

First Reconciliation

Do you have a child in 2nd grade or above who wants to make their First Communion this year? Did you miss our parent classes for Reconciliation? If yes, please contact Janet Ficca as soon as possible. Another set of classes will begin in early January. Your child must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before First Communion.



All are invited to an **Epiphany Party!**

Sunday, January 7th

5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Please note the time change due to another event in the afternoon. We will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. followed by dinner, games, crafts and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share and a small gift (\$10).

R.S.V.P. to Janet Ficca by January 2nd.

Did You Know...?

Mass by the Numbers

Every weekend Mass at CTK needs (at least) the following lay ministers:

- ✓ 2 Lectors
- ✓ 5 Eucharistic Ministers
- ✓ 3 Altar Servers (4 on Feast days)
- ✓ 2 to 4 Ushers
- ✓ 2 Children's Ministers of the Word (8:30 & 11)
- ✓ 1 Cantor (at least)

That's a total of 15 X 4 Masses = 60 Ministers needed every single week!

If everyone serves only once a month, we would need 240 to 300 Ministers!

Fortunately many ministers serve every single week, some at multiple Masses or in multiple roles.

What is your role in our parish family? What gifts or talents can you share with us?



One Virtue I Want to Grow in ...

One Sin I'd Like to Eliminate....

One Book of Scripture I'd Like to Read Through...

One Other Spiritual Book I'd Like to Read...

One Way to Increase My Sacramental Life

One Saint I'd Like to Get to Know Better...

Any Special Intentions for the Year...



Some believe that *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written in code. It had a hidden message, and for a good reason. After you find out what the code means, you'll never listen to this favorite Christmas song in the same way again...

The Twelve Days of Christmas was created in England during a time of religious persecution when Catholicism was outlawed in the 16th to 18th centuries. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest – a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact. Each verse refers to a teaching of church doctrine — with the partridge being Christ who died on a tree and the "True Love" being God the Father, who gave us all gifts. The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.

Each element in the song is a code word for religious truth:

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels or the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch: the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation - God rested on the 7th day.
7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Joyeux Noël & Bonne Année!



DIVORCED? SEPARATED? WE CAN HELP!



- Our next session begins **Tuesday, January 9th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
- **DivorceCare** meets in the parish office conference room. **DC4K** meets in Ashland House.
- You can now register on-line at www.divorcecare.org!
- Contact Tess Rozelle at theroze0305@aol.com or Janet Ficca at jficca@christtheking.hrcoxmail.com for more information.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. MARK CUSTODIAN NEEDED

This is a 25 hour a week daytime position, Monday to Thursday and on Sunday. This position assures the Church complex (worship space, commons, social hall, meeting rooms, kitchen, nursery, bathrooms and chapels) is maintained in a clean and orderly manner. This is a physically demanding position which requires familiarity with proper cleaning procedures using commercial cleaning materials. Works closely with our Maintenance Coordinator. Background check is required. Please submit resumes to Deacon Mike Johnson at deacon_mike@stmark-parish.org. For additional information please contact Deacon Mike at St. Mark – 479-1010 or by mail at 1505 Kempsville Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23464

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Get rid of the unnatural barriers in your relationship and try Natural Family Planning. It's more fulfilling than and just as reliable as using pills and barriers! Next series starts at 6P.m. on Friday, January 19th at St. John the Apostle. Contact Stephanie & Deacon Chris Finocchio at finoc@msn.com or 757-430-1493 or visit live-the-love.org.

MAKE A GIFT THROUGH AN IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

A distribution from your IRA is a great way to support the Church! If you are 70½ or older, you may make a direct distribution (up to \$100,000) from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as your parish. A qualified direct distribution to your parish from your IRA is not subject to income tax. Please make your gift as soon as possible to avoid any processing delays towards the end of the year. For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer, or the parish office for more information.

IRA Charitable Rollover Made Permanent

Don't miss the chance to make a charitable IRA gift this year! If you are 70 ½ or older and own an IRA, please consider making a charitable rollover gift before December 31. You can make a gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to our parish. Your gift will:

- not be included in your taxable income
- satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year
- reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- not be subject to the 50% limitation on charitable gifts
- help the work of the Church

An IRA charitable rollover is a very simple gift to make. Please make your gift as soon as possible to avoid any processing delays at the end of the year. For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer, or the parish office for more information.

IRA ROLLOVER

Don't forget! You still have time to make a tax-deductible gift to our parish. If you have an IRA and you're 70 ½ years old, you can make a gift to our parish through an IRA Charitable Rollover. It helps you and helps us. How it helps you: it can lower your taxable income, count towards your required minimum distribution, and help you feel good about giving to our parish. How it helps us: we can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries throughout the parish. For more information, call your IRA administrator, tax preparer or the parish office.

A Year-End Gift Using Your IRA

Consider making charitable donations from your IRA to benefit our parish or ministry. IRA owners age 70½ and older can direct gifts from IRA accounts straight to the Church through December 31, 2017. The qualified gifts count as a required minimum distribution from an IRA and is excluded from taxpayer income. Contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer or the parish office for more information.

You adorn the year with your bounty; your paths drip with fruitful rain. ~ Psalm 65:11