

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 23 -Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93; Mk 9:14-29

7:00 a.m. Nancy Clingan

8:00 a.m. Ed Reisset

2:00 p.m. Virginia Graham (Mass at Carroll Lutheran Village)

Tuesday, February 24 -Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37; Mk 9:30-37

7:00 a.m. Bernice Doggett

8:00 a.m. Mike Sabo

Wednesday, February 25 -Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

7:00 a.m. Grace Piazza

9:30 a.m. Ethel McLean

12:00 p.m. Intention of Pat Moses

5:00 p.m. Kale Mathias

7:00 p.m. Thomas M. DeGraves

8:30 p.m. Int. of the John Wallace Family (Hispanic Mass)

Thursday, February 26 -Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1; Lk 9:22-25

7:00 a.m. Sam Jones

8:00 a.m. Tess Hupfeld

12:00 p.m. Intention of Donna Woelper

Friday, February 27 -Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51; Mt 9:14-15

7:00 a.m. Wanda Cooke

9:30 a.m. Sister Mary Kateri, R.S.M.

Saturday, February 28 -Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86; Lk 5:27-32

8:00 a.m. Intention of St. John Volunteers

4:30 p.m. Florencio Moreno

Sunday, March 1 -Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

7:15 a.m. Parishioners of St. John

8:45 a.m. Jean Pianka

10:30 a.m. Gilbert T. Perron

12:00 p.m. James Francis Wade

3:30 p.m. Intention of Fr. Raphael Murillo

6:00 p.m. Robert Subock, Sr.

FROM THE PASTOR

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and response to the Archbishop Annual Appeal process. This weekend is the follow-up and final plea from the pulpit. I also want to thank all the volunteers, the ushers, students from our parish school, members of Life Teen, Colleen Hattrup, the Director of Development for our parish, and Agnes Geraghty and Gail Young (the co-chairpersons for our parish). An effort of this magnitude requires a tremendous amount of work and coordination in order to be successful. It is comforting to know that our response will enable the ministry of the Church to extend beyond the boundaries of our parish.

Having the opportunity to speak at all the Masses the past two weekends was a blessing. It provided me with chance to observe our pastoral musicians, volunteers and professionals, who enhance and support the Liturgies in our parish. We are fortunate to have such dedicated, talented and diverse musical groups and choirs. With the season of Lent fast upon us, I invite you to join me in expressing appreciation for all they do for our parish.

May God Bless you,

Mrs. Ant Valeriano

NOTICE: Lenten booklets for prayer and meditation are now available at the doors of the Church. Please take *one per family*.

AS WE APPROACH LENT people ask for clarifications about individual obligations for Lenten Spiritual Practices, especially about fasting. Below are some traditional guidelines to help you enter more deeply into the spirit of Lent.

PENITENTIAL FAST and ABSTINENCE:

All persons who have reached their 14th birthday are bound by the law of abstinence. All adults are bound by the law of fast up to their 60th year. The current canonical discipline of penance for the United States, in addition to the general character of the Lenten season, may thus be summed up as follows:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast; that is limited to a single full meal.
- The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
- The Fridays of the year outside Lent remain days of penance but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat by some other practice of voluntary self-denial or personal penance; this may be physical mortification or temperance or acts of religion, charity or Christian witness.

LITURGY WORSHIP

PERPETUAL ADORATION UPDATE!

ADORERS NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Sunday 6:00-7:00 p.m. and 10:00– 11 p.m. .

Monday 2:00-3:00 p.m., Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Please call the parish office if you can help to fill these times.

ASH WEDNESDAY... Wednesday, February 25

Masses and imposition of ashes will be at 7:00 & 9:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, 5:00, 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass). **This is a day of Fast and Abstinence.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS... Friday, February 27

2:00 p.m. (children's format) and 7:00 p.m. ***On First Fridays stations will follow the 7 p.m. Mass.***

CHILDREN'S LITURGY... Sunday, March 1

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

FIRST FRIDAY MASSES... March 6

Masses are 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (attended by St. John School), and 7:00 p.m. **Confessions:** 8:45–9:15 a.m. & 6:15–6:45 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION... March 7

Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass and Rosary. Please pick up a folder with the prayers and come to the front pews. Everyone interested in the devotion is welcome to join in prayer.

WE PRAY ...

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of Brigitte Breaux and for her family and friends.

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS for all who are home bound or in nursing homes and for all the sick, especially Deacon Don Miller, Vince DiPietro, Bob and Sandy Krause, Joann Schoberg, Thomas Hackett, Darrell Tenney, Blanche Cushen, Stephen Tamburo, Jr. Grace Dudderer and Floyd McCurdy.

BAPTISMS: Congratulations and welcome to Jackson William Etzel, son of Jaime and Paul Etzel; Izabella Hollynn Vallandingham, daughter of Natalie and James Vallandingham; and Emily Clare Krammer, daughter of Kathy and Charles Krammer.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of February 14-15, 2009:

Envelopes:	\$22,308.07	Attendance:	3,232
Loose:	\$ 4,896.22	Poor Box:	\$1,501.65

TOTAL: \$27,204.29

This year's budget is based on a weekly offering of \$32,700.00. Our current weekly average is \$29,862.38.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL...We will again be conducting our In-Pew pledge process at all Masses this weekend (**Feb. 21-22**). Please prayerfully consider your participation in this important archdiocesan initiative which touches the lives of so many! This year's theme "Do everything for the glory of God" reminds us that everything we do to live out our faith gives glory to God. Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed up to our goal of \$155,988 which this year we will use to assist our sister parish, Our Lady of Pompeii, and our own St. John School's Tuition Assistance Program. Many thanks.

SCHOOL NEWS

Feb. 22—Re-registration of present families at St. John School
Feb. 25—School Liturgy—Ash Wednesday—9:30 a.m.-Church
Feb. 27—School Liturgy—9:30 a.m./Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.
Mar. 3—Group Class Pictures taken (wear uniforms)
 Market Day Orders Due
Mar. 6—School Liturgy—9:30 p.m./Stations of the Cross—2 p.m.
Mar. 10—St. John School reconciliation @ 10 a.m. —Gr.2-8

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA: On the 1st Sunday of Lent, those in RCIA will be participating in special Rites which strengthen them for their final preparations for initiation. At the 8:45 a.m. Mass, we as a parish will acknowledge the spiritual progress the catechumens and candidates have made. After the homily, our parish will send them forth (The Rite of Sending) to our Archbishop, recognizing that they are ready to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Gathered with the Archbishop, those who are unbaptized sign a book which we call the "Book of the Elect," as a sign of their desire to be numbered among the chosen of God. Those who have been baptized are "called to continuing conversion," and thus their intention to be fully initiated and share in the Eucharist is recognized. Please continue to pray for all those involved with RCIA, that the Lord may strengthen them as they prepare for their Lenten journey leading to Easter.

Religious Ed./Youth Activities

Religious Education Office: (410) 848-8443

Reminder: Sponsor Candidate Information Session is being held on *February 22 from 1:15-2:45 p.m. in the Portico.*

PARENTS of those students preparing for First Holy Communion should have received information about our Morning of Preparation which will be held in March. If you did not receive this information, please call the Religious Ed Office.

THREE YEAR OLD PROGRAM...The Religious Ed Office is considering the possibility of beginning a program next year for three year olds. If you would be interested in this for your child, please call Ruth at 410-848-8443.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...June 22-26

Anyone who would be interested in helping out with our Vacation Bible School this summer (Catechist, classroom assistant, snack, music, craft, babysitting) call the Religious Ed office.

—THE EDGE— (Grades 6, 7 & 8) —

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for SHROVE TUESDAY...Anyone interested in volunteering to help out with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, call Jordon at 410-848-8443. *Service hours are available for this project.*

EDGE PARENT/CORE MEMBER MEETING...Thurs.,Mar.12

We are very excited about the upcoming Spring/Summer for the Edge. We have some GREAT new ideas that can only be carried out with some extra parent help! Please join us on **Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.** in the **St. Therese Room** in the Parish Center so we can roll out our plans!

Sun., March 22—Edge Night for all 6-8th graders in the Gym!

— 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!

Feb. 22—The Truth Comes Out: What is the Catholic Church's teaching on Homosexuality? Do you know the truth? Come find out this week!

Feb.24—New and Expanded Pancake Dinner! Don't miss our parish's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner from 4:00-7:30 p.m. in the Portico. We will have a new expanded menu which includes homemade pancakes, yummy toppings and much more this year! You do not want to miss this! A limited number of volunteers are need. Please call Kenn to confirm your willingness to volunteer.

March 27-29—Life Teen Spring Retreat: Mark your calendars. It's going to be a great event! The cost is \$49.00 Confirmation students receive a \$20 discount for signing up before March 1st! Deadline for signing up is **March 1st—after which the cost increases to \$75.00.**

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISH

OPERATION RICE BOWL...As part of our faith community's Lenten observance, we will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, *Operation Rice Bowl*. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to *pray, fast, learn* and *give* as we increase our understanding of our global community. We will connect this understanding with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching throughout our Lenten journey. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones. **Rice bowls will be available beginning Ash Wednesday and should be returned and dropped in the baskets at the doors of the church the Sunday after Easter.**

WELCOME SESSION...Sunday, February 22

All new parishioners who wish to register with the parish are invited to receive a welcoming packet from either the Parish Office, ushers, school, Religious Education or Baptism Preparation Class. The welcoming packet invites you to a Welcoming Session which is held on the *last Sunday of each month at 10:00 –10:45 a.m. in the Parish Center*.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER.....Tues., Feb. 24

Don't miss our parish's annual *Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner from 4:00-7:30 p.m. in the Portico*. We will have a *new and expanded menu* this year (homemade pancakes, yummy toppings and much more!) You do not want to miss this! A free will offering to benefit the Youth Ministry of the parish is requested.

WISDOM CLUB...Thursday, Feb. 26

We will meet at 12:00 noon for Mass celebrated by Msgr. Art followed by lunch in the Portico. Bring your bag lunch. Desserts and drinks will be provided. The program for February is a presentation by Cindy Martin from Copper Ridge who will talk to members about Alzheimers. Members: \$5.00 dues will be collected this month. For details contact Bonnie at 410-795-0786.

PARISH FISH FRYS... Friday, February 27

Join us for our first fish fry of the Lenten season! Join us Fridays during Lent (except April 3rd & Good Friday) at the Portico of St. John. Fish and shrimp dinners are served from 4-7 p.m. For more information call Anna Ludwig at 410-848-4744 x 403 or Lou Stachowiak at 410-635-2583. Adult plate (fish) \$7.00, shrimp dinners \$9.00, shrimp baskets \$3.00; also vegetable lasagna dinner (\$7.00); kids plate (5-10) - \$4.00 (children under 5 –eat free). Cash and checks accepted. *Service hours available. If Carroll County Schools close early the Fish Fry will be cancelled.*

KNIGHTS PARISH BREAKFAST...Sunday, March 1

The Knights 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 sausage, French toast, pancakes, eggs, creamed chipped beef, corned beef hash and drinks. Adults: \$6.00 and children under 12: \$3.00. Please join us!

ST. JOHN BLOOD DRIVE...Monday, March 2

The next blood drive will be from **2:00-8:00 p.m. on March 2nd at the Portico**. We received 88 pints in December. We still can use phone callers and canteen help. To make an appointment call Ted Cook at 410-876-2107. Give the gift of life—Donate!

WOMENHEART PRESENTATION...Tuesday, March 3

Join us for a presentation at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center by Carrie Vincent, a St. John parishioner, who at age 31 suffered a heart attack and is now a spokesperson for WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in women in this country. Come and hear Carrie's story and get vital information that could save your life or that of a friend or family member. RSVP: 410-848-4744 x 236.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU—begins Wednesday, March 4

This year during Lent, our parish is participating in an Archdiocesan-wide reconciliation program initiated by Archbishop O'Brien called "*The Light is On for You.*" *On five consecutive Wednesdays in Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25 (also Parish Penance Service) and April 1)* the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered *here at St. John* from **7:00-8:30 p.m.** Every Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will have confessions available on these five Wednesdays and we invite you to join us here for this sacrament. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to regularly scheduled times for confession, this is a great opportunity to receive penance. To remind you about the parts of confession and the Act of Contrition, *see the enclosed brochure in the bulletin* to guide you through this renewing sacrament. I encourage you to join us—*The Light is On for You!*

BOYS BASKETBALL BULL ROAST...Saturday, March 7

The St. John Boys K-9 Basketball League is sponsoring a bull roast from 7:00 p.m.- midnight at Martin's Westminster. Come and enjoy a night of music, 50/50 drawing, silent auction, money wheel, door prizes and a menu of pit beef, ham, BBQ pork ribs, beer, soda and more. Cost is \$35 per person in advance and \$40 at the door. For tickets or more information, call Debbie Neal at 443-789-4159 or email stjohnboysbasketball@yahoo.com. Have a fun evening out and help support the league!

ANNUAL MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA ...Sunday, March 22

Join us from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at The Portico for the Annual Mother/Daughter Tea. We are pleased to have Christine Friedrich from Generation Life speaking on "Healthy Peer Relationships, Chastity and Vocations" as well as Rachel Harkins from Mt. De Sales to talk about "Facebook, Texting, and the Safe Way of Using Them." All mothers, grandmothers, aunts and girls ages 12-18 are invited for a fun-filled afternoon. Door prizes and good information will be presented in a beautiful "tea" setting. ***Tickets now available at the Portico Book Store and are \$5.00 each!*** For more details call Patti Spaar at 410-861-8510.

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!

BASKET/BAG BINGO...Friday, April 24

Save the date for this event! Tickets will be available in March and are \$12.00 each. Call the parish office for more details.

"ILLUMINATE" CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE..

Save the dates **October 9 and 10, 2009** at St. John-Westminster. Registration begins on April 13th. We must hold the conference to no more than 1000 women, so register early! Go to www.catholicilluminate.com. To help with the conference contact Jeanne Link at 443-324-8487 or jllmickey@verizon.net.

OUTREACH

* THE ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY *

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "...your sins are forgiven." Indeed forgiving is a divine act of Mercy. When we forgive others we are acting in and by God's power. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and forgiveness into our hearts and into our lives.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 25th. Lent is a time of forgiveness, repentance and giving. During this holy season, please remember the poor box so the St. Vincent de Paul Society can continue to help those in need.

The *next meeting* of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is **March 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Portico**. Please join us or call Patty Terrano for more information at 410-857-1473. or visit our website at <http://www.sjwest.org/svdp/index.htm>. or email us at svdp@sjwest.org.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

PARISH RETREAT AT SACRED HEART—Wed., Feb. 25-27

Fr. Tim Kulbicki, OFM Conv., will lead a Parish Retreat starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 (after the 7:00 p.m. Mass) in the main church at 65 Sacred Heart Lane, Glyndon, MD. The theme of the retreat will be on the Paschal Mystery: "What does it mean for us to die and rise in Christ?" The retreat will continue on Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the main church. For more details call Myrna at 410-833-1696.

REMINDERS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS: HOLD THESE DATES:

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

Feb. 22—Hospitality Sunday—Portico

Feb. 24—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—4-7:30 p.m. —Portico

Feb. 25—Ash Wednesday Masses, (see schedule of Masses)

Feb. 27—Stations of the Cross—2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. —Church

Feb. 27—Parish Fish Fry—4-7 p.m. Portico

Mar. 1—KofC Parish breakfast—Portico —after a.m. Masses

Mar. 2—St. John Blood Drive—2-8 p.m. Portico

Mar. 7—Boys Basketball Bull Roast—Martin's Westminster

Mar. 22—Mother/Daughter Tea—1:30 p.m. -Portico

Apr. 17—Men in Black Basketball—Westminster High School

Apr. 24—Basket Bingo—Portico

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

We are gearing up for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Season. Shop early and save \$\$\$\$. To commemorate your child's First Communion, we have a wide selection of gifts including special First Communion rosaries, cards, jewelry with Eucharistic designs, First Communion gift sets that include rosaries, scapulars, children's missals and monstrance pins. We also carry ties, purses, crosses, photo frames and more. Ask about our personal engraving for jewelry and imprinting on a selection of Bibles.

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.