

ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR CATHOLIC CHURCH

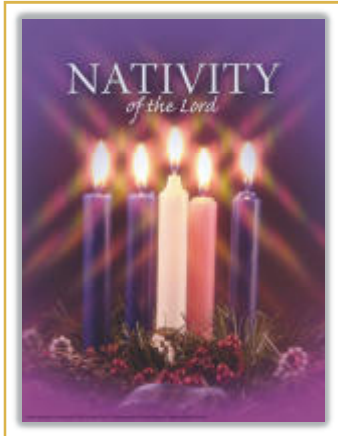


PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Journeying as a Catholic community, we embrace the mission of Jesus Christ, striving to live and spread Jesus' message of love, sharing our gifts through discipleship, liturgical celebration, spiritual formation, and outreach.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD / HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 25/26, 2021



December 25

Merry Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH



JOHN 1:14

December 26



Welcome to **PARISH SOFT'S MY OWN CHURCH** - go to <https://stedchurch.com> and click on the link. Once set up, you may update your contact/family info, view your contributions, and receive end of year statements.

WELCOME TO ST. EDWARD CHURCH!

If you have moved into the area from another Catholic Church or have found St. Edward to be the parish in which you choose to worship, consider registering. Pick up a registration packet at the

- Parish Life Desk in the Commons after any weekend Liturgy,
- Parish Center during office hours, 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday, or
- Go to our website, www.stedchurch.com/ImportantForms.

Questions? Call 272-2948. Not of the Catholic faith? To learn more, call Anita at 864-4712.

MAILING ADDRESS:

2700 Dolfield Drive
N. Chesterfield, Virginia 23235-2618

Phone: (804) 272-2948

FAX: (804) 560-3565

Email: stedward@stedwardch.org

Website: <https://stedchurch.com>



ST. EDWARD CHURCH IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS.

Visit our website, <https://stedchurch.com>, and follow the link under **PROTECTING CHILDREN**.

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Call 272-2948 and follow prompts.

***See page 4 for full details concerning Liturgies and Reconciliation ***

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Saturday 5:00pm (Vigil of Sunday)
Sunday 7:15am, 8:45am, 11:15am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Monday-Friday 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday 9:30am
Saturday 4:00pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In the Church; Fridays, 9:30am-10:30am
For information, contact Andrew at 864-4715.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In the Healing Chapel after each weekend Liturgy or by appointment.

BAPTISM

To schedule or for parent classes, call Peggy at 864-4714.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

For information, call Peggy at 864-4714.

CONFIRMATION

For information, call Andrew at 864-4715.

ADULT SACRAMENTS

Inquiries about initiation sacraments for adults, call Sherri at 864-4706.

MARRIAGE

Registered parishioners are to contact Pat 864-4701 at least six months prior to setting a date. Pre-marriage formation is required.

PASTORAL CARE

Call Pat at 864-4701 when you or a family member is admitted to the hospital or local care facility, when you need a weekly visit with Communion, or to add someone to our weekend prayer list for the sick or deceased.

◆IN SERVICE TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY◆

Pastor	Rev. Donald H. Lemay	272-2948
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Paul Kkonde	272-2948
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Bob Ewan	379-5920
Deacon	Rev. Mr. James D. Greer	372-6080
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Kevin Hogan	864-4707
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Gregg Whisler	564-2125
Business Administrator	Jan Webb	864-4704
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Pat Plonski	864-4701
Receptionists	Miriam Grau & Lisa Mizell	272-2948
Pastoral Assistant	Anita McCabe	864-4712
Director, Evangelization of Young Families	Joan Nelson	864-4708
Religious Education Coordinator	Peggy Byers	864-4714
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Andrew McCarthy	864-4715
Edge Coordinator	Rachael Mattio	864-4719
Director, Social Ministry	Jennifer Bousquet	864-4718
Director, Music	Liz Goodwin	864-4717
Associate Director of Music	Joe Guardino	864-4710
Communications/Parish Registration	Kathleen Wood	864-4711
Columbarium	Anita McCabe	864-4712
Business Manager/Adult Formation	Sherri Gravins	864-4706
Custodian for Church Building	Bob Oliver	
Custodian for Church Building	Mac Boneparte	
Pastoral Council Chairperson	Warren McKeon	379-3235
Finance Council Chairperson	Robert Kuzemchak	276-0463
St Edward-Epiphany Catholic School	Tracy Hamner	272-2881
Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight	Tom Shepley	396-0169
St. Edward Ladies Auxiliary, President	Marilyn Mare	379-9505



PARISH BULLETIN: Bulletin info should be submitted **two weeks** in advance of publication date and is subject to approval and space availability. Email to kathleen.wood@stedwardch.org.



MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM: For appt. Anita McCabe, 864-4712, anitam1@stedwardch.org or Jan Webb, 864-4704, jan.webb@stedwardch.org.



HEARING LOOP SYSTEM
If your hearing aid or cochlear implant has an activated T-coil, you may access our hearing loop system. Not sure? Ask your audiologist.



AUTOMATIC DOOR
•We have an automatic door on the far left side of the Church.
•Doors on the far right side of Church are open 8:30am-5:00pm, M-F.



Our **PARISH LIBRARY** is open and staffed for 15 minutes following the Sunday morning Masses.



PLEASE KEEP DEACON GREGG IN YOUR PRAYERS!

*In early January, he'll head overseas - to Kosovo.
We thank him for his service and pray for his safe return home.
To send him an email: gregg.whisler@stedwardch.org*



EPIPHANY CHALK AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES ON JANUARY 1/2, 2022

Epiphany marks the occasion of a time honored tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual—adapted for 2022— is simple!

Take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 22.

The letters have two meanings: 1) the initials of the Magi—Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar
2) the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" meaning "May Christ bless the house."

The "+" signs represent the cross; the "20" and "22" mark the year.

This tradition encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. As we come and go in our daily routines, it reminds us that those who dwell in the home belong to Christ. We are also reminded of the wonderful, warm welcome given to Jesus by the Magi.

May we be just as welcoming to those who come to our homes to visit us!



Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Friday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass

4:00p ~ livestreamed

*additional seating will be available in the Community Center where Mass will be viewed via livestream

6:30p ~ livestreamed

*additional seating will be available in the Community Center where Mass will be viewed via livestream

8:30p

11:59p Midnight Mass

Saturday, December 25th Christmas Day Mass

10:00a

*No 5:00p Mass on Christmas Day

The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** the week of December 27th—31st.

We will reopen on Monday, January 3rd, at 9a.
NO 9:00a Daily Mass will be held the week of 12/27—12/31.

Friday, December 31st Vigil Mass

5:00p ~ livestreamed

Saturday, January 1st, 2022 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00a

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Note: There are NO reservations necessary this year. Please make plans accordingly.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those associated with our parish who are sick or unable to worship with us, that they experience strength in the Lord's unending compassion and love:

Tom Delano, Judi Gaughran, Lynn Jones, Stephen McCormick, Natasha Torres, Jillian Voss; and all victims of the coronavirus, war, terrorism, violence, and natural disasters.

Lord, hear our continued prayers for those dealing with an on-going illness, may they experience fortitude and peace:

Bunny Addison, Jamie Aguilar, Cathy Alden, Chris Ballalo, Nanci Bolling, Mike Bonner, Mary Jane Burke, Sherry Cart, Cathy Casey, Mary Alice and Ed Christie, Ryan Colavita, Sue Connell, Regina Corcoran, Bobbi Daniello, Mike and Diana Dougherty, Josephine Douglas, Sue Driscoll, Nicole Florio, Wayne Frith, Sarah Fyock, Kathy Galligan, Emily Gardener, Verena Goins, Jeff and Spencer Hamm, Tom Hammerstone, Thomas Hardy, Hartwell Harrison, Neico Hayden, Grover Helsley, Rita Holloman, Grant Ilkani, Graham Jennings, Joseph Jones, Sr., Marlene Kacmar, Oliver Khoury, Fr. Dan Klem, Kim Lourenco, Margaret Day Magno, Marg Mayer, Connie Mikuski, Daniel Miller, Lando Mojica, Vera Mulherin, Marie Oliver, Lois Pearn, Brian Pickral, Marian Piracci, Rose Marie Pulleyblank, Dan Raible, Grant Rake, Jean Raugh, Kaeden Ross, David Russ, Sam Sponeybarger, Mary Serra, Kelly Shanahan, Beau and Suki Simpson, Tony Stanton, Garry Stelmach, Michelle Stelmach, Grace Stivers, Greg Stivers, Laura Sullivan, Barbara Swan, Gregory Toler, Tony Toler, David Turner Billy Vogelsson, Tracy Waldo, Benjamin Weldon, Marie Wilborn, Ella Wilkinson, Barbara Williams, and Sam Young.

Lord, hear our prayers for all the souls of the faithful departed:
Gus Antonio Panelles; Manual Mosquero Pibida

Please pray for the parishioners of Holy Trinity cluster and bless the works of their outreach:

St. Anthony in Norton; Holy Spirit in Jonesville; Sacred Heart in Big Stone Gap; and St. Joseph in Clintwood.

Please pray for those service men and women who fight for our freedom:

Yasmin Acevedo, A1C; Taylor Armstrong, US Army; 2nd Battalion 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment; Daniel Beirne; Major David Bhatta-US Army; Richard Currie Braun, Air Force; LTJG Ian Burke, USN; Joseph Brandon Butler; Ross Butler; ENS Jimmy Callahan, USN; Lt. Michael Callahan, USN; Capt. Scott P. Campbell; Matthew Coccia, Army; SSGT. John Maxwell Cospier and Unit, US Army Special Forces; Cpt. Mike Curran; Major Spencer D. Curtis, Judge Advocate, National Guard; Col. Seth Enterline; Navy Lt. Coleen Fagan; Capt. Leroy O. Flynn; SSGT Brad Freda, Air Force; Capt. Peter Fritz; PFC Jose Luis Garcia, National Guard; Spec. April Garrett; LCpl Kevin Hackman, Marines; Diana Honings USCG; Matt Horansky; Capt. Katie Hulcher; 2nd Lt. Megan Hulcher, RN; Capt. Thomas Hulcher; Capt. Renee Kane, Army; Major Nathan Kane, Air Force; Lt. Col. David Kaulfers, Army Corps of Engineers; Sgt. A. David Kelly; Staff Sgt. Steven Kelly, US Army; Josh Kozup, Army; Ryan Larson, Army; Grayson Larus, Ensign US Navy; Nicole Lee; Stacey Lee; Clara Mailloux, Navy Airman; Bryan J. McCabe U.S.C.G.; Sean McHugh, Army; Brendan Meadows, Pvt. US Army; Christine Michel; Major T. Alex Mitchell, First Lt. USMC Kevin Morrison; Capt. Quentin Mueller; Wilson Mustian, Army; Adam Peers, Army; Capt. Lerv Remias; Sgt. Jared Roussell; Capt. Javone Seaborn; Jonathan Schulte; Jobon Seaborn, Army; Lt. Curren D. Shorte; Vincent Stransky; Sgt. Christopher Sturtevant; Major Thomas Tombes, Chandra Weatherell; Cpt. Matthew Weisner; Brennan Wilkes, US Navy; Major Justin Wolfe, USAFR; Phillip Wood; and Steve York.

Due to early Bulletin transmission date of Dec 16, names may not be up-to-date.

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

7:15, 8:45, 11:15 am Liturgies.....Church
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy.....Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 OFFICE CLOSED

NO 9:00 am Daily Morning Mass
7:00 pm Boy Scouts #1893.....Pavilion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 OFFICE CLOSED

NO 9:00 am Daily Morning Mass
5:30 pm Spirit Song Rehearsal.....Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 OFFICE CLOSED

NO 9:00 am Daily Morning Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 OFFICE CLOSED

NO 9:00 am Daily Morning Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 am Men of St. Joseph.....Chapel
NO 9:00 am Daily Morning Mass
5:00 pm Mary, Mother of God Vigil.....Church

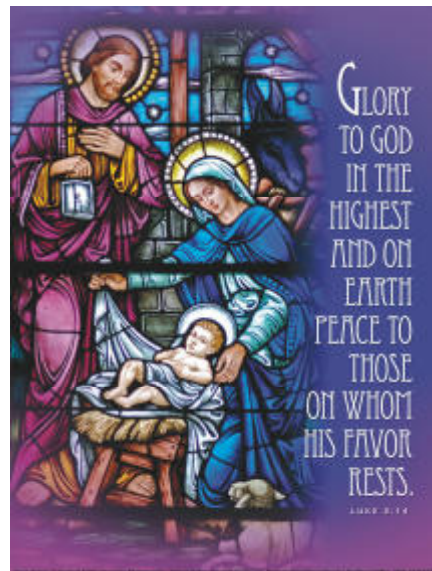
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022

10:00 am Mary, Mother of God.....Church
4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Healing Chapel
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy.....Church

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

7:15, 8:45, 11:15 am Liturgies.....Church
5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy.....Church

*FHH = old Fr. Herbert Hall in SEES



Reflection






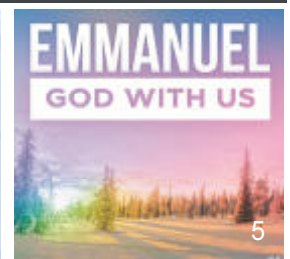
TODAY'S READINGS SUNDAY, December 26

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe. In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness. Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. @LPi

LITURGY SCHEDULE

 DAY AND READINGS	 TIME AND INTENTIONS
MONDAY, December 27 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:1-8	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist NO 9 am Eucharistic Liturgy
TUESDAY, December 28 1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs NO 9 am Eucharistic Liturgy
WEDNESDAY, December 29 1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35	NO 9 am Eucharistic Liturgy
THURSDAY, December 30 1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40	NO 9 am Eucharistic Liturgy
FRIDAY, December 31 1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18	NO 9 am Eucharistic Liturgy Vigil, Mary, Mother of God 5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i> Ken Macurek †
SATURDAY, January 1 Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21 	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 10:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy Michael Hurley † 5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i> Mrs. Darrell Wittkamp †
SUNDAY, January 2 Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12	Epiphany of the Lord 7:15 am Eucharistic Liturgy Frank Clerici † 8:45 am Eucharistic Liturgy Parishioners, Living & Deceased † 11:15 am Eucharistic Liturgy <i>-livestreamed-</i> Kimberly Kisielewski † 5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy Peg Martin †



LITURGY TEAM

Fr. Don Lemay, Pastor 272-2948

Anita McCabe, Coordinator 864-4712 anitam1@stedwardch.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - Sherri Gravins 864-4706 sherri.gravins@stedwardch.org



The Nativity of the Lord
Today's Readings:
Christmas, December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10
 Hebrews 1:1-6
 John 1:1-18



Reflection

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)." The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart. Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed. ©LPi

MUSIC MINISTRY

Liz Goodwin, Director of Music	864-4717	liz.goodwin@stedwardch.org
Joe Guardino, Associate Director of Music	864-4710	joe.guardino@stedwardch.org
Katie Wooldridge Geisert, Violinist, Instrumental Coordinator		katie.wooldridge@stedwardch.org
Mary Beth Schutte, Handbell Director	304-4837	mbssings@gmail.com

December Choral Anthems

- "The Yearning" features poetry of Susan Boersma and Music of Craig Courtney; "...a yearning for the promised One...Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning."
- "Rejoice All Ye Daughters" with text by Joseph Martin: "Every valley be lifted, each mountain made low...and the glory of the Lord shall shine like the sun." to the tune of the Sans Day carol
- "The Angel Gabriel" a favorite traditional Basque carol: "most highly favored Mary, Gloria."
- "While By My Sheep" (Echo Carol) attributed to Ausrelesene Catholische geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623
- "Still, Still, Still" (Austrian Carol)
- "A Christmas Blessing" (Philip Stopford)
- "Ding Dong Merrily On High" (Arbeau, 1589)
- "Some Children See Him" (Alfred Burt)
- "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Gustav Holst)
- "Wonderful Peace"(Nordqvist)
- "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head" (trad. American)
- "Gesu Bambino"(Pietro Yon)



Christmas Choirs

4:00 PM
 YOUTH CHOIR

6:30 PM

ADULT CHOIR

8:30 PM
 SCHOLA

MIDNIGHT & 10:00 AM
 SOLO CANTOR

OFFICE OF HUMAN CONCERNS, JUSTICE & PEACE, HAITI TWINNING

Jennifer Bousquet 864-4718 jennifer@stedwardch.org

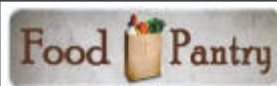
HAITI MINISTRY



The December Haiti Committee meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be January 10 at 6:15pm, in person at the parish center and on Zoom.

STARS

Thank you to everyone who supported **STARS Christmas Outreach Program** this year! We provided gifts to over 40 residents of Saint Francis Home assisted living, over 40 unhoused or homebound folks through Care to Share RVA, and \$30,510 in gift cards for families and children in need. What an awesome way to spread some Christmas cheer!



During the busy weekends between now and mid-January, please remember to bring some staples to our food pantry, including: canned meat/tuna, rice, beans, jelly, peanut butter, and pasta sauce, and also these sometimes forgotten items: deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent, soap, and shampoo. Thank you to everyone who donates throughout the year!

ST. PETER'S OUTREACH

We are collecting the following cold-weather items for the homeless people served by St. Peter's downtown: new hats, gloves, warm socks, and waterproof sleeping bags. Bring your donations to the parish center during the week or the blue bins in the commons throughout the winter. Thanks!

January 1st

Pope Paul VI established the World Day of Peace in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem In Terris* of Pope John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. The day was first observed on January 1, 1968.



AFGHAN REFUGEES

Thank you to the parishioners who have donated furniture for Afghan refugee families. Catholic Charities came with their truck with three Afghan men and picked up a couch, a dining table and chairs, a full set of dishes and silverware, and new bedding that had all been recently donated. The men were so thankful; I wish you could have seen their faces. If you have basic furniture and can get it to St. Edward, we can store it until CCC comes to get it. Please contact me if you have basic furniture or household goods to donate! Jennifer@stedwardch.org



THANKSGIVING MEALS

Thanks to your generous donations to Human Concerns, our parish was able to help provide last minute Thanksgiving meals for two shelters run by Catholic Charities. I was contacted by CCC less than a week before Thanksgiving when they found out their food vendor was not able to provide meals for their two homeless shelters (the non-congregant shelter for COVID-vulnerable individuals and families & the cold weather shelter for singles.) St. Edward was able to donate money to CCC to purchase food to help these folks have a nice meal from Mission BBQ on Thanksgiving. One shelter served 215 meals for clients, including, 42 children ages 0-5, 50 children ages 6-12, 20 children ages 13-17, and including 43 chronically homeless adults. The cold weather shelter served meals for 105 adults that night. This is one way your donations directly benefit those in need.

POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER


@Pontifex 12/16/21


"#Christmas symbols, especially the creche and trimmed tree, bring us back to the certainty that fills the heart with peace, with joy for the Incarnation, to God who becomes familiar: He dwells with us, He fills our days with the rhythm of hope."

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION OF YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILIES

Joan Nelson, Director
Peggy Byers, Religious Education Coordinator
Andrew McCarthy, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Rachael Mattio, Edge Coordinator
Candace Aud, Outreach in Love Coordinator

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Facebook.com/outreachinlove

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OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION



FAMILY MINISTRY

SACRAMENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YOUTH MINISTRY

 LIFE TEEN  EDGE



Rachael



Andrew



Joan



Peggy



Candace

*Wishing your family a peaceful Christmas
and blessings in the new year*

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

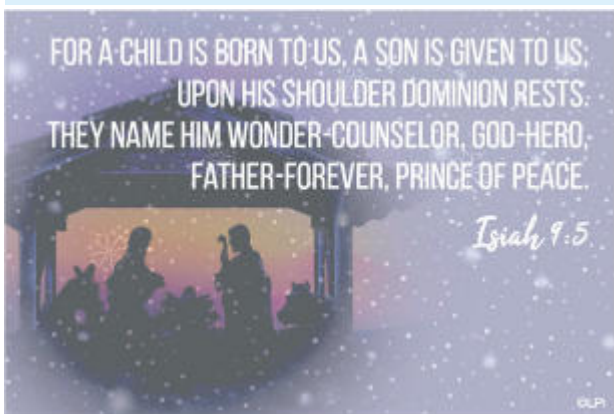


Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—January 1

Mary’s divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God’s invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: “Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary’s role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God’s redemptive plan. Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that “God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4). Paul’s further statement that “God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out ‘Abba, Father!’” helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Some theologians also insist that Mary’s motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God’s creative plan. God’s “first” thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was “first” in God’s mind, Mary was “second” insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother. The precise title “Mother of God” goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form Theotokos (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church’s teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin Theotokos. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: “Praised be the Theotokos!” The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary’s role in the Church, Vatican II’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church calls Mary “Mother of God” 12 times.

Reflection

Other themes come together at today’s celebration. It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary’s divine motherhood injects a further note of Christmas joy. It is a day of prayer for world peace: Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace. It is the first day of a new year: Mary continues to bring new life to her children—who are also God’s children. -Franciscan Media



OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Month	Budget*	Actual as of	Over<Under>
July-Nov	\$ 629,560	\$ 786,744	\$ 157,184
Dec	\$290,736 (12/16)	\$ 76,070	\$<214,666>

Note: We show the total budget for the month rather than each week.

A very heartfelt thank you for your generosity!

Due to early Bulletin transmission date of Dec 16, we’re unable to show totals for the weekend of Dec 17/18.

Schedule for *The Bible Timeline* thru March 2022



DATE

December 26

January 2

January 9, 1:00—2:30 pm

January 16, 1:00—2:30 pm

January 23

January 30, 1:00—2:30 pm

February 6, 1:00—2:30 pm

February 13, 1:00—2:30 pm

February 20, 1:00—2:30 pm

February 27, 1:00—2:30 pm

March 6, 1:-00—2:30 pm

March 13, 1:00—2:30 pm

March 20, 1:00—2:30 pm

March 27, 1:00—2:30 pm

SESSION

No Meeting—Have a blessed Christmas holiday!

No Meeting—Happy New Year!

7. Egypt and Exodus—Pt 2 *Exodus*

8. Desert Wanderings—*Numbers*

No Meeting

9. Conquest and Judges—Pt 1 *Joshua; Judges*

10. Conquest and Judges—Pt 2 *Joshua; Judges*

11. Royal Kingdom—Pt 1 *1 Samuel; 2 Sm; 1 Kings 1-11*

12. Royal Kingdom—Pt 2 *1 Samuel; 2 Sm; 1 Kings 1-11*

13. Divided Kingdom—Pt 1 *1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 1-17*

14. Divided Kingdom—Pt 2 *1 Kings 12-22; 2 Kings 1-16*

15. Exile—*2 Kings 17-25*

16. Return—*Ezra; Nehemiah*

17. Maccabean Revolt—*1 Maccabees*

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE
 Deacon Kevin & Adria Hogan
 804-864-4707
khogan@richmonddiocese.org

Date Night 2021

What: Date Night 2021 is a marriage enrichment community building program. Invite couple friends from the parish, your neighborhood and other parishes.

When: We meet from 10a-11a in the Music Room in the school building. Our remaining sessions are January 9, 23, and 30, 2022. We end with a Parish Wide Marriage Celebration Event on May 28, 2022.

Who: married & engaged couples

Cost: There is a \$10 charge per couple for the "Couples Guide" book

Registration: To register, please email Dan and Janis Riegel at danctva98@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Kevin Hogan khogan@richmonddiocese.org.

Details: We meet for a meal that you bring for yourself, prior to the program @the Pavilion right after 5pm Saturday night Mass. We then proceed to SEES Cafeteria for the program; after dinner the program "Better Together" from **Dynamic Catholic** will be presented.

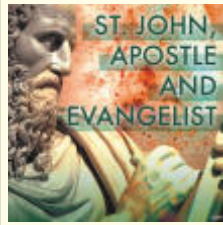
INTO THE BREACH

Christian Men! Meet for an hour on Sunday mornings to pray, discuss, meditate on Scripture, & work on an action plan for the following week.
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Come as much as you can.
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"GOD IS LOVE. WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD AND GOD IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



St John, Apostle and Evangelist—December 27

It is God who calls; human beings answer. The vocation of John and his brother James is stated very simply in the Gospels, along with that of Peter and his brother Andrew: Jesus called them; they followed. The absoluteness of their response is indicated by the account. James and John "were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him" (Matthew 4:21b-22). For the three former fishermen—Peter, James and John—that faith was to be rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus. They alone were privileged to be present at the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus and the agony in Gethsemane. But John's friendship was even more special. Tradition assigns to him the Fourth Gospel, although most modern Scripture scholars think it unlikely that the apostle and the evangelist are the same person. John's own Gospel refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (see John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honor of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. "Woman, behold your son.... Behold, your mother" (John 19:26b, 27b). Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter. But the ever-frank Gospels reveal some very human traits. Jesus gave James and John the nickname, "sons of thunder." While it is difficult to know exactly what this meant, a clue is given in two incidents. In the first, as Matthew tells it, their mother asked that they might sit in the places of honor in Jesus' kingdom—one on his right hand, one on his left. When Jesus asked them if they could drink the cup he would drink and be baptized with his baptism of pain, they blithely answered, "We can!" Jesus said that they would indeed share his cup, but that sitting at his right hand was not his to give. It was for those to whom it had been reserved by the Father. The other apostles were indignant at the mistaken ambition of the brothers, and Jesus took the occasion to teach them the true nature of authority: "... [W]hoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:27-28). On another occasion, the "sons of thunder" asked Jesus if they should not call down fire from heaven upon the inhospitable Samaritans, who would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. But Jesus "turned and rebuked them" (see Luke 9:51-55). On the first Easter, Mary Magdalene "ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him'" (John 20:2). John recalls, perhaps with a smile, that he and Peter ran side by side, but then "the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first" (John 20:4b). He did not enter, but waited for Peter and let him go in first. "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (John 20:8). John was with Peter when the first great miracle after the Resurrection took place—the cure of the man crippled from birth—which led to their spending the night in jail together. The mysterious experience of the Resurrection is perhaps best contained in the words of Acts: "Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they [the questioners] were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus" (Acts 4:13). The Apostle John is traditionally considered the author also of three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation. His Gospel is a very personal account. He sees the glorious and divine Jesus already in the incidents of his mortal life. At the Last Supper, John's Jesus speaks as if he were already in heaven. John's is the Gospel of Jesus' glory.

Reflection

It is a long way from being eager to sit on a throne of power or to call down fire from heaven to becoming the man who could write: "The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" (1 John 3:16). St. John the Evangelist is the Patron Saint of Turkey. -Franciscan Media

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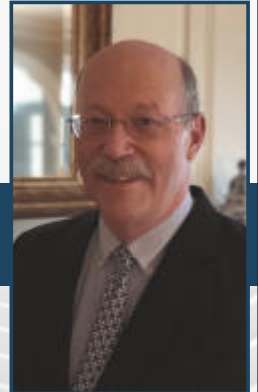
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