilk Frank Carosella		<b>Wieland Team</b>
<b><u>December 31</u></b>					
8:00 Calib Garland	Deacon Margaret		Robert Truslow	<b>Williams Team</b>	
10:30 Lessons & Carols (L. Rooney getting readers)	Stephanie Smith Penny Knepp	Rachel Stockli; Cade & Tate Mattive	Werner Wieland Frank Carosella		Lindsey Bates/ Jill Bates

You are responsible for finding your own replacement in the event that you cannot serve when scheduled. If serving as a Lector/Chalicer and are unable to find one, please contact Penny Knepp at [pnvpitstop@aol.com](mailto:pnvpitstop@aol.com) or 891-6299 and she will assist you. Notify parish office of replacement(s).