

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 14-Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Ps 25; Mt 21:23-27
 7:00 a.m. Edward and Lillian Swinderman
 8:00 a.m. Richard M. Baeder
 2:00 p.m. Dale Middleton (Mass at Carroll Lutheran Village)
Tuesday, December 15-Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34; Mt 21:28-32
 7:00 a.m. George Johnson
 8:00 a.m. Eudora G. Nageotte
Wednesday, December 16-Is 45:6b-8,18, 21b-25; Ps 85; Lk 7:18b-23
 7:00 a.m. Hope Goodson
 8:00 a.m. Guy Nageotte
Thursday, December 17-Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17
 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Glowack
 8:00 a.m. Peggy Wilkinson
Friday, December 18-Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25
 7:00 a.m. James E. Fisher
 9:30 a.m. Helen Margaret Whiteley
Saturday, December 19-Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25
 8:00 a.m. Corine and Barry Murphy
 4:30 p.m. Virginia and Howard Barnes
Sunday, December 20 -Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
 7:15 a.m. Edward and Mary Katkish
 8:45 a.m. Parishioners of St. John
 10:30 a.m. Antonio and Antonia Zito
 12:15 p.m. Dorothy Schrauder
 6:00 p.m. Will Vanko

FROM THE PASTOR

Because our Christmas Eve Masses are usually very crowded and the parking lots are full, I would like to offer some suggestions to keep in mind. The 4 p.m. Mass in the church is planned for families with young children and will include the children's choir and will conclude with the Christmas Tableau. There will be an overflow Mass in the Portico beginning at 4:15p.m. Because of the number of children and the fact that it will be dark when the Masses end, please be extremely careful on the parking lots. Additional Vigil Masses will be celebrated in the church at 6:30 p.m. and in the Portico at 6:45 p.m. The traditional and beautiful Christmas Midnight Mass will be preceded by caroling beginning at 11:30 p.m. Masses on Christmas day are scheduled for 8 and 10 a.m. and noon.

I am deeply grateful to our pastoral staff and all the volunteers who have been and continue to work tirelessly to assist our parish liturgies. I encourage and invite you to keep the season of Advent a time of prayer and a season of hope.

May God Bless you,

Mrs. Ant Valeriano

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.

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.

WE PRAY ...

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of Joseph Grata, Anna Greene, Estelle Phillips, Antony E. Zappardino, III, Patricia A. Merena, David Reiersen and Msgr. Dennis Tinder 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, Rosina Pantaleo, Joseph Kase, Barbara Shifflett, Karen Feroli, Rosemary Myer, Linda Knight, Richard Sweeney Julia Ford, Jay Underkoffler, Anna Wachter, Bob Bouchard, Joyce Foster and Marian Brownhill.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.	Church (Children's Liturgy)
4:15 p.m.	The Portico
6:30 p.m.	Church
6:45 p.m.	The Portico
12:00 midnight	Church

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

8:00 a.m.	Church
10:00 a.m.	Church
12:00 noon	Church

There will be no 6:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Note: Confessions before Mass on *Sat., Dec. 19* from 3:30-4:15 p.m. and on *Sun., Dec. 20* at 6:45-7:00 a.m. and 5:15-5:45 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP

WEEKLY OFFERING: Weekend of December 5-6, 2009

Envelopes:	\$24,698.00	Attendance:	2,780
Loose:	\$ 5,074.69	Poor Box:	\$1,650.97
TOTAL:	\$29,772.69		

This year's budget is based on a weekly offering of \$30,500.00 Our current weekly average is \$29,505.61.

Please remember St. John when formulating your will.

Amount collected in November from the 5th Sunday of the month (known as "Burn the Mortgage Fund Envelope" Program)

\$12,202.39

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 PRE-K PROGRAM 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR...

Next year St. John will be offering 2 Pre-K classes for 4 year olds. Any child who is 4 by September 1, 2010 is eligible to enroll. We will offer one class in the morning, 5 days M-F, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Our afternoon class will be 3 days MWF from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Registration will begin in January with the regular school registration. We are in the process of calculating tuition for both programs. Watch the bulletin for more details on Pre-K classes.

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. 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. 17 —Band Concert—2 and 7 pm—gym
- Dec. 18—School Liturgy—9:30 a.m.—Church
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1— School Closed

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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*.

REMINDER...There will be no Religious Education classes on Tuesday, Dec. 22, Thursday, Dec. 24, Sunday, Dec. 27, Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Dec. 31.

YANKEE CANDLE ORDERS...If you have not had a chance to pick up your order, please do so as soon as possible. The orders may be picked up at the Parish Center.

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 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 this Edge night. 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. Please contact Mandy Komar at mkomar@swjest.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!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING...Sunday, December 20

It's that time of year and LIFE TEEN is going caroling again!! Details are still being worked out. If you are interested in joining us for Christmas Caroling send an email to kdemoll@sjwest.org.

MOUNT 2000...Have you ever wished you could experience a dynamic retreat with national speakers and a huge group adoration, like Steubenville, for only a fraction of the cost? Now you can! LIFE TEEN will be attending **Mount 2000**, a dynamic Eucharist centered retreat being held at Mount Saint Mary's from ***February 12-14th***. Our final cost is still being worked out, but it looks like it will be under \$70. Watch for registration information next week!

STUEBENVILLE OR MISSION TRIP? Hey all you High Schoolers! With the cost a Steubenville retreat getting more and more expensive, we wanted to offer you another option. Would you rather pay almost \$300 for a weekend retreat or the same amount for a week long mission trip with adoration, praise and worship, talks, skits, etc. to do service in Gettysburg, PA with the Catholic Heart Work Camp? This year, we are letting you make the call by signing up for the event you want to and we'll attend whichever one is most popular. The dates are similar for both events. Catholic Heart Work Camps is from June 20-26th and Steubenville runs from June 25-27th. Look for registration information next week!

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISH

THANK YOU to all who supported the St. John School Inaugural Gala honoring Charles O. Fisher, Sr. with the Distinguished Alumnus Award this past Friday evening. Whether you purchased a ticket and joined us for the beautiful event, volunteered on the committee or during the event, supplied materials or manpower, gave a donation or purchased an ad—we truly appreciate your support of this lovely gala! Congratulations to Mr. Fisher and to the entire Fisher Family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF THE RAFFLE...

- \$3200 —Bill Leatherwood—Westminster**
- \$ 300 —Paul Onheiser, Sr.—Westminster**
- \$ 200 —Dave O'Brien—Westminster**
- \$ 100 —Lillian C. Kemeck**

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.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE SALE...Now thru Dec.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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA RESCHEDULED...Sat. Dec. 19
The music ministry of St. John's will present a Christmas Cantata from 7-8 p.m. in the Church. Please join us for this evening of sacred music, presented by all the music groups of our parish, to commemorate the birth of our King! A free will offering will be taken (suggested \$5.00 per person attending) and fellowship will follow in the Portico. For more information, please contact Regina McCurdy at 410-876-3850 or rmccurdy816@yahoo.com. or Sarah Howes at 443-605-3538, or dshowes@gmail.com.

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY... Sunday, December 20
Join us for pastries, bagels, juice and coffee after the 7:15, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses and meet some of your fellow parishioners for some relaxing time and conversation.

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.

RESPECT LIFE 4TH ANNUAL ESSAY/POSTER CONTEST..
This year's theme is Choose Life. God Has a Plan! "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 The contest is open to all 7th and 8th graders of St. John Parish. First place winner will receive a Sony 16GB MP3/Video Player. Please turn entries into the Religious Ed office by January 15th. For more details, email Janet at KL4JAN@aol.com.

ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE...Friday, January 22
Save the date!!! The March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan. 22. Our parish will sponsor two buses. Details to follow in future bulletins. Please plan on attending this national event that memorializes the anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision that decriminalized abortion, Roe v. Wade.

MEN IN BLACK BASKETBALL...Friday, April 30
Save the date! St. John parishioners vs. Archdiocesan priests and seminarians at Westminster High in an exciting basketball game.

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 Marty Devilbiss at 410-346-7012.

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 says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Please remember that next weekend (Dec. 19-20) is Food Sunday. Please bring your donation of non-perishable food and place in the baskets provided in the narthex of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

BASKETBALL SKILLS CLINIC...Dec. 28 and 29

The 14th annual Basketball Skills Clinic for boys and girls will be offered at McDaniel College and East Middle School on December 28 and 29. The clinic will focus on offensive skills with the first day just working on perfecting your shot and learning to shoot the correct way. Coach Phil Popielski, an assistant on Coach Martin's staff at McDaniel, will be leading the camp and McDaniel College players will be assisting as well as local high school coaches. This is a great opportunity to get out of your house over the holiday break and get into the gym. One day admission is \$30 and for two days is \$50.00 The camp is open to boys and girls ages 7-15 that want to learn to play fundamental basketball. For more information and a camp application contact Phil at 410-599-1319 or email him at Pball@hotmail.com.

DELONE 2010 PLACEMENT TEST DATES...Jan. 16

Delone Catholic High will hold placement testing for the 2010-11 school year on the following dates: *Sat., Jan. 16, Sat., March 20* or *Sat., May 29* at Delone. All incoming 9th graders must take the test on one of those dates. Testing will be conducted from 9:00am-2 pm. each day. There is no cost to take the exam. The test, based on the ACT exams, covers English, science and math. Any 8th grader who attends a Catholic school, a public school, home school or other school outside of the Adams Deanery of the Diocese of Harrisburg should contact Sr. Maria Jude, CSJ at 717-637-5969 x 217 or at smjude@delonecatholic.org. to make arrangements for testing.

REMINDERS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS: HOLD THESE DATES:
(For information on any of these events, call the Parish Center)

Dec. 16—Parish Penance Service—7 p.m.

Dec. 19 —Christmas Cantata—7 p.m. Church

Dec. 20—Hospitality Sunday—after morning masses— Portico

Dec. 20—Bereavement Support Group & Social- 10 a.m.

Dec. 27—Welcome Session—10 a.m.—Portico

Jan. 22—Annual March for Life—Wash. D.C.

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

The Portico Books + Gifts wishes everyone a Merry Christmas! We will be open on Christmas Eve day from noon-6:00 p.m. We will be closing on Christmas Day and reopening on Sunday, January 10th. Thanks for supporting your parish bookstore.

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. There will be a Welcoming Session on *Sunday (Dec. 27)* at the Portico at 10 am. Beginning in January registration forms will be available at the Parish Office, from the ushers, through Religious Ed Office, or Baptism Preparation Class.