

Mass Intentions

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 23, 2019

Saturday– Nov 23rd –

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Donna McNally
by Edie Stahlnecker
7:00PM – William Molchany, Sr.
by Family

Sunday – Nov 24th –

8:30AM – Steve and Mary Roman
by Maryann and Bob Cavallucci
10:30AM – Richard J. Longenhagen, Sr. (WA)
by Walter and Betty Yaros

Monday – Nov 25th – St Catherine of Alexandria

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

Tuesday – Nov 26th – St Siricius

8:00AM – Robert Strohl (A)
by Wife, Jean

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Nov 27th – St Virgilius

6:00PM – Russell N. Beale, III (A)
by Anna and Joe Furst

Thursday – Nov 28th – St James of the Marches

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Friday – Nov 29th – St Saturninus

8:00AM – Jack McCarty
by Kathy and Peggy

Saturday– Nov 30th – St Andrew the Apostle

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

First Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Elaine G. Hutnick (A)
by Sister, Jean Strohl
7:00PM – Anthony and Elizabeth DeNardo
by Connie and Bill Molchany and Kids

Sunday – Dec 1st –

8:30AM – Mike, Emma and Jackie Brosky
by Nin Snyder and Family
10:30AM – Daniel Leo Lynch (A)
by Lynch Children



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

PASTOR'S CORNER

Thankful for a Moment to be Thankful

Benedictine Oblate and author, Elizabeth Scalia, writes:

Catholics “of a certain age” may remember being taught that, once having settled into a pew, our time before Mass was meant to be directed toward mentally and spiritually preparing ourselves for the great liturgies of Word and Eucharist—participation at which culminates in our physical Communion with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Lord.

“You stop to think before answering a riddle, or a guessing game, or even a question asked by a teacher,” the sister who taught us would say. “Why would you not stop to think, and to pray, before encountering the mystery of the Mass, and before meeting Jesus so interiorly?” Her logic seemed sound enough and I did grow to relish the “quiet time” before Mass—indeed, those spare preparatory moments of prayer and silence became as much a part of the Mass, for me, as the liturgies themselves. When people spoke in hushed tones around me, I took it as something reverent and respectful of the space, of the Tabernacle present to us, and of the prayerful people all around.

Over the decades, as the time before Mass became noisier—more reminiscent of an audience waiting for a show to begin than worshippers preparing their hearts—I’ve missed that silence. I’ve been told that this means I am an impediment to the “the building up of community” in my parish. No matter how often I had volunteered at fundraisers, taught catechesis, or worked with teen groups, it seems it all counted as nothing without my wholehearted participation in pre-Mass chit-chat—right up until the announcement of the entrance hymn.

I’ve often wondered why we, as a Church, can no longer agree on something as simple as when to keep silent, and when to chat. “To everything there is a season and a sign and purpose unto heaven,” goes the wise instruction from Ecclesiastes, which includes “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Eccles. 3:1, 7).

This whole question seems a no-brainer to me: in the sanctuary, a place meant for prayer, we should simply err on the side of prayerful reverence in manner, with as little chitchat as possible, as supports the prayer of others. In the lobby, or anywhere else, let the social graces overflow.

For some, my thoughts on this are solemn nonsense bringing too much of a Martha-and-Mary mindset to the thing, so I was heartened this week to read that in his continuing catechesis on the Eucharist, Pope Francis—rather surprisingly to some—made a point of *urging prayerful silence before Mass*: “When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us.” However, he added, “it is not a moment for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus . . . silence is so important.”

Thank you, Papa, for the supportive instruction.

While it is always right to express our thanks to one another, especially on Thanksgiving Day, it is just and right to offer thanks to God before and after each mass in a moment of silence. I give thanks to God for all of you here at St. John Fisher. And, I pray you can take some quiet time with God to count your blessings.
Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$3,555.00
Poverty Relief Collection \$ 873.00

The **Second** Collection next weekend, **November 30th and December 1st**, will be the **Christmas Flowers Collection**.



Please remember in your prayers **Walter Torba, Sr., and Henrietta June (Vandegrift) Devereaux**, who passed away and were recently buried. We pray their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Christ the King Sunday celebrates the full authority of Christ as King and Lord of the universe. Officially called "The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King," it is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Sunday before Advent.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is a newer feast in the Catholic Church; it was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. The pontiff was witness to a turbulent time in the world's history. Secularism was on the rise and dangerous dictatorships were emerging in Europe and beyond. Christ had long been referred to as King, but Pope Pius and the Christian faithful saw the respect and reverence for Christ's authority waning in the midst of the unrest during the first part of the 20th century. In response, the feast was set with the intent to reaffirm and refocus faith and respect in the kingship of Jesus.

The feast was initially fixed to the final day of October, the day before All Saints Day. Later, in 1969, Pope Paul VI moved the feast to the last Sunday before Advent, to emphasize the importance of the feast. This is fitting within the Church year. The liturgical year begins with Advent, the season of awaiting the coming of Christ, and now the year ends with celebrating the Kingship of Christ.

National Donor Day

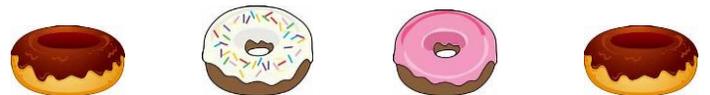


Thanksgiving is a good time of the year to recognize living and deceased organ and tissue donors, for the selfless act of saving or enhancing someone's life. Just one organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one tissue donor can benefit as many as 75

others. This act of love gives hope to the 114,000 people nationwide waiting for a transplant.

Pope Francis described the act of organ donation as “a testimony of love for our neighbor”.

Speak with your family about organ and tissue donation. Donors and their families are heroes who change the lives of not only transplant recipients, but their families and friends as well. For additional information or to register online today, visit www.donors1.org. ~ Paul Albert



DONUT SUNDAY

Due to the C.C.D. Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 22nd**, our **December Donut Sunday will be next Sunday, December 1st**. Thank you to **Connie and John Lane** who are sponsoring next week's event. Please stop by after the **8:30AM and 10:30AM Masses** for some coffee, tea, and some donuts!

ANNUAL GIVING TREE



We will again participate in the Annual Christmas Giving Tree Program for The Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program at Catholic Charities. Over the years our efforts helped many needy families in the Lehigh Valley. This year some of the items needed are: Diapers, wipes, new clothing, towels, blankets

and other baby items. For those that do not like shopping, a gift card is always an option.

Our annual Giving Tree will be put up at both church entrances on the first weekend of Advent, Saturday, November 30th, and Sunday, December 1st.

Please select a tag(s) from the tree and place the unwrapped item(s), under the tree. If you prefer to give a gift card, please place your gift card or monetary gift in an envelope and tape the gift tag to the front of the envelope. Then place the envelope in the collection basket. All checks given as monetary gifts should be made out to St. John Fisher Church. **All baby gifts should be under the tree, and monetary gifts placed in the collection basket by Sunday, December 22nd.**

Catholic Charities greatly appreciates our involvement in this worthy cause each year and thanks God for our continued donations. It is a lovely way to celebrate the birth of our Savior! Thank you for your generosity!

~ Kathy Newhall, Gloria Gontkosky and Diana Rutt



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	N.Ruda S.Ruda	J.Englert	J.McAllister Deacon Jack
7:00PM	A.Muschko L.McGinley	P.McCarty	J.Behum Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	J.Druckenmiller Deacon Jack
10:30AM	Z.Bossons C.Gair	B.Petro	L.Bolmer Deacon Jack

St. Andrew the Apostle



Andrew was the first of the Apostles to find Jesus. After Pentecost, he is said to have preached in Greece, where he died, bound to a cross.

Medieval artists depicted this cross in an x-shape – suggesting that Andrew found himself unworthy to die on a cross identical to that of our Lord. The 6th-century *Passion of Saint Andrew* has the Apostle addressing the instrument of his

martyrdom: "I come to you confident and joyful, so that you too may receive me exultant as a disciple of the One who was hung upon you.... O blessed cross, clothed in the majesty and beauty of the Lord's limbs!"

~ *Magnificat*, November, 2019