



Religious Education

CCD REGISTRATION FORMS: Have you sent in your completed registration forms? If not, please do so at your earliest convenience. Knowing how many teachers are needed, etc. greatly facilitates planning for the new school year.

THE ST. JOHN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE is still looking for enthusiastic, well-formed catechists to volunteer as teachers and aides for the 2007/2008 school year. If you enjoy working with children and are excited about passing on the faith, please contact Laura Pennefather at 703-356-5275. One or two **high school students** are needed as classroom aides in Kindergarten for the Sunday morning classes. Please call to volunteer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Sun. **Sept. 9**--CCD classes begin for Pre-K & K at 10:45 am
- Mon. **Sept. 10**--CCD Open House & classes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd at 4:30 - 5:50 pm
- Tues. **Sept. 18**--CCD Open House for parents of students in 1-8 Tuesday classes.
- Tues. **Sept. 25**--CCD begins for grades 1-8 at 7:00 pm

IN OUR PARISH



OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY & NO 6:30 AM MASS

FIRST FRIDAY: This Friday, **September 7th**, is First Friday. There will be Eucharistic Adoration following the 9:00 am Mass until midnight.



CELEBRATE THE BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY: On Saturday, September 8, after the 8:15 am Mass, the Legion of Mary will have a reception under the portico of the church in honor of the Blessed Mother's Birthday. There will be an opportunity after all Masses on September 8 & 9 for St. John families to sign up to host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue in their home.

CONTRIBUTIONS: To make contributing to St. John more convenient for our parishioners we can automatically debit your checking or savings account (EFT) from your own bank, or you may pay monthly with a credit card. You may come by the parish office to fill out forms to start this process. Thank you.



News from "The Word"

St. John Parish Book & Gift Shop
The WORD is open on Wednesday evenings 6:45-7:30 pm, and Sundays after the 9:00 & 10:30 am Masses

September 2: Closed today in celebration of Labor Day weekend. We will resume our regular school year hours next weekend.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS ~ Quality at Bargain Prices:

Tues. - Fri. 11:00 am- 2:00 pm & Sat. 10:00 am-1:00 pm
 We are preparing to re-open on Tuesday September 11. We will be taking donations of *clean and usable* clothing, and household items on Mondays from 9:30 A.M. until Noon. We are in need of volunteers, parents of St John Academy students, all others who have time available are also invited to spend a few hours, one day a month or more helping us carry on the spirit of our founders, some forty-eight years ago by contributing to our community with this charitable work. If you are interested in volunteering please call Marie at (703)790-0688, Marge at (703)356-1830 or leave a message at (703)356-7420. Thank you for your support.



Next Week's Second Collection is for Religious Education in our parish. Please be generous.

THIS WEEKEND... ANNUAL MIDDLE EASTERN

FOOD FESTIVAL at the Holy Transfiguration Melkite-Greek Catholic Church on Lewinsville Road in McLean. Come for delicious Middle Eastern Food, Dancing and Byzantine Church Tours.



NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT. 9th,

the Order of Alhambra, Porto Caravan #104 in Arlington will be serving coffee & donuts after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30am Masses in appreciation for St. John's past support for this organization which serves the needs of the intellectually disabled in our diocese, collecting money for educational and job-related programs. These include the mentor program at Paul VI, the keyboards for special kids program, and the Helen Keller technology program for college age kids. Also supported are Alhambra houses for job training and life skills throughout the state of Virginia. Members of Porto will be on hand to explain how St. John's donations have greatly increased the quality of life for children with special needs.

Altar Server Schedule



Labor Day: September 3, 2007

9:00 am Daily Lunde, Hoernig

Novena/Mass: Wednesday, September 5

7:30 pm Fisher, Mehigans

Saturday: September 8

8:15 am Baban, Berry, Duffey

5:00 pm **Vigil** Schaumburg, Girardi, Zehnder, Potocki

Sunday Masses: September 9

7:30 am Tidwells, James Eyer

9:00 am Payne, Buckley, Coolidge, O'Donnell

10:30 am Lorias Himpler Riordan

12:00 pm Crouch, Defensor, Manns, Mehigans, Mehan



TENNIS COACH NEEDED: St. John Academy is in need of a tennis coordinator and coaches for the 2007 season. If you are interested, please contact by email Craig Richardson at craigr@richardson-consulting.com or call him at 703-288-0290. Thank you!

SUZUKI VIOLIN PROGRAM: Available to all parish children ages 3 and up, the program is designed to be fun and engaging for the students, while at the same time providing them with high quality instruction. Registration is on a first come first serve basis beginning this month. Fill out an information request online at www.musickidsdc.com, or email them at answers@musickidsdc.com, or call 202-210-7377.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Join us for a fun, educational, 2-day workshop on singing and learning about Gregorian Chant that will leave you inspired, spiritually uplifted, and ready for the renewal of the great Roman Catholic musical tradition: November 9-10, 2007. The

parish office has a brochure for more information or go to www.church-music.org and click on EVENTS.



St. John Youth Corner

Senior Youth Group Website- www.sjsyg.org

NEXT SENIOR YOUTH MEETING

NEW SCHOOL YEAR KICK-OFF MEETING

September 9th at 7:00 pm

COME GET REACQUAINTED WITH YOUR OLD FRIENDS
AND MAKE NEW ONES!



SINGERS NEEDED FOR 10:30 MASS:




Volunteers who enjoy singing and can read music are needed for the SATB choir that is forming now. Please contact the music office if you are interested in auditioning for the choir. 703-356-3639 or email dlangee@yahoo.com.



OVER 50 CLUB:

It is time to call a friend, put on your "toe tapping shoes" and plan to enjoy an afternoon of "golden oldies" played by the "Lee Jammers". On **Monday, Sept. 17**, Mass is at 11:30am with lunch following at noon in the Parish Hall. A sign-up sheet is in the church vestibule. Please leave your \$20 check made payable to SJB with "Seniors" on the memo line, in the parish office by Sept. 13th. Info: Gladys Brennan 703-831-2547.

SENIORS: Sign up now for the trip to the Baltimore Basilica and the Walters Gallery on Thursday, October 11th. Bus leaves SJB at 9:15 am, & returns by 4:30. Guided tour of the Basilica following a \$25 million restoration. Lunch at the Brass Elephant in a restored 1850 building. Then visit the Walters Gallery featuring a special exhibit on French masterpieces. \$89 per person. A sign-up sheet can be found in the vestibule of the church. Please make checks payable to Excursionaire, with "Seniors" trip on the memo line, and leave in the parish office. Questions, call Ray Bergan, 703-288-0946.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 2, 2007	3	4	5	6	7 First Friday	8
CCD PreK - K 10:30 - 11:30 am 	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED  LABOR DAY ★★★★★★ CCD Gr. 1,2,3 4:30 - 5:30 pm Legion of Mary 7:30 pm DR Rm	CCD Gr. 1 - 8 7:00 - 8:00 pm Jr. Legion of Mary 3:30 pm DR Rm	ADORATION Confessions 6:45 - 7:15 pm Novena Prayers & Rosary 7:10 Eucharistic Holy Hour 7:30	St. John Choir 7:30 pm		

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

DEFENDING THE FAITH

Labor Day?

Josef Pieper, a great philosopher of the past century, in his book *Leisure the Basis of Culture*, explains the nature of true festivity. "To experience and live out a harmony with the world, in a manner quite different from that of everyday life – this . . . is the meaning of 'festival.' But no more intensive harmony with the world can be thought of than that of 'Praise of God,' the worship of the Creator of this world. . . The most festive festival that can be celebrated is religious worship, or 'cult,' and there is no festival that does not get its life from such worship or does not actually derive its origin from this. There is no worship 'without the gods,' whether it be *mardi gras* or a wedding. This is not intended to be a prescription; rather, it is necessarily so. The statement is made with certainty: a festival that does not get its life from worship, even though the connection in human consciousness be ever so small, is not to be found. To be sure, since the French Revolution, people have tried over and over to create artificial festivals without any connection with religious worship, or even against such worship, such as the "Brutus Festival" or "Labor Day," but they all demonstrate, through the forced and narrow character of their festivity, what religious worship provides to a festival; scarcely nothing could be experienced more clearly than that genuine festivity is only to be seen where there is still some living relationship with religious 'cult.' Clearer than the light of day is the difference between the living, rooted trees of genuine, cultic festival and our artificial festivals that resemble those 'maypoles,' cut at the roots, and carted here and there, to be planted for some definite purpose.

What holds true of festivals also holds true of leisure. Its ultimate, innermost possibility and justification comes from its rootedness in cultic festival. This is no conceptually abstract construct, but is simply evidence from the history of religion. What does 'rest from work' signify for the Bible or for ancient Greece and Rome? The meaning of a rest from labor is cultic: definite days and times were designated to the exclusive possession of the gods. Worship is to time as the temple is to space. . . Through religious festival, and for the sake of religious festival, or 'cult' from day to day time a definite period was separated off and this period of time . . . would not be used, and would likewise be kept from use. Every seventh day was such a time period. It was the 'festival-time' that came to be in precisely this way.

Now there can be no unused space in the total world of work . . . nor can there be a space for worship or festival: for this is the principle of rational utility, on which the world of the 'worker' exclusively depends. Within the world of total work, the 'festival' is either a 'break from work' and thus only there for the sake of work), or it is a more intensive celebration of the principles of work itself (as in the 'Labor Days,' and thus belongs, again, to the working world). There will naturally be 'games' – like the Roman *circenses* – but who could dignify the amusements for the masses with the name of 'festival?'

There is nothing, then to keep the world of the 'worker; from being a poor, sterile world, even though filled with material goods; thanks to the principle of utility, in virtue of which the "world of work" comes into being, there can be no real wealth, no overflow. Whenever something is left over, this excess will be subjected again to the principle of rational utility. 'Work does not make you rich; it only makes you bent over,' as the old Russian saying goes.

On the other hand, it is in the nature of religious festival to make a space for abundance and wealth even in the midst of external poverty in material things. This is because *sacrifice* is at the center of the festival. What is sacrifice? It is voluntary, a gift that is offered, and certainly not usefulness, but the very opposite of usefulness. Thus in the very midstream of worship, and only from there, comes a supply that cannot be consumed by the world of work, a space of uncountable giving, untouched by the ever-turning wheel of buying and selling, an overflow released from all purpose, and an authentic wealth: it is festival-time.

And it is only within such festival-time that the reality of leisure can unfold and be fully realized.

RCIA CLASS NOW FORMING: Interested in joining the Catholic Church? The 2008 class is now forming. For more information, please contact St. John's Office of Evangelization at 703-504-8733.



ADULT CONFIRMATION: Did you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation when you were younger? If not, did you know that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are a necessary part of the Christian life? If you would

like to be confirmed this coming Easter, please call the Office of Evangelization.

From the Music Desk...

Hello from the music office. Summer is coming to an end, and many exciting things are ahead as we look toward the fall. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the pipe organ over the past couple of months... its history, development, repertoire, construction, etc. Wouldn't you say that Mozart aptly coined the term: "The King of Instruments" given to the pipe organ?

I would now like to share with you two excerpts that have specific references to music from the recent Apostolic Exhortation: **SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS** given by our Holy Father, BENEDICT XVI to the BISHOPS, CLERGY, CONSECRATED PERSONS and the LAY FAITHFUL on the EUCHARIST as the SOURCE AND SUMMIT of the CHURCH'S LIFE AND MISSION on February 22, 2007.

Liturgical song: 42. In the *ars celebrandi*, liturgical song has a pre-eminent place. Saint Augustine rightly says in a famous sermon that "the new man sings a new song. Singing is an expression of joy and, if we consider the matter, an expression of love." The People of God assembled for the liturgy sings the praises of God. In the course of her two-thousand-year history, the Church has created, and still creates, music and songs which represent a rich patrimony of faith and love. This heritage must not be lost. Certainly as far as the liturgy is concerned, we cannot say that one song is as good as another. Generic improvisation or the introduction of musical genres which fail to respect the meaning of the liturgy should be avoided. As an element of the liturgy, song should be well integrated into the overall celebration. Consequently everything – texts, music, execution – ought to correspond to the meaning of the mystery being celebrated, the structure of the rite and the liturgical seasons. Finally, while respecting various styles and different and highly praiseworthy traditions, I desire, in accordance with the request advanced by the Synod Fathers, that Gregorian chant be suitably esteemed and employed as the chant proper to the Roman liturgy.

The Latin language: 62. None of the above observations should cast doubt upon the importance of such large-scale liturgies. I am thinking here particularly of celebrations at international gatherings, which nowadays are held with greater frequency. The most should be made of these occasions. In order to express more clearly the unity and universality of the Church, I wish to endorse the proposal made by the Synod of Bishops, in harmony with the directives of the [Second Vatican Council](#), that, with the exception of the readings, the homily and the prayer of the faithful, it is fitting that such liturgies be celebrated in Latin. Similarly, the better-known prayers of the Church's tradition should be recited in Latin and, if possible, selections of Gregorian chant should be sung. Speaking more generally, I ask that future priests, from their time in the seminary, receive the preparation needed to understand and to celebrate Mass in Latin, and also to use Latin texts and execute Gregorian chant; nor should we forget that the faithful can be taught to recite the more common prayers in Latin, and also to sing parts of the liturgy to Gregorian chant.

Musically in Christ ~ ~ ~ David Lang

In Our Area

MARRIAGE JUBILEE MASS: Were you married in either 1957 or 1982 so that you will be celebrating your Silver or Golden Marriage Jubilee this year? Then contact the St. John's parish office (703-356-7916) to register for the "2007 Marriage Jubilee Mass". The Mass will be celebrated at 2:30pm on October 21st, at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington. The parish office must submit all registrations to the diocese by Friday, September 14, 2007. Don't delay!!!

SLAVIC AMERICAN FESTIVAL: Come for the 33rd Annual Slavic American Festival at Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church on Sept. 9. For more info: www.epiphanyofourlord.org

EWTN & PILGRIMAGE: A trip is planned to Alabama to visit EWTN and a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. The trip is Oct. 23-25 and the cost is \$420. This includes airfare, lodging, in-city transportation, a chance to be a part of a live TV audience on an EWTN show. For information please call Mrs. Maria Ibar at 703-798-4129.

HEALING SERVICE: In October of 2005, the Diocese of Arlington began a series of Prayer Services for Healing of victims/survivors of sexual abuse celebrated by Rev. Mealey, Vicar General for Administration. The prayer service includes a survivor's sharing of their sexual abuse and efforts to heal. The next prayer service is Sat. Sept. 15 at 10:00 am at St. Agnes Parish in Arlington. A reception follows the service.

CDU ONLINE SEMINAR: The Gospel of St. John. 3-week seminar provides a glimpse of the theological developments that the Fathers of the Church have discovered in St. John's Gospel. Using Catholic principles for Scriptural interpretation, participants will unravel the reasons the Church Fathers consider this the "spiritual gospel." The seminar will be available online September 24 – October 15, 2007 with course instructor, Peter Brown. Information or enrollment, www.cdu.edu. Discounted rate for Catholic School/CCD teachers.

*God in your Goodness,
you have made
a home for the poor.*