

Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God



8:00 Special Intention
10:00 Gene Purcell †
12:00 People of the Parish

Tuesday, Jan. 2, Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors

6:30 Special Intention
9:00 Richard J. Mulvaney †

Wednesday, Jan. 3, Weekday; Holy Name of Jesus

6:30 Shirley DeSanti †
9:00 Walter Degenhardt †

Thursday, Jan. 4, Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

6:30 Margaret & Albert Boos
9:00 Fr. Cosmas

Friday, Jan. 5, John Neumann, bishop

6:30 Cecile M. McCarthy †
9:00 Claude Carpenter †

Sat. Jan. 6, Weekday; Blessed Andre Bessette, religious

8:15 Joseph Hyland †
5:00 Doris Cubby †

Sunday, Jan. 7, Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 Joan Prince †
9:00 Amelia Fernandes †
10:30 People of the Parish
12:00 Glen Rucker †

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2006

Sunday Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 20-22, 24-28;
Ps 128; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
Monday Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98; Jn 1:35-42
Friday 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 72; Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

From the Pastor

Happy New Year! Thank you to all those parishioners who sent us cards and gifts. We are very thankful for them and also for you.

Thanks to all who made this a very wonderful and memorable Christmas for all of us here at St. John the Beloved, especially the altar boys, the ushers and lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, those who decorated the church, and the musicians, especially our organist and Master of Music, and our two choirs, the adult and children choristers.

Happy New Year!



“Christ gives himself to us and, in doing so, gives us his peace. He gives it to us so that we can carry the light of peace within and give it to others. He gives it to us so that we can become peacemakers and builders of peace in the world.”

*From Pope Benedict XVI's
2005 Christmas homily*



Please Pray For

Ronald Bashion	Gary & Cindy Hogan	Al Parsons
Sonja &	Laura Holleran	Joseph Riotto
Soraya Borghese	Maureen Hollingsworth	Lois Riscile
Esperanza Castillo	Muriel Jennings	Edelisa Samson
Juan Chirino	Mary Johnson	Margaret Serrao
Harry Clarke	Billee Jordan	Leah Shannon
Michael Clarke	Blanche Kane	Barbara Skylell
Carol Coad	Kathleen Keane	Mary Spann
Vincent Corcoran	Alice Koutsoumpas	Margaret Stimpfle
Edward Cotter	Katherine Malcolm	Kimberly Strocka
Estelle Danielson	John Malloy	Eileen Sweeney
Marie Davalos	Annette McGovern	Raymond Vagli
John Delaney	Ferenc Molnar	Siegfried Wolf
Lucille Dion	Matthew Morgan	
Denis Downey, Jr.	Marilyn Middleton	
Bryan Downie	Nancy Miller	
Pam Dunne	Monica Mizerek	
Pacita Gonzaga	June Nage	
Alex Hargenrader	Ernest Oddono	
Kathleen Harrington	Kennedy O'Donnell	
Charles Harrison	John Ozimina	

*Please let us know when you would like to be taken off the prayer list.
Rectory Staff*

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions December 2006

General: Wise Use of power: That Christ, meek and humble of heart, may inspire leaders of nations to use power wisely and responsibly.

Missionary: Missionaries: That in every part of the world missionaries may live out their vocation with joy and enthusiasm, faithfully following in Christ's footsteps.



Religious Education

No CCD classes Sun. Dec. 31, Mon. Jan.1, Tues. Jan. 2

In Our Parish

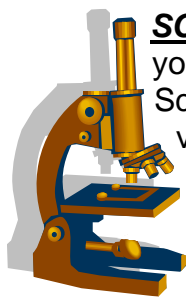


FIRST FRIDAY/FIRST SATURDAY (24-hour Adoration): after the 9:00 am Mass on Friday, until the 8:15 am Saturday Mass followed by First Saturday Devotions as requested by Our Lady of Fatima.

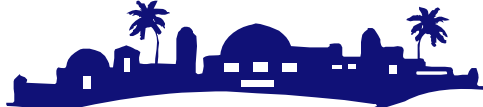
ADORERS ARE NEEDED EVERY FIRST FRIDAY and First Saturday of every month for Eucharistic Adoration. Contact Ann Thunder @703-442-0668 if you are able to spend an hour with our Lord. Please sign up for a specific hour on the Schedule of Adorers in the vestibule.



LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Join Fr. Gripshover for the next Liturgy of the Hours class on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007, at 9:30 am. Learn how to pray the official prayer of the church. The Divine Office books will be available at the class.



SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES NEEDED: If you have a working knowledge of the Scientific Method and are willing to volunteer 3 - 4 hours of your time for our 7th and 8th grade student's Science Fair, please call St. John Academy's office at 703.356.7554. The Science Fair will take place on January 17th, 2007. The time will be approximately from 8:00 am -12:00 noon. Thank you!

Did you not know

I had to be in My
FATHER'S HOUSE?



News from "The Word"

St. John Parish Book & Gift Shop
The WORD will be open on Wednesday evenings, Thursday mornings and Sundays after all the Masses.

The WORD is closed today due to New Year's Eve. We will reopen with our regular hours beginning Sunday, January 7.
Happy New Year to all!

THRIFT SHOP NEWS ~ Quality at Bargain Prices:
Tues. - Fri. 11:00 am- 2:00 pm & Sat. 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
THRIFT SHOP CLOSED DEC. 21 - JAN. 2.
Reopens Jan. 3rd.
Please do not leave donations as we are closed!



MCLEAN CURSILLO CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Please join us Saturday night, January 6th in the Parish Hall from 6:00 - 9:00 pm for the annual McLean Cursillo Christmas Party. Learn more about the Cursillo method of spiritual enrichment through piety, study, and action -- in addition to good food, Christmas music and fellowship. Please join us! Questions? Contact Mark Clemente 703-847-1575.



OVER 50 CLUB: On Monday, January 22, the seniors will welcome 2007 with "Gotta Dance". The group of tap dancing ladies is sure to entertain you. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 am. Lunch will follow at noon in the parish hall. A sign-up sheet can be found in the vestibule. Please leave a check for \$20 made out to St. John the Beloved with 'seniors' on the memo line in the parish office by Thursday, Jan. 18. For information call Nancy Ingrisano at 703-356-5538.

Holy Family



Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Altar Server Schedule

Daily Mass: January 2, 2007
9:00 am Myer, Stechschulte

Novena/Mass: January 3, 2007
7:30 pm Lunde, McCauley, Hoernig

Saturday: January 6, 2007
8:15 am Riordan, Berry, J. McCoy
5:00 pm Vigil **J. Katz, C. Katz, Matt Katz, Mike Katz**

Sunday Masses: January 7, 2007
7:30 am C. Earner, F. Mehigan, A. Mehigan
9:00 am Guillen, P. Pacious, B. Pacious, B. Evans
10:30 am Hurley, N. Knise, P. Knise, Coolidge
12:00 pm Payne, Breed, S. Kearns, Sms Kearns
Lunde, Oeler, Moran, Tata



St. John Youth Corner

Senior Youth Group Website- www.sjsyq.org
NEXT SENIOR YOUTH MEETING

~ SUNDAY, January 7, 2007

Sign up for the March-4-Life
8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Monday, January 22, 2007



May God bless you and your families in the New Year.



SAINT JOHN ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE: Saint John Academy will hold an Open House for Pre-school - 8th Grade on Tuesday, January 16, 2007

from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The Open House will include a presentation by the Headmaster at 9:30 am. Student council members will provide campus tours to Open House attendees. Please contact Tammy Di Benigno, Registrar, for additional information at (703) 356-7554.



NOVENA PRAYERS & ROSARY:
Beginning Wednesday, December 6 the Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers and the Rosary will begin at 7:10 p.m. The Eucharistic Holy Hour will follow immediately at 7:30 p.m. All parishioners are encouraged to adore our Lord in the Blessed

Sacrament and pray to the Blessed Mother for world peace and conversion of hearts.



ADORERS ARE NEEDED EVERY WEDNESDAY, and every First Friday and First Saturday of every month for Eucharistic Adoration. Contact Ann Thunder @703-442-0668 if you are able to spend an hour with our Lord or sign up for a specific hour on the **Schedule of Adorers Roster** in the vestibule of the church.



GIVING TREE: Please take ornaments off the Giving Tree in the vestibule for gift ideas to help benefit the outreach work of the Missionaries of Charity. Take an ornament, purchase the item and then return the item to the church vestibule by Feb. 2.

Your gift of shoes, coats, hats and mittens, bicycles, grocery gift certificates or housecleaning gift boxes will help someone in need. If you have questions call Sabatino at 704-504-8733.

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 31, 2006	January 1, 2007	2	3	4	5 First Friday	6 First Saturday
	Blessed Mary, Mother of God Mass: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:15 pm	<u>Legion of Mary</u> 7:30 pm DR Rm	<u>Confessions</u> 6:45 -7:15 pm <u>Novena Prayers & Rosary</u> 7:10 <u>Eucharistic Holy Hour</u> 7:30	<u>St. John Choir</u> 7:30 pm		<u>Jr. Legion of Mary</u> 10:00 am DR Rm

From St. John's Office of Evangelization . . .

DEFENDING THE FAITH

THE MOTHER OF GOD

Having celebrated the great feast of the Nativity of Christ, the Church draws our attention to the figure of Mary, Mother of God. In the midst of this festal season, a season which draws all Christians together to worship the Savior of the World, we are confronted with a sad division. The person of Mary, an image of humility, is today attacked by Fundamentalist Protestants on the basis of her most glorious title: Mother of God. Why?

In hopes of distancing themselves from historic Catholic teaching, many Protestants today go to great lengths to explain away what is not only historic and authentic Christian doctrine, but also a clear logical argument. Who is Mary? The question "Who is Mary?" is founded upon a further question: "Who is Jesus?" If Jesus is God (as all faithful Protestants believe), and Mary is the mother of Jesus (as all Protestants agree), then Mary is the mother of God. With such a simple logical argument, how can there be a problem? Clearly, the only way to avoid the conclusion that Mary is the mother of God is to draw a division between Jesus (the human) and the divine Son of God. A little historical background may help.

In the fifth century, on Christmas day, the bishop of Constantinople, a man by the name of Nestorius, climbed to the pulpit of one of the greatest Churches in all of Christendom and declared in his sermon before the crowd of faithful that Mary was only the mother of Christ, not the mother of God. Drawing a division between the second person of the Holy Trinity and the man, Christ, Nestorius said that Mary could not be the mother of God, since that would make Mary older than God. Thus Christ, to whom Mary gave birth, was simply a human person who was closely united to the person of the Word. In response to this claim, the bishops of the world convened an ecumenical council at Ephesus in the year 433, and condemned the heresy of Nestorius. In upholding the ancient title *Mother of God*, the bishops of the council at Ephesus explained that Christ Jesus is one divine person with two natures. Since a mother gives birth to a person and not simply a nature, Mary is truly the Mother of God, not as the origin of divinity, as Nestorius mistakenly concluded, but as the one through whom the eternal Word of God was born and from whom He received his human nature.

Thus, it is impossible to deny the divine maternity of Mary without also calling into question the divinity of Christ. Modern Protestants who deny that Mary is the Mother of God, while attempting to hold to a belief in the divinity of Christ find themselves in a very difficult position, to say the least. In hopes of freeing themselves from the perceived bondage of Roman Catholicism and Papal authority, Fundamentalists find themselves in a logical denial of the most fundamental teaching of all: the divinity of Jesus.

Let us therefore denounce the errors of those who attack the Most Blessed Virgin and Mother of God, and let us receive with joy, and take as our own the great proclamation of the Holy Council of Ephesus:

We confess, then, our Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, perfect God and perfect man, of a rational soul and a body, begotten before all ages from the Father in his Godhead, the same in the last days, for us and for our salvation, born of Mary the Virgin according to his humanity, one and the same consubstantial with the Father in Godhead and consubstantial with us in humanity, for a union of two natures took place. Therefore we confess one Christ, one Son, one Lord. According to this understanding of the unconfused union, we confess the holy Virgin to be the Mother of God because God the Word took flesh and became man and from his very conception united to himself the temple he took from her" (*Formula of Union* [A.D. 431]).

Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

Saint John's Institute of Catholic Culture...

Salvation History Bible Study

Learn how to read the Bible as one book.

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

Starting Jan. 9 through Feb. 20.

***"Ignorance of Scripture is
Ignorance of Christ!"***

- Saint Jerome -

*Q? - Call the Office of Evangelization
@ 703-504-8733*

From the Music Desk...

In Our Area



I would like to say **THANK YOU** to all who have helped to make our Christmas Masses so beautiful at Saint John's. Many of you might not realize what goes on behind the scenes. Do the flowers, beautiful trees, crèche, and decorations just fall down from the sky? Of course not. Does the music magically find its way into the voices of the singers and the fingers of the instrumentalists? Do the words just automatically flow from the priests as they preach? Do the altar boys wait for the spirit to lead them in their assistance at the altar? Of course not. Everything is choreographed, planned, and rehearsed... and not once, but over and over again. Ann Thunder is our sacristan, and coordinates all of our altar boys for all the Masses. Don Rasmussen, our building and grounds keeper, not only sees that our building stays in tip top shape, but also finds time to help with the building of extra platforms for our instrumentalists in the choir area. Teresa Marshall, our Saturday evening organist, and Carolyn Meeks, wife of cantor Jim, help me to organize the choir music each week, and add lots of extra time in preparation for the Christmas Masses. I would be drowning in paper if I did not have this help. Kathy Johnson, Joan Eklund and Kathryn Johnson see that the music programs are printed so nicely each week. Our Latin Choir rehearses fervently each Thursday as well as at home on their own in preparation for what they will bring to your hearts during Mass. Our cantors pay special and prayerful attention to the psalms and hymns they will be singing, and I frequently find our lectors rehearsing their assigned readings before Mass. Jon Laird, our associate organist, puts in hours at the organ in preparation for the many songs that are required, especially during busy liturgical seasons like Advent and Christmas.

So, as I look back at Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, I say thank you to those I have mentioned above and to ALL who made it work and who continue to make it work at Saint John. For sure, I could not do it without you!!

In Christ,

David Lang



SEMINAR, What Every Catholic Should Know About Islam, will be held at St. Louis Parish in Alexandria on Jan. 11, 2007. Father Francis deRosa invites all to attend this presentation featuring Catholic author Daniel Ali, a former Muslim and the founder of the Christian-Islamic Forum. This talk will offer insights into the Islamic religion and will illustrate why it is so important for Catholics to be aware of the growth and influence of Islam. Call the St. Louis rectory at 703-765-4421 for more information

THEOLOGY COURSES AT CHRISTENDOM COLLEGE NOTRE DAME GRADUATE SCHOOL: Spring semester starts January 15. We are conveniently located on the grounds of Queen of Apostles Parish in Alexandria close to the beltway. Study towards an MA in theological studies or just audit courses for personal enrichment. Low tuition & discounts for catechists and seniors. For more information call 703-658-4304.

STONE RIDGE TUESDAY TOUR Jan. 9, 2007 at 9:00 am for grades JK – Grade 12. Visit the campus, learn about curriculum, activities and the value of a Sacred Heart education. (Bethesda, MD. 301-657-4322 www.stoneridge.org)

ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL entrance exam for boys entering grades 6 – 12 in Fall 2007. Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 from 9:30 – 11:30 am. 202-269-2379 admissions@saintanselms.org

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS is an organization of over 230 Catholic adults in the N. Virginia area, ages 40 – 70+, who hold social, cultural, and religious activities throughout the year. If you would like more information, please call Loida Lefebvre at 703-660-9187.

MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY OF DIVINE MERCY need your help as volunteers at the House of Mercy clothing store in Manassas. They need volunteer workers to sort clothing and work in the store during business hours. Call 703-659-1636 to help out!

COFFEE TALK WITH DIVINE MERCY will be held Sat. Jan. 6 at St. Raymond's in Springfield. Speakers will talk about *Miracles of Divine Mercy*. Fr. Jack Fullen will hear confessions at 8:00 am, Mass follows at 9:00, followed by the discussion. divinemercynow@gmail.com

THEOLOGY ON TAP: You are invited to hear A Transformation of a *Soul through Divine Mercy*, a talk, on Monday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 pm at Pat Troy's Irish Pub in Old Town Alexandria. Info: 703-659-1636.