



# PASTOR'S CORNER

## Advent III: Hanging the Greens

### Mass Intentions Third Sunday of Advent December 10, 2016

**Saturday – Dec 10<sup>th</sup> –**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Eugene J. Huttie (B)  
by Wife, Rita

7:00PM – Emma Herschman  
by Paulette Kolumber

**Sunday – Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30AM – Irene Genovese (A)  
by Vince and Steph Genovese

10:30AM – Ann and Glen Oswald  
by Daughter, Louise

**Monday – Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00AM – Charles B. O'Donnell (B)  
by McCloskey Family

**Tuesday – Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – St Lucy**

8:00AM – Emma Herschman  
by Ann and Dale

***Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass***

**Wednesday – Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – St John of the Cross**

6:00PM – Richard Patterson  
by Irene Vomero

**Thursday – Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – St Mary di Rosa**

8:00AM – Dorothy E. VanHorn  
by Family

**Friday – Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – St Haggai the Prophet**

8:00AM – Bob Spengler and Bernadine Wehr  
by Ann and Dale

**Saturday – Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – St John of Matha**

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

**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 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic  
by Wife and Family

10:30AM – Vincent Rivetti  
by Paul Williams

Why evergreens? It should be obvious to us.

Practically speaking, they are still “in leaf” this time of year, so it makes perfect sense. They *should* be brought inside to remind us of the life present amidst the apparent barrenness.

Aesthetically speaking, the greens provide a rich, natural backdrop for the glitter of ornaments and the glimmer of lights. There is also a notable glow from the evergreens in candlelight, and a scent that scratches an itch well beneath our conscious memories.

Symbolically speaking, the firs and pines and spruces remind us that there are things as eternal as never-ending wreaths, and as broad and wide and sheltering as trees.

Theologically speaking, it is God's love that is eternal, his love for us that is evergreen in the bleakest landscape, a real and certain shelter from the chills of life. How do we know this? We know because of Jesus who was born for us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us and now *lives* for us!

So, our first-parents having stood before a tree and sinned, the new Eve and Adam on Calvary's tree in complete obedience to the Father's will, and the trees of our homes around which we gather, are all one tree. A tree that puts us to crisis: will we choose life in God or barrenness in self?

We choose life, and hang the greens.  
Fr. Eric.

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



# OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$4,216.00
Christmas Flowers Collection	\$1,867.00
Immaculate Conception Collection	\$1,056.00

The **Second Collection** this weekend, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** and **11<sup>th</sup>**, will be for the **Retired Religious**.



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
<b>4:00PM</b>	C.Gair D.Gair	J.McAllister	J.Ottinger
<b>7:00PM</b>	A.Muschko M.Druckenmiller	J.Englert	J.Yanek
<b>8:30AM</b>	G.Parise K.Segan	E.Snyder	Deacon Jack
<b>10:30AM</b>	C.Ritter M.Ritter	B.Petro	Deacon Jack

## Young at Heart

The next meeting of St John Fisher's Young at Heart will be held on **Wednesday, December 14<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 16<sup>th</sup>**. The bus leaves the Church Parking Lot at 10:00AM. The price is \$22.00 per person.

## SANTA'S WISH-LIST



HO! HO! HO! Christmas in spring! We would like to thank **Barbara Petro** for her gift of **\$300.00**. Any Santa gift made, at any time of the year, to the ongoing renovations of our parish is greatly appreciated!



## CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Noon to 1:30pm  
 Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
 Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm to 3:45pm  
 Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm to 7:30pm



## CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:00PM and 6:00PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:30AM and 10:30AM



## 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.

## CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, will be our annual Christmas Play and will be held in the church basement after the 10:30am Mass. All are welcomed, and after the play there will be refreshments. 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.**



Don't forget, the **RAFFLE DRAWING** will follow the C.C.D. Christmas program. This drawing benefits our renovation projects. You do not need to be present to win, and all winners will be notified by the end of business on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. **ALL returns must be received by today, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## ANNUAL GIVING TREE

When you take a gift tag from the giving tree, please place your gift card, or monetary gift in an envelope gift, tape the gift tag to the front of the envelope and place in the collection basket. Any checks given as gifts should be made out to **St. John Fisher Church**.



If, by chance, you have already purchased a gift, please know your gift will be gladly accepted as well. Please place under one of the trees.



## CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place immediately following the Christmas Play, which follows the 10:30am Mass on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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.



As we begin the **Third Week of Advent**, we anticipate Christmas, and so we ask Christ to grant us His grace that we might be prepared for welcoming His Birth. Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, marks a traditional turning point in this period of preparation, and we see it visually in the Advent wreath. Not only do we light more candles than we leave unlit for the first time in Advent—thus providing more light, symbolizing the light of Christ—but if our Advent wreath has a rose or pink candle, that's the one that we light this week. The purple candles of the first two weeks (and of the fourth week) are symbols of penance, but the rose candle is a symbol of our coming joy.

**Advent Wreath Prayer for the Third Week of Advent**

Incline Thine ear to our prayers, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and make bright the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

**An Explanation of the Advent Wreath Prayer for the Third Week of Advent**

The Advent wreath prayers for the First Week of Advent and the Second Week of Advent have been focused on action—that of Christ in the first week and of us (moved by Christ) in the second week. In this Third Week of Advent we now ask Christ to lift the veil of sin from our minds. His Incarnation at Christmas sanctifies the material world, but we must be prepared to accept His grace.



## 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.

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Attention all 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## St. Lucy



A story from the Acts of St. Lucy's life tells us that she consecrated herself to Christ at a young age despite the marriage arrangements that were made by her mother, Eutychia. When Eutychia suffered from a hemorrhage, she was cured after venerating the relics of Saint Agatha near Syracuse. The miraculous healing softened Eutychia's heart toward her

daughter, who henceforth set about distributing the family's wealth to the poor. Lucy's pagan fiancé, on the other hand, was incensed by the squandering of the fortune. He denounced her to the governor. As in Agatha's case, tradition suggests that Lucy's tormentors were determined to violate her virginal body, but she was miraculously preserved. Lucy died around 303.