

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.



DECEMBER 17, 2023 ~ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS
December 18 - 24, 2023

MONDAY DEC 18

Late Advent Weekday

8:30am +Lawrence Casabonne
12:00pm +Brendan McQuire

TUESDAY DEC 19

Late Advent Weekday

8:30am +Fr William Ruehl
12:00pm +Sara Wey

WEDNESDAY DEC 20

Late Advent Weekday

8:30am +Susan Bill
12:00pm +Susan Bill
7:00pm Dan & Liz Beaty

THURSDAY DEC 21

Late Advent Weekday

St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor
8:30am Dominic Antunes
12:00pm +Susan Bill

FRIDAY DEC 22

Late Advent Weekday

8:30am +Catherine Briggs
12:00pm William & Susan Sines

SATURDAY DEC 23

Late Advent Weekday

St John of Kanty
8:30am +Jerry & Julia Butler

SATURDAY VIGIL

Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00pm +William&Josephine Aurednick

SUNDAY DEC 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00am Lucia Furtado
8:30am +Bernard Pegis
10:30am Parish Family
12:30pm Marcellino Furtado

Christmas Vigil

5:00pm Special Intention
7:00pm Fr. Jerome Fasano

CONFESSION TIMES

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

Saturday:
8:30am & 3:30pm

DECEMBER 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



Please see page 10 for the Christmas Mass schedule.
No confessions on Dec 25.

Request from our Priests
Please do not plan to give any gifts of Christmas sweets/food to our priests over the holidays. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are appreciated!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14/Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Keep in Touch

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

Second Collection

The Second Collection on Dec 23/24 will be for Christmas Flowers

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DEC 23/24

5:00pm	Greg, Luke, Mark & Isaac Hsu
7:00am	Elijah McMahon, Kyle & Patrick Foltz
8:30am	Declan Thomas, Brooks Reuwer, Joe & Jack Nolan, Jerome Butler, Benedict Schmiedicke
10:30am	Edmund Brugger, Benedict Keough, Xavier & Levi Uhlenkott, Desmond & Duncan Stewart, Jude & Jaxton Fusaro
12:30pm	Santiago & Francisco Rodriguez, Leobardo Reyes, Juan Aviles
	Call the Parish Office to sign up to serve at a Christmas Mass.

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



Gaudete ~ Rejoice!

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, so called from the first word of the Introit at Mass (Gaudete, i.e. Rejoice). Gaudete Sunday makes a break, like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. The spirit of the Office and Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as it were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption which should never be absent from the hearts of the faithful.



www.catholic.com

Blanket Drive

St. John's is holding a blanket drive until December 18. New or gently used blankets may be brought to the parish office during business hours (M-F, 9-12 & 1-4) or taken directly to C-CAP which is located at 400 Kendrick Lane. Items may be dropped off at C-CAP on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 am-12 pm. Thank you!

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!

HARTS Thermal Shelter

The Thermal Shelter of Front Royal is now operating under a new name – Hope and Rest Temporary Shelter (HARTS) and is a community-based organization partnering with our local churches to provide a winter homeless shelter to 35 adult homeless men and women with a warm, safe place to sleep during the winter months. The Shelter opened on December 2nd for the season. If you would like to volunteer or donate items or money, please contact Michelle Smeltzer at 540-892-6108. *of particular need are volunteers to help with laundry – taking the shelter's bedding to a laundromat on a Saturday. Sign up on the Hope and Rest Temporary Shelter Facebook page.

ST JOHN'S STAFF

Rev. Daniel Gee

Pastor, fathergee@gmail.com

Rev. Tom Shepanzyk

Parochial Vicar

firtom@sjtb.org

Rev. Michael Duesterhaus

Parochial Vicar, frmrd@sjtb.org

Deacon Rafael Goldsmith

Permanent Deacon,

rgoldsmith@sjtb.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

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me."
God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated religious life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

Quo Vadis Seminary Visit for High School Boys

Ever wondered what college seminary is like?

Join Fr. Isenberg and Quo Vadis on January 27, 2024, to experience it firsthand on a visit to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. Meet the seminarians and their formators, see where they live, pray, eat and study, celebrate Mass together and tour parts of Catholic University where they have classes. Dads are welcome but not required.

Deadline to submit registration form is January 18.

Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis or contact the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514.

Quo Vadis events are for high school boys interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocations.



Come Pray for Vocations

All are invited to join the St. Thérèse Vocation Society for their annual Morning of Reflection on Saturday February 10, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria.

The day will include continental breakfast, spiritual conference, Mass and Holy Hour. Fr. Peter St. George is our speaker. There is no cost but please RSVP with the Office of Vocations by February 5, 2024, at (703) 841-2514 or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

The St. Thérèse Vocation Society was formed to pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Position open at San Damiano Spiritual Life Center

San Damiano Spiritual Life Center, Arlington Diocese's Retreat Center, in White Post, VA has a full-time food service position open. Duties include preparing meals for the groups and individuals on retreat. Must be able to work evenings and weekends. Experience in the food service industry and food service handler/manager certification are preferred. Please contact the Center's Director, Deacon Mark Maines, at mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org for more details and a complete job description.



St Andrew Christmas Novena

To be prayed 15 times/day from November 30 - December 25.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, (mention your intentions here) through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

ChristmasNovena.com

'5th SUNDAY ROSARY' For Church and Country

Sunday, December 31st, 2023

Before the 5pm Sunday Mass

The St. John's Knights of Columbus Council 7771 welcomes the parish to join in the first "Fifth Sunday Rosary" for the purification of the Church and the protection of our Country. On the eve of the New Year, we the Faithful call for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for our Church and our Country.

The Rosary will be **held on Sunday, December 31st, before the 5PM Mass (approx. 4:35pm) in the Church.** The **Knights of Columbus** invites all to join us in praying the Glorious Mysteries.

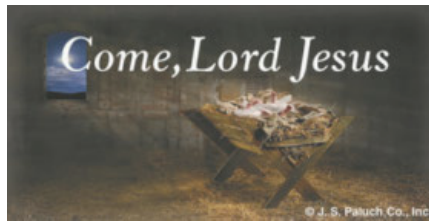
Save the date for the first "5th Sunday Rosary" in 2024, Sunday, March 31. Please mark your calendars as we come together to pray for the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

For more information contact **Steve Young**, Deputy Grand Knight, asyoung001@gmail.com, or 202-297-0583.

Activities & Events

Coffee & Donut Committee

Do you like bringing joy to others on a Sunday morning after Mass? St John's is forming a committee to organize and run the coffee & donuts Sunday experience. The committee would help in setting up and working with volunteer organizations. Families love the opportunity to socialize after Mass but we need a committee to keep this event running. We would love to have you join us! Can you help out one weekend a month? Please contact the parish office to sign up or to ask for more details.



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 creation of the Directory!

Continuing the Mission

Did you know a simple bequest in your will or trust will enable our parish to bring hope to future generations of faithful parishioners? For more information, call the Diocesan Planned Giving Office at (703) 841-3819 or visit www.arlingtondiocese.planmylegacy.org.

Marriage Spirituality

Are you and your spouse interested in growing in faith with the support of other couples living out the Sacrament of Matrimony?

Teams of Our Lady is an international lay movement in the Catholic Church, designed to enrich marriage spirituality and make good marriages better. Teams of our Lady provides a proven method of deepening prayer life, which will help couples grow closer to God and each other. Their families will reap the benefits as well.

We are Bryan and Elaine Layman and are serving as the information couple for the region. We will be hosting an information session at St. John the Baptist on Saturday evening January 20 at 6:15 pm in the Padre Pio Hall. (In case of inclement weather, check the parish website. Jan 27 at the same time will be the backup date.)

Please let us know if you are planning to attend; it's not required but helpful. If you are interested but are unable to attend the information session, please send your names, email addresses, and a phone number to us at elainelayman12@gmail.com and we will reach out to you directly to share information.

To learn more about Teams of Our Lady, including FAQs and testimonials, please visit the website at Teamsofourlady.org



Ongoing Activities

SJTB Seniors Group

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](https://www.facebook.com/youngadultsofstjohnthebaptist),
[IG@st_johns_young_adults_va](https://www.instagram.com/st_johns_young_adults_va)
or to join the e-news-letter email
youngadultsofstjohnthebaptist@gmail.com

That Man Is You

Saturdays 6:30am FRH

RCIA classes

Mondays 6pm Frassati Hall

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 Mercy

Prayed 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



**DIVINE
MERCY
SAID:**

“It should be of no concern to you how anyone else acts: you are to be My living reflection, through love and mercy.



As for you, be always merciful toward other people, and especially toward sinners.”

(St. Faustina Diary, 1446)

(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

FORMED

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www.formed.org

Parish Code: QBKRGW

Advent Specials!

Thank you! Thanks to all parishioners who purchased “**Keep Christ in Christmas**” Christmas Cards. We sold out! Special thanks to Brother **Jim Shanley** for his work in ensuring the success of this year’s sale.

Council Newsletter - Did You Read It? The Council's newsletter "Knights in Action" was sent by e-mail to all members on December 1st. Please contact Leo Carling (540-631-7555) if you didn't receive it or need to update your e-mail address.

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).

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).

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, December 31: “Fifth Sunday Rosary” for the Purification of the Church and Protection of our Country, 4:30 p.m., preceding the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Saturday, January 6, 2024: Free-Throw Contest, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Chelsea Academy Gym. Watch the bulletin for details.

Friday, January 19: National March for Life, Washington, DC

Sunday, February 11: Super Bowl Sub Sales following all the weekend Masses.

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.

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		

For full list of ministries, go to www.sjtb.org or call the parish office for specific inquiries.

PRAYER LIST

Gabby Abril	Tahlia Fernandez	Magdalena O'Neill
John Alsberry	John Fusto	Barbara Ann Orozco
Allison Andrews	Laura Fusto	Kris Pondo
Brenda Bailey	Gary Garcia	Carmela Rao
Rozie Baker	Paul Gerrick	Judy Ratigan
Dianne Boen	Michael Greco	Manuel Reyes Avila
Robert Bond, Sr	Eileen Hawkins	John William Rice
Rose Britain	Nancy Heywood	Mary Alice Rice
Elijah Carino	Aidan Hipp	Maggie Roberts
Mary Ann Carlson	Billy Hooten	Gabbi Rodgers
Tony Casarotti	Norman Hunt	Elaine Ryan
Joseph Centrella	John Janaro	Judy Samborsky
Jorge Daniel Chang	Erik Jurek	Dan Schneible
Dominique DeClue	Susan Kirby	Mary Shaffer
Bob & Anne DeLong	Peggy Leonardi	Sophie Shannon
Linda Donahue	Maureen Lewis	Sophie Sheppard
Clara Anne Duda	Manuel Reyes Martinez	Tammy Souza
Al Dudeck	Carol B. May	Anee Stanford
Ignatius Ehlinger	Laura McMahon	Mary Ellen Sullivan
Kathy Elar	Edward Meinsen	Judith Thompson
Maggie Elliot	Marie Miller	Karen Waldron
Ned Farinholt	Peter Monfasani	Kathy Winkle
Mike Ferris	Sara Mulcahy	Shoana Riccio
Sean June		

Please Pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Active Military Prayer List

Esther Alger	Samatha Wilkinson	Chris Reinhard
Brady Anderson	Zachary Francis	Michael Reuwer
Colin t. Barrett	Jasmine Frank	Anthony Reyes
Jeffrey Bayne	Dustin Goard	Jose Reyes
Mark Belton	Kristina Grdina	Lxex Robles
David Berry	Steven Gregg	David Rogers
Stephen Bill	Benjamin Gregory	Alex Rojas
Heather Bill-Blanchard	Jonathan Hamilton	Bobby Saxon
John Bowes	Steven Held, Jr.	Truman Sayre, Jr.
Shannon Brugh	Daniel Heywood	David Schmitt
Joseph Buono	Peter Hickson	Forest Selby
Paul Buono	Erik Hickson	Paul Shannon
Ben Cabreva	David Kelleher	Andrew Shorter
Christian Carino	David Larsen	Richard Skelton, Sr.
Hannah N. Christman	Glen Lash	Devon Smith
Nathan T. Christman	Joseph Marsch	Timothy Smith
Sean Conroy	Christine Marsch	Sean Smith
Robert Cooke	Emma Morgan	Keegan J. Thomas
Kevin Corella	Clement M. O'Reilly	Brian Tilley
Rory Crooks	Daniel Nejja	Jamie Troutman
Vince E. Cruz	David Parnes	Manuel A. Vicente
Trey Dusseault	Justice M. Parrott	Kieran Vieira
Matthew Farrall	Jason Pettingill	Michael Wood
Parker Feiring	John C. Price	Mark Zepeda
	Jason Pugh	

Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2023

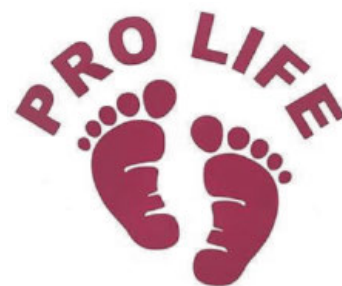
For Persons with Disabilities

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.

Front Royal Pregnancy Center Prayer Warrior Program:

Please consider becoming a prayer warrior for the Pregnancy Center by praying weekly for its work, the Clients, Staff, and Volunteers. By signing up as a prayer warrior, you will receive regular communications from the Front Royal Pregnancy Center with prayer intentions and stories of your impact! (Note: because of our dedication to confidentiality for our clients, we cannot share more than anonymous stories and general intentions).

To sign up, please email staff@frontroyalpregnancy.org with your name, phone number, email address, physical address, and current church.





Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit



Quo Vadis events are for young men in high school interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocation.

What's college seminary like? See for yourself!

Meet the seminarians and their formators
See where they live, pray, eat and study
Tour their campus at Catholic University

Fathers are welcome but not required.
Cost is \$15 per person.

**Saturday
January 27
8:45am-2:15pm**

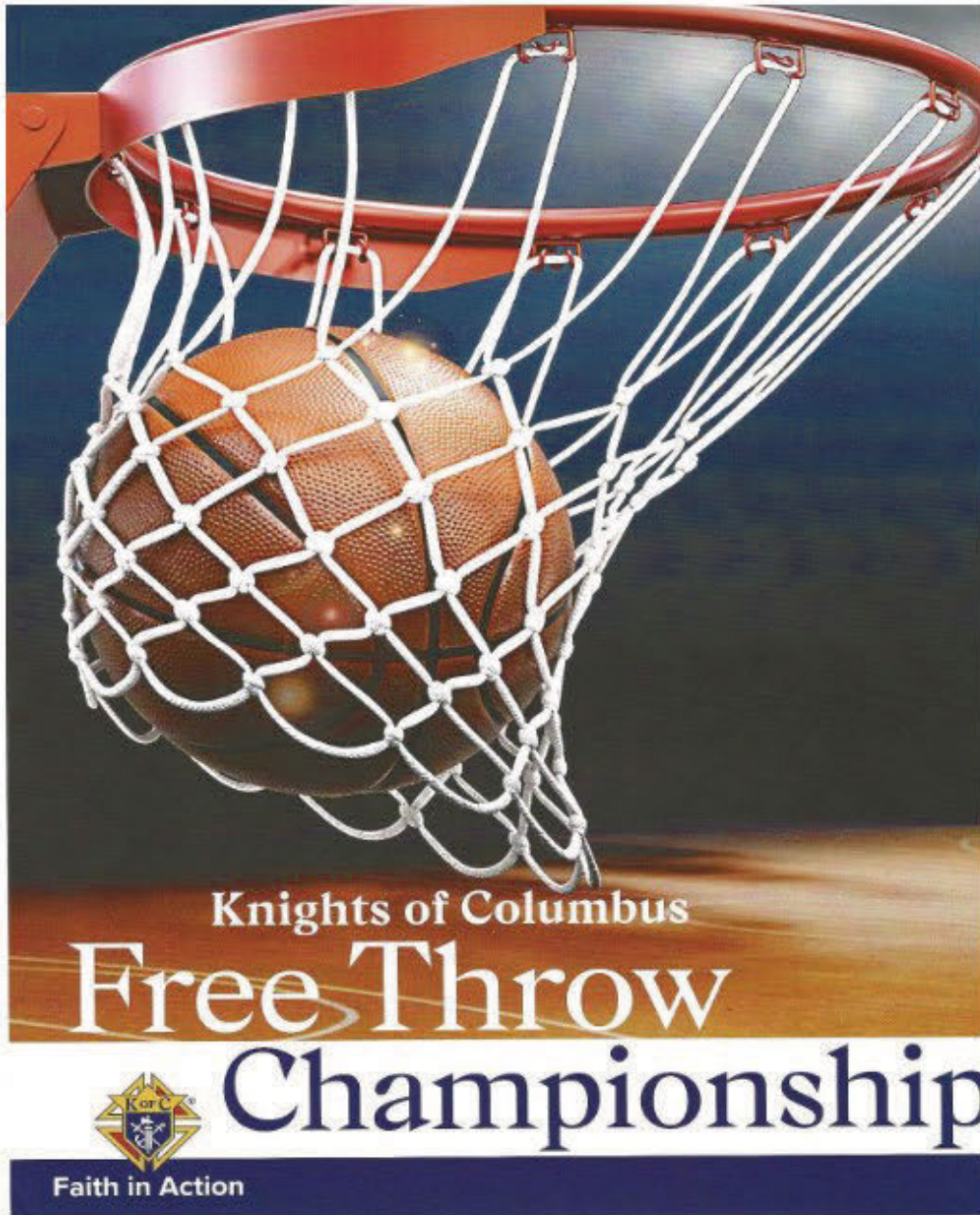


For more information and to register, visit
ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis.

Deadline to register is January 18.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations 703.841.2514 /
vocations@arlingtondiocese.org

Knights of Columbus John Carrell Jenkins Council 7771 Presents



FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, AGES 9-14

Date and Time: Saturday, January 6, 2024 | 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Place: Chelsea Academy Gym | 1190 Progress Dr, Front Royal, VA

» » » **NO COST TO PARTICIPATE** « « «

For more information, contact Jonathan Lash at lashfamily6@gmail.com



Christmas Mass Schedule

Mass Times at
St. John's Church

Sunday December 24

5:00pm

7:00pm

Monday December 25

12:00am Midnight

7:00am 8:30am 10:30am

12:30pm Spanish

5:00pm (no music)

Mass Times at
St. Thomas More
Chapel

Monday December 25

12:00am Midnight Sung

8:00am Low

10:00am Sung

There is no 7am Mass
in the Adoration Chapel on
Monday December 25

~ No Confessions on December 25 ~

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Field Agent
866-868-1492
cory.cook@kofc.org

Knights of Columbus (KofC) offers life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products. For costs, terms, conditions and complete details regarding these products, please contact your agent directly or call KofC at 1-800-380-9995. Products may vary by state. Insurance solutions are available to eligible KofC members in the U.S. and Canada. Knights of Columbus is located at: 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

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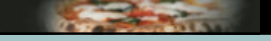


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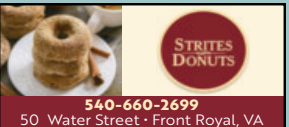
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