



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26, Saint Stephen, first martyr

6:30 Marius Keri
9:00 Rev. Paul Scalia
7:30 Henry Liebman

Tuesday, December 27, Saint John, apostle and evangelist

6:30 Jorge Ochoa †
9:00 Mary Tisinger †

Wednesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents, martyrs

6:30 Dottie Rostkowski †
9:00 The Richard Delany Family Intentions

Thursday, December 29, Saint Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr

6:30 Adela A. Capistrano †
9:00 Ivy Allam †

Friday, December 30, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

6:30 Lilia A. Capistrano †
9:00 Swanson Family

Saturday, December 31 Saint Sylvester I, pope

8:15 Francisco Guevara †
5:00 William Moraca, Sr. †
12:00 People of the Parish

Sunday, January 1, Mary Mother of God

7:30 Anne Motta
9:00 Rosa and Avelino Esteves †
10:30 People of the Parish
12:00 The Gagliardo Family

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

December 2011

General Intention:

Peace among All Peoples. That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect.

Missionary Intention:

That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and that they may be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation.

IN PRINCIPIO...

Come and behold Him

The well-known and perhaps most popular Christmas hymn – *O Come All Ye Faithful* – commands us, *Come and behold Him*. This somewhat old-fashioned word *behold* carries a wealth of meaning. To *behold* something means more than just to see it or look at it. According to my desk (top) dictionary, *behold* comes from Old English words meaning *to hold thoroughly*. We get a sense of this from the derivative word *beholden*. To be beholden to someone means to be obligated, indebted to him. To behold means to take in something so thoroughly that we keep that object in our minds.

By the Incarnation, God has made Himself an object for our sight. *Come and behold Him*. We do not merely look at the Christ child. We *behold* Him. We take Him into our minds, our hearts, and our souls – and we have Him there as if He is beholden to us. This is something we have awaited and longed for since we began our journey to Christmas four weeks ago. At that time, the First Sunday of Advent, we cried out to the Lord, *let us see your face and we shall be saved* (Ps 80:4). We find salvation by simply gazing upon Him, by *beholding* Him in His humility, innocence, and peace.

But Bethlehem is just the beginning. We behold Christ as an infant in Bethlehem and fall in love with Him there so that we may follow Him throughout His life. We are to behold Him not just in the manger but also at the Jordan, when Saint John bids us, *Behold the Lamb of God!* (Jn 1:29, 36) This beholding makes us His disciples, as it did Andrew and John who followed Him at once after that command.

Then we are to heed this same command as it comes from the mouth of Pontius Pilate. (Proof that God uses even His enemies to accomplish His will.) After having the Christ scourged and crowned with thorns he brings Him forward, shows Him to the crowd and announces, *Behold, the man!... Behold, your king!* (Jn 19:5, 14). We behold Christ first in the manger, in His beauty and simplicity, precisely so that we can behold Him on Good Friday, in His passion and death. We cannot have one without the other.

Behold. What is our response to this command? Well, to gaze upon Him and to contemplate Him, yes. But the Blessed Virgin Mary, who stands in the place of all humanity at the Annunciation, sheds more light on the proper response. Her response to God's initiative is, *Behold, the handmaid of the Lord* (Lk 1:38). With that, she establishes how we should respond as well. Because as much as we desire to behold God – to find salvation in the seeing of His face – He also desires to see – to *behold* – us.

The Birth of Christ makes possible this loving gaze of man upon God and God upon man. He is born so that we may behold Him... and in so doing find salvation. Likewise, He desires to behold us, to look upon us with love and by that gaze of love to bring us the peace and joy we desire.

May you experience the joy of beholding the Christ Child and of knowing that He gazes upon you with love. *Merry Christmas!*

– Fr. Paul Scalia



Parish News

CHRISTMAS MASS FOR HOMEBOUND AND SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Join EWTN Global Catholic Network in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. EWTN will air live Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., as well as inspiring musical performances, animated features, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations the whole family will enjoy. Please check your local cable listing for times.

THANK YOU TO OUR SERVER CORPS A Blessed Christmas to the Server Corps & thank you from the priests, the parish family & the sacristan for your prayerful and dedicated service at the altar during this holy season of Christmas.

MARCH FOR LIFE The March for Life this year will be Monday, January 23, 2012. Save the date and tell your bosses now that you want the day off. We have buses already reserved. The sign-up sheets will go up soon.

FLU SEASON REMINDER As we have in the past during flu season we dispense with the "Sign of Peace during Mass. You may, of course, offer your loved ones and family members the "Sign of Peace".

SEW & SO FORTHS is our parish sewing group and we invite new members to join us on Mondays after Mass. We meet in the Dodi Reagan Room. Call Gladys Brennan at 703-821-2547 for more information. Come join us.

COFFEE & DONUTS No Coffee & Donuts this Sunday. Coffee and Donuts will resume next Sunday. Thanks to the members of the St. John's Mothers Group for hosting Coffee & Donuts last Sunday.

2012 ST. JOHN THE BELOVED CALENDERS are available in the vestibule of the church on the pamphlet rack. Please take one.

ST. JOHN'S YOUNG ADULTS The young adults group will meet for their monthly potluck rosary dinner at 6PM at Megan's house on January 7th. As always, friends and new faces are always welcome, just bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Megan at meganjm621@gmail.com if you are interested. We look forward to seeing you in 2012.

HEIRLOOM QUALITY CRÈCHE RAFFLE St. John's Women's Council are selling raffle tickets for a crèche designed by Italian artist, Gianni Benevenuti. The crèche consists of 12 figurines made of porcelain, hand painted and trimmed in 24-ct gold. Figures stand between 7 and 8" high. The crèche may be seen in the glass case in the vestibule of St. John Academy. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. This crèche is destined to become a treasured heirloom that will pass from one generation of your family to another. Drawing date is January 8th. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available for purchase in the Parish office.

St. John Youth Corner

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). The Youth Group wishes everyone a happy and blessed Christmas.

Thank you for supporting our homeless drive by donating your winter coats, blankets, socks, hats, gloves, and scarves to D.C.'s Central Mission. We have received a good amount.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

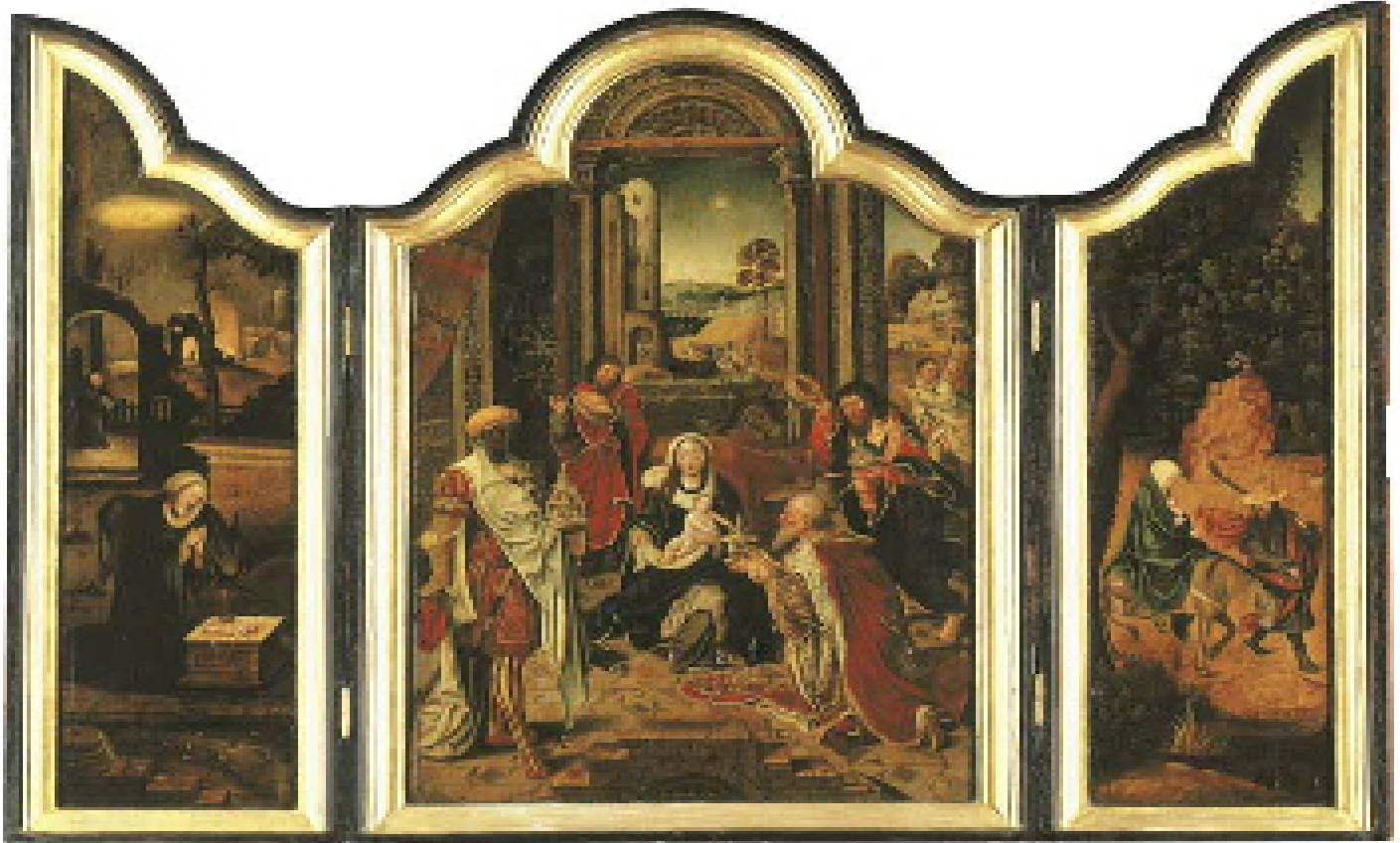
Thursday, January 5 @ 7:00 – 8:00 PM ---- Pizza and Bible Study

Sunday, January 8 @ 6:00 – 8:00 PM ---- Join us for our Christmas Party

Saturday, January 21 - All Day ---- Ski Liberty Trip

Wednesday, January 25 @ 7:00 – 8:00 PM ---- Pray and Play (Adoration and Sports).

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS: Because of you, this bulletin is furnished to our parish without charge. We hope that our sponsors renew their ads, and if others are interested in placing a new ad please call Diocesan Publications at 1-800-233-8200.



Christmas Blessings

To all parishioners and friends

We wish you a most Happy and Holy Christmas.

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.

Fr. Scalia, Fr. Thompson, and Fr. McAfee

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER 25	DECEMBER 26	DECEMBER 27	DECEMBER 28	DECEMBER 29	DECEMBER 30	DECEMBER 31
	Sew & So Forth 9:45 AM DR Rm Legion of Mary 7:30 PM DR Rm Low TLM 7:30 PM PARISH OFFICE CLOSED		ADORATION Confessions 6:45 -7:15 PM Novena Prayers & Rosary 7:00 PM Eucharistic Holy Hour 7:30 PM	Jr. Legion of Mary 3:30 PM DR Rm		

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



December 25, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This Christmas, once again we shall draw near to the Nativity scene in our parish church and in our home. With the shepherds and the three Kings, we kneel in prayerful adoration before the Infant Savior as His Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph look at Him with wondrous love.

The Infant Savior lying in the manger is often represented with His tiny arms held out to us, inviting our embrace of love. Whether or not the particular statue of the Infant Jesus upon Whom we gaze and before Whom we kneel has, in fact, His arms held out, His Heart within is beating with such love for each one of us, longing for our love in return.

In fact, as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, "God's sign is that he makes himself small for us.... He comes as a baby - defenseless and in need of our help.... He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love.... God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him and love him" (Pope Benedict XVI, Christmas Mass, 2006).

So, this Christmas, let us allow ourselves to be touched by the love that pours out from His Infant Heart! If we really open our heart in a free and willing "yes" in order to receive the love that comes from His Heart, then that Divine Love has the power to change us and lead us back to Him (conversion); the power to mold us more into living images of Him, imperfect, yes, but nonetheless real (transformation); and the power to impel us to bring His love within us to others so that they too, in turn, can know that God's love is real for them (witness).

I join you in adoration and prayer before the Infant Savior, Whose Heart is beating with such love and Who so desires to place His Love within our hearts so that we may be the heralds and the living instruments of His love to everyone.

Such will be my prayer for you and your loved ones in the Holy Masses which I shall offer on Christmas Day and throughout the Christmas season. A blessed Christmas to each one of you!

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ, I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Loverde".

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington



**News from
"The Word"
St. John Parish Book & Gift Shop**

The WORD is closed today so that we may celebrate the Birth of Our Savior with our families. We will re-open for business on Wednesday, January 4th.

The WORD is open on Wednesday evenings, Friday mornings, and Sundays after all the Masses.



In Our Diocese

GENOCIDE SURVIVOR PRESENTATION

Immaculée Ilibagiza, Rwandan genocide survivor, and author of the book, *Left to Tell*, will give a presentation on the power of faith and forgiveness on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 PM in the Bishop O'Connell High School auditorium. The public is invited to this event which is sponsored by the O'Connell PTO. Admission is free. Read more about the inspiring story of this remarkable young woman at www.bishopoconnell.org/lefttotell. For additional information, call [703-237-1400](tel:703-237-1400). Bishop O'Connell is located in Arlington at 6600 Little Falls Road.

SEMINARIAN HOOPS CHALLENGE On Saturday, January 7th, The Diocese of Arlington seminarians will take on the high school young men from Quo Vadis in this annual game. Spectators are welcome to cheer the teams on at 10:30 AM in the gym at Pope John Paul the Great High School. Check the website at www.arlingtonvocations.org for more information,



**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF**

EDITH COSTELLO



Remember In Prayer

Ann Black	Robert Hotung
Standon Broderick	Muriel Jennings
Ann Copeland	Mark Johnson
Edward Cotter	Rita Johnston
Christina Cramer	Joy Lupoletti
Richard De Corps	Katherine Malcolm
Evelyn Freed	Carmella Manetti
Marie Gillespe	Brodie McFadden
Gerlinda Goode	Nancy Miller
Francesca Greco	Diana Meisel
Fran Green	Veronica Nowakowski
Mary E. Green	Maureen O'Toole
Velma Harwood	Concepcion Reyna
Edward M. Hallinan III	Fred Sheridan
Louise Hanrahan	Sr Eby Talastas.
Emily Hazlett	



Thank you to all who pray for our military and civilian service personnel serving in harm's way. Pray for our loved ones servicing our country especially:

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| Michele Brewer | Brendan Murphy |
| Nicholas Fogle | Stanley Podlasek, III |
| Rob Gardenier | Peter Soballe |
| Harry Griffith | Kimberley Templer |
| Ryan Hoover | Michael Templer |
| Mark Kustra | Kurt Zaumseil |
| Bill Jones | |

Call 703-356-7916 if you would like your loved one included in this prayer column.