

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 23-Is 65:17-21; Ps 30; Jn 4:43-54

7:00 a.m. Marge Robison

8:00 a.m. James Robert Sprankle

2:00 p.m. Olga Chiavacci (Mass at Carroll Lutheran Village)

Tuesday, March 24-Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46; Jn 5:1-16

7:00 a.m. Horace M. McCullin, Jr.

8:00 a.m. Wilhelmina Kammer

Wednesday, March 25-Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 a.m. Anthony Kowal

8:00 a.m. Joseph Mackowiak

Thursday, March 26-Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106; Jn 5:31-47

7:00 a.m. Dorothy Eckert

8:00 a.m. Tony Colodonato

12:00 p.m. Craig D. Sheckels (Wisdom Club Mass)

Friday, March 27-Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

7:00 a.m. Intention of Floyd McCurdy

9:30 a.m. Alois and Albina Skiber

Saturday, March 28-Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 a.m. Karen Ambrose

4:30 p.m. Intention of Deacon Don Miller

Sunday, March 29-Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

7:15 a.m. Walter J. Hackett, Sr.

8:45 a.m. Rita Shay

10:30 a.m. Marion Marino

12:00 p.m. Parishioners of St. John

3:30 p.m. John Koch

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

FROM THE PASTOR

In compliance with the guidelines of the Human Resources Department of the Archdiocese and the recommendations of the Department of Education Ministries I have formed a Search Committee to help identify the new principal for our parish school. Dr. Faye Pappalardo, the President of Carroll Community College and a parishioner will chair the committee. Serving on the committee are the following: Mrs. Sherri Wright (Principal of Sacred Heart School Glyndon), Mr. Paul Rock (past chair of the parish finance committee and a trustee of the parish whose children attended our school), Mr. Robert Andrews (member of the Pastoral Council and retired middle school administrator whose children attended our school) and Mr. Joseph Rankin (parishioner and retired elementary school administrator whose children attended our school). Ms. Eileen Bowman, Human Resource Recruiter for the Archdiocese will serve as staff to the committee. The committee will identify the top three candidates who will be interviewed by me and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and then I will make the final decision.

The opening and qualifications will be in the Catholic Review this week and next. It is also posted online at the NCEA, NCCL, Catholic Careers.com, Major Superiors of Religious Communities and Archdiocese of Baltimore Elementary School Principals for posting in schools. Please keep all involved in this process in your prayers.

May God Bless You,

Msgr. Ant. Valagano

LITURGY WORSHIP

PERPETUAL ADORATION UPDATE!
ADORERS NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Thursday 1:00-2:00 a.m.

Saturday 3:00- 4:00 p.m. and 4:00-5:00 p.m.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS... Friday, March 27

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

WE PRAY ...

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of Michael Huettner, Fr. Jerome Hall, S.J., Fr. Joseph Martin and Joseph Nelson Sparling and for their families and friends.

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS for all who are home bound or in nursing homes and for all the sick, especially Jim Brown, Helen Sellers, Gordon Jenkins, Paul Dworkowski, Bill Scalley, Scott Gilmore, Donald Jezierski, Donald Blackman, Joe Brown, Joe Palmerino, Barbara Shifflett, Charles Bouchard, Jack Whitley, Bernie Amrhein, Robert Wellbrock, Stephen Tamburo, Jr., Drew Amrhein, Floyd McCurdy and Wilma McConnell.

BAPTISMS: Congratulations and welcome to Gavin Michael Finneran, son of Katherine and Michael Finneran and Alana Rose Sandoval, daughter of Dana and Marcus Sandoval.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of March 14-15, 2009

Envelopes: \$25,003.05

Attendance: 3,392

Loose: \$ 4,877.30

Poor Box: \$1,598.74

TOTAL: \$29,880.35

This year's budget is based on a weekly offering of \$32,700.00.

Our current weekly average is \$29,787.94.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE: We would like to thank everyone who participated in our In-Pew Drive for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal by either donating, praying or remaining patient! Because the Archdiocese received so many envelopes from St. John Church and all of the other churches throughout the archdiocese, they have been unable to fully process all gifts as of yet—however their website indicates that they have processed 363 gifts for us representing \$65,253! Thank you St. John Parishioners! There are many more envelopes and donations to be processed and we will update you again soon!

SCHOOL NEWS

Mar. 23—Vision & Hearing Screening—Gr. K, 1,4 & 8

Stanford 10 Testing—Gr. 3-8

Mar. 24—Stanford 10 Testing—Gr. 3-8

PTF General Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Portico

Mar. 25—Stanford 10 Testing—Gr. 3-8

Mar. 26—Stanford 10 Testing—Gr. 3-8

Mar. 27—School Liturgy— 9:30 a.m.—Church

Stations of the Cross—2 p.m.—Church

Gr. 4A—LaFarge-Medford Quarry

Stanford 10 Testing—Gr. 3-8

Mar. 31—10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Living Stations for staff & students

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA...Over the next few weeks, those in RCIA will participate in the "Scrutiny Rites" during the 8:45 a.m. Mass. These rites are celebrated to help deliver the elect from the power of sin, to protect them from temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The celebrations of the Scrutinies also remind our whole parish community of the need to reflect upon their own sins and the need for God's mercy.

BIBLE STUDY...Thanks to all who have been participating in our parish's study of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Our study of Second Corinthians *will begin the last week of April*. Registration forms are now available in the back of the church. Everyone is welcome to join us, even if you haven't studied the Bible before.

ADULT CONFIRMATION...Our Adult Confirmation class will begin on *Thursday, April 30th*. This five week session is open to all baptized adults (18+) who for whatever reason never received this sacrament. Registration forms are available on our parish website under the Faith Formation (Adults/Adult Confirmation) tab. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Gallagher.

Religious Ed./Youth Activities Religious Education Office: (410) 848-8443

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!

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!

YOUNG APOSTLES 2009-2010...We've had a slight delay in getting our Young Apostle applications out for this year. Keep an eye on this space, we will have more information as it becomes available! The Young Apostles are a leadership team composed of 11th and 12th graders. They help the Church by serving our youth group and Confirmation program. Young Apostles have their own special retreat during the summer and get to participate in activities throughout the year!

March 22—Cold Coffee House... Our next **LIFE TEEN** Cold Coffee House is scheduled for **March 22!** You don't want to miss this night to see your fellow classmates sing, act, etc. And, if you didn't sign up to perform, come hang out and enjoy our awesome coffee house atmosphere!

STEUBENVILLE 2009: Just a reminder that the 2nd payment for Steubenville of \$95 is due by March 22nd.

March 27-29—Life Teen Spring Retreat: "Heroic Virtue" If you missed the sign up for our Spring Retreat (March 27-29) there is still time! For Confirmation students, the price is \$29. For everyone else, the cost is now \$75.00.

ARCHBISHOP'S PILGRIMAGE...Saturday, April 4

Every year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, over 1200 teenagers gather in Baltimore for the Archbishop's Pilgrimage. During the Pilgrimage, we walk from different churches in downtown Baltimore for a variety of experiences such as Adoration, witness talks, praying the rosary and more! Oh, and did I mention George Misulia is doing the music for the Adoration this year? The date for the Pilgrimage is April 4th and the cost, will be \$25.

TENEBRAE...Wednesday, April 8

Tenebrae is a prayer service celebrated the Wednesday before Holy Thursday. The word "tenebrae" means, "when darkness fell." At this service, we read the last 7 words Christ spoke from the cross. As each word is spoken, the lights in the Church slowly go out. It's an awesome way to begin Holy Week! Plus, **LIFE TEEN** runs Tenebrae for our parish and we need your help! If you want to get involved, contact Kenn at kdemoll@sjwest.org or at 410-848-8443!

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISH

FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES AND SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS are available at the doors of the church. Flower Memorial Envelopes should be returned no later than **Monday, April 6th**.

SCHEDULE CHANGES...The 12 Noon Mass will be changed to 12:15 *beginning on Palm Sunday, April 5th*. The later start will allow additional time for fellowship following the 10:30 Mass, as well as eliminate some of the parking lot congestion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of "The Light is On For You" Reconciliation opportunities on the Wednesdays of Lent from 7 p.m. to 8:30p.m. The Parish Lenten Penance Service will take place on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. There will be *no scheduled Reconciliation during Holy Week*. Please note this is a change in the previously published Lenten schedule.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: Fourth Sunday of Lent- Nicodemus and Jesus: In today's Gospel, the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus reminds us during Lent that as we seek to put our spiritual lives in order, we cannot accomplish this task on our own. God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We are reminded that we have been made able to see the kingdom of God; we have been given the gift of eternal life through the waters of baptism. As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in *prayer* that we are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given. May our *fasting* keep us mindful of those who have no clean water to grow crops or to nourish their families. May our *almsgiving* assist Catholic Relief Services as we *learn* about agriculture programs in Honduras.

DEEPEN YOUR LENTEN EXPERIENCE...As we approach the middle of Lent, consider entering more deeply into the mystery of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Stop by the Parish Library in the Parish Center and borrow a good book, CD, video or DVD from our Lenten display. Library hours can be found on the front of the bulletin. While you're there, spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY...Sunday, March 22

Come join us, relax and enjoy a continental breakfast, and have a chance to meet your fellow parishioners in a welcoming community atmosphere after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

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." *Tickets are \$5.00 and available at the Portico Book Store.*

ST. JOHN BLOOD DRIVE...Monday, March 23

Due to inclement weather our recent blood drive had to be rescheduled and will be held on *Monday, March 23rd from 2-8 p.m.* in the Portico. Phone callers and canteen help needed. To make an appointment or to help call Ted Cook at 410-876-2107.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE...Wednesday, March 25

Our Parish Penance Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. There will be numerous priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the prayer service. Please note that there will be *no scheduled confessions during Holy Week*, so, if possible, plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time.

WISDOM CLUB...Thursday, March 26

The Wisdom Club will meet at noon for Mass celebrated by Msgr. Art followed by our St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck luncheon in the Portico. Those members whose last names begin with *M through Z* are responsible for bringing a luncheon item. For further information, call Bonnie at 410-795-0786.

PARISH FISH FRY...Friday, March 27

Join us for our *last* Friday Fish Fry at the Portico. (*No Fish Fry on April 3rd or Good Friday*). Fish and shrimp dinners served from 4-7 p.m. 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. For more details call Anna Ludwig at 410-848-4744 X403.

HEALTH CARE MINISTRY DAY OF RECOLLECTION...Saturday, March 28

The St. John Health Care Ministry is sponsoring a Day of Recollection beginning with the 8:00 a.m. Mass. After Mass we will meet in the Portico for a continental breakfast and a presentation by Fr. Michael De Ascanis on "*Christian Hope in the Face of Suffering and Death*." Topics to be discussed are:

*Procedure for making an Advanced Directive
Proper and improper ways to alleviate suffering, and
The process of helping someone prepare for death.*

All Health Care Ministers are encouraged to attend as well as anyone in the parish who is interested in the presentation. Please call the Health Care Ministry office to let us know if you plan to attend—410-876-2248 ext. 220.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS MEETING...Tuesday, March 31

Any student in the parish who will be entering the 5th grade in September, 2009 or older, who would like to serve on the altar is requested to attend *one* informational meeting on *March 31st* at the Parish Center. There will be one meeting at 3:30 p.m. and another at 7:00 p.m. One or both parents is requested to accompany the student. Call Jim Diggs, at 410-302-3312.

MEN IN BLACK POSTER CONTEST...Deadline April 6

For all parishioners from K-8th grade. Create an 11x17 poster to encourage religious vocations, using crayons, colored pencil, markers or paint. This year's theme is "*Pray like you play...seriously!*" Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Men in Black game. Call Betty Belk at 410-848-9391.

NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING...Tues., April 7 and 14

New altar servers must attend two training sessions. Training will be held in the Church on the following dates:

Tues., April 7th-4:00-5:00 p.m. Tues., April 14th-4:00-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15th—7:00-8:00 p.m.

If necessary, additional dates will be scheduled. For more information contact Jim Diggs, at 410-302-3312.

MEN IN BLACK BASKETBALL...Friday, April 17

7th Annual Event at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster High School. Come enjoy an exciting evening of activities and watch our Archdiocesan priests and seminarians play against St. John parishioners. If you would like to play on the St. John 2009 parish team (high school-age through young adults), please *contact Betty Belk at 410-848-9391 by March 27th.*

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.

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREP SESSION ...May 9, 15 and 16

Session 2 of Pre-Cana begins on May 9th. To register contact Rosalie Seeley at rosalie.seeley@verizon.net.

RANGER ROSARY...The widespread popularity of this combat rosary requested by the Chaplains allows this powerful prayer tool to be in the hands of our troops. There are 25 church groups plus hundreds of individuals all making the rosaries for over 260 Chaplains who have received them. Our Lady must be very happy! Come and visit our table at the Fish Fry and Hospitality Sunday to make a donation and see an example of the rosaries. Volunteers are welcome at our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays 1-3 p.m. in the parish center. Contact Carolyn Peters at 410-876-8268 for details.

OUTREACH

THE ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity. Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime or quarter is multiplied by the coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

St. Vincent de Paul is collecting items for Easter Baskets for the poor. These baskets will be given to Shepherd's Staff to be distributed to area children. The following items are needed: Christian coloring books, storybooks, bookmarks, puzzles, prayer books, crayons, play dough, small toys, school supplies, non-candy snacks, socks, personal care items, and religious items for kids. **NO CANDY PLEASE!** Donations can be placed in the food baskets in the narthex of the church or dropped off at the parish center. The **deadline for donations is the weekend of April 4-5**. If you or your group would like to assemble a finished basket, please take it directly to Shepherd's Staff. Thank you.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

LENTEN RETREATS: St. Joseph Catholic Community in Sykesville (*Mar. 29-31*) For details call Jackie at 443-920-9107.

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Manchester will be holding a Lenten Retreat at 7:30 p.m. (*March 30-Apr. 1*). For more information contact Tom Abbot at 410-239-8881.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE...Sunday, March 29

Cardinal Gibbons school is holding an open house from noon-2:00 p.m. at 3225 Wilkens Ave., Baltimore. Call 410-644-1770 Ext. 109 for more information.

REMINDERS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS: HOLD THESE DATES:

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

Mar. 22—Hospitality Sunday –after morning Masses– Portico

Mar. 22—Mother/Daughter Tea-1:30-3:30 p.m.—Portico

Mar. 23—St. John Blood Drive—2-8 p.m.

Mar. 24—PTF General Meeting—7 p.m. Portico

Mar. 25—Parish Penance Service—7 p.m.—Church

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

Apr. 17—Men in Black Basketball—7:00 p.m.—WHS

Apr. 24—Basket/Bag Bingo—Portico

Oct. 9-10—Illuminate Catholic Women's Conference

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

We are gearing up for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Season. Shop early and save \$\$\$\$. 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.

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 **in the Parish Center at 10:00 a.m.**