## HOLY COMFORTER CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### PARISH NEWS

#### NEW PARISHIONERS:

Ryan & Lindsey Layer, Nancy Hofmann, Susan Villageliu, Marilyn Minath & Rafael Triana, and Paula Nania.

#### BAPTISMS:

NOVEMBER 24, 2013: ADA MARIE WORLEY

### WEDDINGS:

NOVEMBER 9, 2013: COLLEEN MACKEY & BRIAN WOLTHUIS NOVEMBER 16, 2013: CHRISTINE GALLAGHER & ROBERT WYLLIE ANNIVERSARIES:

NOVEMBER 5, 1966: JIM & ANGIE MORRISARD NOVEMBER 18, 1967: TOM & ANNIE TROMEY NOVEMBER 23, 1968: BARBARA & HENRY RAINVILLE NOVEMBER 26, 1953: WALTER & MARGARET MCMAHON

### SAINTS TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 14 - St. John of the Cross

- 15 Blessed Mary Frances Schervier
- 16 Blessed Honoratus Kozminski
- 17 Lazurus
- 18 St. Rufus
- 19 Blessed Pope Urban V
- 20 St. Dominic of Silos
- 21 St. Peter Canisius
- 22 Blessed Blessed Jacopone da Todi

#### PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

#### Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

### Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday December 14

5 PM – Joan Fusco (Horan Family)

### Sunday December 15

8:30 AM - Members of the Parish

11 AM – For the Mosca Family (Rebecca & Dr. Alfon B. Mosca)

Wednesday December 18

NOON - James R. Hall (Colette Hall)

### Saturday December 21

5 PM – Marie & Gerard Sartori (Betty Jane Prufer)

### Sunday December 22

8:30 AM – Peter Colo (Marlene Wood) 11 AM – Members of the Parish

#### December 15, 2013

#### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY (12/15) - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7 - 7:45 AM: Reconciliation 8:30 AM - MASS 9:45 - 10:45 AM: Christian Formation Classes 11 AM – MASS

#### MONDAY (12/16)

NOON – MASS

#### TUESDAY (12/17)

10 AM – NOON: Food Pantry NOON - MASS

### WEDNESDAY (12/18)

10 AM – NOON: Food Pantry NOON - MASS NOON - AA Meeting 6 PM - Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group 7 PM - Choir Practice

## THURSDAY (12/19)

8 AM - MASS NOON - 1 PM: Soup Kitchen

## FRIDAY (12/20)

8 AM - Daily Mass 10 AM – NOON: Food Pantry NOON - AA Meeting

#### SATURDAY (12/21)

8 AM – MASS 3:30 - 4:30 PM - Reconciliation 5 PM – Vigil MASS

### SUNDAY (12/22) - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7 - 7:45 AM: Reconciliation 8:30 AM - MASS 9:30 AM: Community Christmas Caroling 11 AM – MASS

## NEWS FROM HAITI

WATCH FOR

HAITIAN COFFEE (12/15 & 22) & HAITIAN CRAFTS (12/15 ONLY)

TO BE SOLD IN THE COMMONS AREA AFTER MASSES.

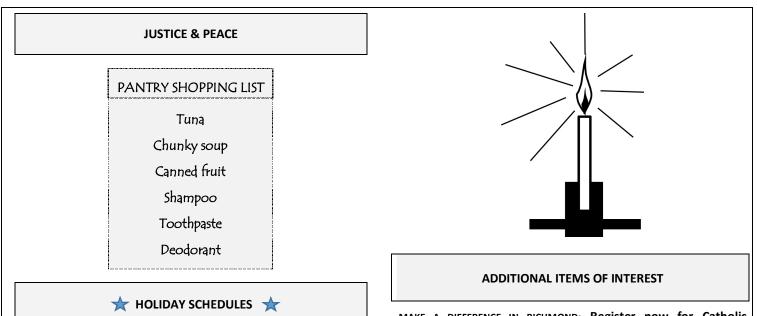
## WHAT WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS11

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR \_

**PARISHIONERS**: Winifred Smith, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarcyk, Nicholas Sisman, and Mary Ann Williams.

## FRIENDS AND RELATIVES: Josephine Nampijja, Gloria Aberg, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill Jones, Ray & Cecilia Caretti, Jessica Caretti, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Janet D. Gunther, Charlie Joseph Previtali, and Nicole Shaw.

**MILITARY**: Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, David Alvey, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.



BULLETIN DEADLINES:

- DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> BULLETIN → THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 3 PM
- JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> BULLETIN → THURSDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 3 PM

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

- DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> MASSES: 5 PM & 7 PM
- DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> MASS: 11 AM

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

- DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> MASS : 7 PM
- JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> MASS: 11 AM

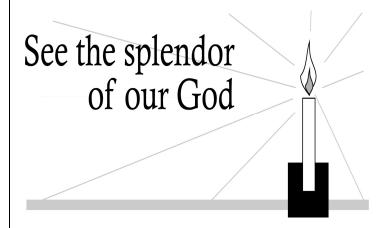
## **OUTREACH STATS**

During the month of November:

- 377 households received food pantry bags (1225 elderly, adults and children); and

- 672 meals were served by our Soup Kitchen volunteers. The number is small because we are not open for lunch on Thanksgiving. The Salvation Army serves lunch and dinner open to all.

Thanks and God Bless you to all of our donors who provided food to our Outreach efforts. It is much appreciated. Your financial support helped us purchase over 100 turkeys from the Jefferson Food Bank, at 9 ½ cents per pound!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN RICHMOND: Register now for Catholic Advocacy Day January 30, 2014. Make your plans to join Virginia Bishops Francis X. DiLorenzo and Paul S. Loverde and the Virginia Catholic Conference at the annual Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014. Catholic Advocacy Day is an opportunity for Catholics from throughout the Commonwealth to join together in the Virginia capital and meet with lawmakers' offices to urge for public policies that protect life, the poor and vulnerable, and promote justice. The day begins with registration at 8 AM and ends at 1:30 PM. Bus transportation from Charlottesville and the Tidewater is also available. Get more information and register now at www.vacatholic.org.

- MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP: Make a commitment this Advent to pray the rosary. Come join the Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group on Wednesdays in the Chapel at 6 PM. (Note the time change.) Our Blessed Mother's message to her children on December 2, 2013 says" Dear children, with a motherly love and a motherly patience I am looking at your ceaseless wandering and how lost you are. That is why I am with you. I desire to help you to first find and come to know yourself, so that, then, you would be able to recognize and to admit everything that does not permit you to get to know the love of the Heavenly Father, honestly and wholeheartedly." Come be with us and pray the Rosary of the Blessed Mother who so loves us. All are Welcome!!!
- THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION FESTIVAL CHOIR PRESENTS .... An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. The evening begins at 7 PM with a sung Advent Evening Prayer in the Worship Center. Please join us for this special musical event.
- WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERS: John the Baptist tells us to reform our lives. Learn how to use the graces of your Sacrament of Marriage to renew your marriage and draw closer to God. Let the Lord strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb. 21-23, Sep. 12-14, Nov. 14-16 in Herndon, VA; Apr. 11-13 in Fredericksburg, VA; Jun. 27-29 in Richmond, VA; Aug. 8-10 in Roanoke; or Oct 10-12 in Norfolk. For more info, visit <u>renewmarriage-vasouth.org</u> or call (757) 483-3209



FROM THE PASTOR

## THE ADVENT CAMPING CONTINUED

# "PRODUCE GOOD FRUITS AS EVIDENCE OF YOUR REPENTANCE" (Mt.3:8).

We all desire to have a fruitful Advent, but what could be the measure for such. In the last article I talked about the necessity of PRAYER, I said we are in constant need of deliverance from the evil one. Deliverance from the evil one that we may produce the desired fruits of Advent. How to go about it? By way of **REPENTANCE.** 

Repentance is a threefold action. In the understanding, it means knowledge of sin. In the feelings, it means pain and grief. And in the will, it means a change of mind. And all three have to be there. In general, then, repentance involves first of all, insight in the mind consciousness of sin. Secondly, despair in the emotions, seeking deliverance. And thirdly, a change of life, changing the pattern, turning around, coming to the place where you see the truth in your relationship with God. The Blessed Pope John Paul II saw in the modern people the loss of the sense of sin, while Pope Benedict XVI described this as the loss of the consciousness of sin. The observation of these two popes is undeniably true. This appalling situation calls for a return to the basics of Christianity. It invites us to go back to that olden piety which suggests that a worthy reception of the Eucharist demands a state of grace. Perhaps, the important thing that we would do is to remove our callousness.

When John the Baptist saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism he said to them, "produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance" something we need to work on during this advent. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. "The fruits of true repentance, are in general the good works which every Christian penitent endeavors, through grace, diligently to perform; the spiritual and acceptable works, or 'fruits of righteousness, to the glory and praise of God.' They are styled fruits, and fruits of repentance, for they spring from the incorruptible seed of true conversion in the heart, the compunction of heart that deep sorrow for sins. If there is something that I admire from people during John the Baptist's time it would be their ability to listen and to obey the call to repentance. With a simple preaching of John "Repent!", the people instantly responded. This is something that we lack. How many of us have cared to heed the call to conversion? I just wonder how many times should a priest say, "Repent!" before people could admit that they have sinned and appreciate the sacrament of **reconciliation**. It seems modern man does not listen to preachers of repentance. But if he listens to them, it is because he values his/her friendship with God and the work Christ has done for us.

As a tree is known by its fruit, so repentance is known by good works. The root of true repentance is in the heart. But in vain does a man pretend to have it there, if the fruit of spiritual exercises and of holy performances do not appear in the life.

What kind of evidence substantiates authentic repentance? When the crowds asked that question of John the Baptist in Luke 3:10, he told them to share with their needy neighbors. To tax collectors he said, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to". To soldiers he said, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages". In each case, he was calling for a selfless attitude and kindness to one's neighbors. That short list doesn't exhaust all the possible fruits of repentance, of course, but it demonstrates that genuine repentance ought to produce the kind of character change that results in a gualitative difference in the way we live. James wrote, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). In a similar way, *repentance* that doesn't produce works is barren and useless. A person who has genuinely repented is never left unchanged.

TO BE CONTINUED



# THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN FOR EVANGELIZATION: 2014-2018

In his Advent Message this year on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the *Catholic Virginian*, Bishop DiLorenzo announced a new diocesan pastoral plan for evangelization. This five year plan – entitled "Encounter the Joy of the Gospel and Set the World Ablaze!" – is intended to transform the life of our Diocese and the culture of parish life. The plan will be released across the Diocese on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12<sup>th</sup>) and will be inaugurated by a day of prayer and fasting on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Here is an overview of the plan:

# Year 1 (2014): Personal Encounter

- Introduce "active" parishioners to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through a call to continual conversion
- Equip people with skills to "tell their story" of personal encounters
- Assess parish existing evangelization efforts and areas of opportunity
- Build an evangelization team to further efforts in the parish

# Diocesan-wide

- Announcement of plan (Advent 2013)
- Rollout of plan (Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2014)
- Day of Prayer and Fasting (Wednesday, January 15, 2014)
- Diocesan-wide training for parish leadership (February/March 2014)
- Compile resources/ best practices for parishes

# Parish-based

- Identification of parish evangelization coordinator
- Identify membership for parish evangelization team
- Complete parish evangelization assessment
- Identify and encourage ways for "active" parishioners to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ

# Year 2 (2014-2015): Focusing the Domestic Church

- Integrate new diocesan marriage preparation instructions
- Strengthen existing marriages
- Address ways to alleviate alienation of divorce/single-parent families
- Interweave outcomes of Synod on the Family
- Propose methods to evangelize fallen away family members
- Finalize parish evangelization plan

# Year 3 (2015-2016): Equipping the Parish

- Implement strategies for "welcoming back" fallen away Catholics
- Introduce programs that encourage personal contact with parishioners
- Harness the natural moments of evangelization that take place in the midst of parish life (i.e. baptisms, marriages, funerals)
- Ensure the multi-cultural nature of the parish fully reflects the demographics of the parish boundaries

# Year 4 (2016-2017): Missioning Disciples – Locally Year 5 (2017-2018): Missioning Disciples – Globally

- Coordinate door-to-door evangelization efforts to reach Catholics who have never been members of the community
- Expand ecumenical dialogue so as to encourage education about the Catholic faith to other local faith traditions
- Coordinate regionally and through LPAs to broaden the reach of the church to local and regional communities
- Begin work to expand the reach of parish communities across the diocese to other dioceses and other countries