



Mass Intentions

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2017

Saturday – Dec 23rd –

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Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Emma Herschman
by Daughter and Sons

7:00PM – Mary Ann Faust
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O'Connell

Sunday – Dec 24th –

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife, Mary and Family

10:30AM – Joseph McCloskey
by Family

Monday – Dec 25th – The Nativity of the Lord

8:30AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

10:30AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Tuesday – Dec 26th – St Stephen

8:00AM – Parents and Husband, Joseph
by Agnes Chabak

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 27th – St John

6:00PM – James M. Apostolico
by Tom and Diane Tomasic

Thursday – Dec 28th – The Holy Innocents

8:00AM – Margaret "Peggy" Barrington (B)
by Jim and Jane Nemeth

Friday – Dec 29th – 5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00AM – Charles H. Albert
by Family

Saturday – Dec 30th – 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Antone Zukowski
by Wife, Frances

7:00PM – Stephen Steffie
by Monica Hodges

Sunday – Dec 31st –

8:30AM – Margaret and John Nicholas
by Family

10:30AM – Darlene M. Steiner
by Denise and Claude Rone



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

PASTOR'S CORNER

Of Meaning and Traditions

A husband watched his wife preparing the usually scrumptious and abundant Christmas meal for the family. He helped where she allowed him to “do something to keep out of her hair.” He observed his wife do everything that Grandma Cutler always did – the potatoes (two ways), the veggies (three), the meats (one turkey, one ham, one large pot roast), desserts to rival any bakery’s inventory, coffee (regular and decaf), tea (a seasonal flavor), wine, and twice-filtered water. It was an amazing repast. But this year he noticed something and dared to ask a question, “Honey,” he said matter-of-factly, “why do you always cut the roast in two and put both of them in the lower oven?” “What do you mean?” she clarified. “I mean, Hon, why cut the roast in two sections?” She glanced at the finished product, searching for the question and its’ answer. “Well, ... that’s how Grandma Cutler always did it, so that’s how I do it,” she affirmed. He finally had something he could “help” with so he pressed, “But, didn’t Grandma Cutler grow up on a farmstead in a rather small house with an even smaller kitchen?” She nodded. He continued like a prosecutor, “Wouldn’t that oven of hers have been too small to hold a roast such as you make for us?” “Yes,” she said, “I see what you mean. I guess sometimes we just keep doing the things that we’ve always done, even if the reason for the doing has changed.”

G.K. Chesterton wrote in On Christmas, Generally Speaking, “The great majority of people will go on observing forms that cannot be explained; they will keep Christmas Day with Christmas gifts and Christmas benedictions; they will continue to do it; and someday suddenly wake up and discover why.”

Christmas’ personal, familial and cultural traditions have a sure momentum. And just as

we're returning an ill-fitting sweater or splurging with a gift card, the season comes 'round again. It would do us all good to simply remember it as a birthday celebration for a very special person in our lives – the Son of God. We celebrate his birthday, of course, because of his Good Friday and Easter Sunday in which we discover that our gift-giving is in terms of his ultimate gift of Himself to us.

Even if the momentum of the holiday season has run over you by now or left you in its' wake long ago, I invite you to sit in the manger this Christmas and listen for animal sounds, and the rustle of hay, and the quiet breathing of a Mother and her Child, asleep ... under the watchful eye of Joseph. Chesterton also writes in *The New Jerusalem*, Ch. 5, "Anyone thinking of the Holy Child as born in December would mean by it exactly what we mean by it; that Christ is not merely a summer sun of the prosperous but a winter fire for the unfortunate." It is far better to be in the heart of winter *with* Him than in a glorious summer *without* Him. A Blessed & Merry Christmas to you.

Fr. Eric.



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

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	K.Segan J.Drummer	J.Strohl	J.McAllister
7:00PM	A.Muschko A.Banoza	P.McCarty	J.Ottinger
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Molchany
10:30AM	D.Sullivan M.Druckenmiller	J.DeLong	J.Marhefka

SOLEMNITY OF MARY SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
6:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.DeLong	Deacon Jack
9:00AM	A.Banoza No One	B.Petro	J.Druckenmiller



OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection

\$3,977.00



Please remember in your prayers **Holly A. (Banko) Chernobyl** whose passing is mourned by her family and friends at her untimely death.

Also, please remember in your prayers **Catherine (Prosak) Holena** who passed away and was buried.

We pray that their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

Thank You

Thank you to **Jeff, Donna and Brendyn Hussar** for their recent donation in memory of Margaret J. Barrington.

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.

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.

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.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED



The Rectory Office will be closed for business from **Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 2nd**. God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Wednesday, January 3,**

2018, at 10:00AM.

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.