

ST. PETER'S PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2009

		<u>MASSES</u>	
MON	DEC 14	7:00pm	INT OF EDITH HEIDERMAN
TUE	DEC 15	8:00am	BILL OLIVER
WED	DEC 16	8:00am	COMMUNION SERVICE
THU	DEC 17	8:00am	COMMUNION SERVICE
FRI	DEC 18	9:00am	LARRY WELLER
SAT	DEC 19	8:00am	LIVING & DECEASED FRENCH FAMILY
		5:30pm	PARISHIONERS
SUN	DEC 20	7:15am	INT OF DORIS HOWELL
		9:00am	EILEEN GUILDAY
		11:00am	LINDA CUNNINGHAM
		5:45pm	INT OF KATHERINE PELSINSKI

	<u>GOAL</u>	<u>COLLECTION & EFT</u>	<u>FIG</u>
*COLLECTION	\$18,314.00	\$	13,410.17 2,493.00
*POOR BOX	\$ 721.00	\$	234.45 256.00
*CHURCH MORTGAGE MO.		\$	5,325.00 1,687.00

DECEMBER 19 & 20

<u>MASS</u>		<u>ALTAR SERVER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>
DEC 19	5:30pm	EADE & E & P GILL	OLIVER & GREGORY
DEC 20	7:15am	C & L & M MOCHI	JACKSON & GRIBEN
	9:00am	BISHOP & A & K RILEY	KLINE & PUGH
	11:00am	GORDON & J & S MOXLEY	MOXLEY & GETSINGER
	5:45pm	M & R & S SLATTERY	YOUTH

NO 5:45PM MASS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH.

NEXT WEEKENDS SPECIAL COLLECTION will be for Catholic School Education. Envelopes are in your packets.

OTHER ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES: will be held at St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor, Buckeystown on Mon., Dec. 14th; St. John the Evangelist, Frederick on Tues., Dec. 15th; and St. Timothy, Walkersville on Wed., Dec. 16th. All services begin at 7:30pm. Please take advantage of these Area Reconciliation Services as there will be many priests and the wait time will be minimal.

A CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS PROGRAM will be held on Sunday evening, December 20th at 7:00pm (directly after the 5:45pm Mass) in the Church. Most of our musicians and groups are participating in this fun and exciting event, which features readings & Christmas hymns of praise & glory. It promises to get you into the spirit as we await the birth of our Savior. Refreshments will be served immediately following the program. If you are able, you are asked to please bring a plate of cookies to share.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES are at 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm and Midnight. **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS** is at 9:00am.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

ZEP 3: 14-18a; PHIL 4: 4-7; LK 3: 10-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

MI 5: 1-4a; HEB 10: 5-10; LK 1: 39-45

FATHER COLLIN POSTON, who served in our parish in the not too distant past, has been named the pastor of St. Mary in Hagerstown and of St. Michael in Clear Spring, MD. He asks for your prayers as he embraces a new responsibility. Also, an Installation Mass for Father Collin will be held on Sunday, December 27th at 1pm at St. Mary. You are welcome and invited to celebrate with him! For more information please call 301-739-0390.

WE NEED HELP with COFFEE & DONUT SUNDAY at the 7:15am Mass, setting up, serving and cleaning up on the First Sunday of every month, November thru May.

COUNTERS NEEDED- We are in need of several more counters for our Sunday Teams. The commitment is approximately 1 Sunday morning every other month. Please consider volunteering for your parish in this capacity. If you can't volunteer for a Team, please consider being a sub. For more info please call Priscilla or Liz at 301-898-5111. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS – Remember your loved ones and help us decorate the Church for Christmas. Envelopes are in the narthex of the church for your convenience. Please return them by December 20th.

GIFT CARDS: Don't forget to pick up your special order gift cards this weekend at the gift card table. Thank you to all who participated in this special program. St. Peter made \$1,245.00 to benefit the monthly mortgage fund. The November monthly gift card winner was Nancy Pollak, gift card profit for the month of November was \$646.75.

PROGRAM FOR THE NEEDY: We are offering **CHRISTMAS DINNERS** to those in need. You can help by giving \$25 (check or cash), dropping it in the Poor Box in an envelope marked %Christmas Dinners+. Your donation will allow others to sit down at Christmas and truly give thanks.

GIVING TREE: All gifts tags taken from the Giving Tree **must be wrapped with tag attached and returned this weekend, December 12/13th.** Thank you!

DRAWINGS FOR CYCLE C . Home-study aid for home schooling families . displayed in the Narthex this weekend. Place order by pre-paid check to St. Peter c/o Carolyn Nolan by Dec. 14th. Actual cost will be on display. Thanks so much.

COME PRAY WITH US at the Frederick Abortion Clinic December 19th, 11am to 4pm. Sign up for an hour after Mass today or call Kathy Baer 301-845-0243.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS TIME is a perfect time to make a visit to our Eucharistic Chapel, visiting hours 7am-7pm. We hope many will come and visit our Eucharistic Lord now and on Christmas Day!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
DECEMBER 13, 2009

ADULT MINISTRY

Carolyn Nolan: cnolan@archbalt.org

Marriage Tip of the Week: The Christmas season is traditionally a family-focused time and for many people that means focusing on children. For couples hoping for a child it can be a bittersweet time. Pray for those longing for children. Visit: www.foryourmarriage.org for great relationship ideas!

Baptism Prep Classes - meets on Tuesday, December 15th from 7 – 9 pm in the lower level of the Parish Office Bldg. You need only one godparent and this person must be Catholic; to have celebrated Confirmation; is at least 16 years of age, and is practicing the faith (attending mass each week and celebrating the sacraments.)

ANNULMENTS – If you are interested in beginning the petition for an annulment, call Carolyn at 301-898-5111 for more information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Anne Mason: amason@archbalt.org

Important Dates:

DECEMBER CLASSES:

- Mondays: 14th
- Tuesdays: 15th

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR CHANGE: All classes resume January 11 and 12.

Reconciliation:

Reconciliation Family Event: Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 10AM – 12noon.

Reconciliation Family Celebration: Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 23, 2010 @ 7PM.

First Eucharist:

Celebration: You may begin to call & schedule your child's First Eucharist beginning Monday, January 4th. The dates are Saturday, May 8th or May 15th @ 10:00AM. There will be NO individual celebrations this year. Everyone MUST participate in the group celebrations.

Parent Prep: Please remember to call & schedule attendance at one of the parent prep sessions on March 4th, 11th or 19th. There will be NO make-up sessions – you must attend one of the many scheduled sessions.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays 9am Mass: Children (Ages 5 - Grade 5) are invited to participate in breaking open the Word each week.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Harry Ford: hford@archbalt.org

A special thank you to all those participating in the Fair Trade Sale. Look for future sales during Coffee & Donut Sundays!

ALL Youth Ministry meets tonight!

SPY's Christmas Party is in Sappington

JC's Gang & Jr. SPY's Christmas Party is in the upper level of the Parish Center

Mount 2010 is Feb 12th-14th. This is a great opportunity to experience the power of 1500 teens praising God for a weekend! The cost is only \$55.00/person. Signup requires a \$15.00 deposit.

Confirmation program begins on Jan. 23rd. Please be sure that you are registered for the program so that you can receive information.

SPY Retreat has been rescheduled for Jan 8th-10th. Cost will be \$75.00. We need 50 people signed up and paid by Dec. 13th or we must cancel the retreat.

Appalachia Workcamp is July 11th-17th. Cost to be determined. We will have fundraisers to help lower the cost.

Spy Core Team meets on Thursday, Dec. 17th at 7 PM in the Parish Office Building

On Dec. 20th, all youth ministry will start the outreach project in Sappington, promptly at 7PM.

Do you know of any teens (6th grade to 18 years old) who want to become Catholics or have not received Baptism, First Eucharist or Reconciliation? A class is being formed to prepare them for full participation in the Catholic faith. Call Harry for further information. 301-898-5111x15.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

- * If Frederick County Public Schools **are closed** we **do not** have sessions for children or adults.
- * If FCPS **close early** we **do not** have sessions for children or adults.
- * **Youth Ministry** tune into WTTR and WFRE ó decisions will be made as early as possible.
- * Announcements will also be on radio stationsí WTTR and WFRE after 3PM Monday through Friday.

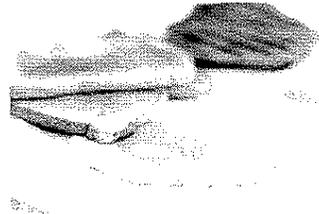
Libertytown Vol. Fire Co.
BREAKFAST

with Santa



December 20, 2009

7am – 11:30am

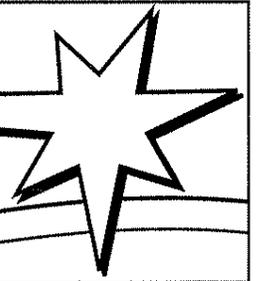


**Menu: Sausage, Puddin, Scrapple,
Hominy, Scrambled Eggs, Fried
Potatoes, Pancakes, French Toast,
Biscuit, Gravy, Fruit, Cereal,
Coffee, Orange Juice**

Price: Adults - \$7.00

Children 6-12 - \$3.50

Under 5 - FREE



Saint Peter the Apostle Church

Anne Marie Mason, Coordinator of Religious Education



Thoughtful Moments

Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, Jesus' mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico with instructions to tell the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. She had him fill his tilma (cape) with roses as a gift. When Juan spilled the roses from his tilma before the bishop, a beautiful portrait of Our Lady remained. On December 12th, place roses in your home to honor the Mother of all people.

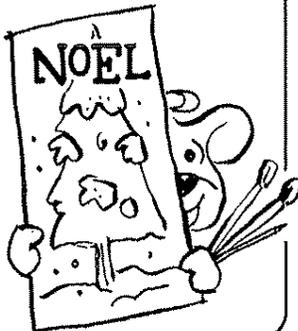


"I love you"

For every negative comment you make to your child, try to add a positive one. While discipline and correction are important, so is love. If children doubt your love for them, the discipline won't work.

Your authority

No one has the right to instruct or advise your child unless you agree. If teachers or doctors counsel your child without your permission, they won't be held accountable if your child gets hurt or in trouble. God gave that job to you.



Help Christmas sparkle with love

Through the eyes of a child, Christmas is truly a magical time. The twinkle of the lights, the glitter of the tree, the tunes of favorite carols. In fact, what we remember most about Christmases past has nothing to do with gifts. It's all about the sparkle of love.

"One of my favorite Christmas traditions was cutting down the tree," remembers Jacob. "We got dressed up in our boots, made a thermos of hot chocolate and went marching through the woods together looking for the perfect tree."

For Susan, it was all about the music. "Every year my parents hosted a neighborhood caroling party. All the

families together made it seem like one big family. I still do the same thing with my own family. Christmas doesn't start for us until we sing together."

"We were always the last family on the block to take our tree down," remembers Sarah. "Whenever anyone would ask why, Mom would tell them the Magi still needed to make it to the manger."

"I loved our annual nativity pilgrimage," said David. "Dad took us to other churches to see their manger scenes."

Luz said she has kept her mother's tradition of leaving something out all year. "It helps us to remember our wonderful Christmas and look forward to Christ's coming all over again."



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we sing carols at Christmas?

The word "carol" means song of joy. St. Francis of Assisi first introduced the joyous spirit of caroling to Europe in the 13th century. He created nativity plays in which actors sang the story of Christ's birth in the language of the audience.



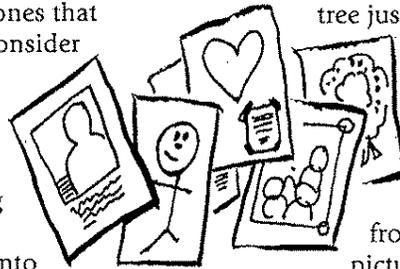
St. Francis encouraged the listeners to join in.

In time, the carols traveled from Italy to the rest of Europe and then to the United States. Today's custom has carolers go from house to house singing Christmas songs of joy.

Giving gifts of love

Most of us would say that the best Christmas gifts we have received through the years are the ones that didn't come from a store. This season, consider these ideas for heartfelt Christmas gifts:

Book of blessings. Pick a recipient and together list all the ways that you feel blessed by having that person in your lives. Then each create a page using drawings, poems, stories, or photos that illustrate your ideas. Bind all the pages into a book to be presented as a Christmas gift.



Family tree – Choose a family member and create a tree just for him or her. Put pictures of family members on the leaves and use family memories or anecdotes for the branches.

Memory book – For friends or family who may not live close, make a book of memories from the year to help them still feel a part of your family. Include pictures from vacations, samples of hobbies, school pictures, and other illustrations of how your children have grown through the year.

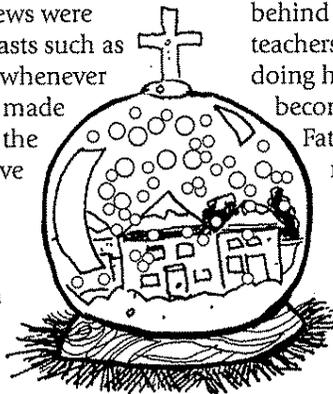
Scripture LESSON

Luke 2:41-52, Jesus in the world

In Jesus' day, adult Jews were expected to observe feasts such as Passover in Jerusalem whenever possible. Jesus' family made the trip every year but the one when he was twelve was his first trip as an adult Jew.

In those days, a Hebrew boy became a man around the age of twelve and was recognized in a ceremony known as a Bar Mitzvah. Then he began formal education in the Torah and Hebrew Scriptures.

This was an important time in Jesus' life. Scripture reports that Jesus stayed



behind to talk with the scholars and teachers, and told his parents he was doing his Father's work. He had become aware of his place in his Father's kingdom, yet he remained mindful of his responsibilities to his parents and obediently left with them.

What can a parent do? Christians live in neighborhoods, schools, and communities. We are subject to legitimate earthly authority and can't retire from the world to live holy lives. As parents, we have to find ways to teach children to be holy while living in the world.

Parent TALK

Is Santa real?

The other day my son, Jacob, asked me the question most parents dread. "Is there really a Santa Claus?" Without hesitation, I told him, "yes!"



I grew up in a large family and my parents often lacked money for gifts at Christmas. Yet, thanks to "Santa Claus," we

never went a Christmas without a stocking to open or a gift under the tree.

To be truthful, I admitted that I have never seen Santa Claus and I don't know if a chubby man in a red suit is the one who delivered our presents.

Instead, I do know that Santa exists in the generosity and kindness of others. The person of Santa provides a chance for people to humbly reach out to others in his name. So whether we call this spirit, "Santa" or "St. Nicholas," at the core, it is a love for Christ and the joy of celebrating his birth that brings out the best in people.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas (350). St. Nicholas had a generous heart and gave away most of his fortune. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His frequent anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross (1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Because of a misunderstanding, he was jailed for nine months, but some of his beautiful spiritual writing came from

this experience. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

Dec. 27 – St. John (1st century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to come down on the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

BUS FOR THE D.C. LIFE MARCH will be going on Friday, Jan. 22nd. Sign-ups will be after the holidays.

BIRTHRIGHT GIVING TREE— Gift items need to be returned **unwrapped** January 2/3. Birthright appreciates any hand knitted or crocheted blankets. Thanks so much!

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Please consider giving a weekly hour of your time to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, Adoring Him and thanking Him for so many blessings. We still have the 2:00pm Monday; midnight Monday into Tuesday and 4am early Saturday. Please call Linda at 301-829-2888 or Diane 301-898-0833 to take the hour. Thank you so much!

CHRISTMAS EVE, Thursday, Dec. 24th. our Chapel will close before 4pm Mass to re-open after Midnight Mass . around 1:30am Friday, Christmas morning. We will have a sign-up at the Chapel for those who need subs and for volunteers for Christmas Day and New Year. We invite all to stop by for a visit to the Lord on His Birthday!

ALSO, thanks to all who made our Communion Breakfast so special this year and for all the sacrifices that you make throughout the year for your Adoration Commitment. God Bless!

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION - Please continue to pray for your spiritual adopted baby.

PRAY WITH THE HEART PRAYER GROUP will meet this Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30pm for Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Prayer in the Adoration Chapel.

MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS: If you are in need or if you know of anyone in need of temporary help with meals because of childbirth, illness, accident, surgery or an unexpected tragedy please call Rose Grimes 301-829-0901. Also, please call if you'd like your name added to our list of volunteers who prepare the meals.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER: Just a reminder that Electronic Funds Transfer, or EFT, is a dependable and easy way to give your weekly donations to St. Peter. You can set up for once a month giving on the 1st or 15th of each month, or you can choose bi-monthly giving on the 1st and 15th of the month. EFT allows St. Peter to be more accurate in budgeting monthly expenses. If you are interested in more information, please call Liz at 301-898-5111 ext. 11.

NOTE: When writing an on-line check to St. Peter, please remember to designate the purpose of the check (envelope #, Building Fund, etc.). Thank you.

THE FLU IS SPREADING. If you are sick with flu-like symptoms, please stay home. It is important to understand that the Sunday obligation to attend Mass does NOT apply if you are sick or caring for someone who is sick. (Code of Canon Law cc1247-8)

PARISH NURSE NOTES: The Gift of Our Time . In this Advent, try to take some time to look at your schedule. Is there a couple hours that could be put to better use? Volunteering is a way to give back, that doesn't mean you have to open your wallet! One agency in Frederick County that is unique is Partners in Care. This is a service for seniors and disabled adults who need occasional assistance to remain independent in their homes. The services that can be provided include transportation to appointments, running errands, grocery shopping or rides to the barber shop or beauty shop, odd jobs around the house or just a friendly visitor. They especially

need volunteers in the outlying areas of the county. It can be just a few hours one time or a regular client who would need more frequent help . hours are flexible for the volunteer. Give them a call to learn more: 301-600-6008.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 13290: Family Dance to be held on Saturday the 19th, featuring the Cha, Cha, Cha. • Council business meeting this Tuesday on the 15th at 7:30pm, Sappington Hall. • Fourth Degree to meet this Thursday at 7:30pm. • A special thanks to all that helped make our breakfast program and our %Keep Christ In Christmas Program a success. • The council is pleased to announce our newest Knights: Martin DiGregory and Bryant C. Perszyk who took their first degree on December 6th. • Remember %WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE+and that we are %CHARITY FIRST+. Ask a fellow Catholic Man to become a member.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK - Mary Unglesbee, Tom and Mary Ellen McKoy, Deacon Mike Misulia, Ed Sadler, Myrtle Carlin, Sandy McDermott, Judy Churco, Ann Fowler, Baby Hope, Joshua Wade, Marilyn Hall, Jarrett Martin, Heather Chisholm, Anna Heslin, Regina Moran, Mary Smith, James & Elizabeth Hood, Keith Radtke, Timmy Myers, Elyse Weber, Cheri Riley, Carmela Kaspersky, Marsha Lawn, Gennaro Rucci, Jr., Ester Ragusa, Jacqueline Feuz, Charles Guarnieri, Karen Boteler, Mary Agnes Naill, Lydia Cook, Gabrielle Smelzer, Thomas Kleinschnitz, Faye Avery, Mike D'auria, Andrew Illig, Cheryl & Helen Pohlit , Maureen Marley, Bill Lebherz, Neveah Wells, Elizabeth Ann Mason, Janet Bronder, Baby Stack, Shirley Ingraham

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 1 month from the time they are requested. At the end of that time, you may renew your prayer request by calling the Parish Office. Anyone wishing to receive Communion and/or the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the Parish Office.

ST. JOHN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Applications are now being accepted for Pre-K-8th grade for the 2010-2011 school year. See our website www.sjrscs.org for more info about our school or call 301-695-9358 to schedule a private tour. Tours are conducted daily from 9-11am.

STORY-TIME TOTS Monday, Dec. 21st at 8:45am for 3 & 4 year olds at the school and features a monthly theme (Happy Birthday Jesus.), a craft and refreshments. Please call Jean Wright at 301-9358 or jwright@sjrscs.org to reserve a seat.

ST. TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH (8651 Biggs Ford Rd., Walkersville): Organist, Bill Powell, along with Tim Kueberth, the Glade Tower Handbell Choir and friends will be presenting %Come All Ye Faithful+for a festive evening of holiday music on Tuesday, December 15th at 7:00pm. Please join us.

SUFFERING POST-ABORTION SYNDROME? Call Project Rachel . 1-800-286-4224.

PREGNANT, NEED HELP? Call the Gabriel Network . 1-800-ANGEL-OK.

ARE YOU SINGLE? Interested in meeting people and developing friendships? The Catholic Alumni club, a social organization of professional single Catholics is looking for you. Our monthly activities include dinners, movies, sports, religious and charitable activities. For information call 410-580-1250 or info@cacbaltimore.org.

BREAKFAST with SANTA at the LIBERTYTOWN VOL. FIRE CO. Sunday, December 20th, 7am . 11:30am, price: adults \$7; children 6-12 \$3.50, under 5 Free. See flyer for more details.