

**PARISH STAFF**

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

**CLERGY**

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Rev. Joseph T. Brennan, OSFS 860-8510 x143

**Parochial Vicars:**

Rev. Gerald M. Dunne, OSFS 860-8510 x159

Rev. Donald J. Heet, OSFS 860-8510 x157

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

**In Residence:**

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Secretary Pat Gilbertson 860-6150

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Children's Catechesis Angela Davis 390-2345

Youth Activities 7-8 Kevin McManus

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Youth Minister 9-12 Doug Johnson 860-6141

Admin. Assistant Silvia Bustamante 390-2348

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Young Adult Ministry Thomas Patchan

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Email: sjn.pc@saintjn.org

Finance Council Patricia Maloney 860-8510 x310

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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 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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Faith Formation Classes

Road to Emmaus: 10:00am; Conference Room

Cub Scout Pack 1971: 6:30pm; B2

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

Holding Hope: 7:30pm; Bridal Room

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

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

French Conversation: 9:30am; A1

Christmas Sing-Along: 7:00pm; Brown-McCarthy Auditorium

Pax Christi: 7:00pm; Conference Room

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Angel Choir: 5:00pm; Music Room

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

Legión de María: 7:00pm; B4

Taizé: 7:00pm; de Sales Chapel

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Contemplative Prayer and Lection Divina: 10:00am; A1

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23**

No Scheduled Activities

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Christmas Eve

No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Merry Christmas to All!

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DEAR PARISHIONERS:

As we enter the last week of Advent and prepare for the celebration of Christmas, I hope we can all create some time to be still. In the midst of all the busyness, last minute shopping and preparations, it is important to focus on the true meaning of the Season. Are we opened to receive the Christ Child into our hearts and our homes?

Thanks to all who organized and participated in the different Advent activities here at the parish. I hope these events provided an opportunity for you to grow in your faith and perhaps in your prayer life. As a reminder, there is one more Taizè Prayer service this Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00pm in the de Sales Chapel. I cannot think of a better opportunity to quiet yourself just four days ahead of Christmas and to experience wonderful prayer.

I want to thank in advance the Knights of Columbus who will be assisting us in the parking lot on Christmas Eve. Given that we have seven Masses that evening, we would be lost without their experience with this daunting task! Please follow their guidance and also, a friendly reminder, do not park in the fire lanes. We need them to be completely clear in case of an emergency

Advent Blessings and Live Jesus,

Father Joe

### Prayer and Liturgy



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

Today's Gospel reminds us that like St. Joseph, we must have confidence in God's plan for us. God has a plan for us that is greater than our own. St. Francis de Sales notes:

In this Gospel, Joseph sees that Mary is with child. Knowing that it was not his child, he was ready to divorce her. But the angel revealed to Joseph that the Holy Child was to be Our Savior. With great peace and serenity of mind, Joseph accepted the unexpected event that befell him. Our confidence in God ought to be like St. Joseph's.

The foundation of our trust is not in our own self, but in God. While we may change, God remains always gentle and merciful when we are weak and imperfect, as well as when we are strong and perfect. When we have absolute trust in Our Lord, we are like an infant on the breast of its mother. The child just lets itself be carried and led wherever the mother wants to take it. Similarly, we ought to have such confidence in letting ourselves be carried when we love God's will in all that happens to us.

Holy confidence in the goodness of God is the life of the human spirit. As we grow in love with God, we may experience the contractions and pangs of spiritual childbirth. Yet, in the midst of our troubles, Our Savior will guide us on our way no matter how difficult it may be. Let us think of the words of our gentle Savior: "When a woman gives birth she is in great distress, but after the birth she forgets the suffering of the past because a child is born to her." Our souls ought to give birth to the dearest Child that one could wish for. It is Jesus whom we must form and bring to birth in ourselves. The Child is well worth whatever we endure. How happy we would be if we devoted all our efforts to accomplishing God's will for us. We would obtain from God's goodness all that we could possibly desire and need, a new invigorating life. A holy rebirth in Christ!

*(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales)*

***"Give yourself fully to God.  
He will use you to accomplish great things  
on the condition that  
you believe much more  
in His love than in your own weakness."***

*St. Teresa of Calcutta*

**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](mailto:jduggan@saintjn.org) or 703-860-6149.

**PLEASE PRAY** for those who have asked for our prayers, Tom Downey, **Lori Manik** and **Ryan Roberts** 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.***



**Schedule of Advent and Christmas  
Liturgies and Services**

**Christmas Sing-Along**  
Tuesday, December 20, 7:00pm

**Taizé Prayer 7:00pm**  
Wednesday, December 21

**Christmas Eve Masses**  
Saturday, December 24  
3:45pm, de Sales Chapel - geared toward children,  
with no incense  
4:00pm, Church - Children's Nativity Tableau  
4:00pm, Brown/McCarthy Auditorium  
6:15pm, de Sales Chapel – no incense  
6:30pm Church, 8:30pm Church, 10:30pm Church

**Christmas Day Masses**  
Sunday, December 25  
9:30am - no incense, 11:30am  
1:30pm – Spanish Mass

**Christmas Week Daily Masses**  
9:00am only December 26 - 30

**Reconciliation 10:00am**  
Saturday, December 31  
Note: No Reconciliation on December 24

**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

**SUNDAY**

7:30am  
9:30am  
11:30am  
1:30pm  
5:00pm

**DECEMBER 18**

Anne Marie Machado †  
Seamus Boyle †  
Carol and Patricia Bryant ††  
People of the Parish  
Mark Bowns and Bob Szymanski††

**MONDAY**

9:00am  
12:10pm

**DECEMBER 19**

Francis "Chip" Whalen †  
Estrella Barbosa, Special Intention

**TUESDAY**

6:30am  
9:00am

**DECEMBER 20**

Toni Conroy †  
Laura Bhadra †

**WEDNESDAY**

9:00am  
12:10pm

**DECEMBER 21**

Seamus Boyle †  
Joseph V. Duffy, Sr.†

**THURSDAY**

6:30am  
9:00am

**DECEMBER 22**

John O'Hara †  
Alfred F. Picarelli †

**FRIDAY**

9:00am  
12:10pm

**DECEMBER 23**

Richard Provencher †  
Marion Lee Minnis, Jr. †

**SATURDAY**

3:45pm (Chapel)  
4:00pm (Church)  
4:00pm (Aud)  
6:15pm (Chapel)  
6:30pm (Church)  
8:30pm  
10:30pm

**DECEMBER 24**

Richard Provencher †  
Dino and Aggie Parisi ††  
Chirayath Family †  
Marguerite Wise †  
Jacqueline Reiley †  
Kee and Eng Family †  
Hanuschak Family †

**SUNDAY**

9:30am  
11:30am  
1:30pm  
5:00pm

**DECEMBER 25**

Wilma and Jeanne Krajek ††  
People of the Parish †  
Eugene Kerwin †  
No Mass

**LITURGY PRESIDERS NEXT WEEKEND**

Assuming there are no changes, the presiders for the weekend of December 24 - December 25 are:

Saturday	3:45pm	Father Joe (de Sales Chapel)
Saturday	4:00pm	Father Bob (Church)
Saturday	4:00pm	Father Don (Brown-McCarthy Auditorium)
Saturday	6:15pm	Father Bill (de Sales Chapel)
Saturday	6:30pm	Father Jerry (Church)
Saturday	8:30pm	Father Bob with Deacon Dennis
Saturday	10:30pm	Father Joe with Deacon John
Sunday	9:30am	Father Jerry
Sunday	11:30pm	Father Don
Sunday	1:30pm	Father Russo with Deacon Atanacio

**LOCAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

Sunday, December 18 St. Mark, Vienna 7:00pm

**PRAY FOR A PRIEST DAILY** We continue our daily prayers for the priests in the Arlington Diocese by praying this week for:



- December 19 Reverend William P. Saunders
- December 20 Reverend Paul D. Scalia
- December 21 Reverend William B. Schardt
- December 22 Reverend William B. Schierer
- December 23 Reverend Stephen J. Schultz
- December 24 Reverend James R. Searby
- December 25 Reverend Wongyeong Seong

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**WELCOME, BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBRIDGE!** As you know by now, Bishop Burbidge was installed as the fourth Bishop of Arlington on Tuesday, December 6. In case you were not able to view this wonderful liturgy live on TV, the diocesan Office of Communications and the *Catholic Herald* have provided us with links to several interesting websites that you might want to visit. While you are viewing the installation liturgy, you will not be able to miss our own Deacon Atanacio Sandoval, who served the bishop during Mass as Deacon of the Altar, and our Coordinator of Liturgy, Patty Bartick, who sang in the choir. Here are some sites for you to access:



With permission — Arlington Diocese

- Complete Video of Evening Vespers (12/5) and Installation Mass: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwz9H-zVK86QLqEnq6pSYgTvLhjs3xSqf>
- Complete *Catholic Herald* Coverage including exclusive 18-minute interview: [www.catholicherald.com](http://www.catholicherald.com)
- Full Text of Installation Homily: [http://catholicherald.com/News/Local News/Bishop Burbidge Installation/Installation Mass Homily of Bishop Michael F Burbidge/](http://catholicherald.com/News/Local%20News/Bishop%20Burbidge%20Installation/Installation%20Mass%20Homily%20of%20Bishop%20Michael%20F%20Burbidge/)
- Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter: @Bishopburbidge and look for his daily tweet
- Join the Digital Conversation with this Handle and Hashtag: @arlingtonchurch and #BishopBurbidge

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS:** Next weekend we celebrate Christmas, The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas). Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from God's Word::

**Isaiah 9:1-6** The prophet Isaiah lived 750 years before Christ. In his time, the northern Jewish Kingdom of Israel was laid waste by the armies of Assyria. Today's passage offers the conquered people hope for a glorious future under a wonderful king. Christians have seen Jesus as fulfilling this prophecy.

**Psalms 9:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13** Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Titus 2:11-14** The letter to Titus was written about 30 years after Paul's death, and was written in Paul's name, a practice common in the ancient world. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul and later was in charge of a Christian community on the island of Crete.

**Luke 2:1-14** Though the Angel reveals the exalted status of Jesus as "Christ and Lord," He is actually born humbly as an "infant...in a manger." Ironically, the humblest of God's instruments, humanity, becomes the means of accomplishing God's greatest deed - salvation.

**NOTE ON READINGS:** The Lectionary for Mass offers four distinct sets of readings — the Vigil Mass, Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn and Mass during the Day. The readings above are taken from Mass during the Night (Midnight). Other readings can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/122516.cfm>.

**DESALES WEEKLY** Looking for a super source for information about the Oblates of St Francis and ways you can live Jesus? The answer may be.....the *DeSales Weekly*, a newsletter published every Thursday by the Development Office of the Wilmington-Philadelphia province. It contains a wealth of information on a wide variety of topics, ranging from a weekly topical piece usually written by Fr. Kevin Nadolski, to standard items such as a weekly Sunday Mass meditation, quote of the week, an introduction to an Oblate, links to lots of Salesian Spirituality topics, coming events, trips and pilgrimages, assorted ways to purchase Salesian books and Mass cards, and Bro. Mickey McGrath's works, and much more. To subscribe, visit <http://www.oblates.org/desales-weekly>.

## CONNECTIONS TO ST. THOMAS MORE

From the time he first visited Arlington after being named to succeed Bishop Loverde at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Bishop Burbidge has talked about the close connection his family has to St. Thomas More. The bishop's father attended St. Thomas More High School in Philadelphia and instilled in his children the same strength in witness he obtained there.

It was fitting that when reading aloud the apostolic letter from Pope Francis installing Bishop Burbidge, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States mentioned that Pope Francis prays daily the Prayer of St. Thomas More for Good Humor. It is a prayer well worth all of us including in our daily prayers.

*A Prayer For Good Humor by St. Thomas More*

*Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.  
Grant me a healthy body,  
and the necessary good humor to maintain it.*

*Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good  
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,  
but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.*

*Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings, sighs and  
laments, nor excess of stress,  
because of that obstructing thing called 'I.'*

*Amen.*

## Parish Information



**THANK YOU!** At this time of year, our parish shows its true spirit by helping those in need, and sharing Christmas hopes and dreams with our local community. While we cannot thank everyone by name, we need to acknowledge those who took leadership roles in making it possible for us to touch so many in different ways. Thank you, Bill Eager and the Pro Life ministry, for hosting the annual Christmas Greens sale totaling \$5100 that goes to support A Women's Choice. Thank you to Maura and Joe Burke for chairing the Christmas Angels project, and to Mary Kay Crain and Linda Preston for organizing the Gifts For Kids effort. Your contributions to these efforts will put smiles on about 1,000 faces Christmas morning. Additional thanks go to Mary Zane and Diana Glod for organizing the Crèche Exhibit, and to the Care For Our Common Home ministry for their oversight of the Fair Trade Sale. We also are indebted to the Music and Liturgy staff for facilitating Taizè and Lessons and Carols, Our Advent Family Night, facilitated by Mickie Abatemarco was another success, with over 100 people in attendance. And, one more, thank you goes to the members of our Hispanic community, led by Flor Graves, for their wonderful Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration. Each of these programs were very successful because of the efforts of all the volunteers and, of course, the participants. Your generosity is such a gift to all of us.

### BE KIND, COURTEOUS AND UNDERSTANDING

As always, our Christmas Eve Masses will be very crowded. Please check the Mass listing on page four. If you plan to attend one of these seven Masses, please be understanding and considerate of our elderly parishioners and families with young children. **Remember, you will be unable to save seats for others, so anticipate large crowds and plan your entire group's arrival time accordingly.** Some of you with large families might consider attending the 8:30 or 10:30pm Mass, or one of our lovely, much-less crowded Christmas Day Masses.

The church and chapel will fill early and Masses in the chapel will start first. Please note that this year we have added a live 4:00pm Mass in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium, rather than using live streaming again.

Once again the Knights of Columbus have graciously offered to manage parking in our lots for all Masses. Please heed their gentle guidance and remember especially that **you cannot park in the fire lanes!** We have had incidents in the past when we had to call EMTs and the ambulance is almost always accompanied by a fire truck. We need to ensure that the responders have room to maneuver their vehicles in an emergency. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and Christian generosity!

### HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION SHELTER

JANUARY 15-22, 2017

Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer! We still need overnight volunteers and a few others, such as alternates, should another volunteer be unable to serve. If you can help, access the SignUp Genius site through the link on the St. John Neumann website at [www.saintjn.org](http://www.saintjn.org). The SignUp Genius site has details about job descriptions, training requirements and schedules. There are also sheets with job descriptions in the main hallway next to the hypothermia prevention poster.

Can you help in other ways? We are in need of food and supplies. December 31 and January 1 there will be a board outside the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium filled with cards listing a food/supply need, such as individual packages of cookies, crackers and other snacks, as well as warm items such as gloves, socks, jackets and hats. Choose a card and return the requested item before January 15. You will also see baking pans with recipes and instructions for our popular casserole drive. Casseroles are used at our own shelter, Embry Rucker, or other shelters as needed throughout the season.

Our shelter is grateful for donations from parishioners to help defray the cost of bus passes and other items individual guests may need. Please write "Hypothermia Prevention Shelter" on the memo line of your check. Guests also appreciate \$5 gift cards to local restaurants, allowing them to stay inside and keep warm during the day. Gift cards and financial contributions can be left at the parish office during business hours, or at the Welcome Desk if it is attended. Thank you for your generosity! If you have any questions, please email Pam or Patty at [sjnhypo@gmail.com](mailto:sjnhypo@gmail.com).

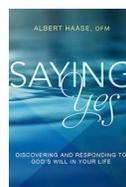
### BROWN BAG WEEKEND!

The Cornerstones van will be in our parking lot this 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.



### CAN WE ALL SAY YES?

Throughout Advent we are made aware of Mary's "Yes" to God's will. As a parish we would like to look at our call to God's will in our lives. This Sunday, December 18, each family will receive a copy of *Saying Yes* by Albert Haase, OFM, as a gift from the parish. Beginning January 4 at 10:00am and at 7:00pm Mickie Abatemarco will facilitate a six-week discussion group using videos presented by Fr. Haase.



Each video stands alone so come to as many as possible. Join us as we discover and to respond to that call as a family and as the larger community of St. John Neumann. If you would like to attend these sessions email Mickie Abatemarco at [mabatemarco@saintjn.org](mailto:mabatemarco@saintjn.org). Please indicate if you will attend the morning or evening sessions.

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### "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. Share time with other parents who also walk this walk at our last session, this Monday, December 19. RSVP to our Parish Nurse, Susan Infeld, RN at [svinfeld@aol.com](mailto:svinfeld@aol.com).

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG

Everyone's invited to the Music Ministry's sixth annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along on Tuesday, December 20, from 7:00 - 8:00pm in the Brown-McCarthy Auditorium. The St. John Neumann contemporary and hand bell choirs will lead the carols, and the Knights of Columbus will be serving light refreshments. Santa Claus might even stop by! The price of admission is a canned good for the Reston Food Bank. Play an instrument? Bring it along! Bring your friends and neighbors, too; they don't have to be parishioners. We'll have extra copies of all the music. If you have any questions you can contact us at [sjncarolsing@gmail.com](mailto:sjncarolsing@gmail.com).



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:pilgrimvirginmarystatue@gmail.com) or call 703-968-3337.
- **Life+Savers:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teens gather on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:momsgroup@saintjn.org).
- **Praying College Moms:** Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday morning or the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening for shared prayer, support and fellowship. For evening sessions email [kmonroe58@gmail.com](mailto:kmonroe58@gmail.com), and for evening sessions email [gallo.kellymarie@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:youngadults@saintjn.org).

*"Give something, however small,  
to the one in need.  
For it is not small to one who has nothing.  
Neither is it small to God,  
if we have given what we could."*

*St. Gregory Nazianzen*

**2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be processed and made available no later than January 31, 2017. A link to the 2016 contribution statement will be emailed to SJN parishioners whose email address is in our database once the statements are available. Instructions for viewing and printing contribution statements will be available on our website, [www.saintjn.org](http://www.saintjn.org), beginning January 16. Once the statements are available, parishioners may also contact the Parish Office at 703-860-8510, M-F, 9am-4pm for a printed contribution statement.

**CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTABLE!** You are now able to use your credit card for your recurring Sunday contributions, second collections, and one-time special collection offerings. For more information, visit our website, [www.saintjn.org](http://www.saintjn.org), and follow the instructions under Stewardship to Electronic Donations.

**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](mailto:saintjnya@gmail.com).

- **Sunday, December 18 after all Masses: Info Meeting about Camden Service Trip:** A member of the Young Adults will be in the narthex after each Mass to discuss any questions you have about our upcoming service trip. Please email Thomas at [saintjnya@gmail.com](mailto:saintjnya@gmail.com) if you are interested in the trip or have any other questions.
- **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](mailto:saintjnya@gmail.com) if you're able to help.
- **Saturday, January 14 - Monday, January 16: Camden Service Trip** Every year over MLK Day Weekend, we send a group to serve with DeSales Service Works in one of the poorest areas of the country, Camden, New Jersey. Cost for the trip will be \$70 each, and is well worth it.

**50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES:** Merry Christmas to one and all. May the Christ Child bring joy to your hearts and health to your bodies and souls! Stay tuned for information on future activities.

## Faith Formation

Mickie Abatemarco, Director  
703-390-2340  
[mabatemarco@saintjn.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 18** – High School Teen Night: 6:15 – 8:00 pm, Brown-McCarthy Auditorium
- **Sunday, December 25** – No High School Teen Night: Merry Christmas
- **Sunday, January 1** – No High School Teen Night: Blessed New Year

## 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 invite our teens to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season by having fun together through prayer, games and community building activities. We will also enjoy working together on a Christmas project. 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!

### HIGH SCHOOL TEEN MINISTRY E-MAIL LIST:

Contact Doug Johnson at [djohnson@saintjn.org](mailto: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.

## Around the Diocese

**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 5, from 9:15 – 10:30am in the St. Mark Early Learning Center, 9970 Vale Road.

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"PILGRIMAGE TO ANNECY-LYON, FRANCE, AND GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, WITH OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND DE SALES UNIVERSITY! Join Fr. Tim McIntire, OSFS and Maggie Riggins, Campus Minister at DeSales University, for a week-long pilgrimage to the home of St. Francis de Sales. The tour price of \$2975 per person is based on sharing a double room and includes air fare, ground transportation, daily breakfast, two lunches (one while cruising beautiful Lake Annecy), two dinners, tours of Salesian sights, and plenty of free time. Fr. Joe Newman, OSFS, will provide some additional commentary while we bus from Annecy to Geneva, Lyon and tour the scenic Savoyard countryside. Contact Fr. Tim at [Timothy.McIntire@desales.edu](mailto:Timothy.McIntire@desales.edu) or register at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/9fqdyr>."

### ANOTHER GOOD TRIP FOR NEXT YEAR!

Join Father Steve Shott, OSFS for an 11-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, from Monday, November 6 to Thursday, November 16, 2017. Fr. Steve, who many of you know from his having served at Our Lady of Good Counsel, is currently pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church in Fayetteville, NC. The cost for the trip is \$4,129 per person (double occupancy), and includes air fare, hotels, and some meals. You may contact Fr. Steve for more information at 910-483-3216 or by email at [pastor@stanncatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastor@stanncatholicchurch.org). If you would like to see all of the details and the itinerary for the trip, visit the St. Ann parish website at [www.stanncatholicchurch.org](http://www.stanncatholicchurch.org).

### SJN Weekly Stewardship

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** *"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."* MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE** The financial information for the weekend of December 11 will appear in the December 25 bulletin.

OUR THANKS TO  
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### 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](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org) and visit our website [www.helpafterabortion.org](http://www.helpafterabortion.org).

**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!

### LOOKING FOR LANGUAGE HELP?

English and  
Citizenship Classes



St. Mark's Catholic Church English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry is opening enrollment for upcoming Winter Term ESL classes starting in January! Whether you are a beginner, or have experience with the English language, we look forward to having you join us to help you build confidence in the use of the English language, prepare for American citizenship, improve your writing skills, and integrate into your local community!

Our ESL classes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from January 17 – March 16, 2017. The English classes are from 8:00 to 9:30pm. We also have Citizenship, Writing, and Conversation from 7:00 to 7:45pm. We have a class for everyone at any proficiency level!!

Our English classes are only \$25 (for nine weeks of lessons). Our Citizenship, Writing, and Conversation are only \$10 (for nine weeks of lessons). Come register on Tuesday January 3, Thursday January 5, and Tuesday January 10 from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

All classes take place at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna, VA 22181. For additional information on classes (or to help volunteer!), email [stmarksesl@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksesl@gmail.com), or see the Web site at [www.stmarkesl.org](http://www.stmarkesl.org). You can also call 703-980-9380. Or for Spanish: (703)-626-3585; Korean: (703) 625-1367; and Chinese: (703) 625-1367.