

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

301 Sheppard Court, Waynesboro VA 22980
540.949.6145 / www.stjohnevan.com

A Roman Catholic Community since 1932

19 December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

26 December 2021

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Psalm 128:1-5 or Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

Colossians 3:12-21 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52



CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST / MASS:

Occasionally due to funerals or other unforeseen and extraordinary events, even sometimes at the very last minute, the Mass schedule may have to be modified. Please contact the parish office to make certain. Weekday & weekend livestreamed Masses are recorded and available after on the parish website. Holy Days: 9:00 AM (L) & 7:00 PM

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (L)

Weekdays: Tuesday—Friday: 9:00 AM (L)

Sunday: 8:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Rolo B. Castillo, VF (rbcastillo@stjohnevan.com)

Deacon: Rev. Mr. David Kohut (dstanleyk@gmail.com)

Director of Music: Amelia Fe Camacho (afcama@stjohnevan.com)

Director of Christian Formation for Adults, Youth & Children:

Michele Kresge (mkresge@stjohnevan.com)

Business Administrator: Lorraine Whitley (lwhitley@stjohnevan.com)

Secretary/Receptionist: Jennifer Dunford (jdunford@stjohnevan.com)

Office Assistant: Martie Wells (mwells@stjohnevan.com)

Coordinator of Parish Maintenance:

Jose Rodriguez (jrodriguez@stjohnevan.com)

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: council structure under review

Finance Council Chair: currently in transition

2021 CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

24 December / Christmas Eve Mass @ 5:00 PM & 12:00 AM Midnight Mass

25 December / Christmas Day Mass @ 10:00 AM

THERE IS NO SATURDAY VIGIL MASS @ 5:00 PM 25 DECEMBER

26 December / Feast of the Holy Family Mass @ 8:30 & 11:30 AM

1 January / Mary Mother of God Mass @ 10:00 AM

1 January / Epiphany Vigil Mass @ 5:00 PM / 2 January @ 8:30 & 11:30 AM

... IN THE NAME OF
Jesus the LORD. AMEN.

The Prayer Tree:

Call (540) 949-7611

for special prayer requests

Eucharistic Adoration:

One hour after Friday 9:00 AM Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30—4:30 PM; or as always by appointment.

Call Fr. Rolo for an appointment at a different time.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Parish Office if you are aware of parishioners who are in the hospital or are sick, frail, or grieving at home, or in an area rehab, convalescent, or retirement facility.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: M-F / 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

FOR SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES ONLY AFTER

OFFICE HOURS CALL: (540) 324-3146

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**We strive to Proclaim the Gospel & to Love One Another
... RIGHT HERE ... RIGHT NOW.**

PARISH INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: In the event of inclement weather during the week, we follow the Waynesboro School System closings. If city schools are closed due to the weather, the Parish Office will also be closed. Check parish website, Flocknote, WHSV TV-3, and NBC 29 for updates.



DO YOU REJOICE IN THE LORD?

Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest?

Contact Fr. Brian Capuano (804) 359-5661 or vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

DEC 18 SATURDAY	DEC 19 SUNDAY	DEC 20 MONDAY	DEC 21 TUESDAY	DEC 22 WEDNESDAY	DEC 23 THURSDAY	DEC 24 FRIDAY	DEC 25 SATURDAY
5:00 PM People of the Parish 	8:30 AM † Gary Kessler 11:30 AM † Modris Kucs	HAITI † Perkins family members living & deceased 	9:00 AM † Fred Bischof	9:00 AM † Sue Quinn 	9:00 AM † Ervin Ciszek	5:00 PM † Alice Christman 	12:00 AM People of the Parish 10:00 AM † Elizabeth Welsh 
3:30—4:30 PM, CH Confessions	10:00—11:00 AM Virtual Breaking Open the Word						



OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, December 22, 8:00 AM—6:00 PM at St. Francis in Staunton

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Mass: Friday, December 24, 5:00 PM
 Christmas Midnight Mass: Saturday, December 25, 12:00 AM
 Lessons & Carols beginning at 11:30 PM
 Christmas Day Mass: Saturday, December 25, 10:00 AM
 There will NOT be a Saturday 5:00 PM Mass or confessions



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Eleanor Coyne, Terry Crone, Charles Daniel, Kiger Davis, Linda Dean, Emily Hauser, Angel Knous, Danielle LaCharite, Sam Leshay, Donald Narducci, Pat Noonan, Marie Overstreet, Fred Siebenmann, Fr. Eric Vogt, Mona White; **DECEASED:** Lucas Stickley;
IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY: Sr. Airman Michael Brown USAF, Sgt. John Burns, LCDR Christopher Farkas USN, Sgt. David Grennan US Army, Col. Brent Harms USAF, Sr. Airman Kory Hartline USAF, Maj. David Hildebrand US Army, Sgt. Christopher Kennedy, Jimmy Negrete, LCDR Megan Piotrowski USN, LCDR David Piotrowski USNR, Maj. Benjamin Sprouse, and all who go unnamed.



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 13 — DECEMBER 18, 2021 (view online at www.usccb.org/bible/readings)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 • Isaiah 7:10-14 • Psalm 24:1-6 • Luke 1:26—38
 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 • Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a • Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 • Luke 1:39-45
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22 • 1 Samuel 1:24-28 • 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8 • Luke 1:46—56
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 • Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 • Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 • Luke 1:57—66
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 • Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29 • Luke 1:67—79
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 • **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**
 Isaiah 9:1-6 • Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1—14



WITH HOLIDAYS HERE AND IN ADDITION TO OUR ALREADY BUSY LIVES, LET ONLINE GIVING HELP!



It's so easy and safe. Simply visit www.stjohnnevan.com and click on the Online Giving icon at either the top or the bottom of the home page. You can choose to sign up to use it often or click Quick Give for a one-time offering. Thank you for your generosity.



SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE! Text SJECC to 84576. Don't have a smart phone? You can participate by going to www.flocknote.com/SJECCWboro. Let's keep connected! Or visit the parish website.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH (RCIA), St. John's Christian Initiation for Adults is year-round and tailored to each individual's needs. Please contact Fr. Rolo if you wish to explore full and active participation in the Catholic Church. We look forward to assisting you on your faith journey! Don't wait. We will get you started on your journey whenever you (and the Holy Spirit) are ready.



THE MARCH FOR LIFE takes place January 21, 2022 in Washington DC. Reserve space on a bus coordinated by St. Francis of Assisi in Staunton. For more information, contact respectlife.waynesboro@gmail.com.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers who delivered Christmas greetings and a poinsettia to parishioners who are homebound, bereaved, or in area facilities: Peggy Bischof, Cindy & Bruce Fenton, Gail Adams, Martha & Bob Prebish, Pam Harvey, Rosie Haverkamp, Elaine & John Leffingwell, Kitty Krogh, Donna Hamp, Terri Petrie, Nancy & Don Kelley, Liz McDow, Pat Cekada, and Teresa Gonzalez. We appreciate you much!



COMFORTCARE WOMEN'S HEALTH is in need of diaper bags, diapers size 3 and up, baby lotion, baby wash, and wipes. Please leave your donations in the Baby Moses basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations.

WE ARE SEEKING PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY to help keep Catholic Social Teaching in action at St John's. By prayerfully discerning new opportunities for service and providing pathways to participation for all parishioners we want to help use your talents and gifts to answer Jesus' call. Our next meeting is Sunday January 9 from 1:00—2:00 PM in the Narthex. The meeting agenda and notes from our last meeting are posted on Flocknote. Please sign up and click on Social Outreach Ministry to receive information. Contact Mary Katharine Froehlich at mary@stonesoupbooks.net if you have any questions or are not able to receive Flocknote.



JUSTICE CHALLENGE Christmas falls on Saturday of this week. Sometimes in the midst of gifts and parties we forget the real purpose of this celebration—the Second Person of the Trinity taking our nature and becoming one of us. Jesus came as a poor person to stand in total solidarity with those who have little. This week's challenge is to reflect on all the things you have, including the gifts you will be receiving this week, and what you will do with them in light of so many of your brothers and sisters across the world who have so little. What are you willing to share?

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HAITI MINISTRY. As our Haitian friends celebrate Christmas, following custom they attend mass at midnight, often gathering early an hour or so before it begins. Parishioners dress in their best to welcome Jesus. Following mass, families may gather for a celebratory meal that lasts far into the night, or, alternatively, on Christmas Day, as is their tradition. The level of celebration depends upon the availability of resources. Since the 2010 earthquake, Christmas is drastically changed due to the need for constant rebuilding following devastating floods, today's political upheaval, and the recent earthquake. All of these affect celebratory plans in one of the world's poorest countries. We know that, at present, food and water are scarce. We thank you for your continued support of the elderly in the Parish of St. Louis King of France at Pointe-a-Raquette on the Island of LaGonave in Haiti. Bondye beni ou. God bless you.

MASS TRANSIT. Normally you would keep these cards in your car's glove compartment. Not only because of COVID-19, but also in keeping with the care of our common home, we've gone digital! Access these by logging in at stjohnewan.com. At the top of the Home Page, click on *Mass Transit* to get started. This simple exercise helps families ready their hearts and minds for active participation in the Eucharist. Not only is it a way for your family to engage with the weekly readings, completed cards will be collected for a monthly drawing for fun prizes. (Some of the prizes support local parishioner owned restaurants!)



SAVE THE DATE! Charlottesville Catholic School's 27th Annual Spring Gala Auction takes place Saturday, April 30, 2022.



DIOCESAN WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE 2023 is at the end of July—beginning of August in Lisbon, Portugal. "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39). Join millions of other young Catholics from around the world for this once-in-a-lifetime experience! Our diocesan pilgrimage will include day trips to Fatima & Lourdes as well as all of the World Youth Day activities August 1-6 in Lisbon, Portugal. High school teens (and chaperones or parents), college students, and young adults are all invited to join our diocesan pilgrimage! We expect the pilgrimage to be 10-14 days long and to cost between \$3,500 and \$4,000 per person. Contact Michele Kresge if you are interested.

ON THE PATH TO A SYNODAL CHURCH...

20. Jesus, the crowd in its diversity, the apostles: this is the imagery and the mystery that must be constantly contemplated and explored in depth so that the Church may increasingly become what she is.



ONLINE ADVENT RESOURCES TO GROW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS!

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: prayers, blessings, and explanations

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/advent/>

Catholic Digest: reflections, activities for families, stories

<http://www.catholicdigest.com/faith/advent/advents-message-for-the-past-present-and-future/>

Loyola Press: prayers, retreats, reflections, activities, books, Jesse Tree

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent>

Bishop Robert Barron: Gospel Reflections

<https://adventreflections.com/>

Creighton University Praying Advent: Daily Advent prayers, audio reflections, and commentaries

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>





2ND ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES. Each Christmas season, parishes across the Diocese of Richmond take up a 2nd collection to benefit Catholic Charities. Despite the ongoing challenges and growing community needs resulting from the pandemic, CCC has never wavered from serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Whether that is responding to the Afghan refugee crisis, providing groceries to families without food, ensuring mothers and their babies have a safe place to live, and beyond – CCC is there to help. CCC now needs your help to support these critical ministries through the Christmas 2nd Collection. Thank you! Additionally, you can support the work of CCC by welcoming the stranger in serving Afghan refugee families or any other vulnerable communities through their wonderful programs. But if you are unable to make a contribution during the Christmas 2nd Collection, please see CCC's *Ways to Give* page at www.ccofva.org/donate.

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

December 19, 2021 • 4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth



Mary is pregnant when she sets off to help her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. Mary has just said "yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth welcomes Mary, and experiences a special blessing for herself and her child. She praises Mary for her faith and rejoices with her over her miracle.

Mary was newly pregnant and not married when she left for Judah. She probably spent much of the journey wondering how her cousin would receive her. Imagine her relief when she saw Elizabeth's face and heard her greeting: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Sometimes we forget that Mary was just a young girl, probably about fourteen, when she agreed to become the mother of Jesus. There is no questioning her courage and colossal faith, but she was probably still confused and scared after the angel left.

Mary came to help her cousin, but (as is often the case) she ended up being ministered to as well. How affirming it must have been to hear Elizabeth, an older woman, praise her for her faith and trust in the Lord. Like all of us, Mary needed to know that she was not alone. Her courage and faith needed to be bolstered. Elizabeth gave Mary the reinforcement she needed.

Like Mary, we are also asked to have faith and to believe in the promises of a God we cannot see. We are asked to believe in God's unconditional love for us, and to say "yes" to that love so that like Mary we too can bring Jesus into the world. Amidst all our confusion and fear, God asks us to have the courage to share our faith, bolster the faith of those closest to us and make the presence of Jesus real in our households.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask family members to talk about the last time someone bolstered their courage. Who are the people in your lives who remind you of Jesus? In what way?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Who are the people who remind you of Jesus? In what ways?

Bringing Home the Gospel: *Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels* • Copyright © 2008, 2020 Judith Dunlap. Published by the Pastoral Center, www.PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved. Scripture passages have been taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. All rights reserved.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE: LEGENDS, TRADITIONS, HISTORY

Many legends and old traditions about the Christmas tree date back to very ancient times, but historical documentation of its origins as the tree we know and decorate today only appeared in recent centuries.

There is no doubt, however, that legends and traditions show the convergence of many customs, some born outside the Christian culture and others strictly Christian. We will consider here some of the most important ones that were forerunners of the Christmas tree.

Since very ancient times even primitive people would take evergreen plants and flowers into their huts, seeing in them a magical or religious significance. The Greeks and Romans decorated their dwellings with ivy. The Celts and Scandinavians preferred mistletoe, but many other evergreen plants such as holly, butcher's broom, laurel, and branches of pine or fir were considered to have magical or medicinal powers that would ward off illness. This belief was found especially among the inhabitants of the northern regions with cold climates and long, dark winters; it was almost as if these plants revived thoughts of the coming spring while everything around them lay dormant. Naturally enough, temples were built to the "goddess Flora".

To read more visit <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/christmas-tree-legends-traditions-history-1763>.