



O Come Emmanuel

Mass Intentions

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2017

Saturday – Dec 16th –

Third Sunday of Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr. (A)
by Jim and Carmella Meyer
7:00PM – Jean R. Danko
by Barbara Moran

Sunday – Dec 17th –

8:30AM – David J. Cunningham
by Sister, Betty Cunningham
10:30AM – Bernie and Tommy Dougherty
by Ruthi and Kathleen

Monday – Dec 18th – St Malachi the Prophet

8:00AM – Rev. James J. Burdess
by Rev. Eric J. Gruber

Tuesday – Dec 19th – BI Urban V

8:00AM – William J. Molchany, Sr.
by Leona Keppel

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 20th – St Dominic of Silos

6:00PM – David J. Sweeney
by Victoria and Joseph Duskosky

Thursday – Dec 21st – St Peter Canisius

8:00AM – Al Marhefka
by Jean Marhefka and Family

Friday – Dec 22nd – St Chaeremon

8:00AM – Anna Albert (A)
by Family

Saturday – Dec 23rd – St John of Kanty

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Emma Herschman
by Daughter and Sons
7:00PM – Mary Ann Faust
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O'Connell

Sunday – Dec 24th –

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife, Mary and Family
10:30AM – Joseph McCloskey
by Family



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

PASTOR'S CORNER

Roots of Bad Things

Each day for these last weeks we have been told of more sexual harassment claims against one or another prominent figure of our society. Immediately upon this news we are encouraged to “pick a side” with the accusers (as they are alleged victims) or the accused (as they are alleged assaulters/predators). But, what about the facts? Are accusations assumed to be fact? Are denials assumed to be falsehood? Why? Can't we talk about the situations in which the alleged incidents have occurred; can't we attempt to know why people might behave in these ways?

Well, while the culture cuts off dialogue about why something might be right to do, and another thing wrong to do, the media (like pharisees) have no problem judging the accused and anyone who wants to pay heed to the accused's “side” of the story. Disciples of Jesus have a deeper duty to the truth than this superficial treatment of the issues. We need to look for what encourages any one to “abuse” another person as regards their sexual desires, greedy schemes or status? What would prevent that exploitation from taking place in the first place? What if the solution (not every circumstance will change, of course) is the restoration of a commonly agreed-upon fundamental rule of right and wrong?

The Rabbi Abraham Heschel writes:

There is a divine dream which the prophets and rabbis have cherished and which fills our prayers, and permeates the acts of true piety. It is the dream of a world, rid of evil by the grace of God as well as by [our] efforts ... to the task of establishing the kingship of God in the world. God is waiting for us to redeem the world. We should not spend our life hunting for trivial satisfactions while God

is waiting constantly and keenly for our effort and devotion.

The Almighty has not created the universe that we may have opportunities to satisfy our greed, envy and ambition. We have not survived that we may waste our years in vulgar vanities. The martyrdom of millions demands that we consecrate ourselves to the fulfillment of God's dream of salvation. Israel did not accept the Torah of their own free will. When Israel approached Sinai, God lifted up the mountain and held it over their heads, saying: 'Either you accept [the Law] or be crushed beneath the mountain.'

The mountain of history is over our heads again. Shall we renew the covenant with God?

Perhaps addressing the roots of bad things in our behavior individually and as a society might best be done by returning to the Ten Commandments. Read them again. Pray them. Seek to understand them and their implications. They are the basis of all western law; maybe, just maybe, they should be restored to every classroom, courtroom and public square.

Swords into plowshares, Ten Commandments for everyone, Fr. Eric.



Advent Wreath Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 18th – 6:00pm to 7:30pm



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Sunday, December 24th – 4:00PM and 6:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Monday, December 25th – 8:30AM and 10:30AM



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.McAllister	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	J.Strohl	M.Druckenmiller
10:30AM	K.Segan A.Banoza	J.DeLong	J.Marhefka

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	K.McCloskey	P.McCarty Deacon Jack
6:00PM	K.Segan A.Banoza	J.McAllister	J.Ottinger
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Petro	C.Hetzel
10:30AM	K.Gair D.Gair	J.DeLong	L.Bolmer

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$2,965.00
Immaculate Conception Collection	\$1,389.00
Retired Religious Collection	\$ 940.00

CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Today, Sunday, December 17th, is our annual Christmas Play and will be held in the church basement after the 10:30am Mass. All are welcomed, and after the play there will be refreshments. We will be visited by Santa Claus.

All children in our parish are invited. Don't forget to bring your camera for pictures with Santa.

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.



Please remember in your prayers **Gertrude A. (Kappes) McGonigle** who passed away and was buried. We pray her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ANNUAL GIVING TREE

All Giving Tree donations should be in the collection basket **this weekend, December 16th and 17th**, so they can be delivered to Catholic Charities.

If you have a gift, please place under the tree, and if you have a gift tag, please place your gift card or monetary gift in an envelope, tape the gift tag to the front of the envelope and place in the collection basket. Any checks given as monetary gifts should be made out to **St. John Fisher Church.** ~~ **Charlotte Kerrigan**

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 for a pack of five is suggested.



IN THE WORDS OF...

"If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign that He has great plans for you and certainly wants to make you a saint."
~ Saint Ignatius of Loyola

SANTA'S WISH-LIST

HO! HO! HO! Christmas is **here!** We would like to thank our parishioners who have given donations in the sums of **\$150.00, \$150.00, and \$300.00**, toward the ongoing renovations of our parish. All amounts are greatly appreciated!



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place beginning at **12:00 noon, today, Sunday, December 17th**. 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.

2018 CALENDARS

The new 2018 Church Calendars are available at the entrances to Church. Please be sure to take one home.

Special thanks to **Kevin, Megan, Danny and Connor O'Donnell** of the O'Donnell Funeral Home, and to **John and Andrew Brubaker** of the Brubaker Funeral Home. Each year they donate our Church Calendars.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will closed for business from **Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st**. God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 10:00AM.**

