



PASTOR'S CORNER

Ball of Confusion

When the Temptations first sang of the Ball of Confusion in 1970 their verses were lists of troubles and challenges in a changing world – poverty, war, racism, elitism, etc.. Not much, it seems, has changed 45 years later.

Let's be brave and ask the question, "Why have things not gotten better (perhaps have gotten even worse) in these and other areas of great concern to human beings and the civil society?"

Do we not know that poverty, disease, war, violence, greed, elitism and racism are evil and destructive of human beings and their society? – No, I think for the most part, the VAST majority of us, when pausing to ponder, conclude very easily these are evil or wrong "things." Well, then, why have we not been able, as a whole society, to put some of these things behind us? Or...have we made great progress in addressing these things and we just need to keep fighting the good fight? The world is inter-connected these days more than ever, and that means not just dealing with our own challenges to being good or better, but also to the challenges of societies neither civil or like our own. I'm sure you can come up with at least a dozen more suggestions as to why things apparently haven't improved, or as to why things are better than they seem.

This much seems certain to me: when the public discussion on airwaves, internet, family tables and cable news regards as *of pivotal importance* the under-inflation of footballs or the steroid use of baseball players, we are in BIG-TIME denial of things that really matter. These "matter-ing" things include beheadings in the name of a Deity, the murder of school children in Pakistan, the execution of thousands of Nigerian Christians, the prison/work camps of N. Korea, the "thug"-ocracy of China, Russia and much of South and Central America and regions of Africa, the "whimsical" threat of terrorism violently ending or interrupting civil life across the world, the evil of abortion under ANY circumstances.

I guess, the simplest solution to the ball of confusion is learning to think, to reason, to discern truth from wishes or flat-out lies. In other words, the simplest solution is the hardest to work out, because it involves the individual person taking responsibility for his or her own free choices – *especially* the bad ones.

See you at 40 Hours devotions this week – Who else but Jesus could really fix any of this?

Fr. Eric.

Mass Intentions

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25, 2015

Saturday – January 24th – St Francis De Sales

4:00PM – Richard Longenhagen (A)
by Wife and Children

7:00PM – Rosemarie Schmidt
by Schmidt Family

Sunday – January 25th – 3rd Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Mary Kalamar
by Altar and Rosary Society

10:30AM – Mary Lane
by John, Connie and Nicole

Monday – January 26th – Ss Timothy and Titus

8:00AM – Catherine Kotch
by Charles and Michele Horinko

Tuesday – January 27th – St Angela Merici

8:00AM – Msgr Edward W Sarzynski
by Rev Eric J Gruber

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – January 28th – St Thomas Aquinas

6:00PM – Margaret Keller
by Schmidt Family

Thursday – January 29th – St Gildas the Wise

8:00AM – Angelo Vomero (A)
by Wife, Irene

Friday – January 30th – St Hyacintha of Marescotti

8:00AM – Edward J Danko
by Louise Oswald

Saturday – January 31st – St John Bosco

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

4:00PM – Julius Meyer (B)
by Jim and Carmela Meyer

7:00PM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Vomero

Sunday – February 1st – 4th Sunday/Ordinary Time

8:30AM – Margaret Burdell Templeton
by Daughter

10:30AM – Harper Mae Martucci
by St Paul's Child Care Center Staff



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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection **\$ 3,053.00**

The Second Collection **this weekend** will be for **The Catholic Relief Services** Collection.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Muschko S.DeLong	K.McCloskey	E.Ferenchak
7:00PM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	J.Englert	J.Yanek
8:30AM	M.Popovic S.Popovic	M.Ottinger	J.Ottinger
10:30AM	J.Drummer D.Sullivan	L.Bolmer	J.Marhefka

SLOVAK FOUNDATION

It is our privilege to continue to offer St. John Fisher parishioners of Slovak ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to give to the Slovak Federation. It had been the annual custom to hold a collection at St. Andrew's on the feasts of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in February, but this year, envelopes for this collection -- benefitting the unifying and promotion of Slovak ethnic identity for second, third, fourth generations and beyond, -- can be picked up at the doors of the Church and deposited in any Sunday collection of January or February.



Please remember in your prayers **John A. Faryna** who was buried this past week. We pray his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

2014 CONTRIBUTION FORMS

Please fill out this tear-off form to request your 2014 contribution form and place in the collection basket. All forms will be mailed out by the end of January.

NAME _____ ENV # _____

ADDRESS _____

SAINT BLAISE

Throats will be blessed after all Masses next weekend, **Saturday, January 31st and Sunday, February 1st**, in anticipation of the feast day of Saint Blaise, as well as on **Tuesday, February 3rd**, the feast day itself.



The Living Stations are BACK!

The Christmas season is past, and before we know it (Feb.18th), LENT will begin. With all the devotions and projects of Lent comes the Living Stations performed by **children of our**

parish between the ages of 6 and 18 years old. This year, the Living Stations will be performed *twice* at St. John Fisher Parish – Palm Sunday, March 29th at 7pm to help us all enter Holy Week, and on Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm to help us pray this most solemn day of the year. Rehearsals are being held on Sunday nights from 6 - 7:30 PM in the church. So all you thespians (that's "actors," you know) ages 6 to 18 in our parish come and help us make the Stations come to life – help our parish to draw closer to Jesus in His Passion. Parents, we also give a shout out to you as well – we need your help with the props, the costumes, lighting, etc.... All adult help is WELCOMED! So one and all come on 1/11/15 to pick roles, find props and costumes and start the performance of our Living Stations. Any questions? Call Louise Oswald 610-264-2435, Jen Delong 610-762-4380, Jane Rucci 610-264-7312.



ICF COURSE OFFERING

The Institute for Catechesis and Formation (ICF) is offering Course ICF 105 on Christian Morality, which provides an introduction to the fundamental teachings of Catholic morality and its foundations in Sacred Scripture, Tradition and Natural Law.

Participants will examine virtue, conscience formation and make application to contemporary moral issues in the areas of health care, sexuality and social justice.

One great course offered at three locations!

Tuesdays at Berks Catholic High School

January 27, February 3, 10 & 17
7 PM - 9 PM

Saturdays at Bethlehem Catholic High School

January 31, February 7, 14 & 21
9 AM - 11 AM

Saturdays at Marian High School

January 31, February 7, 14 & 21
9 AM - 11 AM

The cost is \$30.00, and registration forms are available at www.allentowndiocese.org/icf, or call 610-289-8900 Ext 221, or email: adultformation@allentowndiocese.org
* ICF Courses are meant for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the Faith. There are no prerequisites for these courses.*



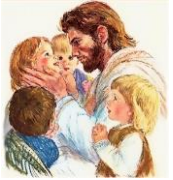
Honor a loved one by placing flowers on the altar. Simply sign up on the chart at the side entrance and then call your florist for delivery. If you have any questions, call Peggy McCarty at 610-264-0307.

Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held **January 28th**, at 1:00PM in the Church Social Hall.

The next Casino trip will be **January 30th**. Bus leaves Church Parking Lot at 10:00AM. The price is \$22.00 per person. For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS



Please join Father Keith Laskowski and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn, and all those involved in abortion on **Saturday, February 14th**. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8:00AM

at Notre Dame Church of Bethlehem, 1861 Catasauqua Road, and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way in the Bethlehem Industrial Park. Come and be part of the call to let your prayers and presence bring God's everlasting, unconditional love to all those involved in abortion. Contact Info: 610-674-4624, or hogpi@hotmail.com.

Save The Dates!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events being held at St John Fisher Parish, and watch the bulletin for further details.

Sunday, February 22nd – Church Hall Pierogies
 Monday, February 23rd – Church Hall Pierogies
 Saturday, March 7th – School Hall Pierogies
 Friday, March 13th – Fish Dinner
 Saturday March 28th – Soup Sale
 Sunday, March 29th – Soup Sale
 Friday, April 10th – Ladies' Night Out

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSE



All are invited to the **Open House** at **Good Shepherd Catholic School** on **Sunday, January 25th**, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Good Shepherd Catholic School offers 3 and 4 year old preschool, full day Kindergarten and 1st through 8th grade. Our students excel in academics and we have an outstanding arts program. We also offer a full program of extracurricular activities, and we provide before and after care.

Our Good Shepherd Catholic School family welcomes you to our wonderful school where we *shepherd our students in faith, inspire our students in education and teach them for life.*

IN THE WORDS OF...

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."

~St Thomas Aquinas