

**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 27, 2022**  
*in the 169<sup>h</sup> Year of the Parish*  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)  
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor  
[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

*Welcome to Saint Mark's!*

*This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**



**Our COVID-19 Guidelines:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

**Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.**

**Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.**

*A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**

*Celebration*

Charles Callahan

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of baptism*

P Blessed be the Lord ☩, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**C Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*The congregation may kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of new beginnings,

**C we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

*The pastor stands and speaks the following:*

P People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst,  
a tender branch,  
a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on † Christ,  
and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C Amen.

**\*HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending LBW, “Green”, 27**

**\*THE GREETING**

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



## \*KYRIE

1 Cantor All

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

3 Cantor All

Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy, \_\_\_\_\_

5 Cantor All

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

## \*LIGHT ONE CANDLE (*stanza one*)

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

- 1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

**THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 2:1-5**

1The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

3Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

5O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!  
The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 122**

1I was glad when they | said to me,  
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

**2Now our | feet are standing  
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

3Jerusalem is built | as a city  
that is at unity | with itself;

**4to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

5For there are the | thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the | house of David.

**6Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:  
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

7Peace be with- | in your walls  
and quietness with- | in your towers.

**8For the sake of my kindred | and companions,  
I pray for | your prosperity.**

9Because of the house of the | LORD our God,  
I will seek to | do you good.”

**THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 13:11-14**

11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**


## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

2



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

All



Glo-ry to you, O \_\_\_\_\_ Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] 36“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. 42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

6 All



Praise to you, O \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

## **THE SERMON**

**\*HYMN            Wake, Awake for Night is Flying            LBW, “Green”, 31**

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

**P    Living together in trust and hope, we affirm our faith:**

**C    We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**



**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, “Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer.”*

**\*THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

1 [Cantor] Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

2 [All] Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

3 [Cantor] Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

4 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

5 [All] Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

6 [Cantor] Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7 Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

8 [All] Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, Gracious Father:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Through Abraham you  
 promised to bless the nations.  
 Through the prophets you renewed your promise;  
 and, at this the end of all the ages, you sent your Son,  
 who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom  
 and was obedient to your will,  
 even to the giving of his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread  
and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death,  
until he comes.

**C Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

P Therefore gracious Father,  
with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
the spirit of our Lord and his resurrection,  
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory and receive  
our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and place, and unite them with  
the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### \*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**


**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen**


### \*LAMB OF GOD

Cantor



Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take away the sins\_\_\_ of the  
Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree  
Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high.  
De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,

2 1.2.3. All



world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.

3 4. All



world: Grant us\_\_\_ peace. Grant us\_\_\_ peace.

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

*Please do not kneel at the rail.*

**P** Rejoice! Come to the feast of Emmanuel.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** The body and blood of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven and earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we await the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**The King Shall Come**

**LBW, “Green”, 33**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rejoicing*

Charles Callahan

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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm, Hurricane and Earthquake Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Connie Shiabe, the victims of mass shootings.

### ***Sundays in Advent***

Our Sunday Holy Communion Setting throughout Advent is based on the hymn tune, *Veni Emmanuel* (“O Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel).

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING.**

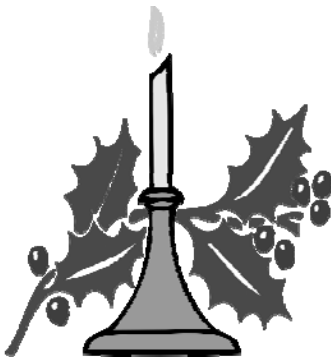
**The annual meeting will take place following 9:30 a.m. worship.**

**There is only one worship time next Sunday.**

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**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**

Today, Sunday, November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent. In order to prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming celebration of Christmas, we encourage you to please take both an Advent devotional booklet and Advent calendar to use at home for daily study. We pray these devotions may guide your heart and quiet your soul throughout this holy season.

**WORSHIP LEADERS (11/27/22)**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Lector</b>               | 8:00 a.m. Pastor Vasey<br>10:30 a.m. Ralph Zeigler   |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b> | 8:00 a.m. Becky Pryor / Drew Haussmann / Jackie Kinney<br>10:30 a.m. Dan Zeigler                 |
| <b>Organist</b>             | Sam Robinson   |
| <b>Ushers</b>               | 8:00 a.m. Richard Miller, Herb Poff<br>10:30 a.m. Matt Fortin-Captain, Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>          | November Connie Shaible and Sally Bjornstad  |



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
 +In Honor of our wedding anniversary on November 30<sup>th</sup>, by Mel Wentzel.  
 +In Loving memory of Shirley Miller by her children and grandchildren.

## OUR STEWARDSHIP (11/20/22)

Regular Offering	\$3,396.00
Plate Offering	41.00
Christmas and Advent	10.00
Thanksgiving	230.00
Miscellaneous	45.00
Food Pantry	34.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Christmas Flowers	152.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	150.00
Synod Benevolence	100.00
Danville Hospital	25.00
Selinsgrove Christmas Party	25.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,215.00</b>



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are once again giving congregation members an alternative to the traditional Advent calendars. And instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.

On November 27th or December 4th please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and on each day of Advent place a non-perishable food item, snack item or hygiene product in your bag. (\*Hygiene products are in high demand this season at Shepherd of the Streets, so if you are moved to donate, please consider giving soap, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrushes, etc.) Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to the person who receives them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or even January 1st! All items will be sorted and given to the United Churches Food Bank, Shepherd of the Streets and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. Thank you for your generosity!

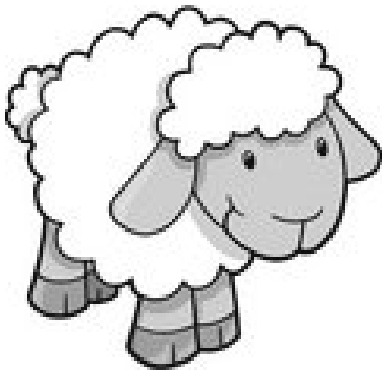




## **SAINT NICHOLAS VISITS ST. MARK'S**

Saint Nicholas, the Fourth Century Bishop of Myra, upon whom the legend of Santa Claus is based, will visit St. Mark's Lutheran Church in worship on **Sunday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m.** Bishop Nicholas will share his story and witness as to how he became associated with the birth of Jesus and the Christmas Season. The event will include a blessing of children and a small Christmas Gift for all in attendance.

All are welcome.



## **Little Lambs Christmas Program**

Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 15th and

Friday, 16th

All are welcome.



## **Gifting the Ladies of CM-6**

We are still unable, due to health concerns, to visit the Selinsgrove Center in person, but our gifts are greatly appreciated.

The Evangelism and Fellowship

Committee need your help with donations of cozy slipper socks, extra moisturizing body wash, and non-refrigerated pudding cups in a variety of flavors. We also gift the caregivers with treats. Monetary donations are always welcomed. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating the Selinsgrove Party.



## Giftng the Residents of the Danville State Hospital



As we have done for several years, The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be collecting general gifts for residents (consumers) of the Danville State Hospital. Those gifts



include the following items in sizes Large and XLarge for men and women.

Socks, Sweat Shirts, Sweat Pants, Underwear, Inexpensive Watches and Wallets, Men's Belts, T-Shirts, Batteries (AA & AAA), Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Slippers, Alarm Clocks, Puzzle Books, Hygiene Products, Fleece Throw Blankets and Decks of Cards.

Specific containers are available in the Narthex. Donations for both Selinsgrove and Danville are due December 11. Your help with these projects is greatly appreciated

### **HAPPENING THIS MONTH**

Sunday, December 4, The Second Sunday of Advent (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

One Worship time this Sunday and no Sunday Church School

*Saint Nicholas Visits us in Worship*

*Annual Meeting follows Worship*

Sunday, December 11, The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School (for all ages) 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 18, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School (for all ages) 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 24, The Nativity of Our Lord

"Children's and Family Holy Communion", 7 p.m.

"Traditional Candlelight Holy Communion", 10 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

Only one Worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- Thursday, December 29, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED, BUT EMERGENCY MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED. THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.**

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 am)

Only one Worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.**

## MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

On Wednesdays in Advent beginning, November 30 and concluding on December 21. Join us for worship in our Chapel from 12:15-12:45 p.m. as we explore the theme of "Advent Saints":

November 30, Andrew, Apostle

December 7, Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter

December 14, John of the Cross, Renewer of the Church

December 21, Katharina von Bora Luther, Renewer of the Church

All Are Welcome!

## ***NEXT MONTH:***

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

*Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School*

*Happy 2023!*

Sunday, January 8, Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

## COMMEMORATIONS



### **Andrew, Apostle**

*Wednesday, November 30, 2022*

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.



### **Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552**

*Saturday, December 3, 2022*

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).