



O Come Emmanuel

Mass Intentions

Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2017

Saturday – Dec 9th –

Second Sunday of Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – William Columbo, Sr. (B)
by William and Barbara Columbo
7:00PM – Edward J. Marth (A)
by Wife and Daughter

Sunday – Dec 10th –

8:30AM – Frank Snyder and Mike Brosky Families
by Nin Snyder and Family
10:30AM – Francis J. Broderick
by Rose and Donald McLaughlin

Monday – Dec 11th – St Damasus I

8:00AM – Andrew T. Motsko, Jr.
by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Motsko

Tuesday – Dec 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00AM – Paul Levine
by Barbara Young

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 13th – St Lucy

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

Thursday – Dec 14th – St John of the Cross

8:00AM – Anne J. Hilt (A)
by Roma Fedor and Family

Friday – Dec 15th – St Mary di Rosa

8:00AM – Peter DuChessi
by Peggy McCarty

Saturday – Dec 16th – St Haggai the Prophet

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

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, Elizabeth Cunningham
10:30AM – Bernie and Tommy Dougherty
by Ruthi and Kathleen



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

PASTOR'S CORNER

Advent II: Hanging the Greens [Reprise]

Why evergreens? It should be obvious to us.

Practically speaking, they are still “in leaf” this time of year, so it makes perfect sense. They *should* be brought inside to remind us of the life present amidst the apparent barrenness.

Aesthetically speaking, the greens provide a rich, natural backdrop for the glitter of ornaments and the glimmer of lights. There is also a notable glow from the evergreens in candlelight, and a scent that scratches an itch well beneath our conscious memories.

Symbolically speaking, the firs and pines and spruces remind us that there are things as eternal as never-ending wreaths, and as broad and wide and sheltering as trees.

Theologically speaking, it is God's love that is eternal, his love for us that is evergreen in the bleakest landscape, a real and certain shelter from the chills of life. How do we know this? We know because of Jesus who was born for us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us and now *lives* for us!

So, our first-parents having stood before a tree and sinned, the new Eve and Adam on Calvary's tree in complete obedience to the Father's will, and the trees of our homes around which we gather, are all one tree. A tree that puts us to crisis: will we choose life in God or barrenness in self?

We choose life, and hang the greens.
Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$4,124.00
Christmas Flowers Collection \$1,965.00

The **Second** Collection this weekend, **December 9th** and **10th**, is the **Retired Religious Collection**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	K.Segan J.Drummer	J.Englert	M.Druckenmiller
7:00PM	A.Muschko A.Banoza	P.McCarty	J.Behum
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Hetzel
10:30AM	D.Sullivan K.Gair	B.Petro	F.Hutterer



Please remember in your prayers **Daniel L. Lynch, Sr.**, who passed away and was buried. We pray his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. 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. A \$3.00 donation for a pack of five is suggested.



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.



Advent Wreath Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

Jesus, you came among us with the irresistible power of a baby, requiring both our hands and captivating our whole hearts. Help us to cast aside the sin and brokenness that we cling to, so we might be ready to hold you when you come again. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 10th – 12:00pm to 1:30pm
 Friday, December 15th – 6:00pm to 7:30pm
 Saturday, December 16th – 2:00pm to 3:45pm
 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



ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Catholic Charities supplies young women with the needs and supplies for their newborn child. They are asking for donations of gift cards to stores where baby items are sold. By making a monetary donation, they can then purchase larger items, like cribs and car seats.

When you take a gift tag from the giving tree, 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



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place beginning at Noon on **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.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Fifty-five-year-old Juan Diego met the Blessed Virgin Mary on the morning of December 9, 1531, as he hurried to Mass near Mexico City. She wished to have a church built and to be acknowledged as the Mother of the True God. After the local bishop deflected the Virgin's request, Juan brought roses in his rough cloak as a sign. Unfurling his cloak, Juan revealed a miraculous image of the

Virgin wearing a black maternity belt and bearing the jasmine flower over her womb. The Aztec symbolism clearly showed Mary's unborn child to be the divine center of the cosmos. In 1999, Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the Patroness of the Unborn.
~ *Magnificat, December, 2017*

Saint John of the Cross

When John of the Cross was a boy, his father died and his destitute mother sent him to a school for the poor. After joining the Carmelites in 1563, he joined forces with Teresa of Avila to carry out a reform of the order. His first house as leader of the friars was so spare that even Teresa doubted he could live there. But John embraced austerities. His mystical theology teaches the renunciation of all creaturely comforts for the sake of union with God. "Feed not your spirit on anything but God. Cast off concern about things, and bear peace and recollection in your heart." John died in 1591, and is hailed as the Mystical Doctor.

~ *Magnificat, December, 2017*



DONUT SUNDAY

The new list for the **2018 Donut Sundays** is now at the parking lot entrance of church. Donut Sunday is held on the **third Sunday of each month**. If you, or a group of friends, would like to sponsor a month, pick a month on the signup sheet, and place \$75.00 in the collection basket prior to your date. Our Social Committee takes care of the rest!

Help from Our Retired People

I am looking for retired people from our parish to reach out to our home bound parishioners. We have people that need rides to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, some minor house cleaning and just someone to visit them. Any help would be appreciated. Please call **Deacon Jack at 610-266-0689**, if you are interested in helping.

Viking Baseball Camp

Allentown Central Catholic High School will be holding a baseball camp at the Hitter's Edge in Hokey on **Thursday, December 28th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm**. The cost is \$35.00 and is open to 5th to 8th grade students. This camp will teach the fundamentals of hitting and fielding and will feature coaching staffs from Central Catholic and other coaches from the Lehigh Valley. Any questions, please call Mike Brosious at 610.653.6580.

St. John the Baptist Church

924 N. Front Street, Allentown

Their Meat Bingo will be held on **Sunday, December 17th at 1:00pm**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 Noon.

Happy New Year's Celebration with the Steel City Band with Bobby Molchan will be held on **Saturday, December 31st, with dinner at 6:30pm, and music from 9:30pm to 12:30am**. Tickets are just \$30.00, and it is B.Y.O.B., with advanced tickets only. Call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.