



## Mass Intentions

The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2015

### Saturday – Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – BI Urban V

4:00PM – Valeria and Paul Koons  
by Carolyn and Nick Pontician  
7:00PM – Mary Helena Hauser  
by Daughter-in-Law, Mary Ann

### Sunday – Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Frank Snyder and Mike Brosky Families  
by Nin Snyder and Family  
10:30AM – Joseph Tomasic  
by Wife and Family

### Monday – Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – St Peter Canisius

8:00AM – Rev David F Czartorynski  
by Rev Eric J Gruber

### Tuesday – Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – St Chaeremon

8:00AM – Anna Albert  
by Pauline Albert

### *Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass*

### Wednesday – Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – St John of Kanty

6:00PM – John Faryna  
by Wife, Connie

### Thursday – Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – St Charbel Maklouf

8:00AM – Joseph McCloskey (A)  
by Family

### Thursday – Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Vigil of Christmas

4:00PM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
6:00PM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
Midnight – All St John Fisher Parishioners

### Friday – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – The Nativity of Our Lord

8:30AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
10:30AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

### Saturday – Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – St Stephen

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr  
by Jim and Carmela Meyer  
7:00PM – Louise C Horn  
by Rush, Ryan, Delano Townships Senior Citizens

### Sunday – Dec 27<sup>th</sup> –

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30AM – John and Margaret Nicholas  
by Steve and Margie Burda  
10:30AM – Helen T Sipics  
by Hutchins Family

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## The Holly House (Part IV of IV)

“Finally, it’s just us,” Jerry Willoughby summarized the presence of his exhausted wife Abby, their son, Ken, the war-veteran, and his sore shoulders and back pressed against the living room sofa. The downstairs Christmas tree glowed in the dimmed light of the room – golds, silvers, and deep reds Abby had used this year to great effect – the tree could have posed for its’ own Christmas card. They were all tired from their month’s activities, and relieved that the Jamison’s, who had lingered in town to bask in the glory of the Golden Skein which they had finally attained, had returned to their family and home. And so the Willoughby’s also intended to do. Their family would be arriving the day after tomorrow, so Abby, Jerry and Ken rested that evening – the calm before the much-anticipated Christmas “storm.”

The day before Christmas eve was prep day at Holly House, and the to-do list was exhaustive and exhausting. The Willoughby’s took these tasks on with a renewed vigor that surprised them. The weather contributed to their moods; a brisk, clear, and sunny early winter’s day. And to top it all off, snow showers were forecasted for Christmas eve, and an even brisker day for Christmas. Everything was coming together.

Last minute baking and shopping were on the agenda for Christmas eve morning. After that, it was on to wrapping and more earnest cooking until the family arrived. They would start to trickle in around three o’clock; the first always being Uncle John and Aunt Beatrice – the family always jabbed that Uncle John would be early for his own funeral, the fact of his 90 years notwithstanding. The grandfather clock had not stopped striking three before Jerry and Ken greeted them at the door. Then shortly after getting them settled in their rooms, the doorbell rang again, followed by the familiar “Yoo-hooooo!” of Abby’s Mom and Dad coming through the door. The parade continued until 23 of their family members were all accounted for.

Christmas eve supper was served buffet style so people could mix and mingle and catch up with each other – a “ceremony” filled with bursts of laughter, old stories and concerned, listening faces. After a couple of hours all the visitors pitched in to clean up, then departed for their rooms to rest and refresh themselves before they all went off to Midnight Mass.

The snow showers arrived with storybook timing, starting as the whole group walked down the driveway together to start the three-block walk to St. John’s Church. The Church was pleasantly full as they all breached the doors, but actually filled with their numbers. The choir was singing “The First Noel” as

they genuflected, knelt and prayed. Mass was as glorious as always. Their trek back to the Holly House was under a cold, now crystal-clear starry night sky with the wind picking up the snow shower powder left behind. Walking up the drive-way, through the holly trees, they took one last deep cold breath and walked into the warmth and comfort of the season. Once inside, they hit the deserts again briefly, still telling stories and events, but with a greater ease. Their togetherness was abruptly stopped with a rather harried ringing of the doorbell and knocking on the door. Jerry roused himself, annoyed and on-guard, as he looked through the door pane at a young couple – underdressed and obviously distressed outside the door. “What do you want, friends?” Jerry inquired as he opened the door. “May we come in – yours was the only light we could see where it looked like people were still awake. My wife and I need a place to stay tonight.” Abby and Ken reached Jerry at the door. Jerry looked at his wife and son, then back at the young couple, “Sure, come on in. Merry Christmas.” The young couple – a man and his young pregnant wife, stepped inside with warmth and comfort. “Merry Christmas!” they said.



## PRAYER FOR WEEK FOUR OF ADVENT

*His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth, He shall be peace.....Micah 5:3c-5a*

*Light all candles on the wreath, then pray:*

Lord, the shepherds will visit you this night, yet you are the greatest shepherd of all. You entered our world as an Infant just like we do, and you shared in our light so we can share in your glory. We will kneel before your manger in humility and awe. Make us worthy to rejoice in your presence among us. Amen.



## OFFERTORY COLLECTION



<b>Plate Collection</b>	<b>\$ 3,783.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 1,306.00</b>
<b>Retired Religious Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,017.00</b>



### CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm through 6:30pm  
 Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 12:30pm through 2:00pm  
 Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:00pm through 8:00pm



### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:00PM; 6:00PM; 12:00 Midnight

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

December 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:30AM and 10:30AM



## OPLATKI



Our **Christmas Oplatki** is available for purchase at the entrances to church. The Christmas Oplatki is a blessed wafer to be shared with those at our Christmas Eve

Meal. It is a beautiful age-old tradition which allows us to offer Glory to the New Born King who is the Bread of Life. An explanation of the custom, as well as the Prayer Service that is used at the meal is included. A \$3.00 donation for a pack of five is suggested.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	G.Parise D.Sullivan	K.McCloskey	J.McAllister P.McCarty
<b>6:00PM</b>	A.Urban S.DeLong	B.Petro	C.Reily
<b>Midnight</b>	H.Heffner J.Shaul	B.Molchany	C.Molchany
<b>8:30AM</b>	M.Popovic S.Popovic	J.Yanek	C.Hetzel
<b>10:30AM</b>	C.Ritter M.Ritter	M.Ottinger	J.Behum

## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	A.Muschko A.Urban	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
<b>7:00PM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	P.McCarty	Deacon Jack
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	J.Strohl	C.Reily
<b>10:30AM</b>	N.Ruda H.Heffner	J.DeLong	J.Heffner



Please remember in your prayers **Edward J Ferenchak**, who passed away and was buried this past week. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will only be open for business on Monday and Tuesday, **December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**. God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on Monday, **January 4, 2016**, at 10:00AM.



## SANTA'S WISH-LIST

HO! HO! HO! We have received a gift of **\$300.00** from one of our parishioners, and we thank them. Any Santa gift made to the ongoing renovations of our parish is greatly appreciated!



## REDNER'S TAPES

We thank all our parishioners who faithfully do their food shopping at Redner's. By placing your tapes in the collection basket, we have received a check from Redner's in the amount of **\$151.36**. Thank you!

## CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Today, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**, will be our annual Christmas Play and will be held after the 10:30 Mass. All are welcomed, and, **all children in our parish are invited.**

## Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:00PM** in the Parish Hall. **A luncheon will be served.**

## PRAY



**Sundays**

**8:15AM and 10:15AM**



## CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place immediately following the Christmas Play which follows the 10:30AM Mass on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. We are in great need of help, especially from our younger and stronger guys and gals. We appreciate everyone who can spare an hour or two to come and help prepare for the birth of Jesus. Thank you very much.

## THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Trees are at both church entrances are decorated with gift tags for baby items. Take one tag or two, purchase the item(s) and place the unwrapped gift(s) under the tree by **THIS weekend, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. If unable to shop, you can select a monetary gift tag. Please make your check payable to **St John Fisher Church**, place it in an envelope, tape the gift tag to the front, and place the envelope in the collection basket.



## DRIVERS NEEDED

**Tomorrow, Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**, beginning at **8:30am** (following the 8:00am Mass), help will be needed to place all the Giving Tree items into bags and to deliver the gifts to Catholic Charities on Union Boulevard in Allentown. Any help, along with vans and SUV's, will be greatly appreciated!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the **Catasauqua Area Showcase Theatre (CAST)** for their recent donation of **\$300.00**.