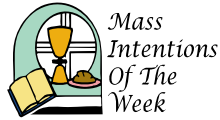


Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, Advent Weekday

6:30 Lillian & Joseph Robosky †
9:00 Gretchen Campbell †

Tuesday, Dec. 18, Advent Weekday

6:30 Gina Casnova †
9:00 Jesse Dillon †



Wednesday, Dec. 19, Advent Weekday

6:30 The Cayabyab Family
9:00 Jack Schneider †

Thursday, Dec. 20, Advent Weekday

6:30 The Lucena Family
9:00 Michael Lane †

Friday, Dec. 21, Advent Weekday, Peter Canisius, priest, doctor

6:30 Marge Kremidas †
9:00 Edward J. Snowden, Sr. †

Saturday, Dec. 22, Advent Weekday

8:15 Colleen Trainor
5:00 Rev. John McKlindon †

Sunday, Dec. 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 Geraldine Shahin †
9:00 Carlos Vieira †
10:30 Harold Sweeney †
12:00 People of the Parish

Readings for the Week of December 16, 2007

Sunday Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38
Friday Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

From the Pastor



I want to thank those of you who have been responding so generously to the Stewardship Campaign. Consider the effort and help build up the Body of Christ which is the Church. Remember that you also have the choice of paying by credit card or direct deposit. Contact Joan in the office for details.

You may have wondered "Why don't we get the front door of the Church fixed?" Well, we have been trying to but the solution is not totally within our grasp. It happens to be a specialized door with special parts and the broken parts cannot be picked up at McLean Hardware, it has to be ordered from the factory. We ordered and they sent, but the wrong part. We are trying.

The main Christmas Mass is the Midnight Mass and this year it will be celebrated according to the 1962 missal. The music for the Mass will be Gounod's *Solemn Mass in Honor of St. Cecilia*. We will have a full orchestra. All the Masses in church will be full so I ask you to remember the Christmas spirit when you are in the parking lot.

Please be generous to your parish this Christmas.



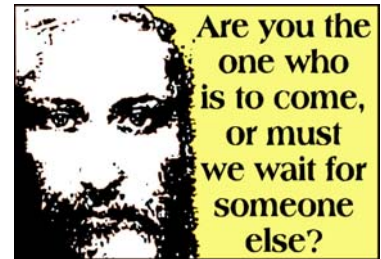
Please Pray For

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Albert & Marie Balint | Gary & Cindy Hogan | Elia Priestley |
| William T. Berry | Laura Holleran | Joseph Riotto |
| Sonja & Soraya Borghese | Maureen Hollingsworth | Lois Riscile |
| Michelle Brewer | Muriel Jennings | Edelisa Samson |
| William Carnazzo | Mary Johnson | Margaret Serrao |
| Esperanza Castillo | Mimi Johnson | Leah Shannon |
| Juan Chirino | Billee Jordan | Sister Marion |
| Michael Clarke | Shirley Kelley | Barbara Skytell |
| Carol Coad | Col. James J. Kelly | Dolores Snyder |
| Vincent Corcoran | Alice Koutsoumpas | Mary Spann |
| Edward Cotter | Margaret Leefe | Eileen Sweeney |
| Estelle Danielson | Katherine Malcolm | Jim & Margaret Taaffe |
| Marie Davalos | Annette McGovern | Raymond Vagli |
| Lucille Dion | Carter McNally | Theresa Vartanian |
| Denis Downey, Jr. | Ferenc Molnar | Graham Waite |
| Bryan Downie | Matthew Morgan | Mary Ellen Waite |
| Pam Dunne | Marilyn Middleton | Lily Winkle |
| Phil Dunton | Edmund Milauckas | |
| Winifred Feeney | Nancy Miller | |
| Alec Gramann | Monica Mizerek | |
| Kathleen Harrington | June Nage | |
| Scott Harris | Lang Nguyen | |
| Charles Harrison | Ernest Oddono | |
| | Al Parsons | |

Let us know when you would like to be taken off the prayer list.

LORD,
come and save us.

From this week's Scriptures:



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions Dec. 2007

General: That human society may be solicitous in the care of all those stricken with AIDS, especially children and women, and that the Church may make them feel the Lord's love.

Mission: That the incarnation of the Son of God, which the Church celebrates solemnly at Christmas, may help the peoples of the Asiatic Continent to recognize God's Envoy, the only Savior of the world, in Jesus.



Religious Education



Congratulations to the 49 eighth & ninth graders from St. John who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit on Monday, Dec. 10, when they received the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Paul Loverde. Thanks to the parents, teachers and sponsors who have formed and supported these young people in their Catholic faith for so many years. Come Holy Spirit!

In Our Parish

St. John the Beloved
Catholic Church
Parish Advent Retreat
Dec. 14, 15, 16

Confessions 2007

Wednesday Dec. 19: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Thursday Dec. 20: After 9:00 am Mass
Friday Dec. 21: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 22: 10:00 - 11:00 am
& 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Mass Schedule

22 Dec. Sat. Regular 5 pm Vigil
Mass 4th Sun. Advent
23 Dec. Sun. Regular Mass:
7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00

Christmas Mass Schedule

24 Dec. Mon. 6:00 pm Vigil Mass
12:00 Midnight (Latin High Mass,
Tridentine)
25 Dec. Tues.
Masses: 8:00, 10:00 am, 11:45 am
(Dec. 26 No Confessions, No Novena)
(No 6:30 am Mass Wed. Dec. 26 - Fri. Dec. 28)

New Year 2008

Jan, 1, 2008 Tues.
Masses: 8:00, 10:00 , 11:45 am
The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God



ADVENT



ADVENT



News from
"The Word"

St. John Parish Book & Gift Shop

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

Shoppers, don't forget The WORD as you scurry about! We have some great stocking stuffers: rosaries, scapulars, holy cards, rosary bracelets, and small statues. Also, books make great gifts!

THRIFT SHOP NEWS ~ Quality at Bargain Prices:

Tues. - Fri. 11:00 am- 2:00 pm & Sat. 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Leather & fur coats still available. Call Marie at 703-790-0688. Chances are still available for the Tom Tom One XL GPS Navigator, valued at \$350, which we will raffle off December 19 at the close of business. They are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and are available in the Thrift shop. **We will close for Christmas at the close of business Weds. Dec. 19 until Weds. Jan. 2 at 11:00 am.** Thank you for your support of the parish. If you have any questions call during business hours (703) 356-7420. We will sell chances for the Tom Tom GPS at Coffee and Donuts this Sunday.



OVER 50 CLUB: See you tomorrow for our annual "Christmas Carol Fest". For late reservations, call Gladys Brennan, 703-821-2547.

Please Note 

BULLETIN DEADLINE: For the Jan. 6 bulletin, articles must be in the church office or emailed to RMessing@stjohncatholicmclean.org by **Thurs. Dec. 27th noon.** Make sure subject line says "St John bulletin article" in the subject line. Thank you.



COFFEE & DONUTS: This week's host after 9 & 10:30 Mass is the St. John's Office of Evangelization RCIA group. Thank you to the St. John's Knights of Columbus and the Thrift Shop for hosting last Sunday.

ADVENT PARISH RETREAT

**"The Desert Passage of Faith"
With Fr. Mark Gruber, OSB
@ John the Beloved Catholic Church**

**Sat. Dec. 15- 7:30 pm Exposition, Homily,
Benediction**

**Sun. Dec. 16- 12:00 noon High Mass with
Fr. McAfee and Homily by Fr. Gruber**

Altar Server Schedule

Novena/Mass: Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007

7:30 pm D'Ermes, Myer, P. Loria

Saturday:

8:15 am D. Potocki, K. Potocki, Schuman

5:00 pm **Vigil** Russo, Alligood, Berry, Hickey

Sunday Masses: Dec. 23

7:30 am Lundes, Mea

9:00 am McGiffins, Gross

10:30 am Quinn, Buckley, S. Loria, Scalia

12:00 pm C., Jim, Joe, John Beatty, Dolan, P. & J. McCoy, Stechschulte, D. Glover



Altar Servers



SAINT JOHN ACADEMY

**CHRISTMAS
CAROLING**



School and Parish Caroling Friday, **Dec. 21**. Meet at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall for pizza & refreshments followed by caroling. We will visit St. John shut-ins and nearby nursing home residents. Volunteers are also needed to donate baked goods for the homebound and nursing staff. RSVP if you plan to attend or to bake goods to the following emails:

Alexis Beaver lexnbeav@aol.com

or Mary Kushan kushan@earthlink.net



SEW & SEW FORTHS: We will not meet Mon. Dec. 17, or 24, or 31. Our first meeting of 2008 will be Mon. Jan. 7, 2008.

We wish to thank everyone for their support of the Boutique. In the past year we donated a total of 21 layettes and 11 baby blankets to Project Hope in Falls Church. Merry Christmas to all!

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.



St. John Youth Corner

SENIOR YOUTH MEETINGS:

~Mandatory Work Camp Meeting (Youth and Parent) Jan. 20, 2008 at 1:30 pm.

~ Youth Group LIFE meeting, Jan. 20, 7:00 pm. Good food, good friends, & a really good time. Join us for our annual March 4 Life night. Come make signs & hang-out with your friends! This meeting is for ALL youth group members even if you are going to the March with another group.

~Attention ALL PARENTS & FRIENDS: The Youth Group is currently establishing a YOUTH REC ROOM for hanging-out with our friends! We need your help. Do you have an extra couch, recliner, ping-pong table, foosball table, etc.? Call Sabatino @ 703-504-8733.

~March 4 Life will be held Tues. Jan. 22. If you would like to go with St. John's please contact Sabatino.

Call Sabatino @ 703-504-8733 for info.



NOVENA PRAYERS & ROSARY:

the Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers and the Rosary 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.



NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA: All are invited to the 48th Annual New Year's Eve Gala at Edward Douglass White Council, Knights of Columbus at 5115 Little Falls

Rd., N. Arlington. Open bar and light snacks 6:30-7:30 pm, 3 course dinner 7:30-9:00 pm. Live band and dancing 9:00 pm – 12:30 am. There will be door prizes, champagne and continental breakfast. All this for only \$90 per couple. Call 703-536-9656 (#6) for reservations and entrée selection by Dec. 23.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 16, 2007	17	18	19	20	21	22
Advent Retreat CCD PreK - K 10:30 - 11:30 am 	<u>Senior Lunch</u> CCD Gr. 1,2,3 4:30 - 5:30 pm <u>Legion of Mary</u> 7:30 pm DR Rm	CCD Gr. 1 - 8 7:00 - 8:00 pm <u>Jr. Legion of Mary</u> 3:30 pm DR Rm	ADORATION <u>Confessions</u> 6:45 -7:15 pm <u>Novena Prayers & Rosary</u> 7:10 <u>Eucharistic Holy Hour</u> 7:30 <u>RCIA</u> 7:00 pm	<u>St. John Choir</u> 7:30 pm	<u>St. John Academy & Parish Christmas Caroling</u> 5:00 pm	

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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth to the eternal Word of God in an ineffable manner. Rejoice, therefore, O' universe when you hear this news, and glorify, with the angels and the shepherds, him who shall appear as a young child, being God from all eternity.

Today, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of the Savior of our souls, let us, under the guidance of Saint Bernard, contemplate the beauty of the Virgin and her place in the work of our salvation. For, as the Holy Prophet Isaiah prophesied regarding her, "There shall come forth a rod from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (Is 11:1).

O Virgin, Sublime Rod, to what holy eminence are you come on high? Even to the very throne, even to the Lord of all Majesty? And what wonder, since to the very depths thou dost send down the roots of thy own humility. O Truly Celestial Blossoming Rod, more precious, more holy, than all the rest! O True Wood of Life, that alone was found worthy to bear the fruit of salvation!

Thou art caught, evil serpent, in the trap of thine own cunning, thy falsity is laid bare. Two things you had charged against your Creator: you had accused Him of falsehood, and of envy. But in either case it is you that is proved the liar. Because as to the first charge, he died to whom you said: "No, you shall not die the death" (Gen 3:4). And answer Him now if you can, of what tree, or, of the fruit of what tree, should He be envious, Who refused us not even this chosen branch, and its sublime fruit? "For he that spared not even his own Son, and how hath He not also, with Him given us all things" (Rom 8:32).

[Brethren], the Royal Virgin is Herself the Way through which the Saviour comes, coming forth from her womb "as a bridegroom coming forth from his bridechamber." Holding fast then to this way, let us strive, Beloved, to ascend through Her to Him, Who through Her has come down to us; to reach by Her aid to His divine forgiveness, Who came by way of Her to take away our woe.

Through thee have we access to Thy Son, O Blessed Discoverer of Grace, Mother of Life, Mother of Salvation! May He through Thee forgive us, Who by Thee was given unto us. May thy blameless integrity plead with Him, that He look not upon our corruption; and let thy humility that so pleases God, obtain the pardon of our pride.

Let thy boundless charity cover the multitude of our sins, and thy glorious fruitfulness bring us an abundance of mercies. Our Lady, Our Mediatrix, present us to Thy Son. Speak for us to Thy Son. Grant, O Most Blessed, through the graces thou hast earned, through the privileges thou hast merited, through the mercy thou hast received, that He Who deigned by means of Thee, to become a Sharer of our infirmity and sorrow, may through thy intercession make us sharers of His Glory and of His Joy, Jesus Christ Thy Son Our Lord, Who is above all God the Blessed unto ages of ages. Amen

Saint John Institute of Catholic Culture . . .
(Saint John's Adult Ed Program)

Advent Retreat

"The Desert Passage of Faith"

W/ Fr. Mark Gruber

Dec. 14, 15, 16

www.SJICC or call 703-504-8733

Sat. Dec. 15: 8:15 am Mass, Confessions

9:30 am: **"Make Straight the Way
of the Lord"**

3:30 - 4:30 pm Confessions

7:30 pm Exposition & Benediction

"Comfort, Comfort My People"

Sun. Dec. 16: 12:00 noon High Mass

**"Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes
away the Sin of the World"**

CATECHISM 102

w/Sabatino Carnazzo

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church

Join us for this seminar series on the catechism of the Catholic Church. Bring your Bible & Catechism!

Angelic Choirs

w/ Fr. Gary Selin

Sat. January 12 at 9:30 am

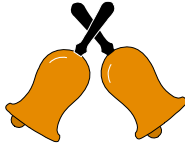
Learn about the creation & the structure of the nine choirs of the Bodiless Powers of heaven.

In Our Area

From the Music Desk...

From the music desk...

Last Sunday at the 9:00 Mass during the organ introduction to the offertory hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway," I included an organ stop named the "Cymbelstern." This stop makes the sound of little ringing bells. Read more about this unique stop below.



The Zymbelstern is a "toy" stop consisting of a metal or wooden star or wheel on which several small bells are mounted. When the stop is engaged, the star rotates, producing a continuous tinkling sound. The star was often visible on the exterior of the organ case; when not visible, it may or may not have a star shape. It was common in northern Europe, Germany in particular, throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Historians suggest it was introduced ca. 1585-8 at Münster Cathedral by Lampeler van Mill. After 1700, the bells were sometimes tuned to particular notes. The name *Zymbelstern* means "cymbal star."

You will probably hear this stop again... and now you know a little more about its history.



Did you know that the 2007 commemorative ornament handcrafted in Poland is a replica of Saint John the Beloved? All ornament purchase proceeds go to the music programs of the parish & Saint John Academy. Don't forget to get yours after any of the weekend Masses in the vestibule of the church.

Musically,
Director Lang



Giving Tree: Please take an ornament from the tree in the church vestibule and fulfill the request. There are many ornaments still left for you to choose from. The gifts will benefit the work of the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's organization.



DOMINICANS: Are you interested in learning more about Lay Dominicans? On Sunday, December 16, from 2:00 – 3:00, members of the Fra-Angelico Pro-chapter will meet in the Adult Ed Room. Dominican life includes: prayer, study, charity and community. Our special guest will be Father Joseph Barringer, O.P., Prior of the Dominican House of Studies in D.C. Learn what other members of St. John's are doing. For more details contact: Mark Johnson, 703-288-2868.

CHRIST HOUSE in Alexandria provides food for hungry families and individuals. Our recent renovations at Christ House have left the cupboards bare. We have now resumed accepting donations of canned and boxed foods. Canned meats, tuna, pasta, coffee, laundry items, personal care items all can be donated. You can mail Giant or Safeway cards in denominations of \$10 or \$20 to us at 131 S. West Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314. Volunteers are also needed to serve as job mentors to help homeless men find suitable employment.

2007 MEN'S DAY OF DISCERNMENT is Saturday, Dec. 22. If you are 17 years or older and would like to meet in fraternity with seminarians and other men discerning Our Lord's call, please join us at the Franciscan Monastery, in D.C. Mass, Adoration, and Penance will be available. Call the Vocations office at 703-841-2514 for information.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS : On Tues., Jan. 15 at St. Mary of Sorrow in Fairfax, the next session of the series on Catholic Social Teaching will start at 7:30 pm. Joan Rosenhauer, Coordinator, Special Projects, Dept. of Social Development and World Peace, USCCB, will give the talk, "Call to Family, Community, and Participation". Call Catholic Charities at 703-841-3831 for more information.

INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY: There is a Catholic website with helpful information for those struggling to overcome addiction to pornography. Resources are for men, their spouses and family members. Visit the website for help. <http://familylifecenter.net/strugglewithporn.asp>