



PASTOR'S CORNER

Advent IV: Dreams of Fire

Mass Intentions Fourth Sunday of Advent December 17, 2016

Saturday – Dec 17th –

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr. (A)
by Jim and Carmela Meyer
7:00PM – Richard J. Longenhagen, Sr.
by Colleen and Mike Jones

Sunday – Dec 18th

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife and Family
10:30AM – Vincent Rivetti
by Paul Williams

Monday – Dec 19th – BI Urban V

8:00AM – Memorial Fund Members
by The Memorial Fund

Tuesday – Dec 20th – St Dominic of Silos

8:00AM – Anna Kish (B)
by Jean Marhefka

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 21st – St Peter Canisius

6:00PM – Joseph Kraynek and the Gornick Family
by Mary Kraynek

Thursday – Dec 22nd – St Chaeremon

8:00AM – Anna Albert (A)
by Family

Friday – Dec 23rd – St John of Kanty

8:00AM – Margaret “Peggy” Harris
by Kathy McCloskey

Saturday – Dec 24th – St Charbel Makhoul

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

Vigil of Christmas

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners
6:00PM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Sunday – Dec 25th – The Nativity of Our Lord

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

A blanket of stars over a winter landscape, unseen beneath the covers are roots and bulbs and seeds – resting as in death. Do they dream of spring? No, I think. No. But their Maker does dream for them.

Each star a-twinkle calls us from the hearth to a bundled-up viewing into the depths they mark. Awesome...but cold...very cold. Isn't it odd, I think, that these cold lights in the night sky are actually great fires? Some of them much greater than the sun!

Yet space, they tell us, is cold. Any space, I tell myself, is cold until a fire warms there; any space and every space.

Centuries ago a man received some chilling news – “I’m pregnant” she had said and more. But all he heard was the cold truth; he knew the child was not his.

He made a plan to escape the chill, and lay to rest his fear.

Then one night, with his plans pillowed beneath him, he dreamed...or... his Maker dreamed for him... “Do not be afraid...”

As he heeded the inspiration, the promised spring awakened within him.

He welcomed her into his own home; and with her, Him who is the Sun of Justice. Him who is the Fire.

A blanket of stars over a winter landscape, unseen beneath the covers are roots and bulbs and seeds –



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

resting as in death. Do they dream of spring?

No, I think. No. But their Maker does dream for them.

Dear Maker of the Starry Skies, dream for us and warm the cold space.

Marana tha,
Fr. Eric.



Please remember in your prayers **Jerome J. Bednar**, who passed away and was buried this past week.

The Reverend Joseph J. Campion, Pastor at the former St Lawrence Church from July, 1989 until June, 1999, passed away on December 9th.

May their souls, 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.



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place immediately following the Christmas Play, which follows the 10:30am Mass **today, Sunday, December 18th**. 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. Thank you very much.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Flower Memorials are listed on the bulletin board at both entrances to church. Thank you for all of the memorials for our loved ones.



ANNUAL GIVING TREE

Please have all gift cards, monetary gifts and any purchased items in the collection or under the trees by next weekend, **December 24th and 25th**. Any checks given as gifts should be made out to **St. John Fisher Church**.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$4,035.00
Retired Religious Collection \$1,199.00

The **Second Collection** next weekend, **December 24th and 25th**, will be the **Christmas Day Collection**.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 19th – 6:00pm to 7:30pm



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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



Thank You

A great big thank you goes out to all of the parishioners who took part in the Sip and Dip Party. Thanks to your all of your orders, St. John Fisher has realized a profit of **\$259.60**.



In this **Fourth Week of Advent**, our final days of preparation before Christmas, we ask Christ to forgive us for our sins and, through His grace, to create us anew when He comes. This week is also a time to recollect, to reflect on our Advent journey. If we have let the hustle and bustle of the season get in the way of our spiritual preparations for Christmas, we have one last chance to refocus—and the light of the candles on the Advent wreath can be a symbol of our focus, as well as a symbol of the light of Christ.

MASS OF HOLY INNOCENTS

Holy Ghost Church, 417 Carlton Avenue in Bethlehem will have a Mass of the Holy Innocents on **Wednesday, December 28th at 7:00pm**. Rev. Clifton E. Bishop, Jr. will be the celebrant and homilist. Adoration and Confessions will be held from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. This Mass is offered in gratitude for the four million births this year and in reparation for the almost one million lives lost resulting from abortions. The evening includes a Child's blanket blessing: bring your child's blanket to be blessed, and also the Veneration of the Relics of St. Gianna, Patron Saint of mothers, unborn children and physicians. Respect Life reception follows in Billinger Memorial Hall. All are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all 8th grade students: If you are considering going to one of the Catholic High Schools but have concerns about the tuition, the Diocese of Allentown is offering scholarships to help defray the cost. Please call the rectory, 610-264-1972, to receive the application packet.

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.