



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Invasion

Mass Intentions The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 22, 2018

Saturday – Dec 22nd –

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – William Columbo, Sr. (B)
by Bill and Barbara Columbo
7:00PM – Joseph and Bertha Behum
by Niece, Jacqueline Smith

Sunday – Dec 23rd –

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

Monday – Dec 24th – St Charbel Makhoul

8:00AM – Joseph McCloskey (A)
by Family

Vigil of Christmas

4:00PM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
6:00PM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

Tuesday – Dec 25th – The Nativity of Our Lord

8:30AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners
10:30AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners

Wednesday – Dec 26th – St Stephen

6:00PM – Rosa Cunningham
by Bossons Family

Thursday – Dec 27th – St John

8:00AM – Charles H. Albert
by Family

Friday – Dec 28th – The Holy Innocents

8:00AM – Margaret “Peggy” Barrington (B)
by Jeff, Donna, Brendyn Hussar

Saturday – Dec 29th – St Thomas Becket

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – William J. Molchany, Sr.
by Children
7:00PM – David J. Sweeney
by Mom and Dad

Sunday – Dec 30th –

8:30AM – John and Margaret Nicholas
by Family
10:30AM – James Doyle (A)
by Parents



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

It had been rumored and anticipated for many years. But when the invasion began in earnest, it only affected a handful of households in a tiny village, in an obscure part of the world.

The initial “visible” movement of the campaign was a frightening and enlightening visit from the Invader’s ambassador. Unannounced, he came to the future queen-mother. The ambassador, realizing his arrival was a cause of trepidation for the young woman, extended the Invader’s invitation to join in a revolution “for the benefit” of her people and all else besides. She knew the justice of the Invader’s subversive plan instinctively, and surrendered her ‘yes’. As quickly as the ambassador had appeared, he was gone.

Nine months had passed since the first salvo. Finding herself married and at the home place of her husband’s family, she gave birth in the only shelter available, to the entire invading force. They named Him Jesus.

Why such a military image for the birth of the Savior? Well, C. S. Lewis said that the coming of Christ in the flesh was “God slipping, as behind enemy lines,” that his coming among us was a grace invasion of the sinful world enslaved by death. And, after all, Jesus preached about the coming of the Kingdom of God – a power to rule in our hearts for the glory of God and the world’s salvation. He established this Kingdom definitively, of course, through his dying and rising – winning the victory for us.

My sincere prayer for you and those you love is that the Holy Spirit will open your minds, hearts and lives to the invading force of God’s love for you in Jesus.

Merry and Blessed Christmas!
Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection

\$3,886.00

Thank you for all of your financial support this year!



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	D.Gorr A.Banoza	J. Englert	M.Druckenmiller
7:00PM	A.Muschko L.McGinley	P.McCarty	J.Ottinger
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Molchany
10:30AM	M.Ritter D.Gair	J.DeLong	F.Hutterer

OPLATKI

Our **Christmas Oplatki** is 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. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.



O Come Emmanuel

Advent Wreath Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people,
even when we fail to see you.

In each and every moment that we are blessed,
to recognize you here and now,
give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming.
Amen.



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place **TODAY, Sunday, December 23rd**, following the 10:30am.



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The carol was a secret catechism for Catholics in England when Catholicism was persecuted during the war of religions from Henry the VIII to 1829. This song gave them a chance to teach their children knowledge of the saints and doctrine in a secret code when the Protestants were cracking down on the Catholics. The Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25th, and concluding with the Epiphany on January 6th.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth. December 26th, or Boxing Day, considered day two of Christmas, is the Feast of Saint Stephen, a deacon who gave present boxes to the poor.

The feast wraps up on January 6th, which is the revelation of Christ as the saviour and son of God to the world. On that day, Catholics celebrate the arrival of the Magi — the three wise men with their presents and it is in their memory that we give presents.

On the **first day** of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree," symbolizing God, our true love, and Jesus Christ, the partridge.

Second day: Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Third day: Three French hens represented the three gifts of faith, hope and love.

Fourth day: Calling birds were the four gospels.

Fifth day: Five golden rings were the Books of Moses.

Sixth day: Geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation.

Seventh day: Swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eighth day: Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Ninth day: Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace and kindness.

Tenth day: Lords a-leaping represent the 10 Commandments.

Eleventh day: Pipers piping were the 11 faithful apostles.

Twelfth day: Twelve drummers drumming represented the points of the Apostles Creed.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, December 31st – 6:00PM

Tuesday, January 1st – 8:30AM and 10:30AM



Holiday Food Drive

Small Town USA Holiday Food Drive, benefits the Catasauqua Area Food Bank. Bring canned goods, non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and household paper products to the North Catasauqua Borough Hall drop-off bin, which is located in the main vestibule. **The food drive will continue through January 14th.**

SANTA'S WISH-LIST



HO! HO! HO! We would like to thank **Den and Judy** for their Santa donation and to **two anonymous parishioners** for their donations as well. Any Santa gifts made to the ongoing renovations of our parish are greatly appreciated!



North Catty Holiday Lights Tour

The North Catasauqua Betterment Committee presents the 2018 Christmas in Small Town USA Holiday Lights Self-Tour. Printed copies of the tour are available on the front porch of Borough Hall, or print your own guide from www.NorthCatasauquaBettermentCommittee.webs.com.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will be closed for business from **Monday, December 24th through Tuesday, January 1st**. God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Wednesday, January 2nd**.

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.

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Saint Matthew tells us that when King Herod heard from the Magi that a new king of the Jews had been born, "he was greatly troubled" (2:3). When the Magi, warned in a dream, failed to return and give him precise information about the Child, Herod had all male children under the age of two brutally slaughtered in and around Bethlehem. The canonization of the Holy Innocents testifies to God's timeless mercy. As Saint Augustine says, they are the *flores martyrum* – the first buds of martyrdom.

~ Magnificat, December, 2018

Saint John

The Apostle and Evangelist John was a fisherman before he met Christ. Identified in his Gospel simply as the "disciple whom Jesus loved," he was the only Apostle who remained at the foot of the Cross. To him Jesus entrusted his Mother. With Peter, John was one of the first witnesses to the Resurrection. After the persecution of Herod Agrippa, in which his brother James was martyred, John traveled to Asia Minor, where he composed his Gospel and epistles. The Book of Revelation was written while John was in exile on the island of Patmos. John died in Ephesus around the year 100.

~ Magnificat, December, 2018