

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7 -Is 35:1-10; Ps 85; Lk 5:17-26

7:00 a.m. Eleanor K. Lovell
8:00 a.m. Clotilde Drechsler
3:00 p.m. Florence L. Benesh (Mass at Golden Living Center)
7:00 p.m. William Taymans

Tuesday, December 8-Gn 3:9-15,20;Ps 98;Eph 1:3-6,11-12;Lk 1:26-38

7:00 a.m. Jim Runser
9:30 a.m. Irene Malonowski
12:00 p.m. David Burke
7:00 p.m. George Johnson

Wednesday, December 9-Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30

7:00 a.m. George Johnson
8:00 a.m. Ronald Perron

Thursday, December 10-Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15

7:00 a.m. Int. of Sister Bernadette Borelli
8:00 a.m. Arthur Bentley

Friday, December 11-Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

7:00 a.m. William G. Conner, Sr.
9:30 a.m. Girard and Vera Schwessinger

Saturday, December 12-Zec 2:14-17 ;Ps 80;Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

8:00 a.m. Theresa Berry
4:30 p.m. Raymond Lombardi

Sunday, December 13 -Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6;Phil 4:4-7;Lk 3:10-18

7:15 a.m. Candice Brown
8:45 a.m. Frances Petkovsek
10:30 a.m. Lucia and Vincenzo Moranto
12:15 p.m. Parishioners of St. John
6:00 p.m. Loretta Devlin and Marian Reich

FROM THE PASTOR

Thanks to the generosity of benefactors, the work of dedicated volunteers and your participation and support of our Inaugural Gala for the Tuition Endowment Fund for our parish school and our 56th Annual Christmas Bazaar were successful events. The Christmas Cantata presented by our parish choir showcased beautiful music presented by talented musicians and quality voices. Each event reached out to the greater Westminster community to include and involve friends, neighbors and parishioners from our neighboring parishes. I am deeply grateful for all that you do for our parish and our parish school.

I encourage and invite you to find time this Advent for prayer, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday and daily Mass, the rosary (prayed following the 8 a.m. weekday Mass and the 8:45 a.m. Sunday Mass) and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parish bookstore, located in the Portico has a wonderful selection of beautiful Christmas gifts. Please consider supporting our Boy Scout Troop's annual Christmas tree sale.

May God Bless you,

Mgr. Art Valenzoni

CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS are available at the Parish Center and at the doors of the church.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL envelopes are available at the doors of the church and at the Parish Center. Please print or type the names of the loved ones you wish remembered, your donation, and envelope number and place in the collection basket.

Envelopes must be received in the Parish Office by 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 21 to be included in the bulletin.

LITURGY & WORSHIP

PERPETUAL ADORATION UPDATE...

We are currently in need of an adorer for *Sundays* from 11:00-12:00 midnight If you can fill this hour, please call Agnes at the Parish Center, 410-848-4744 x 219.

PARISH-WIDE ROSARY CAMPAIGN.The Rosary will be recited in the Church each week after the 8:45 Mass. The Rosary will begin at 9:55 a.m. and will be offered for all intentions of the parishioners. We will meet in the Church near the Blessed Mother statue. Everyone is welcome to join us as we lift up to God the needs of our families, church, communities and the world.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *This is a holy day of obligation.* The Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday, Dec. 7 Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Masses at 7 & 9:30 a.m., 12 noon and 7 p.m.

WE PRAY ...

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of Carol Wilkinson, Martha Moses, Dwight Dingle, and Ruby Bingel and for their families and friends.

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS for all who are homebound or in nursing homes and for all the sick, especially Erin Dean, Karen Feroli, Julia Ford, Rosina Pantaleo, Rosemary Myer, Linda Knight, Joseph Kase, Doris Hoffman, Jay Underkoffler, Barbara Shifflett, Todd DiMario, Larry McDaniel, John Burns, Sr., Michael Clark, Mary Ann Gotschall, Robert Coxe, and Pam Blackman.

BAPTISMS...Congratulations and welcome to Tyler Scott Anderson, son of Kara and Scott Anderson; Jake William Jones, son of Kara and Robert Jones; Brayden James Rivera, son of Jamie and Santos Rivera; Laney Harper Franklin, daughter of Amanda and Adam Franklin; Brooke Rose Moorefield, daughter of Jamie and Donny Morefield, Jr.; Trevor James Klipa, son of Jessica Daubert and Ryan Klipa; Alexander René Martinez and Chelsea Leigh Martinez, son and daughter of Jessica Daubert and Edgar René Martinez Maldonado; Brittany Ann Davis, daughter of Beth and Joseph Davis; Edward Vincent Senkbeil, Rebecca Elaine Senkbeil, Ezekiel Fredrich Senkbeil and MacKenzie Anne Senkbeil, sons and daughters of Sonya and Edward Senkbeil.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of November 21-22, 2009

Envelopes:	\$22,281.35	Attendance:	3,341
Loose:	<u>\$ 5,488.91</u>	Poor Box:	\$1,606.12

TOTAL: **\$27,770.26**

This year's budget is based on a weekly offering of \$30,500.00
Our current weekly average is \$29,505.32.

Please remember St. John when formulating your will.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of November 28-29, 2009

Envelopes:	\$24,304.50	Attendance:	3,321
Loose:	<u>\$ 4,940.01</u>	Poor Box:	\$2,089.20

TOTAL: **\$29,244.51**

This year's budget is based on a weekly offering of \$30,500.00
Our current weekly average is \$29,493.47

Please remember St. John when formulating your will.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

STATUS OF MORTGAGE:

Beginning Balance: 11/01/09	\$1,518,093
Paid: Interest \$ 7,907	
Principal <u>\$17,726</u>	-25,633
Interest Charged	7,907
Ending Balance 12/01/09	\$1,500,367

NOTICE: Use Mortgage Fund Envelopes for second collection on last Sunday of the month to reduce the mortgage.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Campaign for Human Development. The total amount collected was \$6,066.35.

SCHOOL NEWS

GIFT CARDS...will be sold after all Sunday masses through December 13 for Neighbors in Need and/or your personal use.

Gift cards are also available in the school office from 8:30-3:45 pm Monday thru Friday, *at the Knights of Columbus breakfast and Hospitality Sundays*. Donations for Neighbors in Need are gratefully accepted. If anyone would like to place a large order for gift cards for the Christmas season, please call the school office by December 9th. Gift cards are available for Food Lion, Giant/Martins, Shoppers, Super Fresh, Weis, Boscov's and Kohl's. For more information call the school office at 410-876-7228.

ST. JOHN LIVE/SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER will be held *Saturday, Jan. 16th*. Donated items would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ginger Bruha at 410-635-3532 or sgbruha@gmail.com. Visit our website at www.sjwestschool.org to view the auction site and for donor forms.

SCHOOL NEWS

- Dec. 8**—Mass-Immaculate Conception—9:30 a.m.—Church
- Dec. 9**—Kindergarten St. Nicholas Program—7:00 p.m.—gym
- Dec. 10**—School Advent Penance Service—10 a.m. Church
- Dec. 11**—School Liturgy—9:30 a.m.—Church
PTF Spirit Night & Family Fun Event—7-9 Portico
- Dec. 12**—Baltimore H.S. Placement Test—8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 14**—Christmas Program—7:00 p.m.—gym
- Dec. 16**—Parish Penance Service—7:00 p.m.—Church
- Dec. 18**—School Liturgy—9:30 a.m.—Church

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RCIA RITES...On *Saturday, December 12th*, our RCIA group will be taking an important step on their journey towards Easter. At the 4:30 Mass, those to be baptized at Easter will participate in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. Those who will receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil will participate in the Rite of Welcoming. Please pray for everyone in RCIA as they continue the initiation process.

COLLEGE RETREAT...December 18-19

We will be offering our annual Advent retreat for college-age young adults *December 18-19th at Blue Ridge Summit*. The cost will be \$55. The theme this year is "Behold!" and we will be joined by two other parishes, so sign up early! More information is available on the parish website under youth tab. *Parents, please this information on!*

BIBLE STUDY...The Study of St. Mark's Gospel will begin in January, and the Study of the Passion/Resurrection Narratives will begin in February. Registration forms will be available right after Christmas. The cost will remain \$20 per participant, which includes all materials and the teaching DVD used in the groups.

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

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION SHEET for any student preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist was due into the Religious Education Office by *November 30th*.

THE EDGE — (Grades 6, 7 & 8) —

We meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday every month from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Newcomers are welcome!

Dec. 13—The Edge is making gingerbread houses. The best part is you will be able to eat candy while making the houses. Then afterward you can take them home to share. This is one of our crazy fun nights, lots of candy, icing, chocolate and more. We are going to play flashlight tag as well! YES! You don't want to miss this night. Meet in front of St. John's gym lobby at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 13—**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS...**This Edge night Ms. Mandy is collecting homemade cookies in zip-lock bags to send to our troops who are serving our country overseas. Please think about someone else this Christmas season and make a batch of cookies for our troops. Place 6 or 7 cookies in a bag. Ms. Mandy will collect all the cookies at the beginning and end of our Edge night on Dec. 13th. If you would like to drop them off before Dec. 13th send them to the Religious Ed office to Mandy Komar and label the cookies *For the Troops*. Thank you for your support and love!

Dec. 19 & 20 —**Live Nativity...**The Edge needs your help! Ms. Mandy is looking for middle school students to help with the live Nativity this year. The Edge is having it *after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 19th and after the 6 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 20th*. She needs about seven kids to volunteer. The cool part is that you are going to be seen by the entire parish, yay! Please contact Mandy Komar at mkomar@sjwest.org if you want your child to be involved. Thank you for your help!

SAVE THE DATE...July 6 thru 9th EDGE WEEKDAY CAMP
That's right everyone, The Edge is going to have another summer camp you are not going to want to miss! Get your summer calendars ready and mark the dates! The camp is going to be for all middle school students 6th thru 8th grade from any school. Get ready for a crazy week! If you want to reserve a spot please contact Mandy Komar at mkomar@sjwest.org. God is good!

— 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!

Dec. 6—**ALL ROADS LEAD TO...**Do you remember those old "Choose Your Own Adventure" books where you could decide what the main character did? Well, that's what we're doing tonight at LIFE TEEN! You'll get to play a real life version of the book! But, where are you going and what do all roads lead to?

Dec. 11-13.. GLORIOUS ROCK...The annual LIFE TEEN Advent Retreat is going to be from Dec. 11-13. Our theme this year is music! We are going to teach you about prayer using the Psalms, such as Liturgy of the Hours. Oh, and did we mention the Guitar Hero Tournament, the Musician Coffee House for anyone to play in and the live rock band we are going to have on retreat with us? So far, over 50 teens have signed up for the retreat! Are you one of them? If not, contact Kenn at kdemoll@sjwest.org for how you can register for this great event!

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISH

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE SALE... Dec. 3-23

St. John Boy Scout Troop 420 is selling Christmas trees behind St. John School-weekdays 5-9 pm and weekends 9 am-9 pm. White pine, Douglas Fir, Spruce and Frazier Fir are available. Prices start at \$30. Trees are all freshly cut from local growers. The Scouts greatly appreciate your support.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA...Sunday, December 6

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking breakfast for the parish in the Portico after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses and *Santa will be joining us*. This month's Parish Breakfast will benefit the Christmas Bazaar, so please come and have breakfast with Santa. This is an excellent opportunity to support a great cause, meet new parishioners and to enjoy a delicious breakfast of French toast, pancakes, eggs, creamed chipped beef, sausage gravy, corned beef hash and more. Prices are: Adults—\$6.00 and children \$3.00.

ST. JOHN BLOOD DRIVE... Monday, Dec. 7

Our next blood drive is Monday Dec. 7th from 2-8 p.m. in the Portico. In memory of all those who shed their blood 68 years ago, please donate. We still need phone callers. To help or to make an appointment call Ted Cook at 410-876-2107.

GIFT WRAPPING FOR OUR SHUT-INS...Monday, Dec. 7

We will be completing our gift wrapping this Monday from 9-noon in the Marian Room at the Parish Center. Items still needed include dish towels, dish cloths, dish soap and pot holders. Thanks to all who have already donated so generously over the past few weeks.

HEALTH CARE MINISTRY MEEETING...Tuesday, Dec. 8

You are encouraged to attend the noon Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and then join in the Christmas celebration that will follow in the St. Therese Room at the Parish Center. If you have not yet responded to the invitation, please do so in order for us to plan accordingly.

AFTER SCHOOL MOVIE...Wednesday, Dec. 9

The Westminster Council 1393 Knights of Columbus will be presenting an after-school movie for students of St. John School and their parents. The movie is the **"Nativity Story"** and the time is **4 p.m. in the Portico**. A note from a parent allowing the student to attend is necessary. Parents are also invited to view the movie with their children. Please note some scenes are intense and may not be for very young children although the movie is rated "PG." This is a powerful, timeless and visually magnificent telling of one of the world's most famous stories. It was the cruelest of times. Under Herod's torturous reign, families struggled to survive and yet in the midst of utter turmoil, a young woman's faith was put to the test. Join Mary and Joseph on the incredible journey of hope and salvation! Call Chuck Witte for more information, 410-875-2759.

WISDOM CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH...Thurs., Dec. 10

Our Christmas luncheon will take place at Martin's Westminster. Arrival time is 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Cost for members is \$30 and for non-members \$32. Entertainment by "Never Too Late Band" from Carroll Lutheran Village. For reservations or more information call Bonnie at 410-795-0786.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION...Dec. 11-12

Join us on December 11th in the Church for a "Serenade to the Virgin Mary" from 11p.m. to 1:00 a.m. On December 12th we will begin the celebration at 5:15 p.m. with a procession starting at the Fire Station, to Main Street-Pennsylvania Ave., Monroe Street and to Church for Mass at 7:00 p.m. A reception will follow at West Middle School Cafeteria -music, dance and food from Mexico.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE...Wednesday, Dec. 16

There will be a Parish Penance Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Church with opening prayers, Gospel, introduction of visiting priests and individual confessions.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP...Sunday, Dec. 20

This ministry is for those grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet in the Parish Center from 10-11:30 a.m. No registration required. For information call Janet Tenney 410-833-1542.

BEREAVEMENT SOCIAL...Sunday, Dec. 20

Holidays can be very lonely. All are welcome to join us for a meal at Bullocks (Rt. 32) **at 12:00 noon**. We will sit at the long tables in the back section. No registration required. Just come! For more information call Janet Tenney, 410-833-1542.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY is looking for children who would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Liturgy at 4:00 p.m. in the Church. Readers and pageant characters are needed. Call Mary Devilbiss at 410-345-7012.

TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE PROGRAM...Families are needed to pray for vocations. Our Traveling Vocations Chalice has no where to go for the months of December, January and February. If your family has not yet been blessed with having this beautiful chalice in your home, please consider it. Your family would accept the chalice at a given weekend mass, and pray the daily prayer for vocations for the next 2 weeks. Families then return the chalice to the parish center. Please contact Theresa Greene this week to sign up for the orphaned weeks. 410-876-9578 or treegreene@comcast.net.

2010 CARNIVAL...Volunteers are needed for the Planning Committee for this wonderful Memorial Day week event. Participation involves attending planning meetings 1 to 2 times per month and membership on a sub-committee to organize events, food, or entertainment. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jim Kramer by email at jimandremark@aol.com or by phone at 301-447-6992. Without devoted volunteers, this traditional worthwhile event may not happen. Please consider helping with this major St. John fundraiser.

RANGER ROSARIES-REMEMBER OUR TROOPS...Although our troops are not visible to us, please remember them in your prayers this busy Advent season. Thanks to you they may have a Ranger Rosary and that is always accompanied by the presence of Our Lady. Donations for this cause can be made by contacting Carolyn Peters at 410-876-8268. Volunteers are welcome to help make Rosaries at the parish center on Fridays 1-3 & 6:30 -8:30 pm.

OUTREACH

THE ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? We would like to help. Please call the office of St. Vincent de Paul Society at 410-848-8693.

If you would like to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society, contact Patti Terrano at 410-857-1473 for information or contact us at www.sjwest.org/svdp/index.htm or email us at svdp@sjwest.org.

CARING AND SHARING TREE...the Caring and Sharing Trees will be in the narthex and at the side doors of the Church again this weekend. We are counting on your generosity to provide those in need with a blessed and joyful Christmas. Bring your wrapped gifts with gift tag firmly attached to the altar during Mass on *December 12th and 13th*. The last day we can accept gifts is *Monday, December 14th* in the Portico between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation and generosity to this worthwhile project.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS' TESTING...Sat., Dec. 12

For the first time, the Catholic High Schools' Placement Test will be offered to 8th grade students on Sat., Dec. 12. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. The test begins promptly at 9 a.m. (no late admittance). Cost \$30 cash or check (no credit cards). Students may take the test at any Catholic High School. Students may take the test One Time Only. For information visit: www.archbalt.org.

REMINDERS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS: HOLD THESE DATES:

(For information on any of these events, call the Parish Center)
Dec. 5—Christmas Cantata—Church 7-8 pm —Church
Dec. 6—Parish Breakfast with Santa—Portico—after a.m. Masses
Dec. 7—St. John Blood Drive —2-8 p.m. Portico
Dec. 8—Feast of Immaculate Conception—7, 9:30, noon & 7 p.m.
Dec. 9—After School Movie—4 p.m.—Portico
Dec. 11-12—Feast of Guadalupe—11-1 am.(12/11) & 7 p.m. 12/12)
Dec. 16—Parish Penance Service—7 p.m.
Dec. 20—Bereavement Support Group & Social- 10 a.m.

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

Stop by for a discount coupon! Lots of Christmas gift items available, including a new children's Christmas CD recorded by St. John school children,, entitled "St. John School Sing for Christmas 2009." Volunteers needed for weekends only—must be 18 years of age and STAND trained. See or call Jean at 410-848-9140 for details.

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 or those who have never registered 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 (Dec. 27) of each month in the Portico at 10:00 a.m.