

On the second Sunday in Advent the "Peace" candle is lit

ST. PETER CLAVER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Inigoes. MD

"The Church on the Holy Hill Where the Joy of the Lord is Our Strength"

WELCOMES YOU!

REV. LARRY SWINK

Pastor

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Parish Facebook Group -

https://www.facebook.com/groups/StPeterClaverChurchCommunity/

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only begotten Son, that, through His coming, we may be worthy to serve Thee with purified minds. Who livest and reignest, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.



Amen.





Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



Some Thoughts on Today's Scriptures:

- Passage through the wilderness was an integral part of John's mission, as it was for Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. Where, in all the hurly burly of modern life, do we find a holy place, a place where we can be apart and encounter God daily? Might it be here and now, on our desktop, laptop, or mobile device, as we pray with Sacred Space?
- Do I believe that if I have the courage to place myself in the hands of my maker, I will feel the heavens open and grace rain down upon me, transforming my desert, making the crooked straight, the rough places smooth, until -at last - I will see the salvation of God?

Some Thoughts on Today's Scripture:

- John, the cousin of Jesus is a challenging figure. He, the messenger of God is the 'sharpened arrow' whose words pierce to the heart's core. Some people listened to his uncompromising message and changed the direction of their lives. But others resisted.
- Lord, this Advent, give me a welcoming heart. Let me be open to the messengers of your word, especially to those whom at first glance I might resist, for they are your prophets today urging me to change my way of thinking and living!

A WEEK AT A GLANCE AT ST. PETER CLAVER

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SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
DEC. 5	DEC. 6	DEC. 7	DEC. 8	DEC. 9	DEC. 10	DEC. 11
Confession Immediately BEFORE			ADORATION @4:00PM		CPR Rosary @2PM;	Adoration of the Blessed
Mass			CONFESSION @5:00PM	Choir Practice@ 6:00PM	Dial-in #: 1-605-475- 4700	Sacrament @7:00AM @ SPC
@ 10:00AM @SPC			MASS @ SPC @ 6:00PM	0.001	Access #: 870115	MASS @ 8:00AM
Confession Immediately AFTER Mass			VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY @7:00PM- 8:30pm			@ SPC

REVIEWING ADVENT! WHAT IS EXPECTED!

https://www.learnreligions.com/season-of-advent-catholic-church-542458

In the Catholic Church, <u>Advent is a period of preparation</u> extending over the four Sundays before <u>Christmas</u>. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. And the term *the coming* includes three references:

- first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas;
- second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the <u>Sacrament of Holy</u> Communion; and
- finally, to his second coming at the end of time.

Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

FIRST, WE FAST; THEN WE FEAST

Advent has been called a "little <u>Lent</u>," because it traditionally has included a period of increased <u>prayer</u>, <u>fasting</u>, and good works. Although the Western Church no longer has a set

requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas.

Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Unfortunately, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by the time Christmas Day comes, many people no longer enjoy the feast or even specially mark the next 12 days of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany (or, technically, the Sunday after Epiphany, being that the next season, called ordinary time, starts on the following Monday).

THE SYMBOLS OF ADVENT

In its symbolism, the church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, <u>priests wear purple vestments</u>, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as <u>Gaudete Sunday</u>, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on <u>Laetare Sunday</u> during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the <u>Advent wreath</u>, a custom that originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. <u>Consisting of four candles</u> (three purple or blue and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple or blue candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.



(The Advent Wreath is sold by the Parish for \$10.00.)

CELEBRATING ADVENT

We can better enjoy Christmas—all 12 days of it—if we revive Advent as a period of preparation.

- Abstaining from meat on Fridays or not eating at all between meals is a good way to revive the Advent fast. (Not eating Christmas cookies or listening to Christmas music before Christmas is another.)
- We can incorporate customs such as the Advent wreath, the <u>Saint Andrew Christmas Novena</u>, and the <u>Jesse Tree</u> into our daily ritual, and we can set some time aside for special <u>scripture</u> <u>readings for Advent</u>, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ.
- Holding off on <u>putting up the Christmas tree</u> and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, and they <u>would not be taken down</u> until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021

PEACEFUL REPOSE OF THE SOULS: RICKY, CHARLES, & SHAWN HEWLETT

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: JANICE HEWLETT & DONNA HEWLETT-MOORE

December 8 Martin and Brenda Carroll (Special Intentions)

Marvin Smith (Peaceful Repose)

December 11 (Special Intention)

(Peaceful Repose)

December 12 The Johnson Family (Special Intentions)

Joseph P. Joseph and Mary Luvern Johnson (Peaceful Repose)

December 15 Parishioners of St. Peter Claver (Special Intention)

Choir Members (Peaceful Repose)

December 18 (Special Intention)

(Peaceful Repose)

December 19 The Barnes Family (Special Intentions)

Malinda and James I. Barnes (Peaceful Repose)

December 22 (Special Intention)

(Peaceful Repose)

December 26 (Special Intention)

Peaceful Repose)

Offering a Mass for a specific intention is a beautiful tradition in the Catholic Church. The tradition also is that a stipend is given, made payable to SPC; however, a stipend is not required.

OUR PARISH LIST OF THE SICK AND THOSE WHO REQUEST PRAYER

Dennis Allen; Iran Barnes; Wayne Barnes; Marerijha Bibbs; Bertille Bryan; Eva Butler; Tammy Campbell; Brenda Carroll; Geraldine Carroll; Catherine Carter; Chris Cassagnol; Phyllis Curtis; Michael Chase; Kirk Crafton; Margaret Doyle; Bonnie Elward; James Gant; Jessica Goldring; Janice Hewlett; Jimmie Hill; Elnora Jackson; Michael Jones; Thelma Jones; Jaleesa Matthews; Rick Moran; Sabrina Moran; Arnold Moreland; Eleanor Moland; Angie Prucha; Jordan Redman; William Smith; Charles L. Spears; Mary Spears; Julia Taylor; Vernon Thomas; Bernard Thompson; Estelle Thompson.

FATHER LARRY'S KEYBOARD "How to Prepare for the Lord of Mystery"



As we know, Advent is the four weeks of <u>preparation</u> for the Second Coming of Christ and for the **celebration** of the First Coming of Christ at Christmas.

The Prophet Isaiah says:

"A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God!"

There was a famous sermon from a priest named Fr. Pius Parsch years ago where he preached about the **3 Comings of Christ**. Fr. Pius spoke about Jesus coming in "History, Mystery, and Majesty." In **history**, Jesus came as a baby in

Bethlehem, in **mystery** through grace, and in **majesty** as judge at the end of time. I want to focus on preparing for Christ in **Mystery**.

After I pray the prayers of consecration, I raise the Holy Eucharist and say the words: "The Mystery of faith..."

Blessed Mother Teresa says:

"The Holy Eucharist is the continuation of Christ's incarnation on earth. The mystery of the Eucharist gives us the joy of having Christmas every day. When we come to the Blessed Sacrament, we come to Bethlehem, a name which means "house of bread."

The Eucharist is the great <u>mystery</u> where Jesus comes in the form of bread. How do we properly prepare for this Coming? The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: **To respond to this invitation we, must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment.** We clean our soul: It says in this week's Gospel:"...and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins."

The first thing we need to do to prepare for Christmas, the Second Coming, and the Holy Eucharist, is to make a good confession before Holy Communion...We deny ourselves food and drink for one hour before communion:

It says about John the Baptist: "John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey." John was living a life of Penance and self-denial. The more we deny ourselves earthly pleasures, the more precious the Eucharist becomes to us. As Catholics, there is a minor self-denial that we are required to do before Holy Communion. The Catechism teaches us: To prepare for worthy reception of this sacrament, the faithful should observe the fast required in their Church. That means that we are not to eat food or drink one hour before the reception of Holy Communion. Think about it. If we lived as if we were preparing to go to Communion when Jesus comes to us in Mystery, we are also preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ in Majesty.



SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The word "revelation" means "an unveiling or disclosure." This writing unveils future events such as the rapture, three series of judgments that will fall on the earth during the tribulation, the emergence of the Antichrist, the persecution of Israel and her amazing revival, as well as Jesus' second coming with His saints to the earth, the judgment of Satan and his followers, and finally, the eternal state. This content, combined with the original Greek term *apokalypsis*, is why we now refer to an end-of-the-world scenario as "an apocalypse."

CHAPTER 5 CONTEXT

Jesus commanded John to write "the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this." The first three chapters of Revelation contained those things which "were" and "are," at the time John wrote. Chapters 2 and 3 provided the contents of Jesus' letters to seven churches. Chapter 4 begins the largest and last section of Revelation, regarding events yet to take place when John wrote (Revelation 1:19). John introduced God seated upon His throne, with twenty-four elders and four angelic creatures nearby. Chapter 5 focuses on a scroll containing God's judgments on sin, and a search for someone to open it. Only Jesus is worthy to open it. When Jesus receives the scroll from God, He receives praise from every creature in heaven and on earth.

HOMEWORK

Chapters 6 and 7

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON

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Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	Wed., Dec. 8	6:00PM
Christmas Eve	Sat., Dec. 24	8:00PM (SPC)
The Nativity of the Lord	Sat., Dec. 25	10:00AM (SPC)
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,	Sun. Dec. 26	10:00AM (SPC)
and Joseph		
New Year's Eve	Fri., Dec. 31	11:00PM (St. Cecilia)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Sat., Jan. 1, 2022	10:00AM (SPC)
Epiphany of The Lord	Sun., Jan. 2, 2022	10:00AM (SPC)

PARISHIONER HARMONY MCCLANE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY!



Harmony McClane, daughter of Horace McClane, Jr. and Kimberly McClane was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society(NJHS) at Esperanza Middle School on November 30th. Harmony was recognized with this distinguished honor because of her academic, civic, leadership, and community accomplishments.

Harmony has maintained a 3.85 GPA throughout her school career. She is a member of the St. Peter Claver Church's children's choir. As a choir member, she has been a soloist as well as a leader to the younger participants. Harmony has been involved in many community organizations, including a local youth group, "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Village" and has completed numerous service projects, serving a variety of community needs. Some of the most recent projects on which she has participated include a coat drive and a back-to-school backpack drive for those who are less fortunate and helping to serve food to individuals who are

homeless in St. Mary's County. While being a constant giver and volunteer in the community, Harmony has not only maintained her status as an academic scholar, but has also been an invaluable team player on several travel, competitive and recreational basketball teams as well as a phenomenal big sister.

Harmony is an extraordinary young lady and will be a major asset to the NJHS. Please take the time to share encouraging words when you see her at St. Peter Claver or in the community!

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POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 11/30/2021

Offertory Collection \$2,973.00 Budgeted Offertory= \$3,000.00

BUDGET EXCEEDED OFFERTORY -\$27.00

WE JUST MISSED OUR FINANCIAL GOAL LAST WEEK!

SPC continues to remain blessed in your giving to support the running of the church and its ministries.

There are 5 ways to continue to tithe with your weekly offertory or gifts:

1) Mail; 2) Mobile App; 3) Church's Website; 4) Electronic Check; and 5) Text

Please remember this:

Whether you tithe or not, you will be kept in prayer, and you are asked to pray for St. Peter Claver Church and the Church in general.



THE 2021 HOPE CAMPAIGN

OUR GOAL IS **\$18,000.00**!

WE HAVE ALMOST ATTAINED OUR GOAL!

So far, we have collected **\$17.510** (**98%**)

WE ONLY NEED \$300 TO BEAT LAST YEAR'S GOAL!

LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Contact Parish Office or Wayne Barnes, chair of the **HOPE** Campaign (301-580-5091), for more info.



Most of you know that SPC has had, over the years, only one major fundraiser each year, the Labor Day Festival. Because of the impact of COVID as well as increasing ministry associated costs, operational costs, and maintenance costs of aging buildings, we have been pushed to generate new streams of funding.

This year, although we could not have our traditional Labor Day Festival, we were blessed to be able to have a Labor Day Drive Through Dinners Program that generated \$5000. We thank you for giving! We are also grateful that you have been generous in giving to our Labor Day HOPE Campaign, which is close to accomplishing our goal of \$18,000. We thank you for giving!

This week, we are grateful for your participation in "Giving Tuesday!" We had a last-minute one-day push to ask for donations as we tried to get used to how this relatively new fundraiser works.

THE RESULTS: \$1,330 RAISED 12 DONORS

We thank you for giving...Again!

IHM IS OFFERING A 12 WEEK COURSE CALLED "SURVIVING DIVORCE"

This is a small group setting, lay person-lead group that is created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain of divorce. We will meet once a week on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 8pm, beginning January 16, 2022, at IHM.

The material is faithful to Catholic teachings and features such experts as Fr. Donald Calloway, Fr. Mitch Pacwa and Christopher West. A donation of \$25 is requested to cover the cost of the workbook, but can be waived based on financial need.

Wayne and Judith Gwynn at The Well Ministry, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



In the United States and other countries, the bishops have received permission from the Vatican to abrogate (temporarily waive) the requirement for Catholics to attend Mass on certain Holy Days of Obligation when those Holy Days fall on either Saturday or Monday.

Because of this, some Catholics have become confused about whether certain Holy Days are, in fact, Holy Days of Obligation. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is one such holy day that causes confusion.

What Is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception?

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of Argentina, Brazil, Korea, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Spain, Uruguay, and the United States, is a Holy Day of Obligation. This feast honors Mary, the Mother of God, and celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of Saint Anne.

The Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8. An important date in salvation history, this holiday is never abrogated even when December 8 falls on a Saturday or a Monday. However, if December 8 falls on a Sunday (as in, for instance, 2019), the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. This is because Sundays in Advent take precedence over any other feast. When the celebration is transferred, rather than naturally falling on a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass does not transfer with it.

TWO TAGALOG MASSES CELEBRATED IN DECEMBER AT IHM

On **Sunday**, **December 12**, the once-a-month Tagalog Mass (scheduled every second Sunday of the month) will be celebrated by Fr. Ryan Pineda at 4pm, followed by Fellowship in the Large Classroom inside the Raley Education Center.

On **Tuesday, December 21**, there will be a Simbang Gabi Mass at 6am, also followed by fellowship. All are invited to share in this Filipino Christian tradition as Filipinos continue to celebrate 500 years of Christianity this year. Contact janet.harmon@gmail.com for more information.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR BIRTHDAY GIFT(S) TO JESUS?

Father Swink posed this question to our parishioners last week. It was a challenging one about which we were told to ponder and pray. There are many ways that we can respond to the question. Your participation in the following "Gift to Jesus" Program is one for your consideration. It is based on the belief that all of us can give a spiritual gift, a service gift, and/or a financial "Gift to Jesus" that will allow us to help build His kingdom. Listed below is a sample pledge card that is available in the rear of the church:

Spiritual Gift:	
I/We will also celebrate your birthday, Jesus, by	
intentionally ask to be drawn closer to you duri	ing this Christmas season:
Holy Rosary	A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR
Divine Mercy	Sur ECITE
Daily Mass	The state of the s
Holy Hour	98 B 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38
Service Gift:	
	y/our Christmas gift of serving you through our
participation in a church ministry, such as the f	
Clean the Church, Rectory and/or Hall	A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR
Set up a Children's Liturgy Program	
Serve as a Welcomer to Open the Mass	The second secon
Altar Serve on Sundays or Weekdays	30 Kg 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
Set up a Young Mothers' Support Group	
	g of Groceries for a Needy Family in the Communi
Donate money to provide "a catered" lunc	n for the Chesapeake Nursing Home Staff
Financial Gift:	
	y/our Christmas gift of a financial donation for
the renovation of $\overline{ ext{SPC}}$ Church $\overline{ ext{Sacristy}}$ or the $\overline{ ext{M}}$	
The Amount :	A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR
(Make check payable to SPC with	A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR
"Christmas Gift for Jesus" in the memo.)	56.00
Get a copy of this pledge sheet in the back of the	8 8
	rear of the church. Your donation doesn't have to b
submitted with the pledge sheet.	ical of the church. Four donation doesn't have to b
Value Name a	

DECEMBER 2021 SCHEDULES OF MINISTRIES				
DATE	WELCOME	LECTOR	COUNTERS	
		(1st Reading, Responsorial,		
		2nd Reading, Intercessions)		
3		Francine		
First Friday				
5				
Sunday	Linda	Donna	Robert Jr, Robert III	
8				
Wednesday		Francine		
12				
Sunday	Fran	Crystal	John L, Crystal G	
15				
Wednesday		Robert		
19				
Sunday	Fran	Yvonne	Sandy J, Ann M	
22				
Wednesday		Teri		
24				
Christmas Vigil		To be Announced		
25				
Christmas	Linda	Martin		
26				
Sunday	Linda	Venance	Stephanie & Wayne	
29				
Wednesday		Stephanie		

YOUTH CHOIR TO SING ON CHRISTMAS

Calling all youth and their parents as we are gearing up for the return of our Youth Choir. Father Larry Swink has made a special request for the reinstituted youth choir to minister in music at the Christmas Eve Mass on Friday, December 24th at 8pm.

Contact Mrs. Kimberly McClane at (240) 298-1364 or Mr. Roy Johnson (240)298-0734 with any questions. Looking forward to the joyful sounds of the Youth Choir at Mass!



Sacred Heart Church Christmas Concert



Come join us as we prepare for the coming of Jesus through music.

Featuring Christmas Songs performed by:

The Madrigals of the Chesapeake Choral
Arts Society

St. Peter Claver Gospel Choir

Libation

Sacred Heart Choir



Sunday
December 19th
5:00 pm



(Reception to Follow in the Friendship Room)

CAMP MARIA HOSTS DR. GAIL YEARICK'S "JOYFUL MYSTERY ROSARY PILGRIMAGE FOR ADVENT!"

Camp Maria is pleased to offer a perfect way to begin Advent preparation.

Please join them at Camp Maria Retreat Center for a Joyful Mystery Rosary Pilgrimage

When: Saturday 12/11/21
Time: 8:30am -4:30pm
Speaker: Dr. Gail Yearick,

Cost: \$50 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)
Note: This Bible Study is different from the one

conducted at SPC.

For more info, contact: normayearick80@gmail.com or 301 481-8445



Visit the Holy Land & become more intimately acquainted with our Holy Family, as we explore the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary!

What participants are saying about this Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage ...

- The visuals were outstanding. It was like you were there in person.
- The opportunity for discussion among participants was awesome.
- I'm so grateful for your visuals & cross-referencing meanings especially Arabic, Latin, etc.
- The presenter's delivery of the material made the rosary come alive. This helped me to deepen my prayer life.
- I had an idea on how to say the Rosary, but after completing the session I was educated to the fullest!
- Your questions are so needed! They open the windows to my soul!

ADVENT WREATHS-FOR SALE-PURCHASE AFTER MASS!

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas. For more ideas on celebrating Advent, check out Mercy Home's Pinterest board. Purchase a wreath for\$ only 10!

Got Hope? ~ It's Unshakeable!

Women's Night of Reflection Tuesday | December 14| 7PM

You are invited to:

Eucharistic Adoration, Talk, Confession, Healing Prayers and Benediction



How can we take captive our thoughts and allow our hearts to live in hope?

We all face challenging moments of darkness and anxiety when things become difficult. Some may become disillusioned with life and lose hope. In the face of Divine Love, hope gives us the confidence, freedom, and joy to live anchored in God.

"The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life" -Pope Benedict XVI

Come and prepare your heart for the Christ Child, strengthened in the virtue of hope, the hope that comes from encountering God. Our Lady of Hope, pray for us.



Given by: Father Larry Swink

"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" -Hebrews 6:19

St. Cecilia Catholic Church 47950 Mattapany Road | St. Mary's City, MD 20686

For future event notifications, Join Flocknote at steeciliachurch5.flocknote.com "Women's Ministry"