

# Happy New Year!

ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009 we celebrate *Mary, Mother of God*, a Holy Day of Obligation. Please join us at the 9 AM, 10:30 AM or 12 Noon Mass. (There is no vigil.)

**A MARIAN CLASSIC:** Next Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the parish Book Group will be discussing Archbishop Fulton Sheen's classic retelling of the story of Mary, *The World's First Love*. Come join us! We will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Quinn Hall dining room. Call 301-942-8790 for more information.

**NO SOR** on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Happy New Year!

**FIRST PENANCE PARENTS' MEETING:** The first meeting for parents of all parish students who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Penance this year will be held on **Thursday evening, January 15<sup>th</sup>**, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. First Penance will be celebrated on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. (These children will then receive First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, the day before Mother's Day.) At least one parent should attend the First Penance meeting, but students should not attend. Mark your calendars, please!

**EPIPHANY FOOD DRIVE:** As we celebrate this Christmas season, please join parishioners from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington in giving the gift of food to local families in need. Donations to the Epiphany Food Drive will be given to the Capital Area Food Bank and the Southern Maryland Food Bank, helping families throughout our community who are hungry.

Grocery bags will be distributed after all Sunday Masses on **December 28<sup>th</sup>**. Simply fill the bag with the food requested and return it to Lewis Hall on **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will do this in conjunction with our normal First Sunday Food & Clothing Drive.

Thank you for sharing your gifts for those in need this season during the Epiphany Food Drive.

**Bible TimeLine:** The Bible TimeLine Video Series will begin again on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen sessions will be offered through the Winter and Spring, covering the narrative books of the Bible from Joshua, Judges, the Davidic Dynasty, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile to Babylon, the Return, the Maccabean Revolt, the Coming of Jesus and the Acts of the Apostles.

You can choose from 3 different times during the week to attend: Sundays at 10:15 AM in the school library, Tuesdays at 9:15 AM in Quinn Hall (coffee and donuts too), or Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in the school library. Call Dave and Barb Ruppert (301-933-7646) with questions and to find out about ordering the study materials. All are welcome!

**WE ARE COUNTING DOWN TO NEW YEAR 2009** and planning our New Year's Eve and New Year's Day menus. Why not support your parish by using the gift cards/gift certificates we sell after all the weekend Masses except the 12:00 Noon Mass? The parish sells Giant Food and Safeway Stores gift cards and Shoppers Food Warehouse and Grosvenor Market gift certificates.

Purchases may be made with cash, a personal check or Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards. Thus you can earn your frequent flyer miles or cash back bonuses on your purchases. You will provide vital financial support to your parish which earns between 3% and 5% on your purchases – and it does not cost you *one penny more for your purchases!* Can't beat that, can you?

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MARCH FOR LIFE** on Thursday, January 22. Students especially are invited to the Youth Rally and Mass for Life which will be held in the Verizon Center. Doors open at 7:00 AM, the Rally begins at 7:30 AM, Confessions begin at 8:00 AM, the Rosary will be at 9:30 AM and the Mass at 10:00 AM. Anyone who has gone to the Youth Rally and Mass will tell you that it is an awe-inspiring event. Come and worship with enthusiastic youth from all parts of the country and then participate in a day of witnessing to the value of Life.

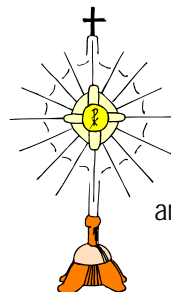
**SEEKING SCIENCE LOVERS!** Do you (or someone in your home or neighborhood) enjoy science? Would you like to share that passion with young students at Holy Cross Elementary School? Our school science department is seeking volunteers to assist middle school students in refining their individual and group science projects.

Students have been working on their projects since November and by January will be in the final stages of their inquiries and will be preparing reports. We are seeking individuals to offer guidance and advice to assist students in interpreting their results and posing questions for further investigation.

Round-table sessions with students will be held during the week of January 5<sup>th</sup> during school hours at mutually convenient times.

Volunteers with interest and/or experience in physical, life and mechanical science are particularly needed.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Shari Connor at [s.connor@hcross.org](mailto:s.connor@hcross.org) or (301) 949-1699.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Is the Lord inviting you to a weekly visit with Him on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1 PM? There is an opening in the New Year at that time. If you are interested call Kathleen Gagnon, 301-942-7855.

**"PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS:** For your convenience we have scheduled a "Protecting God's Children" workshop for adults at Holy Cross Elementary School to accommodate our church and school volunteers. This course is available to all volunteers in the Archdiocese, as long as there is space available. Holy Cross volunteers are encouraged to register on the VIRTUS website, [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), as soon as possible to ensure you have a reservation.

Date: February 19, 2009  
 Time: 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM  
 Place: Lewis Hall

**MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT:** Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat (February 6-8, 2009) for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood. The retreat will be held at Theological College, Friday evening, February 6 through Sunday, February 8 at noon. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? It will cost you nothing more than your time. To register or for more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, at 301-853-4580 or [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).

**Extension of Donor Advantages Offered by 2006 IRA Laws:** Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, if you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift to Holy Cross Church using funds directly transferred from your IRA. Normally all withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxable as ordinary income. However, you can avoid the tax by directing your IRA to send the money to a charity instead. The amount transferred counts towards the minimum required distribution for a donor's IRA account and generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction. This opportunity has been extended to include 2008. IRA trustees should be set up to handle this. Just be sure that the check is written directly to Holy Cross Church. If it's written to you, it's taxable.

**CHRIST IN THE CITY (FOR YOUNG ADULTS):** Christ in the City is a ministry of the Office of Young Adult Ministry that specifically focuses on spiritual growth and provides an opportunity to establish a relationship with Christ truly present in the Eucharist. On the **second Thursday** of each month, young adults from across the city congregate at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 10<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, NW, Washington, DC to pray and worship. Stop in for a few minutes or join us for the entire service. Either way, your prayer life will be enriched by the experience. The evening starts with a 7:00 PM Rosary. From 7:30 PM-8:30 PM, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship, Confession available and Reflection. St. Patrick's is Metro accessible via Metro Center's 11th Street exit or Chinatown's 9th Street exit. Free parking at the garage on Tenth Street between G and H. Bring your ticket to the sacristy for validation. Upcoming dates: **Jan. 8.**

<b>WEEKLY SCHEDULE</b>	
28 SUNDAY	<b>Holy Family</b>
10:15 -- 11:30 AM	NO SOR Classes (school)
29 MONDAY	<b>St. Thomas Becket</b>
6:45 -- 8:15 PM	NO Matthew Bible Study ( <i>Quinn Hall</i> )
30 TUESDAY	
31 WEDNESDAY	<b>Pope Sylvester I</b>
1 THURSDAY	<b>Mary Mother of God (Holy Day of Oblg)</b>
2 FRIDAY	<b>First Friday</b>
3 SATURDAY	<b>First Saturday</b>
9:00 AM:	Confessions
4 SUNDAY	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>

<b>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</b>			
<b>Monday, December 29, 2008</b>			
6:45 AM	Geneveive Ann Deikel	8:30 AM	Peggy O'Brien Hunt
<b>Tuesday, December 30, 2008</b>			
6:45 AM	Diana Sayers (Living)	8:30 AM	Edward Egan
<b>Wednesday, December 31, 2008</b>			
6:45 AM	Geneveive Ann Deikel	8:30 AM	Intentions of the Masucci Family
<b>Thursday, January 1, 2008</b>			
9:00 AM	Zelaya-Quesada Family (living)	10:30 AM	In Thanksgiving
12:00 PM	Regina Guay		
<b>Friday, January 2, 2008</b>			
6:45 AM	DeCastro Family Deceased members	8:30 AM	Mary Lou Joanen
<b>Saturday, January 3, 2008</b>			
8:30 AM	In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary		
5:00 PM	Mary Angela Memmo		Fr. Perkins
<b>Sunday, January 4, 2008</b>			
7:30 AM	People of Holy Cross		Fr. Yaga
9:00 AM	Philip Moyer (Living)		Fr. Perkins
10:30 AM	Lazaro Diaz		Msgr. Hill
12:00 PM	Ernie Offenbacher		Msgr. Hill

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Daniela Anderson; Bob Beatty; Felipe Caraan; Thomas Choi; Young Choi; Sister Collette Marie, csc; John DeConcini; Anne & Mark Eller; José Ferrario; Hans & Rupert Finke; Michael Gouzoulis; Leonard W. Harsel; Larry Heitkemper; Mary Miller; Philip Moyer; Richard Mlynarczyk; Pat Obrimski; Anthony Paige; Daniel Pereira; Adrienne Quenneville; Bonnie Ridenhower; Martha Scully; Mirella Setien; Rebecca Shephard; Jacqueline Surmeier; Nicoletta Stephanz; Jim Taylor; Elizabeth Tolton; Dorothy Turner; Jim Weikert; Jane Whalen; Roland Young

**Schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to serve 1st Weekend 1/03/09 & 1/28/09**

5:00 PM	Carlos Hernandez; Jim or Colleen Scanlon
7:30 AM	Helen Rogers; Nancy Heffernan
9:00 AM	George Tamerlani; Annemarie Rogers; Don & Yolaine Watkins;
10:30 AM	Steve Toomey; Linda Gage; Roberto & Mary Jo Ibanez; Bob & Charlene Hubbard
12 Noon	Jennifer Ivory; Carlos Hernandez

**REMINDER:** There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this week. We will begin again on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.