

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 17

Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Nathalie Lang
 9:00 Dr. Joseph McDonald †
 8:00 Dr. Joseph McDonald †

Tuesday, December 18

Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Camden Lannin
 9:00 Joseph Calderazzo †

Wednesday, December 19

Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Sally Katson †
 9:00 Joseph Conge †

Thursday, December 20

Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Anna Raymond
 9:00 Joseph Conge †

Friday, December 21

Late Advent Weekday

6:30 Jessica Redding
 9:00 James Davern †

Saturday, December 22

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:15 Sophie Tursi
 5:00 Janet Kozlowski †

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 Sally Katson †
 9:00 Carlos Vieira †
 10:30 People of the Parish
 12:00 Stephen A. Bailey

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

† Jerome Kwiatkowski †

† Joseph Kuchel †

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS DECEMBER

Evangelization

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

IN TESTIMONIUM...

From *The Liturgical Year* by Dom Prosper Gueranger, Abbot of Solesmes:

To-day, again, the Church is full of joy, and the joy is greater than it was. It is true that her Lord has not come; but she feels that He is nearer than before, and therefore she thinks it just to lessen some what the austerity of this penitential season by the innocent cheerfulness of her sacred rites. And first, this Sunday has had the name of *Gaudete* given to it, from the first word of the Introit; it also is honoured with those impressive exceptions which belong to the fourth Sunday of Lent, called *Laetare*. The organ is played at the Mass; the vestments are rose-colour... How touching are all these usages, and how admirable this condescension of the Church, wherewith she so beautifully blends together the unalterable strictness of the dogmas of faith and the graceful poetry of the formulae of her liturgy. Let us enter into her spirit, and be glad on this third Sunday of her Advent, because our Lord is now so near unto us. To-morrow we will resume our attitude of servants mourning for the absence of their Lord and waiting for Him; for every delay, however short, is painful and makes love sad.

Today's Entrance Antiphon or Introit is from Philippians 4,4 -5: "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near." These words prompt Dom Gueranger to remark:

Nothing is more just than that we rejoice in the Lord. Both the prophet and the apostle excite us to desire the Saviour, both of them promise us peace. Therefore, let us not be solicitous: *the Lord is nigh; nigh* to His Church, and nigh to each of our souls. Who can be near so burning a fire, and yet be cold? Do we not feel that He is coming to us, in spite of all obstacles? He will let nothing be a barrier between Himself and us, neither His own infinite high majesty, nor our exceeding lowliness, nor our many sins. Yet a little while, and He will be with us. Let us go out to meet Him by these *prayers* and *supplications*, and *thanksgiving* which the apostle recommends to us. Let our zeal to unite ourselves with our holy mother the Church become more than ever fervent: now every day her prayers will increase in intense earnestness, and her longings after Him, who is her light and her love, will grow more ardent.

Tomorrow, the 17th day of December and the 82nd birthday of Pope Francis, the Church enters into "the seven days, which precede the Vigil of Christmas, and which are known in the Liturgy under the name of the *Greater Ferias*.... Every day, at Vespers, is sung a solemn Antiphon, which consists of a fervent prayer to the Messiah, whom it addresses by one of the titles given him by the sacred Scriptures." We also hear each of these special titles for Our Lord, collectively known as the "O Antiphons", during the Alleluia verse at Mass: O Wisdom of our God Most High, O Leader of the House of Israel, O Root of Jesse's stem, O Key of David, O Emmanuel, O King of all nations, O Radiant Dawn. About 150 years ago these titles were combined to form one of your favorite hymns: *O Come O Come Emmanuel*.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. Christopher J. Pollard

p.s. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (*Heb 13,8*). Amen? Amen!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Youth Nights

All 7th-12th graders are invited to tonight's youth night. The theme is Advent Joy. The night will include dinner, games, a talk, and discussion time. Come enjoy the last youth night before Christmas!

Upcoming youth nights:

No Youth Nights December 23 or 30

January 6: Epiphany Party

WorkCamp

All 9th-12th graders are invited to WorkCamp this summer from June 22-28. Come serve those in need through significant home-improvement projects! Registration deadline is January 11, and space is limited. Contact Michael for details.

Swing Dance Night Friday!

Who: Youth in 7th-12th grades: learn how to swing!

When: Friday, December 14, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Where: St. John Parish Hall

Dancing ability required: NONE!

Sports Night: Friday, December 21 at 8pm

All 7th-12th graders are invited to play volleyball in the gym. Sports nights will take place twice a month on Friday nights.

Adults: be a partner in youth ministry

At St. John, our goal is to offer a wide variety of youth activities and programs to inspire and equip every young person in the parish to live in a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. The only way this is possible will be if many adults step forward to serve the youth.

You can help by: committing to pray for the youth and adult volunteer leaders, supporting the practical needs of our youth ministries (like snacks and meals), or helping to lead a youth ministry activity (such as Sunday nights, Sports nights, Movie nights, "Going deeper groups", activities for younger kids, or your ideas)

For more information about the youth ministries, contact Michael Jacobeen: mjacobeen@stjohncatholicmclean.org, or call (703) 356-7916 ext. 140

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY

We have been sent. For us, being at the service of life is not a boast but rather a duty, born of our awareness of being "God's own people, that we may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light" (cf. 1 Pet 2:9).

We are the people of life because God, in his unconditional love, has given us the Gospel of life and by this same Gospel we have been transformed and saved.

We have been sent as a people. Everyone has an obligation to be at the service of life. This is a properly "ecclesial" responsibility, which requires concerted and generous action by all the members and by all sectors of the Christian community. This community commitment does not however eliminate or lessen the responsibility of each individual, called by the Lord to "become the neighbor" of everyone: "Go and do likewise" (Lk 10:37).

Taken from Evangelium Vitae: **The Gospel of Life**, Encyclical Letter of Saint John Paul II, 1995



Advent Season GIFT for LIFE Campaign- Please give a *Gift for Life* this season to help Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. One mother wrote: "I am very happy and grateful for the financial assistance I received from Gabriel Project. They have been very helpful and supportive throughout my pregnancy." Another said, "I am so thankful for my Gabriel "Angel" volunteer who was always ready to give a helping hand."

Please take a tree tag from the Advent Giving Tree in the church vestibule. A monetary gift from you will help provide prenatal care, sonograms, educational classes, professional counseling, rent and utilities to a mother and father facing an unplanned or stressful pregnancy.

Let's be the neighbor who puts their pro-life faith into action by providing help and support to expectant mothers, children and families in need!

This campaign is the fundraising effort of the Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, Catholic Diocese of Arlington. More information at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife

PLEASE also join fellow parishioners and friends as we continue to pray a Sunday Rosary for Life at 3:30 PM prior to Vespers at 4 PM in the church!

SPCS: ANNUAL SALE OF SEE'S CANDY AND AMARYLLIS

As you shop for Christmas gifts this year, please consider buying amaryllis bulbs and See's chocolates from the St. Peter Claver Society after Sunday Masses in December. Teachers and work colleagues especially appreciate receiving these as gifts, and you will be providing much need help to African orphans.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM Vigil Mass *in English*

7:30 PM Vigil Mass *in English*

11:00 PM Music Prelude

(Handel's Messiah)

MIDNIGHT Solemn Mass *in Latin*

(readings in English)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 AM Mass *in English*

9:00 AM Mass *in English*

10:30 AM Mass *in English*

12:15 PM High Traditional **Latin** Mass

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
7:30am Mass 9:00am Mass 10:30am Mass Noon Latin Mass 10:30am Pre-K & K CCD 3:30pm Rosary to End Abortion 4:00pm Vespers	6:30am Mass 9:00am Mass 9:45am Sew&SoForths 7:30pm Legion 8:00pm Latin Mass 8:40pm Futsol	6:30am Mass 9:00am Mass 7:00pm CCD 8:00pm Hoops	6:30am Mass 9:00am Mass ADORATION 9:30am – 7:30pm Confessions Hourly 10:00am – 6:00pm  7:00pm Holy Hour	6:30am Mass 9:00am Mass Pray at the Falls Church Abortion Center 7am-7pm	6:30 Mass 9:00 Mass	8:15 Mass 9:00am Confessions 3:30pm Confessions 5:00pm Mass

Saint John Academy's

Christmas Tree Sale

Nov. 23 - Dec. 23

Monday - Friday: 3:30pm - 7pm

Saturdays & Sundays: 9am - 7pm

Special Day Nov 23: 9am - 7pm

This year's fresh cut trees, garlands and wreaths will arrive on November 23 at

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church

6422 Linway Terrace, McLean

We will have trees of many sizes ~ Don't miss this opportunity to support Saint John Academy and have the best tree, wreath and/or garland in the community! The quality of these trees is amazing!



Trees

5-6 ft.	\$50
6-7 ft.	\$70
7-8 ft.	\$85
8-9 ft.	\$105
9-10 ft.	\$120
10-11 ft.	\$145

Wreaths

16-18"	\$17
20-22"	\$20
24-26"	\$22
30-32"	\$26
36"	\$36

Best Deal!

Garland

Fraser Fir 75 ft.	\$55
White Pine 75 ft.	\$30

St. John the Beloved Catholic Church
6422 Linway Terrace, McLean

SPCS RAFFLE: Two chances to win a very special dinner! The St. Peter Claver Society is raffling off Father Pollard's Famous Smoked BBQ Dinner, or you could win a dinner with the Rector of the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, Fr. Edward Hathaway, who helped found SPCS while pastor at St. John the Beloved from 2000-2005. Tickets on sale after Sunday Masses in December; drawing 23 December following 10:30 Mass. One ticket: \$5; five for \$20. Proceeds will go to SPCS' three projects supporting Zambian Orphans.

SENIORS' CLUB

We are so fortunate to have our highly skilled St. John Academy Choir Director, Dawn Kuker, leading members of the St. John Academy Youth Choir in a memorable selection of Advent and Christmas hymns and songs at our next gathering on **MONDAY, 17 December**. Dawn has promised a very special program for all of us. Please mark your calendars and bring family and friends to this celebratory event.

Formed.org

EXPERIENCE ADVENT WITH DR. TIM GRAY

*Enrich your Advent preparation
with daily videos from Dr. Tim Gray
that will ready your heart for the coming of Christ.*

Add on children's reflections with Brother Francis to get the whole family spiritually prepped for Christmas.

Watch, Read and Reflect each day.

- Watch an inspiring video reflection from Dr. Tim Gray
- Read a passage from the Word of God
- Reflect on how you can prepare for Christ's coming.

Access this program on [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org) through the parish subscription.

SJB Parishioner Assistance Network...

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY WITH SONG

Carolers are needed
to sing at Powhatan Nursing Home
on Saturday, January 5th
Please meet at Powhatan at 4:00 p.m.

THE STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carmel Broadfoot	Andrew Katson
Bishop Burbidge	Christopher Katz
Salvatore Calabro	Dorothy Kottler
John Cartelli	Sharon LeMaster
John Paul Charles Carver	Sue Malone
Virginia Connelly	Carmella Manetti
Sheila Corallo	Cristina Marques
Victoria Grace Czarniecki	Diana Meisel
Elke D'Amico	Bonnie Moran
Richard DeCorps	Veronica Nowakowski
Joe Elias	Anita Oliveira
John Fiore	Briner Orillo
Tara Flanagan-Koenig	Mary Pistorino Reilly
Susan Glover	Patricia Richer
Francesca Greco	Shelby Rogers
Paul Griffith	Thomas Rosa
Edward M. Hallinan III	Avery Schaeffer
Jack Halpin	Merle Shannon
Arnold L. Harrington III	Gloribeth Smith
Emily Hazlett	Daniel Stadelmann
Agnes Henley	Carolyn Steinhoff
Colleen Hodgdon	Bill Sullivan
David Johnson	Mary Warchot
Mark Johnson	Marie Wysolmerski

*May God bless and protect our loved ones
in the military and civil service
who are serving these United States
in dangerous places, especially...*

Robert Ayala	Robert B. Smolar
Jonathan Choo	Michael Shipley
Nicholas Galvan	Kimberley Templer
Harry Griffith	Michael Templer
Bill Jones	Jesus Toledanes
Brendan Murphy	Justin White
Lynn Partik	Donald Yamamoto
Jamie Robinson	