

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 29 -1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35
7:00 a.m. T. R. O'Farrell, III and Gertrude O'Farrell
8:00 a.m. Leroy H. Moore

Tuesday, December 30 -1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96; Lk 2:36-40
7:00 a.m. Frances Conigliaro
8:00 a.m. Mary Lyon

Wednesday, December 31 -1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96; Jn 1:1-18
7:00 a.m. Rosemary Klunk
8:00 a.m. Samuel Adams, Jr.
4:30 p.m. Intention of The Kehring & Ludwig Families

Thursday, January 1 -Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
8:00 a.m. Donald T. Walker
10:00 a.m. Catherine Cole
12:00 p.m. Richard Baeder
3:30 p.m. Connie Walsh

Friday, January 2 -1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98; Jn 1:19-28
7:00 a.m. Dorothy Chojnowski
9:30 a.m. Intention of Charlotte and Bernie Amrhein
7:00 p.m. Intention of Darlene Smith

Saturday, January 3 -1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98; Jn 1:29-34
8:00 a.m. Vera and Girard Schwessinger
4:30 p.m. Frances Conigliaro

Sunday, January 4 - Is 60:1-6; Ps 147; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
7:15 a.m. Grace Piazza
8:45 a.m. Intention of Deacon Don Miller
10:30 a.m. Rosemary Klunk
12:00 p.m. Parishioners of St. John
3:30 p.m. Brandon Stanton
6:00 p.m. Robert "Shorty" Carr

FROM THE PASTOR

I want to express my deep appreciation to all who have worked tirelessly, creatively and prayerfully throughout the Advent/Christmas season. I am especially thankful to our Art and Environment Committee for all the cleaning and the beautiful decorations in our church. Thanks also to the all who helped with the liturgies including: ushers, altar servers, sacristans, lectors, extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist, music ministry, altar linens and all the "behind the scene people." Thanks also to those who coordinated the Mass at Westminster High School and the Masses in the Portico.

Your continued generosity and faithful stewardship, especially during these difficult times, is deeply appreciated. I join with my brother priests and our deacons and staff to wish you and your families God's grace and blessing in the new-year.

May God Bless you,

Msgr. Art Valenzano

NOTICE: The parish offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2009 for the New Year's holiday.

MASSES FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:

Wednesday, December 31 (Vigil) 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 1—8:00, 10:00 A.M. 12:00 noon
3:30 p.m.(Spanish Mass)

LITURGY WORSHIP

PERPETUAL ADORATION UPDATE! ADORERS NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Sunday 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Tuesday 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m. Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY MASSES...Friday, January 2

Masses are 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be no confessions.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION...Saturday, January 3

Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Rosary. Please pick up a folder with the prayers and come to the front pews.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY...Sunday, January 4

The 10:30 a.m. Mass will be a children's liturgy.

WE PRAY ...

MASS INTENTIONS are of such high volume that it occasionally becomes necessary to send them to missions who can respond to them in a timely fashion. The following intentions have been sent: Richard Baeder(10), Joan Lehnert(3), Loretta Devlin(2), Sharon Donate, Peter J. Tasch, Sr., Elizabeth Marie Paris, Kitty Abell, Thomas Johnston, Helen Joy, Rita Agnes Board, William Kelmartin, Ronald Hill, Mary Rose Molloy, Ray Ratajczak, Helen Stylc, Herbert J. Reisig, Sr., Marie Bizon, Henry J. Ford, Thomas Hughes, Dolores Kuzma, James O'Neal, Peggy Spicer, Albert Jones, Charles Andrew Linz, Elaine Goldberg, Patricia Jean Clark, and Jack Gullo, Sr.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of December 21 are not available due to early printing of our bulletin.

YEAR END GIVING...Please remember your St. John Parish family when considering your charitable giving options during this special Christmas season of blessings. St. John Church and School helps to make our community stronger in faith and service and a simple monetary gift can represent the tax deduction your family needs while helping us to meet our vision and mission! Thanks for your continued support! And please, remember St. John Church in your Will.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dec. 22– Jan. 2—School Closed for Christmas Holidays

Jan. 5—School Reopens

Jan. 9—School Liturgy @ 9:30 a.m.—Church
PTF Family Fun Night Cafeteria 7-8:30 p.m.

Jan. 9-10—Confirmation Retreat

Jan.16—School Liturgy @ 9:30 a.m.—Church

Jan. 19—School closed—Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan. 20—PTF General Meeting—7:00 p.m.- Portico

INNISBROOK ON-GOING FUNDRAISER: Check out the website for gift giving ideas. The school receives 50% of all sales. Shop at www.innisbrook.com. Our school ID is # 122169.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

GIFT CARDS: Do you shop at Giant/Martins, Super Fresh, Shoppers, Weis, Boscov's or Kohl's? You can purchase gift cards through St. John at face value and we receive a 5% return on each card! These cards do not expire and can be used in other states. Cards are available for purchase at St. John School. You can also participate in eScript by registering your Safeway card annually, returning a percentage to us. Also register your Target or Target Visa card for a 1% return profit to St. John School (ID#7784). Register on line or call 800-316-8142. For more information call the school office at 410-876-7228 or Darlene at 410-876-7031

MEETING FOR PROSPECTIVE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS...Monday, January 12

There will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the gym for all prospective kindergarten parents for next year. ***Your child should turn 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2009 in order to enroll.***

OPEN HOUSE...SUNDAY, January 25 & Tues., Jan. 27

Save the dates and take advantage of this convenient weekend opportunity to tour the school, meet teachers and view a computer curriculum demonstration by students in our new computer lab! ***Snow date will be Friday, January 30th*** after our 9:30 Liturgy in the Church. Please feel free to call the school 410-848-7455 for individual tours or for additional information. We are pleased to arrange for your child/children to "shadow" for an entire day or a portion of the day, if you find this beneficial.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PARISH "COME AND SEE EVENING"...Tues., Dec. 30

Christmas is a traditional time of year for "coming home." Do you have a loved one or a friend whom you'd like to help "reconnect" to their Catholic faith, or who might be interested in exploring more about what the Catholic Church teaches and believes? Please invite them to our parish "Come and See Evening," on ***Tuesday, Dec.30 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Church.*** It will be an informal and informative time for anyone seeking to follow Christ more fully. Don't forget to personally invite your friend or loved one to this "Come and See Evening."

BIBLE STUDY...Thanks to all those who are finishing up our successful study of St. Paul's Letters from Prison. As we continue to celebrate the Year of St. Paul, ***we will study First Corinthians*** beginning the ***week of January 18th.*** Registration forms will be available in the back of the church and on the parish website the week after Christmas.

FOSTERING THE ADULT JOURNEY OF CONVERSION..

Where is God amid everyday life? How do our experiences of God shape our faith? How do we appropriately share "God" experiences in witness to others? There will be a ***four session series beginning Thursday, January 22, through February 12th*** here at St. John from 7:00—9:30 p.m. in the St. Therese Room of the Parish Center to discuss ways that the believer may heighten their awareness of God, explore the process of coming to faith, and the role of ongoing conversion in the lifelong adventure of Christian living. The Facilitator is Ms. Sharon A. Bogusz from the Division of Evangelization & Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The cost is \$40 per person and ***registration is required.*** To register contact ***sbogusz@archbalt.org.*** or phone 410-547-5406.

ADULT CONFIRMATION...Our parish will once again offer a five session Confirmation program for anyone over the age of 18 who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ***The program will begin Thursday, April 30th and meet weekly through May 28th.*** Registration forms will be available in the back of the church and on the parish website the week after Christmas.

REMINDER...***No Religious Ed classes on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd, Thursday, Dec. 25th or Sunday, Dec. 28th. Classes resume on Sunday, Jan.4th, Tuesday, Jan.6th and Thursday, Jan. 8th.***

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF wishes all our students and their families, our Catechists, Classroom Assistants, Office Helpers and Hall Monitors many blessings in the New Year.

HOME STUDY CLASSES will meet on **Wed., January 7th** at 6:45 p.m.

AS OF JANUARY, the Religious Education Program will need a Professional Special Ed teacher for our Thursday 6:45 p.m. class. Please call the Religious Ed Office if you can help.

TUITION REFUNDS: ***After December 31st,*** we will no longer refund any tuition paid for the 2008-09 school year to any family withdrawing from the program. The only exception will be for those who relocate out of our parish boundaries.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT...January 9 & 10

Parents, you should have received a letter at the end of November regarding the Confirmation Retreat (Jan. 9-10) that contained time sensitive information. If you ***did not*** receive this letter, contact Kenn deMoll in the Religious Education office immediately.

—THE EDGE — (Grades 6, 7 & 8) —

We meet one Sunday every month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Newcomers are welcome!

We would like to thank all of those people who volunteered their time and talents to make our Live Nativity such a huge success. May God Bless you!

January—The Edge is looking to do a players night with laser tag. Check the next week's bulletin for more details!!

— LIFE TEEN (Grades 9 -12) —

Life Teen is a High School Youth Ministry that meets every 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday at 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. On the 3rd Sunday we meet in the Portico. Newcomers are welcome!

STEUBENVILLE 2009: Above All. It's that time of year again for Steubenville! The total cost of the trip this year is \$250. Your deposit was due on Dec. 14th if you are planning on coming with us this year.

Dec. 28—NO Life Teen, Happy New Year!

Jan. 4—Happy Birthday! It's a New Year and we're taking the night to celebrate everyone's birthday for the coming year! It will be the biggest birthday bash you've ever been to!

Jan. 18—XLT: XLT stands for exalt! Join us for a night of energetic music, a dynamic speaker and Eucharistic adoration. Confirmation students are welcome!

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISH

CHILDREN'S LITURGY of the WORD...is seeking additional volunteers. If your child joins us Sundays during the 10:30 Mass, please prayerfully consider helping. Call Nancy Merrill @ 410-876-2173 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED... Are you and/or any family members interested in volunteering an hour of time on Sunday mornings? Join us in welcoming our parish community after Mass during "Hospitality Sundays." Choose one Sunday every other month! For more details contact Bob Andrews at 410-876-9151 or robertsandrews@comcast.net.

LADIES AUXILIARY OF MD STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS...is collecting new lap blankets for veterans who are sick, disabled or suffering. We ask that you make or purchase a quilt, or blanket measuring approximately 40x60 inches that can be machine laundered. Contact Sharon Bryan at 410-848-7126.

PARISH "COME AND SEE EVENING"...Tuesday, Dec. 30
Christmas is a traditional time of the year for "coming home." Do you have a loved one or a friend whom you'd like to help "reconnect" to their Catholic faith, or who might be interested in exploring more about what the Catholic Church teaches and believes? Please invite them to our parish "Come and See Evening" on **Tuesday, December 30 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the church.** It will be an informal and informative time for anyone seeking to follow Christ more fully. Don't forget to personally invite your friend or loved one to this "Come and See Evening."

KNIGHT PARISH BREAKFAST...Sunday, January 4
The Knight of Columbus are cooking breakfast for the parish in the Portico after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Proceeds are used to support the St. John's Community. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new parishioners and to enjoy a great breakfast of French toast, pancakes, eggs and much more. Adults: \$6.00 and children under 12: \$3.00. Please join us.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY...will resume in the Portico after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses **starting on January 11th.** Come and enjoy continental breakfast and a welcoming community atmosphere after Mass on Sunday mornings. More details to come.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP...Sunday, January 11
This ministry is for those grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet in the Parish Center from 10:00-11:30 a.m. **No registration is required.** For more information call Janet Tenney at 410-833-1542.

ST. JOHN LADIES'SODALITY...Sunday, December 14
The Sodality will meet for the 8:45 a.m. Mass and will recite the Rosary following Mass. All are invited to join us in the recitation of the Rosary. A meeting will follow immediately after in the Parish Center. All ladies of the parish 18 and over are invited to join the Sodality. We are a spiritual group dedicated to the devotion of our Blessed Virgin Mother. Our meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month. For more information please call Carolyn Keiner at 410-848-4563.

RESPECT LIFE 3RD ANNUAL ESSAY/POSTER CONTEST... This year's theme is Human Rights Begin with Human Life! "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Jeremiah 1:5 Contest is open to all 7th and 8th graders. First place winner receives a Creative Labs Zen Mosaic 8GB MP3/Video Player. **Entries must be received in the Religious Ed office by January 16th.** For more details, email mariamom5@comcast.net, or go to St. John website: Outreach, Pro-Life Ministry

PRE-CANA UPCOMING SESSIONS...Jan. 17, 30 & 31
Please contact Rosalie Seeley at rosalie.seeley@verizon.net to register for upcoming Pre-Cana sessions.

SEEKING OUR LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE...Our parish is participating in Worldwide Marriage Encounter's search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. **One nominee from each parish** will be honored during a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien. Please **submit the names, address, wedding date and phone number of your candidate couple, married at least 50 years, to the Parish Office no later than January 18, 2009.** The parish will inform the longest married couple that they have been chosen, and the longest married couple from each parish will receive a follow-up call from the World Marriage Day committee, inquiring whether or not they plan to attend the **Mass on February 8, 2009** at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. All longest married couples will receive a certificate from Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE...Thursday, January 22
Mark your calendars! The March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, January 22. Our parish will sponsor two buses. Details will follow in future bulletins. Please plan on attending this national event that coincides with the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

MEN IN BLACK BASKETBALL...Friday, April 17
Save the date! St. John Parishioners vs. Archdiocesan priests and seminarians in an exciting basketball game at Westminster High School. Don't miss this free, fun-filled evening! Watch the bulletin for more details.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES & ROME WITH FR. LEO...
There are only 12 spots left for the Lourdes, France to Rome, Italy pilgrimage with Fr. Leo. Pilgrims depart from Washington, DC on **May 11th and return on May 21, 2009.** The cost is \$3,099 and includes airfare, first class accommodations, a majority of meals, traditional cuisine, English speaking guides, tickets to museums and private tours of churches, luxury coach ground transportation, all service charges and hotel taxes (except airline fuel tax and airport taxes) and a \$100,000 Automatic Flight Insurance (subject to policy terms and limitations.) Fr. Leo has led many successful tours and pilgrimages. For an application, please contact Fr. Leo at 301-447-5016 or email fatherleo@gracebeforemeals.com. Applications can also be downloaded at www.gracebeforemeals.com.

"ILLUMINATE" CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE..
Save the dates **October 9 and 10, 2009** at St. John-Westminster and register early. Goal is 1000 women. For information call Jeanne Link at 443-324-8487 or jllmickey@verizon.net.

OUTREACH

* THE ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY *

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We hear the words: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." As we remember the poor during this New Year may we also grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon us. Please remember to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the coming year so that together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

The members of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all parishioners for their extraordinary generosity for the Christmas Sharing and Caring Program by supplying food certificates and new gifts of clothing and toys for the Christmas Holiday!

The next St. Vincent de Paul meeting will be *Wednesday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Portico.*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC...Dec. 29 and 30

Westminster Recreation Council is having their 13th annual basketball skills clinic for boys and girls ages 6-14 on *Dec. 29th at McDaniel College* for girls from *8:30-11:30 a.m.* and boys from *11:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.* On *December 30* at *East Middle School* (Shooting and Offensive Skills Clinic) girls from *8:30 - 11:30 a.m.* and boys from *11:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.* Cost is \$30 for one day or \$50 for both days. Call Phil Popielski at 410-599-1319 or email pball@hotmail.com for more information.

REMINDERS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS: HOLD THESE DATES:

(For information on any of these events, call the Parish Center)

Now thru Dec. 23— Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale —school lot

Dec. 30 —Parish "Come & See" Evening—7 p.m.—Church

Jan. 4—KofC Breakfast—Portico

Jan. 11—Hospitality Sundays resume at The Portico

Jan. 12—Meeting for Prospective Kindergarten Parents—7 p.m.

Jan. 17, 30 & 31—Pre-Cana

Jan. 25 & 27— St. John School Open House

THE PORTICO OF ST. JOHN BOOKS + GIFTS...

We have all your Catholic gift needs for Christmas. Stop by early to take advantage of the many sale items. Have a Blessed Christmas, and thanks for supporting your parish store. Please note that the Portico *Bookstore will be closed from Thursday, Dec. 25 through Friday, Jan. 9th.* We will reopen for normal hours on Saturday, Jan. 10th with special sales throughout the month.

THE PORTICO OF ST. JOHN is a full banquet facility available for wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, anniversary dinners, birthday parties, baptismal and communion parties, etc. With Wi-Fi capabilities you can also host your next business meeting in The Portico of St. John. Call Terry Jones at 410-848-4744 x216.

HOW TO REGISTER at this PARISH: All new parishioners who wish to register with the parish are invited to receive a welcoming packet from the Parish Office, Ushers, School, Religious Education, or Baptism Preparation Class. Welcome Sessions are held the last Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Portico (Dec.. 28)