

Happy New Year! You may be saying to yourself, "Father, you're a little early." Actually, a new Church year begins today with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent, similar to Lent, is a season of penance. It is different than Lent in that, we especially try to give up things for Lent. Though someone may choose to deny himself during Advent - TV, radio, iPod, desserts, etc., it is more a season of generosity. Our penances should enable us to spend more time with Our Lord, our family, neighbors and the less fortunate. Can I do a daily act of love for each member of my family? As God the Father gave us His Son through the Blessed Virgin in Bethlehem, so we seek to become more charitable towards others. A daily way to prepare for Christmas, Jesus' coming among us, is to allow Him to again come to us in Mass and Holy Communion. Other prayers that can be prayed daily by the Family are the Rosary's Joyful Mysteries, the Novena of St. Andrew and reading the Infancy Narratives from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

I also want to warn all of our parents about an upcoming film, *The Golden Compass*, to be released December 7th. The movie is labeled as a children's fantasy. It is based on the first book (*His Dark Materials*) of a trilogy by noted atheist author Philip Pullman. In recent interviews of 2003 and 2001 Pullman said, "My books are about killing God," and that he was "trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief."

Pullman's first book, *His Dark Materials*, is the least offensive of the trilogy. *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass* quickly become overtly anti-Christian and anti-Catholic until God is killed by children in the final book. *The Golden Compass* streamlines the first book so as to make it less offensive to Christians, particularly Catholics. One desired result is that parents will buy the trilogy for their children as a gift. It is not by chance that the movie is being released at the beginning of December! And, it is quite clear what the author's desired result is for all those who read his trilogy! Our children's minds and souls are not worth the risk of exposure to this atheist author's scheme, and, it would seem, his willing accomplices who have brought *The Golden Compass* to our theatres on the eve of Christmas!

I'll take the *Grinch* over these guys any day! How about you?

God Bless!

Fr. Vander Woude

Masses This Week

Monday, Dec. 3: St. Francis Xavier, priest

6:30 a.m. † Paul Menick

9:00 a.m. † Elizabeth Hudock

Tuesday, Dec. 4: Advent Weekday, St. John of Damascus, bishop, doctor

6:30 a.m. Anthony Long Nguyen

9:00 a.m. † Lillian P. Uhler

Wednesday, Dec. 5: Advent Weekday

6:30 a.m. Shirley Bartholme

9:00 a.m. Rev. Keith M. O'Hare

Thursday, Dec. 6: Advent Weekday, St. Nicholas, bp.

6:30 a.m. † Dominick Menick

9:00 a.m. Virginia Boschi

Friday, Dec. 7: St. Ambrose, bishop, doctor

6:30 a.m. Rev. Keith M. O'Hare

9:00 a.m. † John & Jean Kakareka

7:00 p.m. Mass in Latin (Vigil for Holy Day)

Saturday, Dec. 8: SOLEMNITY: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. † Alfredo Samantela

10:00 a.m. Katherine Barnoski

12:00 † Helen Hundemer

5:00 p.m. † Lillian Uhler

7:00 p.m. † Esperanza Leopold

Sunday, Dec. 9: Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. † Eva Vega

9:00 a.m. † Gertrudes Rances-Samantela

10:30 a.m. Living & deceased parishioners

12:00 noon † Margaret Green

Readings: Second Sunday of Advent:

Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3: 1-12 (4)

Confessions: Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., during Holy Hour on Thursdays, on Fridays: 6:30-7:00 p.m., on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. until last penitent is heard

Holy Hour: On Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Latin Mass: Every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill:

Maria C. Carcamo, Ursula Pearson, Agnes Lamar, Jack Jolie, Onorina DiBenigno, Constanza Gomez, John Manley, Theresa Subalusky, Gloria LaFaye, Grace Monaca, Cheryl McGlyn, Didi Hess, Claudia Baragano, Bill Bond, Lauren Richard, Christina Velasquez, Shirley Biava, Marc Coderre, Jr., Connie Bourgeois, Alejandro Rosales, Francis McNicholas, Martha Luque, Judy K. Misage, Jack S. Manley, Martha Bibb, Nena Kapur, Abby Sasser.



The Poor Box content

this weekend is for ACCA. Next weekend Christ House will be the recipient. Thank you for your generosity.

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor

Queen of Apostles Catholic School

Did you know...

that many Q of A students in grades 2—8 qualify to participate in the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth programs;

Religious Education News

CCD classes have begun. They are held on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the School.

CCD Office Tel.: (703)-354-4360

RCIA classes have begun and are held in Hannan Hall every Monday, from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Please contact the Religious Ed. Office for more details.

Respect Life Reflection

"We must redouble our efforts to work for life through prayer and action, and together we will restore legal protection to every innocent human life, born and unborn."
(Carl Anderson, Knights of Columbus, Supreme Knight)

THANKS to your generosity the Poor Box content this past weekend amounted to \$434.- and was given to the Poor Sisters of Saint Joseph.

BE AN ANGEL— Help a Child: The 'Angel Trees' will be set up in the back of the Church today. Once again, we will be helping needy children at the Carpenter's Shelter, Community Lodgings, and helping ASSIST pregnancy center. Gifts need to be returned to the back of the Church or to the Rectory by December 16th. Anyone wishing to help with this wonderful project by decorating the 'Angel Trees', transferring donated gifts, or sorting and delivering gifts, please call Frieda Coccozza: (703)-750-0190. Thanks to Bruna Cassani for cutting out all the angels!

'ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH...' - On Tuesday, December 18th, at 7:30 p.m., the Christmas Concert of Q of A Children's and Adult choirs will take place in the Church. All are invited—please reserve the date and come.

BIRTHDAY PARTY for Baby Jesus will be held at the Daughters of St. Paul, Pauline Books & Media on Friday, Dec. 7th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and on Sat., Dec. 8th, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be story times & other activities, birthday cake and picture taking with the Christ Child. Bring the entire family, celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Location: 1025 King Street, Alex., VA 22314.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: Queen of Apostles School is a participating member of the Combined Federal Campaign; please direct your contributions to our school using the assigned code (24087). Kindly encourage relatives and friends to do likewise. Your generosity is appreciated.

MOVING? Please inform the Parish Office: (703)-354-0742.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, Dec. 2

Gift Shop	9:30 am-1:30 pm	Gift Shop hours
Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group

Monday, Dec. 3:

Hannan Hall	7:30 –8:45 p.m.	RCIA class
Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:30 p.m.	Baptism Class

Tuesday, Dec. 4:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Gr.
Hannan Hall/Choir Rm.	7:30 p.m.	Choir practice

Wednesday, Dec. 5:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
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Thursday, Dec. 6:

Church	7:30 p.m.	Holy Hour
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Friday, Dec. 7:

Church	7:00 p.m.	Holy Mass (Latin)
St. Jos. Cupertino Rm.	7:00-8:45 p.m.	Youth Group

Saturday, Dec. 8:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Jr. Legion of Mary
Gift Shop	4:30—7:00 p.m.	Gift Shop hours

Youth Rm.	8:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Teen Night
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Sunday, Dec. 9:

Gift Shop	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Gift Shop hours
Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group

SATURDAY, DEC. 8TH—The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - is a Holy Day of Obligation. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 7, at 7:00 p.m. in Latin; on Saturday morning Holy Mass times are: 8:00, 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7TH, is First Friday. Exposition and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament begin after the 9:00 a.m. holy Mass, continue day and night until Sat., December 8th, 7:45 a.m. Please plan on spending some time with our Eucharistic Lord.

ALL PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS are invited to attend a special information evening presented by Queen of Apostles Catholic School on how to recognize and promote Kindergarten readiness. Please join us for this presentation on Thursday, Dec. 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library. For more Information, please call the school office.

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION Times during Advent will be offered on Monday, December 17th, from 7:30 p.m. until the line ends and also on Wednesday, December 19th, from 7:30 until the last penitent is heard.

CHRISTMAS HOLY MASS schedule:

Monday, Dec. 24th: (Christmas Eve)

Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. (English)

Vigil Mass at 9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Midnight Mass at 12:00 midnight (English)

Tuesday, Dec. 25th: (Christmas Day)

Holy Masses will be celebrated at

9:00 & 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon (English)