

PARISH STAFF

(NOTE: Please use the 703 area code for all numbers.)

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Rev. Robert A. Mancini, OSFS 860-8510 x145

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PASTORAL CARE

INFANT BAPTISM: Please call to register for the Baptism Class, offered monthly. English 703-860-8510; Spanish 703-860-8510, x353.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA):

Please call Mickie Abatemarco at 703-390-2340, to inquire about becoming Catholic.

MARRIAGE: Begin preparation with one of our parish priests at least six months before the desired marriage date.

SICK: Please call the office if you know of someone who is hospitalized, seriously ill, or home-bound.

**Please Note: Material for the bulletin must be submitted no later than Thursday, ten days prior to the intended publication date.*

THIS WEEK AT SJN...



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Faith Formation Classes

Boy Scout Troop 124 Christmas Tree

Sale (8:00am - 9:00pm)

Knights of Columbus Charity Fundraiser Breakfast: 8:00am;

Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

RCIA Dismissal: 10:00am; Conference Room

High School Teens: 6:15pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Faith Formation Classes

Road to Emmaus: 10:00am; Conference Room

Care for Our Common Home: 5:00pm; Bridal Room

Boy Scout Troop 124: 7:00; A1/A2

Power of Story: 7:00pm; de Sales Chapel

Praying College Moms: 7:00pm; Conference Room

Holding Hope: 7:30pm; Bridal Room

Lectio for Lectors and Anyone Else: 7:30pm; Youth Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Faith Formation Classes

French Conversation: 9:30am; A1

Care for Our Common Home: 7:00pm; Conference Room

Combined St. John Neumann and Our Lady of Good

Counsel Advent Penance Service: 7:00pm; Church

RCIA Catechumenate: 7:30pm; A1

RCIA Inquiry: 7:30pm; Faith Formation Work Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Faith Formation Classes

Angel Choir: 5:00pm; Music Room

Children's Choir: 5:30pm; Music Room

Legión de María: 7:00pm; B4

Social Justice: 7:00pm; A1

Finance Council: 7:30pm; Conference Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Mothers' Group Playgroup: 9:30am; Early Religious Room

Newcomers' Book Club: 10:00am; A1

Contemplative Prayer: 7:00pm; Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Mothers' Group Bible Study: 10:00am; Conference Room

Voce Concert and Reception: 8:00pm; de Sales Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Brown Bag Weekend

Life+Savers: 3:00pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Spanish Prayer Group; 6:30pm; de Sales Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Faith Formation Classes

Brown Bag Weekend

Sunday Morning Coffee: 8:30am; Brown-McCarthy

Auditorium

RCIA Dismissal: 10:00am; Conference Room

Shawl Ministry: 2:00pm; Conference Room

High School Teens: 6:15pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer and Liturgy

Like the deer that longs for running streams, so my soul longs for God.—Psalm 42:1

Jesus' first interaction with mankind in the Gospel of John is kind of awkward. He noticed two men following him and stopped, looked straight at them, and said, "What are you looking for?" I think he wanted them to stop and ask themselves that question before taking another step. He wants us to ask it of ourselves, too—because that question is the start of the spiritual journey.

Our longing for "something more" than this world can give us is part of who we are. It's a longing that St. Thomas Aquinas used as evidence for God. A stomach's growling would make no sense if there were no such thing as food. What about that "growling" in the depths of our hearts for something no amount of worldly "stuff" can satisfy? That growling has led man to think of God since the dawn of time.

If we're losing touch with God today it's probably because we've lost touch with ourselves. We tend to forget our deepest longings and highest ideals when they're drowned out by the "noise" of passing news and countless to-dos. Or worse, we tend to suppress our highest hopes when life leaves us hurt and disappointed.

I want you to give yourself permission to ask the dangerous questions: "What do I want out of life? What am I looking for? Really?"

Beneath every answer from "a happy marriage" to "a big fat paycheck" to "fame and fortune" (all of which you may or may not get) is a deeper longing. We want more. We want happiness. We want joy. We want peace. We want LOVE. And we don't want a little of those things. We want an infinite supply—more of it than this whole world could possibly give! We want GLORY!

Let yourself feel that longing . . .

That would be cruel advice if that longing had no answer! Thankfully it does have an answer. The one who asked the question "What are you looking for?" is the answer. He just wants you to find that out for yourself. That's what the spiritual journey is all about.

Chris Stefanick is an internationally acclaimed author and speaker, who has devoted his life to inspiring people to live a bold, contagious faith. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap calls Chris, "one of the most engaging young defenders of the Christian faith on the scene today." Chris is also the founder of Real Life Catholic, a Denver-based non-profit which operates as the headquarters for Chris's various initiatives. Above all, Chris is proud to be the husband to his wife Natalie and father to their six children. To learn more about Chris's work, please visit: www.RealLifeCatholic.com.



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10;
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;
James 5:7-10;
Matthew 11:2-11

Today's readings reveal that God's saving mission is achieved through Jesus Christ, who establishes God's kingdom on earth. St. Francis de Sales notes:

In today's Gospel, St. John the Baptist guides his disciples, not to himself, but to Jesus. Jesus had as His mission to be Savior. True Light of justice, He enlightened the land of the Church by the radiance of His life. He came down to our humanity to fill us with His divinity, satiating us with His goodness, raising us up to his dignity, and giving us the divine existence of "children of God." Constantly He lifts the heavy and sluggish spirit of the poor and humble, giving them His own Spirit so they can do great things.

Our Savior teaches us that it is not enough to be called a Christian. I must live in such a manner that others clearly recognize in me a person who loves God with my whole heart. True servants of God, like John the Baptist, lead others to God by their words and deeds. Let us be attentive to John's example. He teaches us that our true success in life is to guide others, not to ourselves, but to Christ. Under Him, others, as well as ourselves, must learn and do what is necessary for His love and service that lead to stability.

St. John the Baptist was a rock, immovable in the midst of all the waves and tempests of tribulations. He was as joyous in the winter of trouble as in the springtime of peace. We, on the contrary, are reeds tossed about by every mood and humor. We allow the winds of wealth, honors and material comforts to toss us about. In worldly things we can say, "I have a moderate amount, I have enough." As for spiritual goods, we can never have enough of them. Like John the Baptist, let us continually incline our hearts to receive the divine love that Our Savior desires to give us. For it is God's love that allows us to bring to others God's kingdom, where mercy, justice and peace reign.

(Adapted mainly from Rev. Lewis S. Fiorelli, OSFS, ed. "Sermons of St. Francis de Sales")

WE WELCOME those who have recently entered into our faith through the waters of Baptism: **Jane Cleary Calabrese**, daughter of Keith and Elizabeth; and **Corinne Summers Courtillet**, daughter of Marcel and Carrie.



HEARING IMPAIRED? Amplification devices are available for anyone having difficulty hearing the Mass. If you would like to use one, just ask an usher before Mass. Also, the parish has purchased large-print Sunday Missals to help you worship. If you would like one for your personal use contact Jo-Ann Duggan at jduggan@saintjn.org or 703-860-6149.



WHY IS THE CANDLE WE LIGHT THIS WEEK ON THE ADVENT WREATH ROSE?

In today's society, it is easy to become wrapped up in and focused on the hustle and bustle of activity immediately following Thanksgiving, preparing for Christmas celebrations and festivities. Our Catholic Advent season is also a season of preparation, but the preparation is more subdued, filled with prayer and meditation as we await the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Advent Wreath hanging over the Baptismal Font and those in our homes symbolize our own spiritual anticipation through the use of light and color. Each Sunday, as we light a new candle, we are reminded that soon we will welcome the Light of the World. While three candles are purple, to remind us of the waiting in darkness done by our ancestors, this weekend we light the single rose candle.

The entrance antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent begins "Rejoice in the Lord always". "Rejoice" in Latin is "Gaudete"; hence this Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. As we light the rose candle this weekend, we are thus reminded of the joy the Christian world will share very soon, for the Lord is near.

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 10
5:00pm	Elizabeth Mumford †
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 11
7:30am	People of the Parish
9:30am	Susan Mitchell †
11:30am	Piera Sinagra †
1:30pm	Alfred Graves †
5:00pm	George and Linda Skaff ††
MONDAY	DECEMBER 12
9:00am	Susan Mitchell †
12:10pm	Violet Falcone †
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 13
6:30am	Lucy Breiterman †
9:00am	Winifred and George Sullivan ††
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 14
9:00am	William W. Byrne †
12:10pm	Howard Hulbert †
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 15
6:30am	Dolores Chandler †
9:00am	Ted Simpson †
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 16
9:00am	Pauline and Edward Baker ††
12:10pm	Curtis and Angela Sylvester, Special Intention
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 17
5:00pm	Christina Dunnigan †
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 18
7:30am	Anne Marie Machado †
9:30am	Seamus Boyle †
11:30am	Carol and Patricia Bryant ††
1:30pm	People of the Parish
5:00pm	Mark Bowns and Bob Szymanski††

LOCAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 13	St. John Neumann	7:00pm
Tuesday, December 13	St. Thomas à Becket	7:00pm
Sunday, December 18	St. Mark, Vienna	7:00pm

PLEASE PRAY for those who have asked for our prayers, Tom Downey, and for all the sick.

When you call to add a name to our prayer list, please leave your name and number as a contact and let us know what the illness is. Before calling, please be sure that you have spoken to the person or a member of the family about adding their name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

*Names of those who are sick or injured will be kept on the list for three weeks unless you specifically request a shorter period of time or call to ask that the name be removed. **Names that are new this week are in boldface type.***

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS: Next weekend we celebrate **The Fourth Sunday In Advent**. Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from God's Word:

Isaiah 7:10-14 The king of Judah wishes to trust in the power of military coalitions when he and his dynasty are threatened with destruction. However, the prophet proposes a sign of hope from God. It is a fragile sign insofar as it deals with the birth of a child, the heir to the throne. It is a strong sign because God will be with this child. Do we trust in chariots and horses or in the name of the Lord our God?

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 **Let the Lord Enter; He Is the King of Glory.** Here the psalmist expresses love for Zion and says that obedience to the law is required if we are to enter the divine presence.

Romans 1:1-7 According to the flesh, Jesus is born as the Messiah of the line of David. According to the Spirit, Jesus is established as Son of God by His resurrection and is the Messiah of all the nations. We have received the mission to bring these nations to the obedience of faith.

Matthew 1:18-24 In contrast to King Ahaz, Joseph has confidence in the confusing sign of the child conceived mysteriously in Mary's womb.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Schedule of Advent and Christmas Liturgies and Services

Reconciliation 10:00am

Saturday, December 17, 31

Note: No reconciliation on December 24

St. John Neumann and Our Lady of Good Counsel Combined Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00pm

Christmas Sing-Along

Tuesday, December 20, 7:00pm

Taizé Prayer 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 21

Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24

3:45pm and 6:15pm, de Sales Chapel

4:00pm, Church and 4:00pm, Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

6:30pm, 8:30pm and 10:30pm, Church

Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25

9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm Spanish Mass

Christmas Week Daily Masses

9:00am only December 26 - 30

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Vigil: Saturday, December 31, 5:00pm

Sunday, January 1

7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am,

1:30pm Spanish Mass and 5:00pm

MEET BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBRIDGE In order to provide diocesan parishioners an opportunity to meet him, Bishop Burbidge is celebrating a series of Masses in the deaneries of the diocese in January. He will celebrate Mass for our deanery on Friday, January 13, at St. Theresa Church, Ashburn, at 7:00pm; reception to follow.

LITURGY PRESIDERS NEXT WEEKEND

Assuming there are no changes, the presiders for the weekend of December 17 - December 18 are:

Saturday	5:00pm	Father Joe
Sunday	7:30am	Father Jerry
Sunday	9:30am	Father Bill
Sunday	11:30pm	Father Don with Deacon Dennis
Sunday	1:30pm	Father Russo with Deacon Atanacio
Sunday	5:00pm	Father Bob



PRAY FOR AN OBLATE DAILY

We continue our daily prayers for the priests and brothers in the Wilmington-Philadelphia province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales by praying this week for:

December 12	Reverend Steven P. Wetzel, OSFS
December 13	Brother James F. Williams, OSFS
December 14	Brother Daniel P. Wisniewski, OSFS
December 15	Reverend Mark J. Wrightson, OSFS
December 16	Reverend James R. Yeakel, OSFS
December 17	Reverend Brian D. Zumburum, OSFS
December 18	Reverend Joseph C. Zuschmidt, OSFS

O ANTIPHONS Antiphons are short, liturgical texts chanted or sung responsively, preceding or following a psalm, psalm verse, or canticle. During the last week of Advent, December 17 - 23, the O Antiphons will accompany the Magnificat canticle during Vespers, or Evening Prayer. Additionally, they will be used as the gospel acclamation at daily Mass. You will recognize the similarity of them to the verses of "Lead Us to Your Light", which we sing as our entrance hymn on Advent Sundays. The format for each O Antiphon is the same, consisting of an invocation, praise under a unique title, and a plea for Jesus to come, showing our longing for His presence here on earth. These short prayers are easy and appropriate for families to recite at home, perhaps when you gather together for your evening meal, or at bedtime. There are many versions available, and we offer this as an example.

Thursday, December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Friday, December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Saturday, December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

Sunday, December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the
dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN AND
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 7:00PM

*Now is the time to awake from our sleep,
for our salvation is close at hand.
The night is ending and the day draws near.
Let us cast off deeds of darkness
and put on the armor of light
that we may be ready in mind and heart
to receive Christ once again into our lives at Christmas.*

The following may be helpful in your preparation for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- What is my relationship with God and with others?
Do I take time to pray and to reflect on the Word of God?
Do I seek the truth, defend it and communicate the truth to others?
Do I value the goodness of others? Do I believe in and value my own goodness?
Do I encourage this goodness and call it forth?
Do I treat the gift of my sexuality with respect and dignity?
Have I taken advantage of other people's weaknesses?
Have I led others astray by my bad example?
Do I give in to impatience, anger or vengeance?
Do I respect the property of others?
Am I sensitive to the needs of others?
Am I a source of joy or a source of sadness and pain to others?
Am I willing to forgive and ask forgiveness?

Parish Information

WEEKEND REMINDERS

- Pick up your fresh-cut Fraser Fir Christmas tree from Boy Scout Troop 124 in the lower parking lot from 8:00am - 9:00pm Saturday and Sunday.
- The Knights of Columbus Fundraising Breakfast takes place this Sunday from 8:30 - 11:30am in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium. Stop by and chat with Jennifer Rose, the Development Director of Britepaths, this month's beneficiary.

COMFORT AND GRACE Are you approaching the upcoming holidays for the first time without a loved one? If so, please join others for prayer and community Thursday, December 15 in the de Sales Chapel at 7:00pm. The session will be facilitated by Mickie Abatemarco and Kathleen Seebek,

BROWN BAG WEEKEND! The Cornerstones van will be in our parking lot next weekend, December 17-18. If we each bring just a few non-perishable food items we will help stock the Cornerstones pantry for the weeks ahead. Thank you for your continued generosity.



"HOLDING HOPE: GRIEVING PREGNANCY LOSS DURING ADVENT" is a devotional series for those who grieve infant loss, miscarriage, infertility, still birth or the trauma of abortion. Society doesn't often recognize the lifetime of grief that accompanies these losses. There are two more opportunities to share time with other parents who also walk this walk, on Mondays December 12 and 19. It is not necessary to attend all sessions. RSVP to our Parish Nurse, Susan Infeld, RN at svinfeld@aol.com.

**ST. JOHN NEUMANN
HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION SHELTER
JANUARY 15-22, 2017**

Each winter since 2007, St. John Neumann has hosted homeless guests for a week. We provide our guests with food, fellowship and a warm place to sleep. This year we will be hosting up to 80 guests. Our faith partners are St. Thomas à Becket and St. Mark Catholic Churches, and Congregation Beth Emeth. FACETS and Northern Virginia Family Services facilitate the two County-sponsored programs that SJN serves.

The online signup for hypothermia volunteer positions opened December 1st, and positions are available on a first come, first served basis. Many slots are still open, but some have already been filled. Sign up soon for better selections. A link to the signup is at www.saintjn.org. Job descriptions are on the website. If you have any issues with signing up, send an email to Pam or Patty at sinhypo@gmail.com.

Our guests arrive at 5 pm and leave by 7 am. We need adult (ages 18 and over) volunteers for volunteer shifts in the morning (5-8:30 am), afternoon/evening (4-9 pm), and most importantly, overnight (5 pm – 7 am). We also need drivers in the morning and afternoon/evening to transport the guests to and from the Reston Town Center bus stop.

Training is required for all new volunteers who have not been to SJN hypothermia prevention training in the past (some exceptions are listed on the website) and suggested for those who have not been to an SJN training in the past 2 years. Even if you have already been trained, it's a good idea to come again to refresh your memory about our program. Choose one session: 1/7/17 or 1/9/17; see details on our website.

If you can't help on-site, there will be other opportunities to serve the homeless as well. We need lots of donations of \$5.00 restaurant gift cards, clothing, food and other supplies. Watch future bulletins for more information.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"IN DEEPEST MIDNIGHT"

To complement our Advent activities, Voce Chamber Singers returns to our parish on Friday, December 16, at 8:00pm. Among them will be, of course, Nikki Rosengren, cantor, accompanist, and Director of our Women's Ensemble. The group joins forces with the players of Ensemble Gaudior, a period-instrument ensemble based in Oakton, to present one of the true gems of the Christmas repertoire: the exquisite Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass) by the French baroque composer, Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Based upon traditional French carols, this Charpentier masterpiece captures the many moods of the season - joyful exuberance, awestruck wonder and several seasonal a cappella works by composers from the 16th century to the present, and the concert closes with a festive audience sing-along with the baroque orchestra! Join Voce for a CD-release party following Friday night's performance! If you cannot attend Friday, you have another opportunity Sunday, December 18, at 4:00pm at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna.

Fellowship

ONGOING FELLOWSHIP AT SJN:

- **Sunday Coffee** Join us for coffee, juice, muffins, and fellowship each Sunday from 8:30—11:30am. All are welcome!
- **9:00am Daily Mass and Fellowship:** Following Mass in the Chapel, join us in the Bridal Room for coffee and cookies.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Are you a male, age 18 years or older and a practicing Catholic, and wish to embark on a journey that emphasizes faith, fraternity, and fellowship with a real commitment to service in our community? If so, please consider becoming a member of the K of C Family of Man Council #7566. Take that first step and contact us at info@kofc7566.us.
- **Legion of Mary** Would you like to have the Pilgrim Virgin Statue visit your home for two weeks? If interested, the Legion of Mary will deliver and retrieve the Holy Virgin at your convenience. For information email pilgrimvirginmarystatue@gmail.com or call 703-968-3337.
- **Life+Savers:** 7th and 8th grade teens gather on the 1st Saturday of each month, (except December) for fun activities, guest speakers and refreshments from 3:00 - 4:00pm. Drop into the Youth Room to relax or play after Sunday Faith Formation class while waiting for parent pickup or siblings attending Agape. Contact Kevin McManus at lifesavers@saintjn.org.

- **Mothers' Group:** Join us for weekday, evening and weekend playgroups, nights out, special events and more. Membership is open to all new, veteran and expectant caregivers of small children. Membership is free and participation is voluntary in all group activities. For more information please send email to momsgroup@saintjn.org.
- **Praying College Moms:** Join us on the 1st Friday morning or the 2nd Monday evening for shared prayer, support and fellowship. For evening sessions email ksmonroe58@gmail.com, and for evening sessions email gallo.kellymarie@gmail.com.
- **Shawl Ministry:** On the afternoon of the third Sunday of every month we gather to pray, talk, and create beautiful handmade shawls for those who are ill or grieving. Contact Teresa Westhues at 703-969-8430 to join or request a shawl.
- **Women's Newcomers Group:** Have you just moved to the area? Consider joining our new support group, meeting weekly during the day. For information, email Megan Murphy at megan.murphy218@gmail.com.
- **Young Adults:** If you are in your twenties or thirties and are looking for a community to socialize, do service and pray with, then come join us! For more information, email Thomas Patchan at youngadults@saintjn.org.

YOUNG ADULTS: Watch here for upcoming activities for singles and couples in their 20s and 30s. Unless otherwise noted, for more information on any event, or to be added to the YA email distribution list, email Thomas Patchan at saintjnya@gmail.com.

- **Monday December 12 at 7:00pm: Advent Small Group:** Join the young adults as we use scripture and traditions to reflect on the Advent season together. Please contact Thomas at saintjnya@gmail.com if interested and to get his address for the meeting.
- **Friday, December 16 at 7:00pm: Young Adult Christmas Party:** Put on your best Christmas sweater and head to Katie's house to celebrate Christmas with the young adults! We'll have food, Christmas cookies, and festivities for all. Email Katie at Kathryn.c.harris@saic.com to RSVP and get her address.
- **Sunday, December 18 after all Masses: Info Meeting about Camden Service Trip:** Every year over MLK Day Weekend (1/14/17 - 1/16/17 this year), we send a group to serve with DeSales Service Works in one of the poorest areas of the country, Camden, New Jersey. A member of the young adults will be in the narthex after each Mass to discuss any questions you have.
- **Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00pm, Help Decorate SJN for Christmas:** Come help serve your parish and decorate the church for Christmas! Pizza and drinks will be provided for everyone who comes! We'll need as many hands as we can get, so e-mail Thomas at saintjnya@gmail.com if you're able to help.

Faith Formation

Mickie Abatemarco, Director
703-390-2340
mabatemarco@saintjn.org

ONGOING ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Unless otherwise noted, for more information on any program, contact Mickie Abatemarco.

- **Becoming A Catholic** Are you or someone you know interested in joining the Catholic Church? Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meets year-round on Tuesday evenings. Email rcia@saintjn.org for information.
- **Contemplative Prayer** There is quiet prayer together every Thursday evening at 7:00pm. We also meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 10:00am with Lectio Divinia.
- **Road to Emmaus** This Scripture Study group meets Mondays at 10:00am in the Conference Room.
- **Bible Study for Mothers With Young Children** This group meets on Fridays from 10:00 to 11:30am, with child care provided. Email Christy Cottrell for more information at christylc23@gmail.com.
- **Independent Online Bible Study** This 8-session course, "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible" will help uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, to get the "big picture" of the Bible. Details and registration link are available on our website under Faith Formation/Adults.
- **Power of Story** This program, presented by William R. Stott, Jr. meets Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the de Sales Chapel. Class schedule and registration forms are in brochures available at the Welcome Desk.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY (AGAPE)

Doug Johnson
703-860-6141
djohnson@saintjn.org

UPCOMING AGAPE EVENTS:

Mark your calendars for the following exciting, fun-filled upcoming Agape or Agape related events and make plans to attend:

- **Sunday, December 11**– High School Teen Night: 6:15 – 8:00pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium
- **Next Weekend Friday - Sunday, December 16 – 18** – Search Retreat for Juniors and Seniors – Concord Retreat, West Virginia
- **Sunday, December 18** – High School Teen Night: 6:15 – 8:00 pm, Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN NIGHT (AGAPE)

Calling all teens! Join us for food, fellowship, faith sharing, meeting new friends and having lots of fun. At this Sunday's session, we will have a reconciliation prayer service specifically designed for high school age youth during the season of Advent. This prayer service is to be led by youth for other youth. It is inspired from the Advent prophet John the Baptist (MK 1:2-8). Following John the Baptist's advice, our young people will have an opportunity to examine their hearts and prepare the way for Jesus' arrival. This session is also a good way to contemplate the meaning of the season of Advent. Come and learn more about our Catholic faith and traditions and how we can apply our Christian values to our daily lives and in our relationships with others. This will also be a great opportunity to share snacks, enjoy fellowship and make new friends!

SEARCH RETREAT NEXT WEEKEND

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP—DON'T MISS OUT!

All High School juniors and seniors are invited and encouraged to take time out from their busy schedules for a weekend of quiet reflection, spirituality, self-discovery, friendship and fellowship at our annual Search Retreat. It will be held from next Friday, December 16 to Sunday, December 18 at the Concord Retreat House in Yellow Spring, West Virginia.



Search is a unique opportunity to learn more about yourself, God and your community while having fun and making new friends. This weekend has been a source of joy, inspiration, self-revelation and treasured memories for hundreds of teens for over 25 years. The actual experience of Christian love, fellowship, caring, and sharing experienced on the weekend has sparked many lasting friendships within our Christian community.

Registration forms and permission slips are available on the table outside the Faith Formation Office. Permission Slips must be completed to participate. **This retreat is open to all juniors and seniors.** You don't have to be a member of the parish or Catholic to attend, so invite and bring your friends! The cost is \$125; **scholarships are available if this is a financial hardship.** Deadline to sign up for the Search Retreat is Monday, December 12 at which time your registration form, completed Permission Slip and check for the full cost of the retreat must be received in the Religious Education Office. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact Doug Johnson at 703-860-6141 or djohnson@saintjn.org. Sign up; you'll be glad you did!

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN MINISTRY E-MAIL LIST:

Contact Doug Johnson at djohnson@saintjn.org if you wish to be placed on the SJN High School Teen Ministry email list. This is a great way to learn the latest information on events, programs and opportunities to serve in our high school teen program.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Around the Diocese

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PUPPET SHOW

Large handmade puppets present the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a moving show that is fascinating for children and adults alike. The show will be held Saturday, December 17, at 10:00am at St. Thomas à Becket in Findlay Hall. A second show, narrated in Spanish, will be held at 11:30am. Cookies will be served after both shows. All are welcome. Come join us for a wonderful event!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL cordially invites you to visit their Blue Ribbon School. An Open House will take place Sunday, January 8, from 11:00am to 1:30pm in the St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. A newly-scheduled event is the Kindergarten Connections, being held on Thursday, January 6, from 9:15 – 10:30am in the St. Mark Early Learning Center, 9970 Vale Road.

TALL OAKS ASSISTED LIVING in Reston invites you to attend our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 18 from 2:00-5:00pm. The event is free and open to the public. Come get a complimentary picture taken with Santa, enjoy a horse and carriage ride, listen to Christmas caroling, tour the property, and enjoy our holiday refreshments! Come One, Come All!

PROJECT RACHEL MONTHLY HOLY HOUR

Attend an Intercessory Prayer Holy Hour to pray for the healing of our culture and for those who still live in darkness and don't know the healing power of God and His infinite mercy. The Holy Hours are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7:30—8:30pm at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church in Fairfax Station. All are welcome. For more information please call 703-841-2504 or email info@helpafterabortion.org and visit our website www.helpafterabortion.org.

OUR THANKS TO
VIRGINIA EYE CENTER, P.C.
SARAH MERRILL, MD
FOR SPONSORING AN AD
IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN

ADVENT WORD SEARCH

F D E E Z Q A Y O I Y J E U L
W Z V V S K G O A Q F Z E Q R
H Y Z C F H N Q N A J C R A O
I S A D V E N T W R E A T H E
T A I O W Q Q J H G K M E S C
E C Z E F A F T D V G X S L A
V X E O F R E V O L G O S E E
P K U A E W M G J N R L E P P
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C A D V E N T C A L E N D A R
L F V C U W Q D H D R Y X V N
T C T E L O I V J T X N K U Z

ADVENT CALENDAR HOPE
ROSE ADVENT WREATH JOY
LOVE JESSE TREE
VIOLET FOUR PEACE
WHITE COMING LIGHT

SJN Weekly Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION *"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."*
JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.