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)

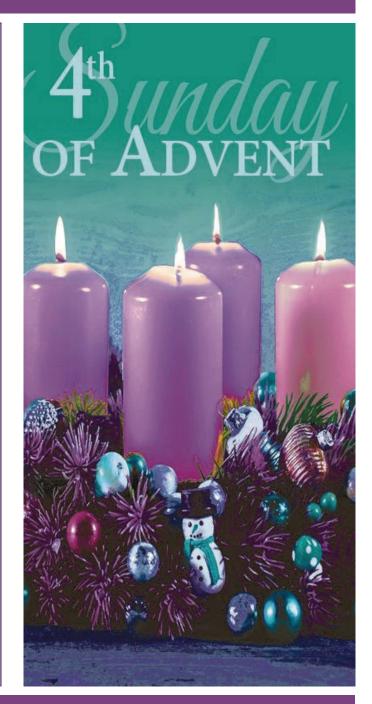
Sacraments

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 24, 2023 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS December 25 - 31, 2023

MONDAY DEC 25

Nativity of the	e Lord	
Midnight	Parish	Family

1,11,4111,211,	I willin I willing
7:00am	Mike Schmiedicke & Fam
8:30am	+Tom Carlson
10:30am	Priests of St. John's
12:30pm	Deacon Goldsmith
5:00pm	Joe Silek
1	

TUESDAY DEC 26

St Stephen,	First Martyr
8:30am	+Susan Bill
12:00pm	+Charles & Phyllis Hibl

WEDNESDAY DEC 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist8:30amJohn Paul McGraw12:00pm+Rick Koch7:00pmFamilia de Maria Alfaro

THURSDAY DEC 28

The Holy Innocents8:30amDesiderio Family12:00pmFaith Mavretich

FRIDAY DEC 29

5th Day within Octave of Nativity8:30am+Brendan McGuire12:00pm+Beverly Elmquist

SATURDAY DEC 30

Sixth Day within Octave of Nativity 8:30am +Elsbeth Wouters

SATURDAY VIGIL

The Holy Family 5:00pm +Henry & Goldie Sonak

SUNDAY DEC 31

The Holy Family		
7:00am	Miller & Bodoh Families	
8:30am	+Jerry Trost	
10:30am	Parish Family	
12:30pm	Familia Egbert Meza	
5:00pm	Marlene Lundberg	

CONFESSION TIMES

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

DECEMBER 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please see page 10 for the Christmas Mass schedule. The parish office is closed Dec 25 & 26.

Special Request

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: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1 -25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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 30/31 will be for Social Outreach

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DEC 30/31		
5:00pm	Greg, Luke, Mark & Isaac Hsu	
7:00am	Greg Bauer, Adam Reeves	
8:30am	Max & Dominic Kelly, John & Andrew Mavretch, Declan & Christopher Uhlenkott	
10:30am	Matthew Clark, Mark & Seamus Kelly, Liam & Marty Clark, James Chapman, Don Sternfels	
12:30pm	Leobardo Reyes, Juan Aviles, Geovanni Miramontes	
5:00pm	Finn Sweeney, Brendan Purciel	

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



Shortest Week of Advent and Mass Obligations

This year, the Fourth Week of Advent lasts only one day. As a result, the Catholic faithful have an obligation to attend Mass twice between the afternoon of Dec. 23 and Dec. 25, to participate in Masses for the fourth Sunday of Advent, and for Christmas.

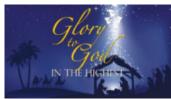
The obligation to attend Mass for the fourth Sunday of Advent and the Solemnity of Christmas are two separate obligations which cannot be fulfilled by attending one Mass. Those who wait until 4pm or later on Sunday, Dec. 24, to fulfill their obligation for the fourth Sunday of Advent would need to attend Mass on Christmas Day to fulfill their obligation for the Solemnity of Christmas. Please see page 10 of this bulletin or our website for the full Christmas Mass schedule.

Monday January 1, 2024

Next week, when the feast of Mary Mother of God falls on a Monday, you are encouraged to attend Mass but it is not a holy day of obligation this year.

Christmas Eve Choral Prelude

The Choral Prelude to Midnight Mass begins at 11:15pm in St. John's Church.



Holiday Adoration Schedule Changes

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed as usual before the 7am Mass on Saturday Dec 23 but will not be exposed again until after the 7am Mass on Wednesday Dec 27.

On the following weekend the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 7am Saturday Dec 30 until after the 7am Mass on Tuesday Jan 2.

Thank You for Your Christmas Generosity

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to help 60 local families with their holiday meals, and provide numerous gifts donated through our Giving Tree program. Once again our parish community has been very generous in helping those in need. God bless you!

We, the priests of St. John, would like to thank all of you for your generosity and prayers during the last year. You have been a great support to us throughout the year and we thank the Lord not only for the gift of Himself, but also the gift of you all. May you have a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Fr. Gee, Fr. Tom, Fr. Duesterhaus

ST JOHN'S STAFF

Rev. Daniel Gee

Pastor, fathergee@gmail.com **Rev. Tom Shepanzyk** Parochial Vicar frtom@sitb.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

Whoever surrenders unconditionally to the Lord will be chosen by him as an instrument for building his kingdom. – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

"Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility], who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it]; but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man]. After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely-appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has

highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess and openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (sovereign God), to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg at michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-2514.

Quo Vadis Seminary Visit for High School Boys Join Fr. Isenberg and Quo Vadis on January 27, 2024, to visit to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C. 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.

'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.

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.

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, visit www.arlingtondiocese. planmylegacy.org.

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 local churches to provide a winter homeless shelter to 35 adult men and women with a warm, safe place to sleep during the winter months. 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 ttake the shelter's bedding to a laundromat on a Saturday. Sign up on the Hope and Rest Temporary Shelter Facebook page.

Activities & Events

Christmas Eve Choral Prelude

The Choral Prelude to Midnight Mass begins at 11:15pm in St. John's Church.

Christmas Carols at Christ the King Chapel

All are invited to join the Classical Cottage Chorale and The Royal Singers in celebrating Christmas with an evening of Lessons & Carols on Thursday, Dec 28 at 7:30pm in the Chapel of Christ the King, 134 Christendom Drive, Front Royal. The event is free and all are welcome!

Free Throw Competition

For Boys & Girls ages 9-14 Saturday Jan 6 1-4pm Chelsea Academy gym 1190 Progress Drive Front Royal No cost. For more information contact Jonathan Lash at lashfamily6@gmail.com Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



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.

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, 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

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

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





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, has sent 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.

DIVINE MERCY AS THE CHILD JESUS SAID: "Look at the

"Look at the sky. Do you see this moon and these stars? These stars are the souls of faith-



ful Christians, and the moon is the souls of religious. Do you see how great the difference is between the light of the moon and the light of the stars? Such is the difference in heaven between the soul of a religious and the soul of a faithful Christian. True greatness is in loving God and in humility."

(St. Faustina Diary, 424) (Used with permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception)

FORMED

Access video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. www.formed.org **Parish Code: QBKRGW** Christmas Specials!

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 John Alsberry Allison Andrews Brenda Bailey Rozie Baker Dianne Boen Rose Britain Elijah Carino Mary Ann Carlson Tony Casarotti Joseph Centrella Jorge Daniel Chang Dominique DeClue 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 Aidan Hipp Billy Hooten Norman Hunt John Janaro Sean June Erik Jurek Susan Kirby Peggy Leonardi Maureen Lewis Manuel Reyes Martinez Carol B. May Laura McMahon Edward Meinsen Marie Miller Peter Monfasani Magdalena O'Neill Barbara Ann Orozco Nellie Adkins Wendy Stout Donald Kerns

Kris Pondo Carmela Rao Judy Ratigan Manuel Reyes Avila Shoana Riccio 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 **Deby Stears** Mary Ellen Sullivan Judith Thompson Karen Waldron Kathy Winkle John Yarborough Geneve Yarborough

Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2023

<u>For Persons with Disabilities</u> 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 Repose of the Souls of ROBERT BOND ZSUZSA UNGARI & SARA MULCAHY

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 Conroy Robert Cooke Kevin Corella Rory Crooks Vince E. Cruz Trey Dusseault Matthew Farrall Parker Feiring 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 Timothy Marra 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 Reves Jose Reyes Lxex Robles David Rogers Alex Roias 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 Samatha Wilkinson Michael Wood Mark Zepeda



Christ the King Chapel + 134 Christendom Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630

"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." – Saint Padre Pio



Adoration Chapel

ADORATION Holiday Schedule

The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 7am Sat Dec 23 until after the 7am Mass on Wed Dec 27, and 7am Sat Dec 30 until after the 7am Mass on Tuesday Jan 2.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR

A Great New Year Resolution: Sign Up to Spend an Hour with Our Lord! Contact adoration@sjtb.org





'5th SUNDAY ROSARY' For Church and Country Sunday, December 31st Before the 5pm Mass

The St. John's Knights of Columbus Council 7771 welcomes the parish to join in the 5th Sunday Rosary for the purification of the Church and the

protection of our Country. The Rosary will be held on Sunday, December 31st, immediately before the 5PM Mass (approx. 4:35pm)

On the eve of the New Year, let us invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the purification of Holy Mother Church and the protection of our country.

For more information, contact Steve Young, Deputy Grand Knight, at <u>asyoung001@gmail.com</u>, or 202-297-0583. <u>www.kofc7771.org</u>

'Fifth Sunday Rosaries' in 2024: Sunday, March 24; Sunday, June 30; Sunday, September 29; Sunday, December 29.



Christmas 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 <u>St. Thomas More</u> <u>Chapel</u>

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

~ Choral Prelude to Midnight Mass begins at 11:15pm at St John's Church ~ No Confessions on December 25 ~ Office Closed Dec 25 - 26 Blessed Sacrament Reposed from 7am 12/23 – after 7am Mass on Wed 12/ 27



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