



## Mass Intentions

### The Nativity of Our Lord

#### December 24, 2016

**Saturday – Dec 24<sup>th</sup> –**

#### **Vigil of Christmas**

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners  
6:00PM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

**Sunday – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – The Nativity of Our Lord**

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

**Monday – Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – St Stephen**

8:00AM – Harold K. VanHorn  
by Family

**Tuesday – Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – St John the Apostle**

8:00AM – James Doyle (B)  
by Family

#### ***Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass***

**Wednesday – Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Innocents**

6:00PM – Jean R. Danko  
by Jean Marhefka

**Thursday – Dec 29<sup>th</sup> –**

#### **Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas**

8:00AM – Charles H. Albert  
by Family

**Friday – Dec 30<sup>th</sup> –**

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

8:00AM – Joseph Cavallo  
by Ann and Dale

**Saturday – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> –**

#### **Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas**

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

#### **Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Veronica Brewer  
by Frances Zukowski  
7:00PM – Rev. James Joseph Morgan  
by Rev. Eric J. Gruber

**Sunday – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> –**

#### **The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

8:30AM – Helen Hazlinsky  
by Dennis and Theresa Bieak  
10:30AM – Edward J. Danko (A)  
by Family

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## A Very Merry Christmas!

Dearest Lord of Light, our hope and life,  
Jesus Christ! -- Happy Birthday!  
I wish to thank You for your humble  
incarnation by which your mercies, like great  
waves, flow out to every human heart in every  
time and place. Thank You for your living,  
dying and rising for us. In You, eternal light  
is come into our darkness. Thank you also  
for...

...the parish families and members of St. John  
Fisher Parish...the generous givers of time,  
talent and treasure...the parish staff, the  
cleaners, the decorators, the social gathering  
volunteers and planners, ...the lectors, the  
extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, the  
altar-servers and their families, the sacristans,  
the musicians, the singers, the ushers and  
collectors, the counters, the ticket-sellers, the  
ticket-purchasers, the straighten-uppers,  
Monday work-crew, the leaders and members  
of the seniors' club, the shovellers, sweepers  
and plowers, the grass-cutter, the pray-ers...  
...and the faculty and staff of the Religious  
Education Program, ...of Good Shepherd  
Catholic School staff, leadership, students and  
supportive parents and alumni...

...and...and...and... everyone else...

Lord of Light, Jesus Christ is born for us!  
God's blessings to all for Christmas!

Fr. Eric.

p.s. Keep a prayer in your heart for the  
church renovations which will begin  
soon...how soon? – tune in next week to find  
out!



# OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$2,969.00

The **Second Collection** this weekend, **December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**, is the **Christmas Day Collection**.

The **Second Collection** next weekend, **December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>**, will be the **Solemnity of Mary Collection**.



## SOLEMNITY OF MARY SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	A.Gorr D.Gorr	J.Englert	J.McAllister Deacon Jack
<b>7:00PM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	J.Yanek	P.McCarty Deacon Jack
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	J.Strohl	C.Hetzel Deacon Jack
<b>10:30AM</b>	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.DeLong	J.Behum Deacon Jack

*Thank You*

A great big thank you to St. John Fisher's Young at Heart Club for their recent donation to our church of **\$1,300.00**.



Please remember in your prayers **Anna K. Hilt**, who passed away and was buried this past week.

May her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## MASS OF HOLY INNOCENTS

Holy Ghost Church, 417 Carlton Avenue in Bethlehem will have a Mass of the Holy Innocents on **Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. Rev. Clifton E. Bishop, Jr. will be the celebrant and homilist. Adoration and Confessions will be held from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. This Mass is offered in gratitude for the four million births this year and in reparation for the almost one million lives lost resulting from abortions. The evening includes a Child's blanket blessing: bring your child's blanket to be blessed, and also the Veneration of the Relics of St. Gianna, Patron Saint of mothers, unborn children and physicians. Respect Life reception follows in Billinger Memorial Hall. All are welcome!

# RAFFLE WINNERS!

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: # 0890 – **John and Mary Daub** - \$ 250.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: # 0710 – **Marie Coleman** - \$ 50.00
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: # 3120 – **Carol Nederostek** - \$ 25.00
- 4<sup>th</sup>: # 0495 – **Al Bult** - \$ 25.00
- 5<sup>th</sup>: # 4061 – **Mike Serensits** - \$ 25.00
- 6<sup>th</sup>: # 3140 – **Bob Nolter** - \$ 100.00
- 7<sup>th</sup>: # 4549 – **Hilda Beale** - \$ 25.00
- 8<sup>th</sup>: # 0092 – **Pasqua Armetta** - \$ 25.00
- 9<sup>th</sup>: # 0086 – **Frank T. Armetta** - \$ 50.00
- 10<sup>th</sup>: # 1745 – **Eileen Henitz** - \$ 100.00

St. John Fisher received **\$3,044.00**, to aid in our upcoming renovation projects. Thank you to all who participated!



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Flower Memorials are listed on the bulletin board at both entrances to church. Thank you for all of the memorials for our loved ones.



## ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Please have all gift cards, monetary gifts and any purchased items in the collection or under the trees by this weekend, **December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**. Any checks given as gifts should be made out to **St. John Fisher Church**.



Our very own **Aggie Chabak** will turn **100 years old** on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**! To congratulate her in the spirit of our parish, St. John Fisher, we are hoping to shower her with birthday cards to let her know that she is thought of on this milestone day. Please drop off a birthday card with her name on the envelope in the collection basket by Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your kind support for one of our near and dear parishioners – who is a century young!



**Pray the Rosary each Sunday**  
8:15AM and 10:15AM

## FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Herod the Great had been elected "King of the Jews" by the Roman Senate in 40 B.C. When the Magi told him of the birth of a new King of the Jews, Herod could think of nothing but wiping out the threat to his throne. **The Holy Innocents** are those children who were brutally murdered by Herod as he sought the Christ Child. At his hand, the Church received her first martyrs. Little children, they were innocent of sin. By virtue of their bloody martyrdoms, they obtained baptismal innocence, washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. (cf. Rv 7:14).

~Magnificat, December, 2016



### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will be closed for business from **Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> through Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 10:00AM.**



May Little Jesus, Prince of Peace  
And His Blessed Mother  
Make your Christmas Joyous  
And give you Peace and Happiness  
Throughout the coming year.  
Christmas Blessings to All!

Fr Eric, Fr Robert, Deacon Jack, and Parish Staff

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The carol was a secret catechism for Catholics in England when Catholicism was persecuted during the war of religions from Henry the VIII to 1829. This song gave them a chance to teach their children knowledge of the saints and doctrine in a secret code when the Protestants were cracking down on the Catholics. The Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and concluding with the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth. December 26<sup>th</sup>, or Boxing Day, considered day two of Christmas, is the Feast of Saint Stephen, a deacon who gave present boxes to the poor.

The feast wraps up on January 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the revelation of Christ as the saviour and son of God to the world. On that day, Catholics celebrate the arrival of the Magi — the three wise men with their presents and it is in their memory that we give presents.

On the **first day** of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree," symbolizing God, our true love, and Jesus Christ, the partridge.

**Second day:** Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

**Third day:** Three French hens represented the three gifts of faith, hope and love.

**Fourth day:** Calling birds were the four gospels.

**Fifth day:** Five golden rings were the Books of Moses.

**Sixth day:** Geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation.

**Seventh day:** Swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Eighth day:** Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

**Ninth day:** Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace and kindness.

**Tenth day:** Lords a-leaping represent the 10 Commandments.

**Eleventh day:** Pipers piping were the 11 faithful apostles.

**Twelfth day:** Twelve drummers drumming represented the points of the Apostles Creed.