The First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

1427 West Braddock Road ~ Alexandria, Virginia 22302

We are grateful that we can have even a limited number of our parishioners attend Sunday Mass.

Here is what YOU can do to help us accomplish this new way of worship safely and equitably:

- *PLEASE* use the *SignUp Genius*© link on the website or call the Parish Office (703) 998-6100 to reserve a place at SUNDAY MASS. No 'Walk-ins'!
- *PLEASE* arrive early so you can choose a place to sit that is *'at least 6 feet apart'* & safely distanced.
- *PLEASE* wear a MASK or FACE COVERING over both your nose & mouth & minimize side gaps.
- *PLEASE* do not sit or stand in the Gathering Space (or Reservation Chapel) during Mass.
  (Parent emergencies with small children are the exception)

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

PARISH OFFICE: 703-998-6100 Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 am - Noon, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm; Sun, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
The church building CLOSES at 8:00 pm, Monday - Friday & following 5:00 pm Masses on Saturdays & Sundays.

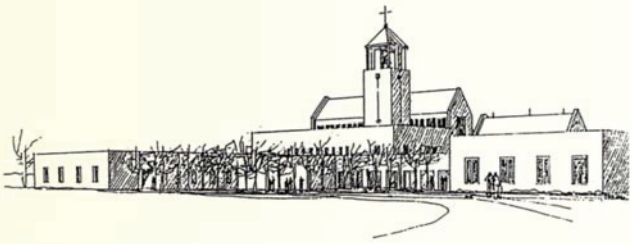
PARISH WEB SITE: *www.blessedsacramentcc.org*

E-MAIL: *parish_office@bscva.org*

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/Blessed-Sacrament-Catholic-Church-210791706782/

INSTAGRAM: @blessed_sacrament_youth

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON: *www.arlingtondiocese.org*



SUNDAY MASSES: Church
Vigil Mass on **Saturday:** 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00*, 11:00*, 12:30 pm, 5:00 pm
Sunday** in **Spanish: 2:00 pm
**NURSERY: Suspended until further notice*

WEEKDAY MASSES: Church
Monday - Friday, 6:30 & 8:30 am
Saturday, 8:30 am only

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Daily Chapel ~ Monday thru Friday, 7am - 8 am
Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm (except Holy Saturday)
Spanish Community, Sundays, 1:15-1:45 pm

ROSARY: Monday - Saturday, 8:00 am: Church
Last Sunday of the month, 10:30 am: Daily Chapel

PARISH CLERGY:
Rev. John D. Kelly, Pastor
Rev. Mark Carrier, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Guillermo Gonzalez, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Thomas Yehl, Y.A., Parochial Vicar

PARISH STAFF:
John McCrary, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgy
Susan Doyle, Director of Religious Education
Marie Niernberger, Bulletin Editor / Liturgical Environment

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

"To create an educated community to serve Christ and one another with integrity and respect."

Valerie Garcia, principal
1417 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302
703-998-4170 *www.bssva.org*
"All are Welcome"

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD): (September - May)
Grades K-8 classes to be offered VIRTUALLY this year!
See the FAITH FORMATION page of the parish website for further information.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN: Celebrations are held on one Saturday per month. A parent and godparent preparation program is required. Arrangements should be made at least 3 months prior to the baby's due date. Call the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: The preparation program must begin *not less than* six (6) months in advance. For weddings celebrated in this church, we cannot confirm a wedding date until after the first appointment with a priest. Call the parish office.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Questions? Call parish office or email: *sdoyle@bscva.org*

PRAYERS AT MASS FOR THE SICK OR RECENTLY DECEASED: Call the parish office for mention at Sunday Masses.

MASS CARDS: Available, in person, at the parish office during regular hours.

First Sunday of Advent

Dear Good People of Blessed Sacrament,

I hope that all of you had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Despite all the changes and restrictions it was good to celebrate with loved ones the many blessings we have received from the Lord. I was able to spend a few days with my sister and her family at home in Pennsylvania. It was our first Thanksgiving without our dear Dad and because of the pandemic it was the first Thanksgiving of my life that I didn't sit next to my Mom at the dinner table. My "window visit" with her was cancelled because one of the residents at Saint Anne's tested positive for the virus. But at least I can talk with her on the phone, and I have still have her! We all have to look at the bright side, right?

Today we begin the penitential season of Advent. For the next four weeks we will hear from the Old Testament Prophets about the coming of the Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promise that He would send the Anointed One to save us from our sins. These are very graced days and an opportunity for us to open our hearts and minds to more clearly hear the Voice of the Lord. Let us pray for one another that this Advent will help all of us to love God more deeply and serve His Son with great joy.

The Christmas season is one marked by generous hearts who reach out to those less fortunate. Our Giving Tree is located in the Gathering Space outside the chapel. This year we are asked to donate gift cards for food and gasoline to help those in need in the Alexandria area. The Gift of Life tree sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Arlington is also up and supports the Gabriel Project which helps women with pregnancy assistance. We thank you for your generosity and support of these worthy charities.

With great sadness we mourn the death of Msgr. Robert Avella who passed away last week. Msgr. Avella was stationed here at Blessed Sacrament in the 1970's and again for a short while in the 1990's. He was the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Arlington for many years and is the one who convinced me to leave my home diocese in Pa. and to come be a "missionary "in Virginia. He was a wonderful priest of God and we wish him eternal rest!

The two weeks prior to Thanksgiving found our Eighth graders receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. I celebrated the first Confirmation Mass and then after our Covid-19 quarantine period we were honored to have Fathers Paul Scalia and Andrew Fisher celebrate the two additional Masses. We congratulate our young men and women who are now fully initiated adult members of the Church. May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire your daily walk with Christ!

I deeply appreciate all of you who come to Mass each week and to all who financially and spiritually support our parish during these uncertain times. You are a source of strength and comfort to us. Please continue to maintain distance, wear your face masks and use our **SignUp Genius©** or call the office to reserve a space at Mass. This will be especially necessary as we draw closer to the celebration of Christmas.

Have a blessed first week of Advent and may we continue to be His light in a world of darkness. God's blessings and graces be yours!

Lovingly in our Savior,

Rev. John Kelly

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30 am ~ Jack Peter McKeon+ (James Stamer)
9:00 am ~ Christianus Osorio+ (Carlos & Vanessa Taja)
11:00 am ~ For the Welfare & Intentions of Pope Francis
12:30 pm ~ Shirley Wilson+ (Randour Family)
2:00 pm ~ Priest's Intention
5:00 pm ~ Mass for The People

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - Saint Andrew, Apostle
6:30 am ~ Andres Soto+ (Braddock Family)
8:30 am ~ Marie Mangan+ (Angie Giuseppe)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 - Advent Weekday
6:30 am ~ Matthew Morgan+ (Paolo Rosales)
8:30 am ~ Carmen De La Rama+ (Marylou Bradley)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 - Advent Weekday
6:30 am ~ Bruce Zuccaro+ (Michelle Thissell)
8:30 am ~ Spec Int - Ramona Rivera (Seferina)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 - Saint Francis Xavier
6:30 am ~ Anthony Borges+ (Family)
8:30 am ~ Deacon Tom McQuillan+ (Ann McCormick McQuillan)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 - Saint John Damascene
6:30 am ~ Hank Hobek+ (Themak & Anderson Families)
8:30 am ~ Spec Int - Stephen & Patricia Markle (Paolo Rosales)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 - Advent Weekday
8:30 am ~ For the Welfare & Intentions of Pope Francis
5:00 pm ~ Chad Abbott+ (Abbott Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30 am ~ Shirley Wilson+ (James Stamer)
9:00 am ~ Peter Stackhouse+ (Jay & Jan Test)
11:00 am ~ Maria José Martinez-Steinberg+ (James Stamer)
12:30 pm ~ Mass for the People
2:00 pm ~ Priest's Intention
5:00 pm ~ Beverly Jo Lepley+ (Ann McCormick McQuillan)

The dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still in place. If you have any concerns about your safety, or feel uncomfortable in public, please stay home, watch Mass on television or on the internet, and pray a Spiritual Communion. *(see page 2)*

The Parish Office will re-open at 9:00 am on Monday, November 30th.

Readings for the Week

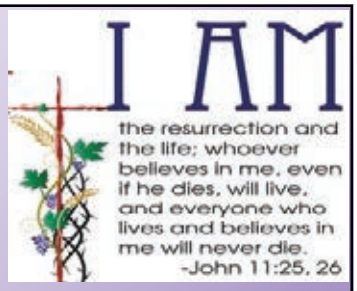
Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: 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; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Visit with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament on **Fridays**. Come to pray any time, but mid-day & afternoon visits are most needed.
The ***Worship Space*** is open from **Exposition at 9:00 am** until **Benediction** & **Reposition** at **5:00 pm**.

Please let someone in the parish office know if there is no one else in the church and you have to leave. Thank you.

Please join us in prayer as we ask for God's guidance & protection of troops, law enforcement, EMT's, firefighters, or anyone serving in harm's way.



Cole Barry, Ryan Barnett, Brandon Bert, Michael Bouffard, Jason Brooks, Richard W. Brown, Macine Browning, Joseph R. Byrns, Cady Byrnes, Tim Byrnes, Andrew Berrigan, Nicholas Cale, Adam Conlan, Robert Corso, Analee Cuellar, Nathalia Cuellar, Bradley Cundari, Matthew Cundari, Nuno Cunha, Richard Demarais, Dennis Donley, Maddy Dooley, George C. Fletcher, Nicholas Fletcher, Tommy Gadell, Victor Gaetan, Joshua Hindenburg, Faith Holman, David Jordan, Jonathan Jordan, Matthew Kitzerow, Steven Kitzerow, Allison Landsman, Christopher Love, Grace McCaffery, Patrick McGee, Mateo McGrath, Sam Mills, Timothy Mills, Lisa Mullaney, Hanna Porterfield, Gray Posey, Thomas Rands, Jamie Reynolds, Erik Rogers, Mary Severs, Ryan Stancik, Jared Steen, Travis A. Stoffer, Kyle Thomas, Josh Truman, Michael Voigt, Christopher Wallace, Abby Warden, Thomas Warring.

(Please call the parish office to include a name on this list.)

Weekly Offertory Collection

Our Offertory Collection for *November 15th* was $27,270.80. This does include *FaithDirect.* We received $257.00 - Poor Box, $940.00 - Building Fund, $160.00 - School Endowment, $275.00 - Retirement Fund for Religious.

(For the foreseeable future, our SHARING distribution has had to be suspended.)

FAITH DIRECT®
inspiring secure giving®

www.FaithDirect.net ~ Our church code: VA 12.
Your *ONLINE* gifts through *FaithDirect*
will help our parish finances throughout the year.

Weekly Diocesan TV Mass

10:30 am & 11:00 am
every Sunday on Channel 50 (WDCW)

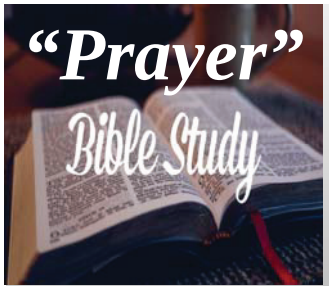
Other Masses on Cable & Satellite stations:
6:30 am on UPTV *(Passionist Fathers)*
& 8:00 am, Noon & 7:00 pm on EWTN

Listen to Catholic Radio
WMET 1160 AM
and via the *(free)*
Ave Maria Radio APP!

Visit: www.grnonline.com

FORMED™
THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Take advantage of the rich resources of *FORMED.ORG*
You can enjoy all the offerings available without creating an account. *Formed* is now accessible to every parishioner by simply using our custom URL:
https://blessedsacramentcc.formed.org (code: nr1029)



We will study these questions by looking at how people prayed in the Holy Scriptures and what the Lord Commands and teaches us about prayer - so that we can all learn to pray like the saints.
Tuesday evenings, 7:00 pm, *December 1, 15, 22.*
or Wednesday mornings, *9:15 am, December 2, 16, 23.*
Bring your Bible (& face mask) to socially-distanced QUINN HALL
(Drop-in: No registration necessary) Questions? Fr. Carrier: *mfcaime@cs.com*

ALSO: Visit *Fr. Carrier's* blog. Come to the web and explore this careful and devout examination of the Word of God ~ *sanctiscriptores.blogspot.com*

Advent Candle sets are available for sale in the Gathering Space or at the Parish Office.

Advent ~ a season to spend more time in prayer, preparing for Jesus Christ's coming...

Join a self-paced Advent retreat with speakers, video & audio presentations, transcripts & a study guide. Participate wherever you are and whenever you have the time.

https://praymoreretreat.org/

Advent Morning of Reflection

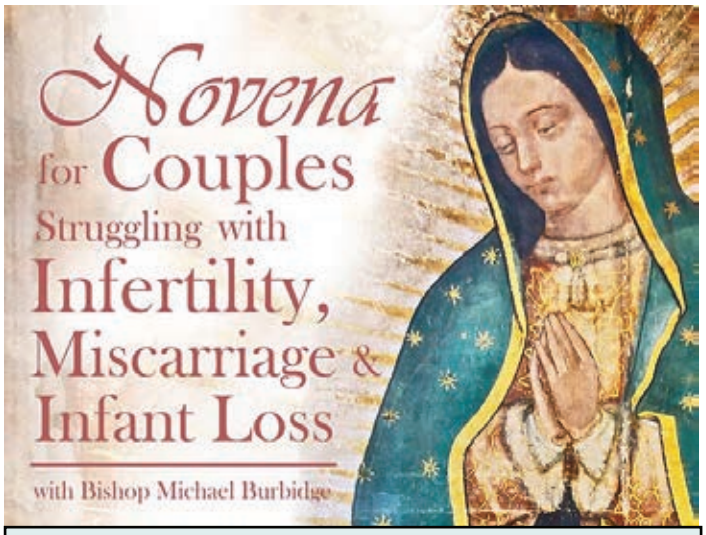
"Have a MARY Christmas!"

Join us to consider this season of waiting as Mary waited.

Saturday, December 5th

10:30 am to 12 noon
Main Worship Space

Masks & distancing required.



NOVENA:
December 4th - December 12th

Concluding Mass:
December 12th ~ Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Offered by Fr. Jamie Workman,
Vicar General, Diocese of Arlington
9:00 am ~ St. Luke's Catholic Church, McLean, VA

Sign up to receive the Bishop's video reflections:

arlingtondiocese.org/novena

Run, Walk, Bike, Swim, even Kayak & Support Seminarians

Looking for a motivation for your workouts, or a fun way to make a difference? Now there are even more ways to support our future priests during these times of COVID restrictions through our Race for Seminarians campaign. Pick your sport: Walk, run, bike, hike, swim, kayak -- the sky's the limit! Pick your route: Join an existing race, map your own, or do a virtual one. Pick your sponsors: Get them on board to help you support our future priests. Build your team: Encourage each other. Not an athlete? You can still join the cause by supporting our team (and future priests) with funds and prayers.

Visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/RACE
to learn about all these options and start building your team today!

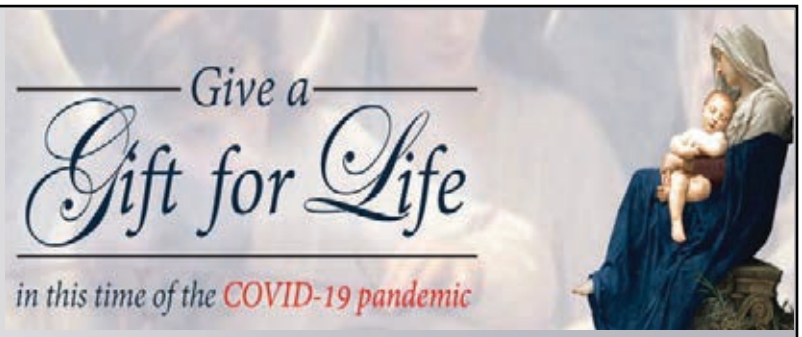
Don't wait too long ...
2020 White House Christmas Ornaments
Celebrate JFK
$20 each (elsewhere over $30!)
Jo Allen ~ (703) 521-7223
Benefits Sunday Nursery ~

Order now for pick-up!

Thanks!

Give a Gift for Life
Take a card from the tree in the Gathering Space!

Please give a ***Gift for Life*** this season to help ***Gabriel Project*** fund a mother's maternity care. An expectant mother wrote:
"I learned I was pregnant and knew that I needed support and prayer. ***Gabriel Project*** helped me with rent, my 'Angels' helped me with items for the baby and rides...They also provided me with much needed, support, encouragement and prayer."
For more information and/or to donate: ***www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife***



Support Holy Land Christians
TODAY! Nov. 28th & Nov. 29th
following all Masses
Quinn Hall (Socially Distanced!)

Bethlehem Carving Group will have beautifully carved and hand-made olivewood items, fashioned by Holy Land Christians as a source of income. Because of the volatile political situation, the population of Christians in the Holy Land has dropped from 37% to now less than 1%. Your purchases of these items will support our brothers and sisters who endure many hardships because of their faith.

www.bethlehemcarvings.org

www.motheroflightcenter.com

Mother of Light Center

The Mother of Light Center (MOLC) is a Catholic organization that helps the poor throughout Northern Virginia. MOLC delivers food to those in need.

We need your help RIGHT NOW!

MOLC needs VOLUNTEER DRIVERS to deliver food Mon-Sat, 11 am–1 pm and 1 pm–3 pm.

If you can help, please contact MOLC at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com

"Giving Tree" Holiday Sharing
GIFT CARD Drive ~

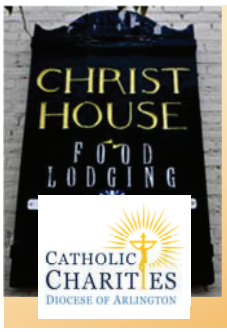
Help children, families & seniors experience the joy of Christmas & have basic necessities for the winter!

Benefits: *Catholic Charities (CCDA), Alexandria Social Services, Mother of Light Center (MOLC) & The Missionaries of Charity, DC.*

We are asking for $25 GIFT CARDS from *Giant, Safeway, Aldi; Target, or Walmart; Gas Station Cards*. Take a card from the display in the Gathering Space and ...

- *Drop off* or *mail* purchased cards to the Parish Office or place in Sunday offertory collection baskets.
- *Write a check* with *"Giving Tree"* on memo line. We'll get the cards.
- Make a *FaithDirect* donation to *"Holiday Sharing/ Giving Tree."*

Please, return all donations by *SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th. Thank you!*



CHRIST HOUSE
131 S. West Street

You can help serve the vulnerable from this Alexandria-based facility.

Contact Sister. Annie Juan - aniliza.juan@ccda.net

Neighbors Helping Neighbors 50 1969-2019 ALIVE!

ALIVE!, Inc.

(ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!)

www.alive-inc.org

703-837-9300

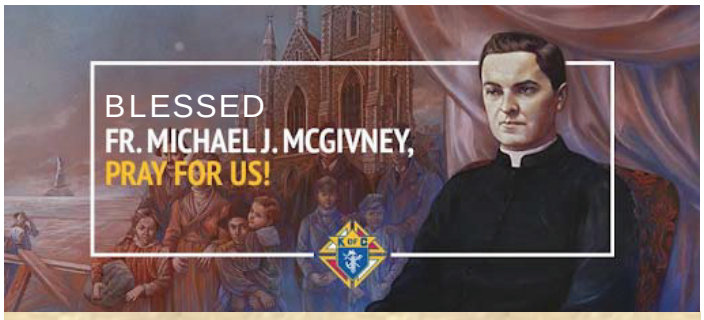
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS!

Any individual interested in **volunteering** must register via *Volunteer Alexandria*
https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/

Information on other ALIVE! food programs can be found:

https://www.alive-inc.org/we-need-volunteers-alexandria-va

Monetary donations are greatly needed & gratefully accepted. Please visit the website for more information on how to help.



Join the Fr. McGivney Guild

Fr. Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus was beatified October 31st. The Knights of Columbus invite all Catholics and followers of Christ to join the *Fr. McGivney Guild*. The Guild prays and assists advocates in furthering the Vatican path to sainthood. Free membership includes a quarterly newsletter containing uplifting spiritual stories and updates on efforts to raise Fr. McGivney to full sainthood.

Visit: *https://fathermcgivney.org*

Or pick up a hard copy brochure outside the parish office

Father McGivney, protector of the poor and widowed, Pray for us.

Blessed Sacrament Prayer Shawl Knitting & Crochet Ministry

MEETING: Thu., DEC. 3rd ~7:00 pm ~ QUINN HALL (so we can social distance)

We continue to work on lap blankets, baby blankets & prayer shawls & are starting hats and scarves for the winter. We have yarn if you need it. Drop-off your hand-made donations at the parish office any time. Thanks!

Questions? Call Lana at 703-299-8389 (or email Marie at *mniernberger@bscva.org*)

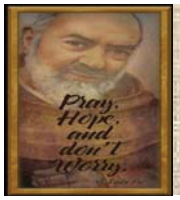
St. Monica, diamond of unwavering faith, pray for us! It is estimated that 20 million Americans consider themselves to be lapsed Catholics. More than likely, we all know someone within each of our own families who simply no longer practices the faith or has not yet come to know Jesus. St. Monica is patroness & powerful intercessor. ~ *Join us today, & everyday, along with 130+ petitioners as we pray for the return of fallen-away Catholics; ~ Unite your loved ones into our daily prayers through our prayer list found in the Sacred Heart Chapel (specify 'St. Monica prayers'); ~ Pray!* Greg Golubin 202-437-1274

Blessed Sacrament 39+ Singles Contact: Tom Palumbo - *tomtal1@verizon.net 703-313-8388*

PRIME-TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS

PTSC serves single Catholics 40 and over. *Meet us for:* Lunch (every Thursday); Nov. 28 - Manassas Battlefield Walk.

For details, see our website: bit.ly/ptsc
For questions or to RSVP, email Tom at *ptscnva@gmail.com*

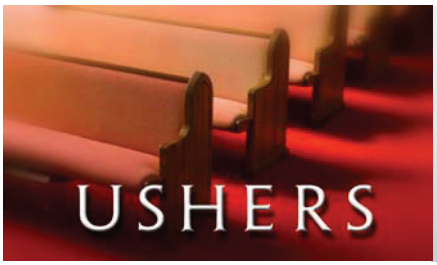


The SAINT PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP of Northern Virginia

"Meets" at 2:30 p.m. on the 4th Sunday of every month. Now virtual, please call or email: Art at 571-236-6080 or *sanpio@comcast.net* for more information.

SENIORS & RETIREES!

- *SAINT MARTIN de PORRES SENIOR CENTER* ~ 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria 22304 ~ All Alexandria residents, 60+ years old are welcome! Daily activities & lunch. Transportation will be provided, but you must RSVP ~ *Call 703-751-2766*
- *SENIOR SERVICES of ALEXANDRIA (SSA)* ~ Join "SSA Connection" to get a weekly email with the latest videos, information on activities & services, TED Talks, recipes & much, much more for Seniors in Alexandria! Send your email to: *communications@seniorservicesalex.org*



USHERS & Greeters at Sunday Masses:

With current guidelines for attending Mass at this time, Ushers & Greeters are needed to assure all parishioners can attend our Masses safely & comfortably.

If you think you would like to help with this important ministry, please contact Marie in the parish office (703) 998-6100 x. 104 or *mniernberger@bscva.org* *(If you are already helping, please also contact. Thank you!)*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Have questions about our *Knights of Columbus Council? Email* ***gk11947@vakofc.org*** *or call the parish office, 703-998-6100, leave contact information & a Knight will return your call. For more information about the Knights of Columbus, visit* ***KofC.org***

All men of the parish are welcome!

Saturdays ~ 7:00 - 8:30 am ~ QUINN HALL

Questions? timothygoobic@gmail.com

Join us whenever you can!

Respect Life

Helpful Resources: http://www.arlingdiocese.org.religiousliberty/
www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/
www.vacatholic.org (Virginia Catholic Conference)
#WhyWeMarch MarchForLife.org
40 DAYS FOR LIFE ~ 40DaysForLife.com www.PrayForLife.org

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GABRIEL PROJECT:

Gabriel Project (GP) provides financial & spiritual assistance to pregnant women in need. If you know someone who can benefit from GP services, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact us at (703) 841-3810 or go online at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/gpavolunteer

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PROJECT RACHEL:

Share the good news of God's merciful love post abortion.
Project Rachel can make a confidential referral to a priest and/or counselor:
(888) 456-HOPE (4673) or *ww.helpafterabortion.org*

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'FIRST SATURDAY' Rosary Team

Did you know that the 'no-show' rate can go up by 70%
when there are people peacefully praying outside an abortion facility?
Please join the prayer team every First Saturday to pray the rosary at 10:30 am at the Falls Church facility located at 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church, VA.
For inquiries, contact Amy McInerny at (703) 841-3817 or *respectlife@arlingtondiocese.org*

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ROSARY for LIFE

Every Saturday ~ around 9-9:15 am ~ at women's clinic at 2839 Duke St (near Bishop Ireton H.S.) ~ Our "turn" is 2nd Saturday of the month

Haven of Northern Virginia

4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, VA 22003 Call 703-941-7000 or email: *havenofnova@verizon.net* or w*ww.havenofnova.org*

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering support, compassion, information, resources to the bereaved, seriously ill, the dying, and their family and friends. Volunteers offer comfort and support while helping people cope with feelings of fear, loneliness and a host of other emotions associated with grief.

Victim Assistance Program for Those Sexually Abused as a Minor ~ *The Catholic Diocese of Arlington provides comprehensive assistance to anyone who as a minor was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, teacher, employee or representative of the diocese. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, who will provide support, consultation, referrals. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is committed to assisting victims/survivors throughout the healing process.*
For further information, call (703) 841-2530 Or visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/

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