



## Mass Intentions

The Second Sunday in Advent  
December 8, 2018

**Saturday– Dec 8<sup>th</sup> –**

### Second Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Edward J. Ferenczak  
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O’Connell  
7:00PM – Theodore DeLucia  
by John and Sharon Schlofer

**Sunday – Dec 9<sup>th</sup> –**

8:30AM – Stephen Rechter (A)  
by Wife, Anna, Steph and Vince Genovese  
10:30AM – Edward Marth (A)  
by Wife, Jean and Daughter, Kathy

**Monday – Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – St Gregory III**

8:00AM – Parents, and Husband, Joseph  
by Agnes Chabak

**Tuesday – Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – St Damasus I**

8:00AM – Donald N. Knarr (WA)  
by Wife, Barbara

### Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

**Wednesday – Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:00PM – Charles B. O’Donnell (B)  
by McCloskey Family

**Thursday – Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – St Lucy**

8:00AM – Rev. Joseph J. Campion (A)  
by McCloskey Family

**Friday – Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – St John of the Cross**

8:00AM – Bob Spengler and Bernardine Wehr  
by Ann and Dale

**Saturday– Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – St Mary di Rosa**

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

### Third Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr. (A)  
by Jim and Carmela Meyer  
7:00PM – Michael E. Voice  
by Bob George

**Sunday – Dec 16<sup>th</sup> –**

8:30AM – Agnes M. Collis  
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O’Connell  
10:30AM – Holly A. Cernobyl (B)  
by Rose Stoitsits



Pray the Rosary  
Sundays

8:15AM and 10:15AM

# PASTOR’S CORNER

## A Season of Hidden Beauty

There’s something about the “barren” landscape of the season that helps us to seek more keenly for signs of the life and promise of spring which is soon nascent. The grays, browns, blacks, pale gold and copper palette of December serve to highlight the bursts of Christmas lights and the white-washed blue sky pushes the stars forward to our notice. Advent is just such a season.

Eduardo Galeano writes,

The Uruguayan political prisoners may not talk without permission, or whistle, smile, sing walk fast, or greet other prisoners; nor may they make or receive drawings of women, couples, butterflies, stars or birds.

One Sunday, Didasko Perez, school teacher, tortured and jailed “for having ideological ideas,” is visited by his daughter Milay, aged five. She brings him a drawing of birds. The guards destroy it at the entrance of the jail.

On the following Sunday, Milay brings him a drawing of trees. Trees are not forbidden, and the drawings get through. Didasko praises her work and asks about the colored circles scattered in the treetops, many small circles half-hidden among the branches: “Are they oranges? What fruit is it?” The child puts her finger to her mouth: “Sssshhh.”

And she whispers in his ear: “Silly. Don’t you see they’re eyes? They’re the eyes of the birds that I’ve smuggled in for you.”

The great Gerard Manley Hopkins writes,

Now burn, new born to the world,  
Double-natured name,  
The heaven-flung, heart-fleshed, maiden-furled  
Miracle-in-Mary-of-flame,  
Mid-numbered He  
in three of the thunder-throne!  
Not a dooms-day dazzle in his coming  
nor dark as he came;  
Kind, but royalty reclaiming his own;  
A released shower, let flash to the shire,  
not a lightning of fire hard-hurled.

Would this be the time Joseph would lead a very pregnant Mary toward Bethlehem?  
 Would this be the season at which the magi first saw the star?  
 Seek HIM, our clandestine salvation.  
 Fr. Eric.



## OFFERTORY COLLECTION



**Plate Collection** \$4,450.00  
**Christmas Flowers Collection** \$2,096.00

The **Second** Collection this weekend, **December 8<sup>th</sup>** and **9<sup>th</sup>**, is the **Retired Religious Collection**.



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
<b>4:00PM</b>	D.Gorr A.Banoza	J.Englert	J.McAllister
<b>7:00PM</b>	A.Muschko L.McGinley	P.McCarty	J.Behum
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	Deacon Jack
<b>10:30AM</b>	M.Ritter D.Gair	B.Petro	Deacon Jack

## OPLATKI



Our **Christmas Oplatki** is now 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 is suggested.



## BAPTISM

We welcome **Piper Jane Gair**, daughter of **Jared Stephen and Amy Beth (Repetz) Gair**, who was baptized recently, and is the newest member of our family of God at St. John Fisher Parish.

## SANTA'S WISH-LIST



HO! HO! HO! Christmas has started! We would like to thank an **anonymous parishioner** for their gift of **\$200.00**. Any Santa gift made to the ongoing renovations of our parish is greatly appreciated!

**Advent Wreath Prayer for the Second Week 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.



## CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 Noon to 1:30pm  
 Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
 Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm to 3:45pm  
 Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm to 7:30pm



## CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:00PM and 6:00PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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



## CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

In celebration of Christmas, **next Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, is our annual Christmas Play and will be held in the church basement after the 10:30am Mass. What a wonderful time it is for our students, as they share a story and songs that celebrate the birth of Our Lord, Jesus. The story will be about The Ox and the Donkey living together in a stable in Bethlehem. Then one cold night a Child is born in their stable, and miraculously the Ox becomes a kind and generous companion. There will be refreshments and a visit from Santa. **All children in our parish are invited.**

On behalf of our CCD Staff and me, we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas, asking God to bless you with health and happiness in the New Year.

**Mrs. Regina Marhefka, D.R.E.**

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

**924 N. Front Street, Allentown**

Their Meat Bingo will be held on **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:00pm**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 Noon. *Christmas turkeys in every special!*

Their **New Year's Eve Celebration** with the Steel City Band will be held on **Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**, from **6:30pm to 12:30am**. Tickets are just \$35.00 a person for dinner. Advanced tickets only, and it is B.Y.O.B.

Call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.



## CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place beginning at Noon on **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</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.

### Saint John of the Cross



John of the Cross, co-founder with Teresa of Avila of the Discalced Carmelites, is the father of mystical theology. John's writings flowed from his own experience. He underwent many trials, including an impoverished youth and imprisonment at the hands of his fellow friars. John considered earthly sufferings an opportunity to be purged of love of self, that one might encounter God's love. One of his classic works is a commentary on the Song of Songs. Therese of Lisieux frequently quoted John of the Cross. "At the evening of our life we will be judged on love," John said. John died in 1591.

~ *Magnificat, December, 2018*

## ANNUAL GIVING TREE



Please take a tag from the tree on the altar. Place any gifts under the tree, **unwrapped**. Place any gift cards or monetary gifts in an envelope, tape the gift tag to the front of the envelope, and place in the collection basket.

Any checks should be made payable to **St. John Fisher Church**. **All items should be under the tree, and all monetary gifts should be placed in the collection basket by Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

~ Charlotte Kerrigan

## Our Lady of Guadalupe



In December, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared three times to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, requesting that a church be built on Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Unable to convince the bishop, and busy caring for his sick uncle, Juan missed a fourth meeting. Mary interceded him the next day. "Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health?...

What else do you wish?" Mary instructed Juan to gather roses for the bishop in his cloak. When the roses tumbled out, a miraculous image appeared. To Juan's uncle the Virgin also appeared, healing him, and revealing herself as "Holy Mary of Guadalupe". ~ *Magnificat, December, 2018*

### Saint Lucy



Lucy, a virgin martyred around the year 303 in Syracuse, is one of the fifteen saints named after the consecration in the canon of the Mass. She is mentioned alongside Agatha, a saint who reputedly appeared to Lucy. All fifteen saints are martyrs, for "saint" in the early Church referred to those who witnessed to Christ by their blood. "Lucy, bride of Christ, by your suffering you have gained the mastery of your soul. You have despised worldly values and now you are glorious among the angels. With your own blood you have triumphed over the enemy!"

~ *Magnificat, December, 2018*



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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