



Mass Intentions

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 5, 2019

Saturday– Jan 5th –

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Joseph Kroboth (A)
by Family
7:00PM – Edward Danko (A)
by Family

Sunday – Jan 6th –

8:30AM – Anna Stascinsky
by Helen Mayes
10:30AM – Rosa Cunningham
by McCloskey Family

Monday – Jan 7th – St Raymond of Penyafort

8:00AM – Joseph Mahon (B)
by Daughter, Barbara Knarr

Tuesday – Jan 8th – St Apollinaris of Hierapolis

8:00AM – Living/Dec'd Members of Neuwirth Family
by Mike and Louise Seng

Wednesday – Jan 9th – St Adrian of Canterbury

6:00PM – David Sweeney
by Son, Kyle

Thursday – Jan 10th – St William of Bourges

8:00AM – Msgr. Dennis T. Hartgen
by Rev. Eric J. Gruber

Friday – Jan 11th – St Theodosius

8:00AM – Margaret and Charles McCarty
by Kathleen and Peggy

Saturday– Jan 12th – St Bernard of Corleone

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Baptism of Our Lord

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Robert L. Strohl
by McCloskey Family
7:00PM – Melchior and Emelia Dopsovic
by Daughter, Aggie Chabak

Sunday – Jan 13th –

8:30AM – Phyllis S. Roman
by Angie and Bugs Resh
10:30AM – Charles B. O'Donnell (B)
by McCloskey Family



Pray the Rosary Sundays
8:15AM and 10:15AM

CHRISTMAS TIME

For most, Christmas is over by December 26th, and life has resumed its normal activities. The Church, on the other hand, observes an Octave of Christmas until January 1st, after the Jewish practice of an eight day celebration, and an extended Christmastime until January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, which is now celebrated on the Sunday between January 2nd, and January 8th. The popular Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," is rooted in the festive celebration of Christmastime and a celebration of the Catholic faith, from a time in England and Ireland when Catholics had to disguise their Catholic beliefs.

During Christmastime, there are feasts of three martyrs: **St. Stephen** on December 26th, who represents those who went to their death willingly; **St. John the Evangelist** on December 27th, who represents those who were willing to die but were not put to death, and the **Holy Innocents** on December 28th, representing those who were put to death without their choice, recalling the events surrounding the Birth of Christ.

On the Sunday between Christmas and January 1st, the Church celebrates the Holy Family. This feast is especially important today as many families today face struggles and challenges in living their Faith.

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is normally celebrated on January 6th, although it can be celebrated on the Sunday between January 2nd, and 8th, as is done in the United States and many other countries. It may also combine the celebration of all three epiphanies ("showing forths") of Christ: His epiphany to the Magi at His birth; His epiphany to St. John at His baptism in the Jordan and; His epiphany to the disciples, and the opening of His public ministry by the miracle of Cana.

However, its primary significance is the closing of the Christmas season with the celebration of the visit of the Magi to the manger (Matthew 2:1-12). The Messiah is thus shown to have come to all people, not just the Jews. The three kings represent the three major races:

Melchior, an old white man with a long white beard, bearing the gift of gold for Christ's royalty;

Caspar, young and of darker hue, carrying incenses for Christ's divinity; and **Balthasar**, a black man, offering myrrh for Christ's suffering and death.

The names of the wise men are not given in the Bible, but were supplied by later story tellers to enrich the meaning and celebration of the Epiphany.

Blessing of Homes

A tradition associated with the Epiphany is the blessing of homes with holy water and incense. Using blessed chalk, a parent or priest can mark the inside of the main door of the house with the initials of the Magi and a code of the current year connected with crosses: 20+C+M+B+19. Another explanation of the initials (C-M-B) is the first letters of the blessing: Christus mansionem benedicat, (Latin, "May Christ bless the house").



Holy Matrimony

We congratulate **Jennifer Ann DeLong and Adam Curtis Lorah** who were married last weekend at St. John Fisher Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their married life with Jesus together.



Flowers for the Altar

The **ALTAR FLOWER LIST** is at the parking lot entrance of church. Honor a loved one, or celebrate a special event by placing flowers on the altar. Simply sign up on the list, and call your florist for delivery.



Please remember in your prayers **Mary Theresa (Maderic) Doyle, Robert William Doyle, and James Robert Doyle**, who were buried this past week.



HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you have a loved one who is homebound or in a care facility and unable to attend Mass, please call the rectory at 610-264-1972 to schedule a pastoral visit for Communion and a blessing.



CHURCH UN~DECORATING

Christmas Un-Decorating will take place **today, Sunday, January 6th**, following the 10:30am.

2018 CONTRIBUTION FORMS

Please fill out this tear-off form to request your 2018 contribution form, and place in the collection basket. All forms will be mailed out by the end of January.

NAME _____ ENV # _____

ADDRESS _____

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$3,472.00
Solemnity of Mary Collection	\$1,637.00



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	D.Gorr A.Banoza	J.McAllister	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	C.Molchany
10:30AM	D.Gair K.Gair	J.DeLong	L.Bolmer

Thank You!



Thank you for the generous donations to the Annual Giving Tree collection this year. Catholic Charity recipients will be blessed with many beautiful items you have donated for the Mothers and Babies. Among the donations were handmade blankets, baby clothing and diapers. The donated items do stay in the Diocese of Allentown to help the needy.
~Charlotte Kerrigan

NOTICE

Due to the emphasis on privacy and the sharing of information, the hospital patient information systems are unreliable. Therefore, as a precaution, please do not presume that St John Fisher Rectory knows your loved one is in the hospital. If you would like a loved one visited, please call the rectory, 610-264-1972, and leave a message as to the name of your loved one, which hospital (be specific), and a room number if it is known at the time. Thank you for your help in this matter.

For Teens and Their Parents

Parents... do you wonder why your teenager does the things they do? Do you feel they don't always appreciate you? It's time for you and your teenager to get on the same page – and discover God's plan for both of you! The event will take place on **Friday, January 11th, at 7:00pm, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center, 1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown.** To register for this event, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman. For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2023 or email Thea Aclo at taelo@allentowndiocese.org.

Holiday Food Drive

Please bring canned goods, non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and household paper products to the North Catasauqua Borough Hall drop-off bin located in the main vestibule. It benefits the Catty Food Bank.

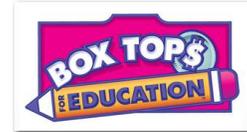


In case of bad weather or last minute cancelations, please check our Parish Website at www.stjohnfisherparish.com.



OFFERTORY GIFTS

Our parishioner, Robyn Berner, has volunteered her time to coordinate people to carry the offertory gifts at all Sunday masses. If you are having a mass said for someone and would like to take up the gifts, please call Robyn at 610-704-8642. If you do not wish to be contacted for masses you are offering, please inform the rectory by calling, 610-264-1972.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help **Good Shepherd Catholic School**. Box Tops are worth 10¢ and they add up to cash for the school.

To help, look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and place them in the Box Top box located at both entrances to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Rutt at 610-348-5716.



Assistant Coaches Needed

Allentown Central Catholic High School is looking for assistant coaches in the girls' lacrosse and boys and girls track and field for Spring 2019. Anyone who is interested should contact the athletic director, Dennis Csensits at dcsensits@acch.info or, 610-437-4601 Ext 119.