

| SUNDAY 12/09 | MONDAY 12/10 | TUESDAY 12/11 | WEDNESDAY 12/12 | THURSDAY 12/13 | FRIDAY 12/14 | SATURDAY 12/15 |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 AM LITURGY 9:45 AM ADULT FORMATION K-5 RELIG. ED. 11:00 AM LITURGY | 12:00 PM PRAYER FOR PEACE 6:00 PM VIRTUS TRAINING 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY | 5:30 PM C.I.C.C.A. R.C.I.A. | 7:00 PM JUSTFAITH 7:00 PM RECONCILIATION SERVICE | 8:30 AM LITURGY 9:15 AM SCRIPTURE STUDY 6:30 PM MUSIC PRACTICE 7:00 PM SCRIPTURE FROM SCRATCH | 8:30 AM LITURGY 9:15 AM WOMEN LISTENING TO WOMEN | 4:00 PM I.C.C.C.W. PROJECT RECONCILIATION 5:30 PM LITURGY |

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR —

Thank You Again to the Parish Life Committee for the delicious **Parish Feast Day** breakfast. Sooo nice!

Come Lord Jesus with Your Mercy — Come experience the Advent Gift of God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Come open your hearts and be surprised. We will join three neighboring parishes in offering this sacred moment.

December 11th 7:00 P.M. at St. Joan of Arc in Yorktown

December 12th 7:00 P.M. at Immaculate Conception

December 18th 7:00 P.M. at St. Jerome

December 19th 7:00 P.M. at St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Each service will include scripture, shared prayer and individual "confession" with a priest.

The Advent Challenge I Received Years Ago — I Offer To You — Christmas is a time of generous giving to those we love and care about. How about beyond that circle of our lives? Total up what you will spend for cards, stamps, gifts, treats, meals during these weeks -- then designate a percentage that you will share with those in need, i.e., the biblical 10%, or 5%, or 3%, or a percent. Send a check to a reputable charity (I can name some if you wish). So as Isaiah the Prophet said, "We walk together to the Mountain of the Lord!"

Let Advent Be Advent — a time of "joyful expectations." Make a decorative container and save all your received pre-Christmas cards and gifts -- do not open them until Christmas Eve or Day, and truly enjoy with Christmas music and a glass of eggnog. **Or** use the "12 Days of Christmas" to day by day write and send your Christmas cards. In the Roman Catholic tradition, Christmas is a Season, until January 13th, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus — it is not just a day. Perhaps give small surprise gifts during the season, like the Magi. Or have an Epiphany party January 6th.

Take A Look Around — We are getting short of pyxes (the container to take holy communion to the sick or homebound). Perhaps you borrowed one of ours to use.... Please return it as soon as possible so that others may use it.

Prepare The Way! — An on-line homily service for the Advent Season: The Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Richmond has developed a new on-line homily service for the season of Advent. Each day, you can listen to a homily based on the readings and prayers of the daily Advent Masses. The podcast homilies are preached by priests from the Diocese of Richmond. To access this spiritual resource, go to www.richmonddiocese.org/vocations.

Msgr. Bob Perkins

Dear Friends,

In past years I tried to give encouragement and solace to those among you who were touched by illnesses. Now the tides have turned! I cannot thank you enough for the kindnesses and encouragement so many of you have extended to me through cards, assurances of prayer, and offers of assistance and support. I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you.

Right now I consider this only another bump in my life's journey and an initiation into yet another level of retirement. The doctors are still discussing the best course for long-range treatment so I'll let them worry about that. I know my weekend ministry in various parishes will be curtailed for a while, but I will have plenty of quiet time to reflect on the Advent season with its rich readings and to listen to in-house cello music.

FR. BOB FRENCH

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of flowers at Christmas in memory of a deceased family member or friend, please enclose a check/cash in an envelope and place it in the offertory basket. **Make certain to put the name(s) of those to be remembered, as well as your name, on the envelope.**

Income Budget: \$637,850

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

December Financial Information

| Weekly Income | 10% | 5% |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| \$100 | \$10.00 | \$ 5.00 |
| 200 | 20.00 | 10.00 |
| 300 | 30.00 | 15.00 |
| 400 | 40.00 | 20.00 |
| 500 | 50.00 | 25.00 |

| | <u>Week of 12/02</u> | <u>Month of Dec.</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Env./checks | \$ 17,141.50 | \$ 17,141.50 | \$ 259,728.22 |
| Loose | 896.92 | 896.92 | 26,372.98 |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,232.00 |
| YTD Interest | | | 5,957.39 |
| Total | \$ 18,038.42 | \$ 18,038.42 | \$ 294,290.59 |

Families using Envelopes/Checks in December: 288 out of 621

A Tithe is 10% of one's gross income. That 10% is divided: 5% is placed in the Sunday collection for the ministries and operations of the Parish. The other 5% is donated to diocesan collections, local appeals for the needy, disaster relief, favorite charities, and Catholic school tuition. Above all, Tithing is an act of faith on the part of a believing person.

STEWARDSHIP

WE MUST BE GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS TO US, RECEIVING THEM GRATEFULLY AND CULTIVATING THEM WITH CARE LEST WE BE THE ONES ABOUT WHOM JOHN THE BAPTIST SPEAKS TODAY: "EVERY TREE THAT DOES NOT BEAR GOOD FRUIT WILL BE CUT DOWN AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE."

Please keep our newly received **R.C.I.A. CATECHUMENS and CANDIDATES** in your thoughts and prayers. Feel free to give them a warm ICC welcome when you see them!

CHRISTY BARONI, JENNY BROWN, SHARON CORRADO, JENNIFER KELLY, KAYLA KHAU, KAYLEE KHAU, MARY BESS KLEIN, HAYLEY LEHOSKI and SHELLY SPENCER.

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS: This Sunday and next Sunday between the 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Eucharistic Liturgies, forms will be available for all those who have not yet undergone the prerequisite Diocesan background screenings in order to work with children in this Parish. Notary Publics will also be on hand to immediately notarize the completed forms. [Remember to bring a picture ID.] Please take advantage of this convenient service.

"Mr. Nice Guy? ... Or a Rebel with a Cause?"

— For all those who were unable to attend Fr. Kevin O'Brien's very informative presentation on the Gospel of Matthew, a video of his presentation will be shown this morning (December 9) during the Adult Faith Formation session at 9:45 A.M.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next series of parent classes for those who wish to present a child for baptism will be held on January 10, 17 and 24. Please contact Carol Dufresne at the Parish Office for more information or to enroll in the classes.

See the back page of the bulletin as Carol shares her comments and observations from A Night's Welcome....

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**The December 1/2 collection was \$3,662.65.**

ANGEL TREE — Please take an angel from the "Angel Tree" in the Commons, purchase the gift identified on the tag, and place the unwrapped gift [with the angel tag attached] under the tree. The families we are supporting this year are from Refugee and Immigration Services and Transitions Family Violence Services. All gifts must be returned by December 14.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES: Next Sunday, December 16, is the last class for this year. All Faith Formation classes [Preschool, K-5, Upper Grades and Confirmation] will resume on January 6.

SCHEDULES — December 15/16**Lectors**Advent Reconciliation

7:00 P.M. Russell Kassel; Lisa Lannom

5:30 P.M. Cheryl Carnevale; John Dever

8:30 A.M. Tina Meyer; John Meyer

11:00 A.M. Dan Berry; Joni Littreal

Lead Eucharistic Ministers

5:30 P.M. Gayle Cowles; Steve Cowles

8:30 A.M. Bev Amante; Bob Amante

11:00 A.M. Kim Kosin; Norman Kosin

Children's Liturgy

8:30 A.M. Yvonne Randall

11:00 A.M. Pat Kippie; Erika Ferbee

Coffee and Doughnuts

8:30 A.M. Susan Palmer; Lois Smith; Joe Lehman; Betty & George Palko

11:00 A.M. Gail Helmick; Carolyn Famiglietti; Ann Loucks; Judy Mitchell

Food Pantry — Debra Sager; Meisje ScalesMorning Ministry — Marie-Claude David (12/10)

Muriel Baisden (12/13)

NEEDED: NINTH AND TENTH GRADE CATECHIST — Please contact Manola at the Parish Office [826-0393 or icc.mjdobbs@verizon.net if you are interested.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sat., 12/08 Gn 3:9-15, 20 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38
Sun., 12/09 Is 11:1-10 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

Mon., 12/10 Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26
Tues., 12/11 Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
Weds., 12/12 Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
Thurs., 12/13 Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
Fri., 12/14 Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
Sat., 12/15 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9-13
Sun., 12/16 Is 35:1-6, 10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

MASS INTENTIONS

8:30 A.M. *Pat McElroy*
5:30 P.M. *Cecilia Ryan (+)*
8:30 A.M. *Edward & David Bittenbender (+)*
11:00 A.M. *Marian Paulus (+)*
Marie Thomas (+)

8:30 A.M. *Francisco G. Mercado (+)*
8:30 A.M.
5:30 P.M. *Marie Thomas (+)*
8:30 A.M. *Apolinario & Fernando Roy (+)*
11:00 A.M. *Margaret Rita Ruppert (+)*

ALTAR (RED ROSÉ) WINE — We thank those who regularly provide wine for our eucharistic celebrations. With the coming of the holiday season, additional altar wine is needed.

Last call to attend **HAPPY WANDERERS' Christmas Luncheon and Entertainment** at the Crabber's Restaurant on Wednesday, December 12, beginning at 11:00 A.M. Make your reservations with Ann Hart by Noon on Tuesday. The cost is \$19.00 per person -- this covers everything from a three-entrée buffet to entertainment, tip and taxes.

I.C.C.W. will be wrapping presents for their Christmas families on Saturday, December 15, at 4:00 P.M.

ANARK OF ONE(S) will not have a luncheon meeting in December. The next meeting will be a post-Epiphany lunch on Tuesday, January 8, at 1:00 P.M.

WE WELCOME TO OUR PARISH.... Lawrence & Sharon **Corrado**; Kevin **Hayes**; and Paul **Schifferli**.

The **SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (SYG)** will be meeting at the Hampton Roads Ice Plex in Kiln Creek this Sunday, December 9, for an evening of enjoyment. Family Skate is from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Admission (includes skate rental) is \$6.50 per person; concessions are available for additional cost. Family and friends are encouraged to attend.

Becoming Fully Human and Fully Alive is at times a struggle -- discerning one's sexual and religious identity. If so for you, consider: **Discussion Group for Gay and Lesbian Catholics**. Members of this confidential group meet in York County at 7:00 P.M. on the second Monday of every month to pray and to talk about life, church and society. For more information, contact Dave Schleck at 874-2470 or catholichelp@aol.com — or visit the website: hometown.aol.com/catholichelp.

Join your fellow-parishioners and friends at ICC/OLMC's **ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY (2007/2008)** from 7:00 P.M. on December 31st until 12:30 A.M. on January 1st. The party will be held at St. Michael Hall (144 Harpersville Road, Newport News). The ticket price is \$25.00 per person [18 years and older]. Tickets will be available after Masses; tickets will not be sold at the door. The party is BYOB (mixers provided), with hors d'oeuvres from 7:00 - 8:00 P.M., and dinner at 8:00 P.M.

Throughout the course of this week, I (Carol Dufresne) have had the pleasure of enjoying the company of some very special people at A Night's Welcome, and I would like to share some of their stories with you. On Monday night, I was intrigued by the wheelchair-bound gentleman who so appreciated the opportunity to take a shower that he set his wheelchair alarm to wake him at 2:30 a.m. so that he would not miss his moment. ... On Tuesday, I met a very determined divorced mom and former all-round athlete who, despite the recent turn of events in her life, was ensuring that her middle-school daughter's schooling was not interrupted -- her daughter had not missed one day of school all year. ... On Wednesday morning I met a young woman whose hearing loss as a child could easily have proscribed her to a world of silence. Yet, when I glanced over at the tables, there she sat communicating with one of our youth as if they were old friends. Also on Wednesday morning my co-hosts and I made 3:45, 4:30, 5:00, (yes A.M.!) wake-up calls to men and women who were dressed, out the door and on their way to work before any of us really had a chance to say, "Have a nice day." I could go on and on about people just like you and I, who are struggling to make it and rise above their circumstances. I applaud them for their resolve, and I thank our guests for sharing. May God be praised. These are just some of the people I met during "A Night's Welcome" who enriched my life this week. Who did you meet?