

Road Huntingtown,

Telephone: 410-414-8304 Fax: 410-535-9057

Emergency Phone: 443-624-2692

Parish Website: www.jesusdivineword.org Parish E-mail: office@jesusdivineword.org

Good News Preschool: www.jesusdivineword.org/preschool

The Nativity of the Lord Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests

> What wondrous love it is that God would become one with his creation. Yes, wondrous love and awe-inspiring at the same time.



WELCOME HOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We welcome those who are new to our faith community, those returning to the Catholic Church or those simply visiting with us this Christmas Day. We are blessed to have you with us and are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about our parish or register as a parishioner, we invite you to contact our pastor, Fr. John Dakes at frjohn@jesusdivineword.org or any member of our parish staff at 410-414-8304. You may also go to our website - www.jesusdivineword.com - to download our registration form or stop by our Hospitality Table in the church entry to speak with a member of our Welcome Ministry and to pick up a Welcome Folder.



Dear Friends,

Rev. John T. Dakes, Pastor

Rev. Michael Witczak, Weekend Clergy

Deacon Ron Burns

Daily Mass Schedule Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM Saturday 9:00 AM First Fridays 7:00 PM

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, and 12:00 Noon

Weekday Adoration Monday-Friday 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Weeknight Holy Hour Wednesday:7:00PM - 8:00PM

First Friday

Adoration: 7:45 PM - 8:45 AM Saturday

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday & Thursday after 8:00 AM Mass

Wednesday: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday: 4:00PM - 4:45PM

When I was a child I remember the excitement of Christmas morning, waking up early, wondering what was under the tree and waiting to see who among my brothers and sisters and I would wake up mom and dad so we could go downstairs and begin the fun of unwrapping presents. There was great anticipation and joy.

With Christmas upon us our anticipation is now over and the gift we have been awaiting has arrived, not under a tree, but in a manger. God's only Son has been born. What wondrous love it is that God would become one with his creation. Yes, wondrous love and awe-inspiring at the same time. The humility and selflessness of our savior's birth is remarkable. Though mighty, God wasn't born in a palace. The extraordinary love of God first appeared in a place where animals were housed. Who would have imagined God's first home would be among poor beasts of burden? His was a simple birth among the poor and lowly, and that was just the beginning of a meek and humble life.

In a sense, Christmas is more than the birth of Christ, isn't it? It's also the nativity of our re-birth. By God's becoming one of us, the lowliest of us, he showed us how we can become like God, and it begins and ends with humility. As our first parents attempted to take what was not theirs, "you will be like gods" the serpent enticed, so Jesus demonstrated by the example of his life how true God-like life is possible. He was born in a humble stable, and he died as a criminal on a cross. Yet God raised him on high, "greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9).

As we celebrate Christmas in our homes, and in *this our home* of Jesus the Divine Word, may we come to recognize the true miracle of Christmas that takes place in our hearts whenever we empty ourselves of greatness, humble ourselves, by loving acceptance of and service to others. In this will the glory of God be revealed.

Merry Christmas, *Father John*

WELCOME RETURNING CATHOLICS



If you are a Catholic who for any reason has been away from the Church, know that we are praying for you and have been thinking about you. We are glad you're here with us today and invite you to be an active member of the Church again. If you have questions, wish to simply talk or would like information on the sacraments or on our parish programs and ways you can become involved,

please contact Fr. John Dakes – <u>frjohn@jesusdivineword.org</u> or 410-414-8304, x11 – at the parish office.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

In celebration of our Savior's birth and the New Year our parish offices will be operating on revised schedules. Our offices will be closed today, December 25th and tomorrow, December 26th.

From Wednesday, December 27th through Friday, December 29th, the main office will be open from 9:00 am till 12:30 PM.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2018.

Regular office hours resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.

On behalf of the entire parish staff we wish all in our community and all who are visiting a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and holy New Year.

Let us all prepare our hearts for next Sunday's Mass by reflecting on the readings in advance.



The readings for next Sunday, December 31 are:
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40
"And the Word was made flesh . . . "

Cardinal Hickey Academy

1601 W. Mt. Harmony Rd. • Owings, MD 20736 Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Griffith 410-286-0404 301-812-0404 Fax: 410-286-6334

www.cardinalhickeyacademy.org



Bulletin Entry Deadlines Listed below are upcoming bulletin deadlines:

Bulletin Date December 31 January 7 January 14 <u>Due by Noon</u> Wednesday, December 20

Tuesday, January 2 Monday, January 8 Your cooperation with these deadlines is greatly appreciated!
bulletin@jesusdivineword.org

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.





For the month of December, donations will go to purchasing food cards for the needy.

Thank you for your generosity.



COMMUNITY SUNDAY

The donations on the third Sunday of every month will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in conjunction with our parish's Community Sunday. Thank you for your continued generosity.





Serving the Lord with Joy: December 30 & 31 and January 1

Saturday 12/30 5 PM

EMHCs: Gail Gordon, John Hemmer, Jack Jarboe, Linda Rhodes

Readers: Robb Hartley, Paul

Rhodes

Servers: Stephen & Grace Hayden, Hannah &

Sarah Naron

Sunday 12/31 8 AM

EMHCs: Ed & Nancy Waskiewicz Readers: Laura Glasgow, Chrissy

Lash

Servers: Lucas & Hayden Belt,

TBD

Sunday 12/31 10 AM

EMHCs: Raean King, Alice

LeRoux, Cathy & Gordon Pracht, Dot & Ed Spicka

Readers: Ernie Lagimoniere,

Marianne Roberts

Servers: William, Ryan & Emma

Pellegrino, Carter Lord

Sunday 12/31 12 Noon

EMHC: Eric Byrd, Lissette Fortuno, Cliff & Jane

Scanlan

Readers: Joshua & Jordan Carbo

Servers: Caili & Shannon Cunningham, Jo & Cara

Orie

Monday 1/1 10 AM

EMHC: John Barth, Ann Harper,

Traci Peters, Linda

Rhodes

Readers: Rob Harley, Paul

Rhodes

Servers: TBD



Schedules & Stewardship

Mass Intentions for December 24 - January 1

Sunday, December 24 - The Nativity of the Lord

5:00 pm - Alex Roper (D)

8:00 pm - Nathan Cortes-Peck (L)

Monday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 am - Joan & John Dakes (D)

10:00 am - Fred Burns (D)

Tuesday, December 26 - St. Stephen 8:00 am - Cosmo Quattrone (D)

Wednesday, December 27 - St. John

8:00 am - John Miles (D)

Thursday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

8:00 am - Joan Voss (D)

Friday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket

8:00 am - Io Buck (D)

Saturday, December 30

9:00 am - Jenny & Gil Poudrier (L)

5:00 pm - Les Silva (L)

Sunday, December 31 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 am - Io Buck (D)

10:00 am - Christopher Ryan (D)

12:00 pm - Parishioners

Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10:00 am - Hugh & Anna Fries (D)



SAVE THE DATES

Dec 31 - Jan 7.....Safe Nights

January 19......March for Life

January 27......Day Retreat for Women with Danielle Bean

January 28......Welcome Reception for New Parishioners



Hospitality Schedule

December 31 & January 7: No Hospitality due to Safe Nights in

Doran Hall







Many thanks for your generous support of our parish!

Consider Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

which allows you to contribute automatically from your bank account or credit card. It will ensure your contributions will be received even if you are out of town!

Simple, Secure, and Convenient.

LITURGY & PRAYER

Vocation Cross

Devotion to the Vocation Cross involves a designated parish household receiving the cross at the conclusion of Mass and taking the cross home for one week, praying for a few minutes every day for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our parish.



Please pray for Vocations this week with the Greever family.

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

(before opening them)

Every person should hold in their lap one gift addressed to them. Then pray together:

God of love, we realize that all gifts come from You. We thank you for them with all our hearts!

Now, one-by-one each person offers the following prayer:

Please bless (name of gift-giver) for making this gift possible.

Conclude by praying the following together:

Jesus, our Savior, the reason we share gifts today is to celebrate your birth. May these gifts remind us of your generous love for us. Let us never be greedy, but willing to share with others





THANK YOU!

Our thanks go out to the many volunteers who assisted with the setting up of Doran Hall for our 4th Sunday of Advent Masses and to those who helped decorate our church for Christmas.

You did a great job and we are very grateful!

Special thanks to the coordinator of the church's Environment Committee,
Virginia Soboleski.



SUNDAY AND DAILY MASS READINGS:

Interested in finding the texts for the Sunday and weekday Mass online?

 $\frac{\text{Go to}}{\text{www.usccb.org/bible/}} \\ \frac{\text{readings/}}{\text{readings/}}$



Good News Preschool



Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin in late January.

Please feel free to stop in and visit us in the classroom or call Patty O'Toole at 410-414-8304, ext. 15 or email

preschool@jesusdivineword.org

2017 Christmas Schedule

Masses for Christmas (Christmas Mass Obligation)

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Children's Mass 8:00 PM Christmas Vigil

Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day 12:00 AM Midnight Mass 10:00 AM





Feast of the Holy Family Saturday, December $30^{th} - 5:00 \text{ PM}$ Sunday, December 31st – 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 Noon (Please Note: There is no evening Mass on December 31st)

January 1st, 2018 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy day, No obligation when it falls on a Monday) 10:00 AM



ARE YOU AN ADULT CATHOLIC WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED?

Many baptized Catholics have received their First Holy Communion, but "missed" Confirmation because they were away from the Church or did not feel ready as adolescents. It's not too late. Each year, adult Catholics from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation at their parishes and then gather at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in D.C. on the Feast of Pentecost to be confirmed by the Archbishop. If you are an adult who is interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2018, please contact Deacon Ron Burns at 410-414-8304, ext. 21 or at dcn.ron.burns@gmail.com

ARE YOU A NON-CATHOLIC INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Whether you are a Christian of another denomination, a non-Christian, or someone with no particular religious background, and would like to learn more about the Catholic Church or possibly become a Catholic we're here to assist you discover the teachings of the Catholic Faith. The process by which non-Catholics journey into the Catholic Faith is known as RCIA, *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, and culminates each year in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Please contact Joe Smith if you have questions about the Catholic Faith or are interested in becoming Catholic by at joseph.smith2735@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION

WHAT IS AN ANNULMENT?

There has been much misinformation circulated about marriage annulments. Much of it is based on misconceptions, misunderstandings and ignorance. Unfortunately that misinformation has prevented many a Catholic from participating in the sacramental life of the Church. The Church teaches that the Sacrament of Marriage, by its very nature, is ordered towards the good of the spouses as well as towards the procreation and education of children. It is during the marriage ceremony when a couple exchanges their vows that the Sacrament of Marriage officially begins. The Church also presumes that all marriages of all other faiths to be valid until proven otherwise. An annulment is granted only when an essential component of the sacramental consent is found to be missing, when something in the spiritual relationship between the man and woman is found to be lacking. An annulment does not mean that "in the eyes of God, it was not a marriage," nor does an annulment mean that the marriage "never existed." After all, the couple wed, lived together and possibly had children. They have a "history" as husband and wife. It also does not mean that children born of the marriage are illegitimate. That statement cannot be farther from the truth. The main effect of an annulment is that the former marriage no longer has legal recognition or standing in the community of the Catholic Church and, generally, that the parties are now free to marry again in the Church if they so choose. If you have any questions regarding an annulment or would like to learn more about the process, please contact our pastor, Fr. John Dakes at 410-414-8304, ext. 11 or at frjohn@jesusdivineword.org. In the meantime, please be assured that divorced and civilly remarried Catholics are still a part of the Church, loved by the Church, and loved by Christ.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation seeks to assist the children of our parish in learning about and forming their relationships with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We prepare children to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in a two year curriculum. Aside from formal classroom instruction, we offer Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 am Mass every Sunday.

Contact Karen Burns for more information at 410-414-8304, ext.23.

2018 CALENDARS

There are still a few 2018 Church Calendars available. If you



If you have not picked up

a copy, please stop by the Hospitality Table in the church narthex today.



St. Nick Party on Dec. 9 - despite the snow!





YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

We just came back from our annual high school retreat with 47 youth. They had a great time at West River while learning about the Incarnation & Gifts.

Our youth ministry just held a reception after the 7 PM Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. So many youth families brought in cookies and sweets and it was great to see so many parishioners spending time together in the narthex.

Our Confirmation program has 49 youth in it this year; what a great blessing for them and the Church! We have a new catechist team and they are doing a beautiful job with the Candidates. We will be gearing up for their Spring Retreat in a month or so and we ask that you please pray for them as the continue this journey of faith together.

Please remember to keep an eye on our two youth ministry bulletin boards, parish bulletin, and Flocknote emails.

As always, all youth of JDW are invited to participate in our middle and high school youth ministry activities.

There is still a little time to sign up your child for the Youth Rally & Mass/March for Life.

Go to the Youth Ministry page of our website to reserve their ticket with us.

Contact Tracey Smith at 410-414-8304, ext. 22 for more information.

I lift my eyes to you, oh God, enthroned in heaven. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

~ Psalm 123

Please pray for our sick:

Phil Ates, Baby Jace, Carleton Berry, Jim Borell, Govena Boucher, Alyssa Bramble, Dcn James Brown, Rob Brown, Sandy Buchanan, Dolores R. Burbage, Oscar Camacho, DJ Callender, Lill Caplins, Diane Chaney, Mark Chaplin, Shirley Clement, Regina Coakley, Lisa Coltrain, Allison Consoli, Jean Corcoran, Thomas Cullen, Zahira Davila, Jack DeGrange, Terri DeStefano, Tammie DiMichele, Linda Donaldson, Laveta Emory; Mary Ferrante, Anna Freeman, John Gatt, Reene Gawronski, Michelle Goodwin, Jeff Gott, Frank Grant, Charles Grimes, Barbara & Margaret Grofic, Doug Hansen, Brooke Heiston, Jeanne Hemmer, Hayden Hettel, Ann Hill, Denise Hilton, Norma Holmes, Connie Key, Stephen Killian, Micah Kirk, Casey Kwitkin, Ernie Lagimoniere Sr., Meagan Laughlin, William Lavin, Margaret Elizabeth Lee, Susan Lees, Melissa Lescinsky, Doris Lynch, Kim McGown, Michael McNamee, Sandy Manuel, Tery Marinucci, Norma Melcher, Dcn John Montgomery, Bruce Mrowca, Pat Nahas, Michael Nestor, Mary Ellen Norris, Richard O'Dell, Kathy Pannebaker, Laura Peck, Michael Pellock, Rusty & Donna Perkins, Mark Pierce, Monica Haley-Pierson, Kathy Poole, Marilyn Quinn, Janet Reing, Milton & Kathleen Reuwer, Keely Reuwer, Fr. Jim Reynolds, Colin Ripple, Rafaela Rodriguez, Steve Rogers, Caroline Rutledge, Grace Rymer, Marie Samaha, Lucy Schuler, Jesse Schwenk, Theresa Sefcik, Joseph Seminara, Kay Siewertsen, Les & Mary Ann Silva, Thomas Sita, Laurie Smith, Mariann Stackpole, Shirley Talbot, Mary Tayman, Noah Thompson, Rebecca Triplet, Dcn Richard Walker, Katie Ward, Nathaniel Weiskircher, Sam Whedbee, Kay Whelan, Susie Wommack, Diane Wood, Wendy Zurenko.

Heal them, O Lord.

PARISH MINISTRY - WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

There has been an explosion in the numbers of laypersons involved in ministry in the Catholic Church over the past few decades. Some think that the rise is due solely to the shortage of men entering the seminary. But that's not the main reason. The Second Vatican Council and many synods held thereafter, along with letters from popes and bishops have reminded us that all Catholics are called to actively participate in the mission of the



Church by virtue of baptism. Through baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church both by transforming the secular world and their families, those places where we work and live, and also by being active in the life of the parish. Given, though, the numerous new ministries in our parish and others (for those visiting us this Christmas), you may be asking yourself, "Where do I fit in?"

To begin its important to recognize that ministry in the Church as its outlined in the New Testament and has developed over the centuries, is divided into four categories: Proclamation of the Word, Worship of the Community, Fostering the life and building up the Community, and Service, to, by and beyond the community.

Word: As we celebrate at Christmas, it is in Jesus Christ, the Word of God made Flesh, that the message of the Old Testament was fulfilled and the fullness of God's revelation was communicated. It is this word that the Church and all of us who make up the Church are called to proclaim. We must not only accept the Christian message, but act on it, witnessing as individuals and as a community to the person Jesus Christ.

Worship: Our response to the word of God is worship. When we worship God we encompass all that it means to be human. We remember the great deeds of God which leads to praise and thanksgiving and we are fed and offer ourselves to God for the sake of others. All worship, but especially the Eucharist, is the source and expression of the community that we will become.

Community: God's plan encompasses us not just as individuals, but as members of a family of faith, the Christian community. The community is not based on the fact that we live in the same vicinity. Rather, the power and life of the Holy Spirit unites us in a fellowship that is so intimate, that St. Paul likens it to a body. We are the Body of Christ. United by grace we work to build the community in all areas of our lives.

Service: The experience of Christian community leads to service. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, not just for themselves, but for others. The Church is the servant community in which each must serve the other for the good of all.

Finally, it is also important to recognize that lay ministry is more than volunteerism. As stated above, ministry flows out of baptism in a very conscious way. Ministry involves a sense of mission, purpose and enthusiasm and comes about through certain characteristics. A minister is: A Person of Faith, A Person of Prayer, A Servant of the Community, A Witness of the Gospel, A Witness of the Church and A Builder of the Christian Community. He or she also possess a generous spirit and a sense of commitment as well as a spirit of humility.

If after reading this brief explanation of ministry in the Church and its qualifications, you would like to become involved, we invite you to spend some time in prayer discerning what kind of ministry God may be calling you to: **Word, Worship, Community** or **Service.** Then we invite you to go to our website: **www.jesusdivineword.org** to learn about the specific ministries available at Jesus the Divine Word or stop by the Hospitality Table and pick up your copy of our parish Ministry Book. Then simply call the contact person for the ministry and express your desire to undertake that ministry in our parish. We look forward to hearing from you, and more importantly, ministering with you.

DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN





Join us for a day designed by author Danielle Bean to help you discover the life-changing truth about Jesus' unique and personal love for women.

Walk alongside women of the Gospels and explore what it means to be loved by a God who longs to bless you, help you, heal you, forgive you, and give you a voice.

Cost: \$30 per person in advance / \$40 at the door

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2018 ~ 9am-3pm

Location: Jesus Divine Word Parish, Huntingtown, MD

Register: Jesusdivineword.org or Karen Burns @ 410-414-8304*23

Safe Nights at JDW December 31st - January 7th You Are Needed!

Go to signupgenius.com, click on "Find a Signup" on the top upper right, and then go to "Search by Email" and enter *jdwsafenights@gmail.com* as the requested email.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry DiGuiseppe by phone or text at 301-706-7018 or email **tldiguiseppe@gmail.com** Jesus the Divine Word Catholic Church

The Pro-Life Committee Challenge!

Can you design our annual Jesus the Divine Word "March for Life" pro-life t-shirt for 2018?

The theme for the March this year is

Send ASAP!

"Love SAVES Lives"

To enter and win a \$50 gift basket email your ideas to: prolife@jesusdivineword.org



Please pray for our Military:

Brian Antonio, Meghan Barrett, Jordon Clark, Nathan Cortes-Peck, Julia Croft, Ryan Croft, Dakota Cross, Nicholas Dakes, Robert Owen Danford, Joshua Daniels, Rebecca & Kevin Danis, James Devine, Billy Donovan, Tracy Farr, Kathleen Finnegan, Thomas George, AJ Gerdes, Kevin Gordon, Ben Hammett, Brian Haynes, Tanner Haynes, Catherine Hetmansky, Justin Hickman, Lucas Hornick, Matt Johnson, Craig Jones, Jordon LaBonte, Taylor Luskey, Joshua Matthews, Mark Matthews, Tom Moroney, Alex & Erich Muehleisen, Benjamin, Jacob & Christian Naumann, Jeremy Norris. Joshua Shandy, Ian Sloan, Austin Spaulding, Jimmy & Shane Tittinger, Stephen Woollen and for all servicemen & women protecting our freedom. Protect them, O Lord.

If you know of any names that should be added or removed from our sick or military prayer list, please email bulletin@ jesusdivineword.org
Thank you for helping

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Ministry & Support Staff 410-414-8304

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Youth Minister and Website Admir Tracey Smithyouthministry@jesusdivineword.org	
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Barbara Oursler, Ray O'Toole, Justin Poissant, Bizzy

Thompson, Amy Trainer

MARCH FOR LIFE



FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

March for Life 2018

On Friday, January 19, 2018, Jesus the Divine Word invites you to join us for the 45th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

JDW will once again charter 3 buses to DC free of charge. You are welcome to bring a friend or two!

You can sign-up at the table in the Narthex after Mass or go online to the SignUpGenius on the Jesus the Divine Word website beginning the 1st weekend in January.

Once again, we will be hosting 50 students and their chaperones from Michigan after the March for Life for a one night stay in Doran Hall. The Knights of Columbus will be providing dinner for our guests. The Pro-Life Group will be asking for a little help with desserts and overnight monitoring. STAY TUNED for more information. Please join us in living out Pope Francis' message to respect all life!

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn, and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."

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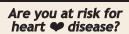
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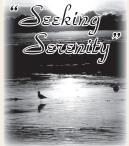


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