

*O Come Emmanuel*

## Mass Intentions

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

### Saturday – Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:00PM – Joseph Kroboth  
by Family

7:00PM – John Augustine, Sr  
by Jack and Lois McAllister

### Sunday – Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Eugene Huttie (B)  
by Wife, Rita

10:30AM – Charles B O'Donnell (B)  
by McCloskey Family

### Monday – Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – St John of the Cross

8:00AM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory  
by Irene Vomero

### Tuesday – Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – St Mary di Rosa

8:00AM – Health of Darlene Steiner (L)  
by Fred and Carol Hutterer

**Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass**

### Wednesday – Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – St Haggai the Prophet

6:00PM – Frances Figura  
by Andrew Figura and Family

### Thursday – Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – St John of Matha

8:00AM – Rachael and Andrew Crisce  
by Ron and Rosie Klipple

### Friday – Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – St Malachi the Prophet

8:00AM – Edward Marth  
by Greg and Joan Glover

### Saturday – Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – BI Urban V

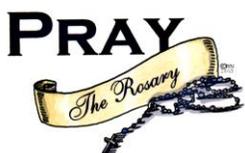
8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
4:00PM – Valeria and Paul Koons  
by Carolyn and Nick Pontician

7:00PM – Mary Helena Hauser  
by Daughter-in-Law, Mary Ann

### Sunday – Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Frank Snyder and Mike Brosky Families  
by Nin Snyder and Family

10:30AM – Joseph Tomasic  
by Wife and Family



**Sunday**

8:15AM and 10:15AM

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## The Holly House (Part III of IV)

There had been a light snow overnight, and Jerry Willoughby had taken to the leaf-blower to clear the walks, driveways and patios of the Holly House. He finished just in time to help with the Jamison's bags.

Bill and Mary Jamison came every year to the annual Christmas Celebration in Corinthia, PA, which is always held the second last weekend before Christmas. There was local and regional entertainment – knock-off bands, would-be Woody Guthrie's, and a *capella* groups. The highlight of the Christmas Celebration was a combination caroling and ugly Christmas sweater contest which really brought out the "unity" in community. The Jamison's had brought a suitcase full of ugly sweaters, determined to "take the gold" this year – the golden skein of wool was awarded twice in the last five years to their arch-rivals the Kasper's, while the Jamison's had never done better than the bronze thimble. It would be a very exciting contest this year.

Arriving a little later, the Grant's, who, by marriage, were allowed to "return home" and take part in the caroling contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. They were a tenor and alto for the Heights' Vocal Ensemble conducted by Mrs. Grant's younger brother Jim who had coordinated the event for the last twelve years. They were looking forward to visiting with family, exchanging presents early, and resting up for the Christmas rush-to-come which would see their house filled with their grown kids and little grandkids for a few days for the Holy Days themselves.

Lastly, arriving back at the Holly House for the weekend of the Christmas Celebration was Mildred Barlowe. Mildred was 84 years old and, while "looking" every bit the part of the wizened matriarchal figure, was as alive as the youngsters sure to enjoy the season. Mildred had a way about her that elicited conversation and stories from everyone in her company. At the shared breakfast table on Saturday morning, she not only broke the ice with the Jamison's and Grant's, but managed to get an update from each of them as to what they had been up to lately in the world. The Willoughby's considered her as royalty among their regular guests.

Saturday's festivities were quite enjoyable for all – details of which they would share at Sunday morning brunch with a little more prompting from Mildred. After much laughter and a few serious considerations about the state-of-the-world, the Jamison's took their leave to prepare for the finale of the ugly sweater contest. They pleaded with Mildred to help them decide which ugly Christmas sweater to wear to win the golden skein. She acceded. They opened up the wardrobe of their guest room to show Mildred and the Grant's who had followed like spectators to see the collection. There were shelves-full of some of the thickest, reddest and greenest,

snowflaked and garlanded sweaters anyone could ever hope to ever see (and I mean EVER). The on-lookers gasped. Mrs. Grant asked the obvious, "Where did you get all these?" Mary Jamison went through each one with a brief story as to who had gifted her with it. Her own words filled her with thoughtfulness and love of the gifters. The Jamison's turned to Mildred for her recommendations, "So, which ones are your favorites, Mildred?" They all held their breath. Mildred smiled, "I could never choose from among such gifts, that would be like choosing from among the givers." All of them looked at the collection in the wardrobe again, the doors' mirrors reflecting their reflections. Mildred asked, "Do you suppose God feels the same way when He looks at all of us? ...that He sees himself, the Giver, in each of us his "gifts"? They breathed together now. Mrs. Grant added, "Do you suppose He doesn't see us as ugly at all?" (to be concluded)



## PRAYER FOR WEEK THREE OF ADVENT

**Be glad and exult with all your heart! The Lord, your God, is in your midst....Zephaniah 3:14b 17a**

*Light three candles on the wreath, then pray:*  
Renew us in your love, Lord, for with you we have nothing to fear. You provide light for our darkness and warmth in the cold winter air. We sing your praises for all you have done for us. May we approach this holy Christmas season with a true spirit of joy and gratitude. 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.

## THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Trees are at both church entrances and decorated with gift tags for baby items. Take one tag or two, purchase the item(s) and place the unwrapped gift under the tree by **next weekend, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. If unable to shop, you can select a monetary gift tag. Please make your check payable to **St John Fisher Church**, place it in an envelope, tape the gift tag to the front, and place the envelope in the collection basket.



## DRIVERS NEEDED

**On Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8:30am** (following the 8:00am Mass), help will be needed to place all the Giving Tree items into bags and to deliver the gifts to Catholic Charities on Union Boulevard in Allentown. Any help, along with vans and SUV's, will be greatly appreciated!

## CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**, will be our annual Christmas Play and will be held in the Church Basement after the 10:30 Mass. All are welcomed. After the play there will be refreshments. Our play is about homeless people finding shelter in the church attic, and how they spent Christmas in church. We will be visited by Santa Claus. **All**

**children in our parish are invited.** Don't forget to bring your camera for pictures with Santa. On behalf of our CCD Staff and me we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas asking God to bless you with health and happiness in the New Year.

**Mrs. Regina Marhefka, D.R.E.**

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION



**Plate Collection \$ 4,184.60**  
**Christmas Flowers \$ 2,083.00**

The Second Collection this weekend, **December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**, will be the **Retired Religious Collection.**



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	A.Urban J.Shaul	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
<b>7:00PM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	J.Yanek	Deacon Jack
<b>8:30AM</b>	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	C.Hetzel
<b>10:30AM</b>	J.Drummer L.Ruda	B.Petro	J.Marhefka



Please remember in your prayers **Bernard T Dougherty, Jr.**, who passed away and was buried this past week. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## Breakfast with Santa

Join us on **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 11:00am** at Salem UCC, 615 Third Street in Catty. Adults are \$6.00, Children are \$3.00 and under 3 years are free.



## Help Wanted

### PARISH SECRETARY WANTED

Full time secretary needed at **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Whitehall**, Monday to Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm with a possibility of some evenings and weekends. Requirements include: 2 – 3 years' experience as a parish secretary preferred; applicant must have intermediate to advanced MS Office experience and able to use other office equipment as necessary, climb stairs and lift up to 25 lbs. Characteristics include: independent, efficient and productive person who is well organized, solution oriented, trustworthy and level headed. Applicant should be an active member of a Roman Catholic parish with an understanding of Roman Catholic practices. Salary is negotiable, depending on experience. Background checks and fingerprinting required. Submit resume with references and cover letter as a Word or PDF attachment to [secretary@sercc.org](mailto:secretary@sercc.org) or mail same to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 618 Fullerton Avenue, Whitehall PA 18052. Qualified applicants will be contacted by phone or email within two weeks of submission.



**Meat Bingo** at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 N. Front Street in Allentown on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 noon and bingo begins at 1:00pm. First come – first served seating. Refreshments available. Great meat prizes and Christmas turkeys in every special! Any questions, call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.

## Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:00PM** in the Parish Hall. **A luncheon will be served.**

The next Casino trip to Mount Airy will be on **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. The bus leaves the Church Parking Lot at 10:00AM. The price is \$22.00 per person.

For more information, call Bill Molchany, 610-264-0920.

### North Catty Luminaria Night

The Sixth annual North Catasauqua small Town USA Luminaria Night will be on **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, **beginning at 5:00pm at the Park**. Join North Catasauqua We Sing! Community Chorus on limo bus rides around the borough to view the luminaries and Christmas lights. The bus will depart the park every 5 minutes between 6:00pm to 8:00pm. There will be refreshments & candy canes for everyone! To purchase a luminary kit, \$10.00 for 10 luminaries, stop by the Borough Hall or email [NorthCataWeSing@aol.com](mailto:NorthCataWeSing@aol.com).



### Catty Rough Rider Mascot

North Catasauqua We Sing! Community Chorus presents a limited edition wooden replica of the **Catasauqua Rough Rider Mascot made by The Cat's Meow® Village**. It has the image of the beloved mascot in color on the front, and includes the Catasauqua High School alma mater on the back. A limited number is available for sale and they will make a great gift. Delivery is anticipated before Christmas but is not guaranteed. Order one today; they are only \$16.00 each. For questions, call 610-264-1225.