



Mass Intentions

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015

Saturday – Dec 5th – St Sabbas

4:00PM – Mary Cerulli
by Anna Ortelli
7:00PM – Richard Fedor (B)
by Wife, Roma

Sunday – Dec 6th – The 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Rev Charles Stanley Sperlak
by Rev Eric J Gruber
10:30AM – Francesca Mione (B)
by Daughter

Monday – Dec 7th – St Ambrose

8:00AM – Margaret Skvoretz
by David Skvoretz
6:00PM – Living and Deceased Members
by F.C.S.L.A. Branch 230

Tuesday – Dec 8th – The Immaculate Conception

8:00AM – Francis J Broderick
by Family
12:05PM – Ann and Glen Oswald
by Daughter, Louise

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 9th – St Juan Diego

6:00PM – Edward Marth
by Wife, Jean and Daughter, Kathy

Thursday – Dec 10th – St Gregory III

8:00AM – Richard J Lloyd
by Colleen McCloskey

Friday – Dec 11th – St Damascus I

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

Saturday – Dec 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
4:00PM – Joseph Kroboth
by Family
7:00PM – John Augustine, Sr
by Jack and Lois McAllister

Sunday – Dec 13th – The 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Eugene Huttie (B)
by Wife, Rita
10:30AM – Charles B O'Donnell (B)
by McCloskey Family



Sunday

8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Holly House (Part II of IV)

The Smith's, the Miller's and the Petersen's arrived at the Holly House Bed and Breakfast on the eve of the annual Mistletoe Festival in Corinthia, PA. The sidewalks, streets and byways of the "movie-set-like" downtown businesses, churches, storefronts and old homes were always abuzz in the first week of December.

Over eighty years ago the Clarke family in town had discovered a cache of mistletoe growing in the oak trees on their rather wooded property. Inspired by its' folklore, and rather amused by the fact that Mr. Clarke had once proposed to the future Mrs. Clarke under those trees with a ring and a kiss, the Clarke family took to harvesting the mistletoe every year. They sold it at Bungle's General Store among the other Christmas decorations with a 'for sale' sign that promised, "Kisses Guaranteed!!!" Of course, they couldn't have been the only ones to discover mistletoe in their trees – the whole area was a veritable mistletoe farm. The next time the holidays came around the Clarke's had rather stiff competition from the Baum and Petersen families especially. The oldest living member of the Petersen family returned from California with his wife of 58 years each year for the festival that had grown up around the friendly mistletoe competition which he, Richard W. Petersen, had almost single-handedly ended 58 years prior by marrying Elizabeth L. Clarke.

The Smith's and Miller's returned annually to renew their friendship which had begun among all three families in their childhood. At least, that's why they usually arrived in Corinthia. But this year was different for Edmund and Georgine Miller, because Georgine had been diagnosed with a seriously slow but deadly cancer. She had come to the Holly House to say goodbye.

These facts escaped Abby and Jerry Willoughby as they welcomed their guests, renewing their annual relationships and catching up on the details of their families' stories. Abby cooked their favorite meals and Jerry made sure they wanted for nothing. It wasn't until the third night at the Holly House that Georgine and Edmund broke the news to their friends and hosts as they sat in the spacious living room sipping tea, coffee and hot chocolate after Abby's famous breaded pork chops. They cried together, they collectively offered their help, and they hugged each other more closely and dared to look each other in the eyes a little longer than usual. As their

conversation yielded to a quiet, Abby found herself speaking.

“You are our friends,” she looked around at the guests, “we look at you as family...and as a family we will deal with whatever God allows.” The silence which followed was filled with love. Jerry added, “Why don’t we pray?” He began, bowing his head, “Dearest Father, You have brought each of us into being, and each of us here tonight to be together. As we see the lights of the season, the decorations, ...as we taste the goodies and the feasts, ...as we hold each other and lean on one another, as we hear the songs and the praises this time of year engenders, help your daughter, Georgine, with a healing and deliverance from illness and the fear of illness, from suffering and the fear of suffering. Give Georgine and Edmund, Bill and Edna (the Smith’s), Richard and Elizabeth (the Petersen’s), new strength and new courage to put their faith and trust in You. May they never despair, but always know You and your love for them in Jesus your Son. Bless all of us here in his Holy Name. Amen.” The amens of the others followed. Then the group of them without noticing the mistletoe suspended from the beam in the center of the living room ceiling, hugged and kissed for another half hour. The next day they would part each other’s company, but never really leave each other again. The Holly House awaited its next visitors... (to be continued)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection

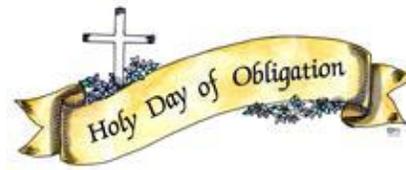
\$ 3,354.00

The Second Collection this weekend, **December 5th and 6th**, will be the **Christmas Flowers Collection** and the Second Collection next weekend, **December 12th and 13th**, will be the **Retired Religious Collection**.



NEXT WEEK’S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Urban J.Shaul	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	C.Gair D.Gair	J.Yanek	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	C.Hetzel
10:30AM	J.Drummer L.Ruda	B.Petro	J.Marhefka



MASSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 7th – 6:00PM

Tuesday, December 8th – 8:00AM

Tuesday, December 8th – 12:05PM

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 8th

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
6:00PM	S.DeLong G.Parise	K.McCloskey	C.Reily
8:00AM	No One	P.McCarty	M.Druckenmiller
12:05PM	No One	B.Petro	J.Marhefka



PRAYER FOR WEEK TWO OF ADVENT

For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of His glory, with His mercy and justice for company...Baruch 5:9

Light two candles on the wreath, then pray: Lord, as you come to us once again, you invite us to come to You. Soften our hearts and show us where we need to grow. Smooth the jagged edges and deep crevasses that keep us apart from You. May we seek you above all else and give You to others as the best gift of all this Christmas. Amen.

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 in the packet. A \$3.00 donation for a pack of five is suggested.



What is Advent?

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin 'Adventus,' which means 'coming.' Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year, and encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The liturgical color for this season is purple. Advent is a preparatory season. It has significance because it is a season of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ’s birth, and for the time when Christ will come again.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Trees are at both church entrances and decorated with gift tags for baby items. Take one tag or two, purchase the item(s) and place the unwrapped gift under the tree by **Sunday, December 20th**. 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. Any questions, please feel free to call **Charlotte Kerrigan** at 610-417-5900.



CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 20th, will be our annual Christmas Play and will be held in the Church Basement after the 10:30 Mass. All are welcomed. After the play there will be refreshments. Our play is about homeless people finding shelter in the church attic, and how they spent Christmas in church. 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.

Young at Heart

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

The next Casino trip to Mount Airy will be on **Friday, December 18th**. The bus leaves the 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

Saturday, December 12th: Please join **The Reverend Guency Isaac**, and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn and all those involved in abortion. The pilgrimage begins with **Mass at 8:00am** at Notre Dame Church of Bethlehem, and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility. Come and be a part of the call to let your prayer and presence bring God's everlasting, unconditional love to all those involved in abortion.

DRIVERS NEEDED

On Monday, December 21st, 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!

Catty Rough Rider Mascot

North Catasauqua We Sing! Community Chorus presents a limited edition wooden replica of the Catasauqua Rough Rider Mascot made by The Cat's Meow® Village. It has the image of the beloved mascot in color on the front, and includes the Catasauqua High School alma mater on the back. A limited number is available for sale and they will make a great gift. Delivery is anticipated before Christmas but is not guaranteed. Order one today; they are only \$16.00 each. For questions, call 610-264-1225.