SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

EST. 1884

120 West Main Street Front Royal, VA 22630 540-635-3780(tel) 540-635-2683(fax) stjohns@sjtb.org

Welcome to St. John's Church

Mass Schedule

Sundays:

5:00pm (Saturday Vigil) 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 5:00pm 12:30pm (Spanish)

Weekdays:

Monday - Saturday: 8:30am Monday-Friday: Noon Wednesday: 7:00pm (Spanish)

Sacraments

Confession:

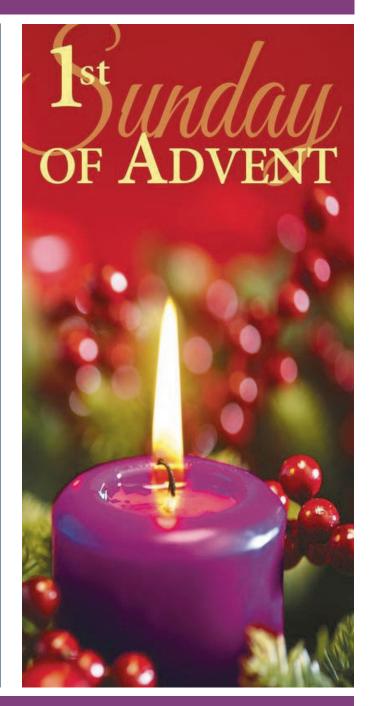
Monday-Friday, 8:30am Monday-Friday, 6:30pm Saturday, 8:30am & 3:30pm

Baptism:

Saturdays at 10:00am
Parish membership is required and an instructional class is required for parents.

Marriage:

Arrangements must be made at least six (6) months in advance. Parish membership is required.



MASS INTENTIONS December 4 - 10, 2023

MONDAY DEC 4

Advent Weekday

St. John Damascene

8:30am +John & Lillian Townsend

12:00pm Patricia Sullivan

TUESDAY DEC 5

Advent Weekday

8:30am +William F Overholt

12:00pm +Francis Sullivan

WEDNESDAY DEC 6

Advent Weekday / Saint Nicholas

8:30am Victor M Furtado

12:00pm +AnneMary Vieira 7:00pm +Mary Nell Plumstead

THURSDAY DEC 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

8:30am Elijah Jones 12:00pm +Evelyn Silek

Vigil Masses for Holy Day

5:00pm +Anita Crane

7:00pm (Spanish) M/M R Ellis

FRIDAY DEC 8

Immaculate Conception

7:00am Parish Family

8:30am +Sean O'Reilly

12:00pm +Tom Carlson

5:00pm +Matthew Emmons

SATURDAY DEC 9

Advent Weekday / St Juan Diego

8:30am +Jerry Trost

SATURDAY VIGIL

Second Sunday of Advent

5:00pm +Susan Bill

SUNDAY DEC 10

Second Sunday of Advent

7:00am Jeanne M Gaetano

8:30am Ruth & Terry O'Neill

10:30am Parish Family

12:30pm +James Hampson Digges

5:00pm +Lawrnce Casabonne

CONFESSION TIMES

Monday - Friday: 8:30am and 6:30pm

Saturday:

8:30am & 3:30pm

DECEMBER 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

This Week...

Fri Dec 8

<u>Holy Day of Obligation</u> Solemnity of the

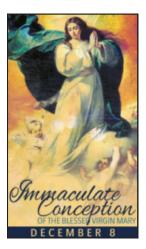
Immaculate Conception

Fri Dec 8

12:00pm Mass and Gathering for Homeschoolers

Fri Dec 8

Youth Advent Retreat Starting with 5pm Mass



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab,3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1,

5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-

14/Mk 1:1-8

Keep in Touch

Sign up to receive St John's email updates by going to http://eepurl.com/djz4OT to subscribe. www.sitb.org

Second Collection

The Second Collection on Dec 9/10 will be for Catholic Charities

| ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DEC 9/10 | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 5:00pm | Jason Kasevich, Cedric Schmiedicke | | |
| 7:00am | Elijah McMahon, Samuel Price | | |
| 8:30am | Mark & John Bockrath, Michael Fisher, Simon Hepler, Max Stanmeyer, Isaac Fitzpatrick | | |
| 10:30am | Damien & Matt Shunk, Nate Hibl, Joseph & Jude MacDougall, Ronan & Eamonn Glass | | |
| 12:30pm | 2:30pm Santiago & Francisco Rodriguez, Leonardo Reyes, Juan Aviles | | |
| 5:00pm | Aidan, John & Louis Barragan | | |

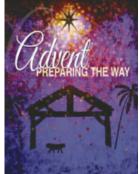
Call the parish office if you'd like to volunteer as an altar server (age 10+), lector or usher. Thank you!



ADVENT

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple



since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. ~USCCB

Bishop Burbidge's Catechesis on The Human Person and Gender Ideology

In light of the recent document from the Vatican on receiving a person with gender dysphoria to be baptized or be a godparent, it's important to realize what the document actually says. In essence, a person suffering from the mental illness of gender dysphoria who agrees with the Church teaching can be baptized or be a godparent as long as the normal conditions exist, including that the person "leads a life in harmony with the faith." (Can 874) In his letter on The Human Person and Gender Ideology, Bishop Burbidge also reminds us that the false "transgender" teaching is to be rejected. Voluntary support of a person, government, or institution that openly promotes such false teaching is an action not in accord with the Church's teaching. There are more copies of the Bishop's letter available in the vestibule.

2023 Parish Directories

The new Parish Directories are available for pick up at the parish office for those who had their photo taken or submitted. Thank you to all who participated in the making of the Directory, whether by having a photo taken or by volunteering in any way.

ST JOHN'S STAFF

Rev. Daniel Gee

Pastor, fathergee@gmail.com

Rev. Tom Shepanzyk

Parochial Vicar

frtom@sjtb.org

Rev. Michael Duesterhaus

Parochial Vicar, frmrd@sjtb.org

Deacon Rafael Goldsmith

Permanent Deacon, rgoldsmith@sitb.org

Deacon Mark Jerge

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Gerald Solitario

Permanent Deacon

Gerry.solitario@arlingtondiocese.org

Patty Sonak

Administrative Assistant

Karen Pondo

Parish Secretary

Tina Furtado/Michelle Bodoh

Parish Secretaries

Phil Rexrode

Facilities Manager

Dr. Jeffrey M. Alban

Director of Music & Organist

David Wallace

DRE/Business Manager

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am-Noon & 1:00pm-4:00pm 540-635-3780 (phone) 540-635-2683 (fax) stjohns@sjtb.org (email)

Parish Membership

Welcome! Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Church. Please notify the office when you are moving outside or within the parish and if your contact information is changing.

Hospitalized & Homebound Parishioners

Please notify the office if a parishioner is hospitalized or homebound that they may receive the pastoral care of the Church.

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday of the previous week at 10:00am. All announcements must be in writing or sent via email.

VOCATIONS

"Like a man away on a journey,
he assigns each of us a task; be on the alert."

Being chosen to serve as a priest or religious is an amazing work of the
Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help you
recognize and be faithful to your vocation.

Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or
email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Advent Days of Recollection for Discerners Dec. 16 and 17

Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood or religious life?

Take a step to find out and enjoy some quiet prayer time this Advent.

Men's Day of Recollection is Saturday, December 16,

with diocesan seminarians and priests; the **Women's Day of Recollection is Sunday, December 17** with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist.

These events are for those 18-35 years old interested in deepening their prayer life and exploring their vocation. For more information and to register contact the Office of Vocations, 703-841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Deadline to register is Monday, December 11.

There are moments in life of special importance, such as when the Lord shows us the way to be followed and then leaves it up to our free will to respond. – Blessed Margarita De Maturana

Vigilance is essential to the Christian life. The Church thrives under persecution when she sees her purpose more clearly and more perfectly resembles her Spouse. Ease, comfort and complacency threaten the Christian life because they breed a spiritual stupor, a dullness of soul and a forgetfulness of the Lord's return. Exercise intellectual vigilance, seek out media that trains our thinking in keeping with the mind of the Church.

Maintain vigilance of the heart; because we love Christ, we remain wide-awake "waiting in joyful hope" for His return. Consider the vigilance needed in marriage. If the spouses do not guard their hearts, their mutual affection will soon be lost. Divorce and infidelity occur when one or both of the spouses fail to keep the heart vigilant for the other.

In the same way, Christ's Bride must guard her heart and daily renew her devotion to Him. Just as spouses must remain vigilant, so also must the consecrated soul guard his/her heart so that nothing and no one damages or robs his/her love for Christ. This is done most of all through a healthy prayer life – through vigilance of prayer. Christ calls us to remain wide awake at midnight or before sunrise - that is, to pray even when it becomes difficult, inconvenient or boring.

We choose vigilance instead of comfort, so that at Christ's return we may find ourselves seated at His table and Him waiting on us.

https://catholicexchange.com/vigilance/

New Seven Sisters Group Forming

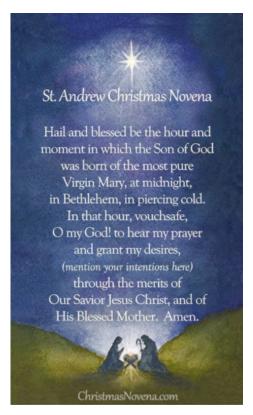
Women of the parish are invited to join the Seven Sisters Apostolate which is composed of groups of 7 women who each offer weekly holy hours for a specific priest. A new group of 7 is forming to pray for Fr. John Killackey, chaplain at St. Thomas More Chapel of Chelsea Academy. Please contact sevensistersarlington@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

Guadalupe Radio Network

WMET 1160 AM

WMET invites Catholics, seekers and non-Catholics, to tune in, or to download the GRN app, or visit at GRNonline.com to learn the good, the true and the beautiful of their Holy Catholic faith. From prayers and devotions to real Catholic Answers, we have something for everyone! We call it remedial catechesis, for Catholics not fully formed, for RCIA candidates, and for those returning to the Church. Do you lead a parish ministry? Email WMET@GRNonline.com and ask to record a FREE radio announcement to promote your event. GRN is EWTN's largest radio network affiliate with 41 radio stations in 9 states and in Washington, D.C. It's radio for your soul! Follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

St Andrew Christmas Novena To be prayed 15 times/day from November 30 - December 25.



Activities & Events

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Homeschool Gathering

Join us for 12pm Mass on December 8th with a gathering directly after in Fr. Reuhl Hall. Bring your own lunch. Cake will be provided.

Jordan River Theatre Company

Our young adult theatre group presents Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure. Last performances this weekend: Dec 2 at 7pm and Dec 3 at 6:30pm in Fr Ruehl Hall. Admission is Free!

Artisan Christmas Market

Dec 9&10 10am - 5pm Rappahannock Cellars 14437 Hume Road Huntly, VA Benefitting John Paul the Great Montessori Center Candles, wood art, textiles, floral, jewelry, home décor, pastry, hot mulled wine, calligraphy & more!

Journey to Bethlehem

Save the Date! Friday Dec 15

St. John's Youth Advent Retreat

This year's Advent Youth Retreat is happening on Friday, Dec. 8th, beginning with 5:00pm Holy Day Mass for the Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Immediately following Mass, we will spend time with Christ in a holy hour, including a practical spiritual talk, personal prayer, and opportunity for confession. The retreat will conclude with dinner with meat for the feast day, and a brief period of clean up. Departure no later than 8:30pm.

Please rsvp to:

Gwendolyn.grundman@gmail. com. (We will need an accurate number to provide everyone with a meal so an rsvp is essential.)



The Giving Tree

As you prepare for Christmas, include a Gift from the "Giving Tree" to assist those in need. Please take a gift tag ornament from the tree in the vestibule, purchase the gift or gifts and put them with the gift tag included under the tree in the gathering area or bring them to the church office by Sunday, December 10th. Please bring larger gifts to the church office. Do not take a gift tag unless you intend to purchase the gift or gift card. If you have any questions, call the office at 635-3780.

Christmas Gift Cards

We are collecting Martins and Walmart gift cards for our Christmas outreach. Each year we assist local families in need with providing their holiday meals. Gift cards (or monetary donations) may be dropped off at the church office or in the collection basket in an envelope labeled "Christmas". Thank you!

The Divine Office (Lauds)

Mon-Sat at 8:10am in main church

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month, 3:30pm in main church

Rosary &

Chaplet of Divine MercyPrayed after 8:30am Mass M-Sat.

Legion of Mary

Tuesdays 6:30pm – PPH

Junior Legion of Mary

Thursdays 4:30-6:30pm – PPH

Children's Holy Hour

Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm

Little Flowers

Monthly meeting for registered girls in grades 1-6 4-5:45 FRH Sept-May

Flame of Love Rosary

Mondays after the noon Mass

ADVENT is here!

If you still need Advent Candles, they are available for purchase at the parish office. Set of 4 candles: \$10



Montessori Fundraiser

John the XXIII Montessori Center's adolescents are collecting gently or not used toys, jewelry, cooking utensils, and craft kits or supplies for a fundraiser! If you have something of those categories in good condition, please drop it off at John XXIII Montessori Center, 1401 Linden St., Front Royal, VA between the dates of 12/03/23 - 12/15/23. There will be a labeled collection basket on the covered front porch. Thank you so much for your donations!

SJTB Seniors Group

Ongoing Activities

Meets every third Saturday in Padre Pio Hall from 9:30-11:00am. For more information contact DeWayne Coats at 540-660-5776 or

dewaynecoats20@gmail.com. The Women of Saint John's

Monthly activities for women parishioners aged 18 and up. Email thewomenofstjohn@gmail.com

Young Adults of St. John's

In your 20's or 30's?
Follow event info on FB
@youngadultsofstjohnthebaptist,
IG@st_johns_young_adults_va
or to join the e-news-letter email
youngadultsofstjohnthebaptist@
gmail.com

That Man Is You Saturdays 6:30am FRH

DCIA I

RCIA classes

Mondays 6pm Frassati Hall

Knights Corner John Carrell Jenkins Council #7771 www.kofc7771.org

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus John Carrell Jenkins Council 7771 here at St. John The

Baptist is more than 200 members strong. Our common bond is our devotion to the Catholic Faith and our brotherhood in Christ. We have joined together to help one another become better Catholics, better husbands, better fathers, better providers for the financial protection of our families and better citizens here in Front Royal. Contact Grand Knight John Stieb at 703-755-5345, or Council Membership Chairman Leo Carling at 540-631-7555 for more information.

Firewood Project: The Council helps parishioners who rely on firewood to heat their homes. If you would like to help or if you know of a parishioner in need, please contact Leo Carling (540-631-7555).

Annual Dues: Darryl Adams, Financial Secretary for John Carrell Jenkins Council 7771, in mid-December will be sending out 2024 dues announcements via email. Please ensure that your email address with the Knights is accurate. Timely payment of your annual dues is appreciated (and saves the council from lengthy efforts to obtain payment).

Council Membership Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month, Padre Pio Hall. Dinner and Fellowship, 6:30pm, Rosary at 7:10pm, Meeting at 7:30pm. Meetings typically adjourn by 8:30/8:45pm.

Contact us: Grand Knight John Stieb, 703-755-5345, or gknightjs@gmail.com. Field Agent Cory Cook, 703-665-1388, or cory.cook@kofc.org.



DIVINE
MERCY'S
MOTHER
SAID TO ST
FAUSTINA
ON THE
FEAST OF
THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:
"My
daughter, at



God's command I am to be, in a special and exclusive way your Mother: but I desire that you, too, in a special way, be My child." (St. Faustina Diary, 1414) (Used with permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception)

Front Royal Pregnancy Center (540) 635-6181 frontroyalpregnancy.org Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline (877)558-0333 abortionpillreversal.com Project Rachel pafterabortion.org

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Parish Code: QBKRGW St Nicholas The Real Story

| Altar Guild | Marlene Lundberg, 635-0541 | Outreach Committee | outreach@sjtb.org |
|--|---|--|---|
| Church Flowers & Decor | julie.thedaughter@protonmail.com | Parents' Support Group Children w/Special Needs | Winnie Ehlinger, 636-1688 Laurie Adams, 540-683-1767 |
| Divine Mercy for the Dying | mbodoh@sjtb.org | Prayer Chain | Marlicia Fernandez, 622-2637 setonmom@gmail.com |
| Dominicans Third Order | Rene Bergeron 540-664-1186 rene.l.bergeron@gmail.com | Prison Ministry | Chris Manion, 540-635-9166 |
| Eucharistic Adoration | adoration@sjtb.org | Religious Education | David Wallace, 540-635-3780 |
| Fasting Brothers | tracy.terwilliger@comcast.net | RCIA | Parish Office, 635-3780 |
| Flame of Love | Boots Sargis bootssargis@yahoo.com. | Seven Sisters | tracy.terwilliger@comcast.net |
| Lectors | Mary Kay Moose, 635-7628 | Saint Johns Athletics | www.saintjohnsathletics.com |
| Legion of Mary/Adults | Andrew Armstrong, 540-631-4620 | That Man is You! | Forest Selby 703-268-3554 |
| Legion of Mary (Juniors) | Viviano Rodriguez, 559-347-4585 | Vocations Liaison | Cindy Rhodes, 443-440-0121 sjtbvocations@gmail.com |
| Little Flowers (Gr. 1-6) | littleflowersofsjtb@gmail.com | Youth Drama Club | www.stjohnsdrama.org |
| Meals for New Moms / Postpartum Support | thewomenofstjohn@gmail.com | Front Royal Pregnancy Center | (540) 635-6181 frontroyalpregnancy.org |
| Music & Choirs | Jeffrey Alban, 635-3780 | | |

PRAYER LIST

Gabby Abril John Alsberry Allison Andrews Brenda Bailey Rozie Baker Dianne Boen Robert Bond, Sr Rose Britain Elijah Carino Mary Ann Carlson Tony Casarotti Joseph Centrella Jorge Daniel Chang Dominique DeClue Bob & Anne DeLong Linda Donahue Clara Anne Duda Al Dudeck Ignatius Ehlinger Kathy Elar Maggie Elliot Ned Farinholt

Mike Ferris Tahlia Fernandez John Fusto Laura Fusto Gary Garcia Paul Gerrick Michael Greco Eileen Hawkins Nancy Heywood Billy Hooten Norman Hunt John Janaro Erik Jurek Susan Kirby Peggy Leonardi Maureen Lewis Manuel Reyes Martinez Carol B. May Laura McMahon **Edward Meinsen** Marie Miller Peter Monfasani Sara Mulcahy

Magdalena O'Neill Barbara Ann Orozco Kris Pondo Carmela Rao Judy Ratigan Manuel Reyes Avila John William Rice Mary Alice Rice Maggie Roberts Gabbi Rodgers Elaine Ryan Judy Samborsky Dan Schneible Mary Shaffer Sophie Shannon Sophie Sheppard Tammy Souza Anee Stanford Mary Ellen Sullivan Judith Thompson Karen Waldron Kathy Winkle

Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2023

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

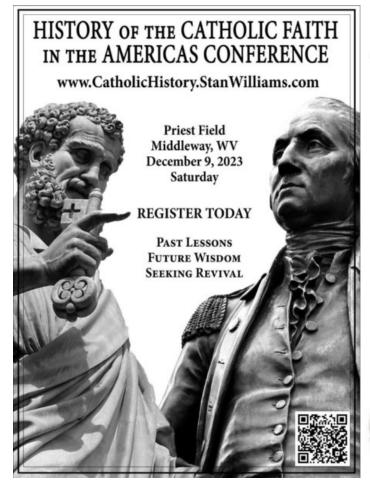
Please Pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Active Military Prayer List

Esther Alger Brady Anderson Colin t. Barrett Jeffrey Bayne Mark Belton David Berry Stephen Bill Heather Bill-Blanchard John Bowes Shannon Brugh Joseph Buono Paul Buono Ben Cabreva Christian Carino Hannah N. Christman Nathan T. Christman Sean Conrov Robert Cooke Kevin Corella Rory Crooks Vince E. Cruz Trey Dusseault Matthew Farrall Parker Feiring

Samatha Wilkinson Zachary Francis Jasmine Frank **Dustin Goard** Kristina Grdina Steven Gregg Benjamin Gregory Jonathan Hamilton Steven Held, Jr. Daniel Heywood Peter Hickson Erik Hickson David Kelleher David Larsen Glen Lash Joseph Marsch Christine Marsch Emma Morgan Clement M. O'Reilly Daniel Nejia David Parnes Justice M. Parrott Jason Pettingill John C. Price Jason Pugh

Chris Reinhard Michael Reuwer Anthony Reyes Jose Reyes Lxex Robles **David Rogers** Alex Rojas Bobby Saxon Truman Sayre, Jr. David Schmitt Forest Selby Paul Shannon Andrew Shorter Richard Skelton, Sr. Devon Smith Timothy Smith Sean Smith Keegan J. Thomas Brian Tilley Jamie Troutman Manuel A. Vicente Kieran Vieira Michael Wood Mark Zepeda





REGISTER TODAY

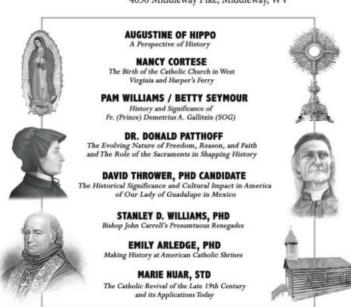
www.catholichistory.stanwilliams.com



HISTORY of the CATHOLIC FAITH in the AMERICAS CONFERENCE

Saturday, December 9, 2023 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Priest Field Pastoral Center, Middleway, WV 4030 Middleway Pike, Middleway, WV



Next Week's Second Collection December 9/10 Thank you for your 2023 Christmas Collection Donations for Catholic Charities





How you provided hope last year: -



Evening meals provided at Catholic Charities Christ House 17,627

Pounds of Food Distributed to the Hungry

2.2M



People helped with Emergency (rent, utilities, car repair)

2,196



Patients treated at our Free **Medical Clinics**



Refugees resettled or served

WELCOME HOME

People provided with Mental Health Counseling

905



Number of people helped with Pregnancy & Adoption services



Prison inmates receiving Spiritual Care



Source: Catholic Charities tracking systems, fiscal year 2023

Your help is still needed!









~ Holy Day of Obligation ~

Mass Times

at

St. John's Church

Thursday December 7

5:00pm 7:00pm Spanish

Friday December 8

7:00am 8:30am

12:00pm 5:00pm

Mass Times

at

St. Thomas More Chapel

Friday December 8

7:00am Low Mass 7:00pm Sung Mass

There is no Mass in the Adoration Chapel on Dec 8

Happy Solemnity!

THANK YOU

to All the Dedicated Altar Servers at Saint Thomas More Chapel!





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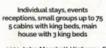
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Attorneys & Counselors at Law Joseph F. Silek, Jr. - Parishioner Stephen L. Jerome - Parishioner Robert J. Light

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