



Mass Intentions

The Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2018

Saturday– Dec 15th –

Third Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr. (A)
by Jim and Carmela Meyer
7:00PM – Michael E. Voice
by Bob George

Sunday – Dec 16th –

8:30AM – Agnes M. Collis
by Deacon and Mrs. Jack O'Connell
10:30AM – Holly A. Cernobyl (B)
by Rose Stoitsits

Monday – Dec 17th – St John of Matha

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

Tuesday – Dec 18th – St Malachi the Prophet

8:00AM – Stephen Steffie (A)
by Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 19th – BI Urban V

6:00PM – Irene Vomero
by McCloskey Family

Thursday – Dec 20th – St Dominic of Silos

8:00AM – Anna Stascinsky
by Andrew Kish and Son

Friday – Dec 21st – St Peter Canisius

8:00AM – Kathy McCloskey (A)
by Children

Saturday– Dec 22nd – St Chaeremon

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – William Columbo, Sr. (B)
by Bill and Barbara Columbo
7:00PM – Joseph and Bertha Behum
by Niece, Jacqueline Smith

Sunday – Dec 23rd –

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife, Mary and Family
10:30AM – Bill and Peggy Harris
by McCloskey Family



Pray the Rosary Sundays

8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

Hanging on a Word

St. Bernard, in the twelfth century, reflecting on the moment between the Angel Gabriel's announcement and Mary's response to God's invitation, writes:

Fearful Adam and his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed salvation for all the children of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the Eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If He should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek Him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.

Mary's unique and unrepeatable YES in conceiving the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, has changed everything...every...thing. For now, because of her graced response, you and I may trust that our yesses to God can be fruitful for us and for others. Our Lady is the first and the best of us merely human beings, but now we have a graced opportunity to follow in her footsteps, and say our YES to God.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment, when the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear our prayers and grant our desires, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

He is coming,
Fr. Eric.



O Come Emmanuel

Advent Wreath Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth
fill us with overflowing joy.
May our excitement and anticipation
be a sign to the world
that you are always near. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Monday, December 17th – 6:00pm to 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

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



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place **following the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, December 23rd**. 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.



ANNUAL GIVING TREE

All unwrapped items should be placed under the tree, and all monetary gifts should be placed in the collection basket by next Sunday, December 23rd.

~ Charlotte Kerrigan

Save the Date!

For Teens and Their Parents

Parents... do you wonder why your teenager does the things they do? Do you feel they don't always appreciate you? It's time for you and your teenager to get on the same page – and discover God's plan for both of you!

The event will take place on **Friday, January 11, 2019, at 7:00pm, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center, 1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection	\$3,042.00
Immaculate Conception	\$1,431.00
Retired Religious Collection	\$ 725.00

Thank you for all of your financial support throughout the year!



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	D.Gorr A.Banoza	J. McAllister	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	L.Ruda N.Ruda	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	J.Druckenmiller
10:30AM	D.Gair K.Gair	J.DeLong	J.Marhefka

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. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.





Small Town USA Holiday Food Drive, benefits the Catasauqua Area Food Bank. Bring canned goods, non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and household paper products to the North Catasauqua Borough Hall drop-off bin, which is located in the main vestibule. **The food drive will continue through January 14th.**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

924 N. Front Street, Allentown

Their **New Year's Eve Celebration** with the Steel City Band will be held on **Monday, December 31st, from 6:30pm to 12:30am.** Tickets are just \$35.00 a person for dinner. Advanced tickets only, and it is B.Y.O.B.

Call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will closed for business from **Monday, December 24th through Tuesday, January 1st.** God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Wednesday, January 2nd.**



Saint Peter Canisius

*If you have too much to do,
with God's help you will find time to do it all.*



No words ring truer than those above spoken by Saint Peter Canisius, who accomplished much for the Church during his 76 years on earth. Peter Canisius is one of the lesser known Doctors of the Church.

Peter lived during the height of the Protestant Reformation, and in an effort to combat Luther's catechism Peter published his own Catholic Catechism in 1555, called the *Summary of Christian Doctrine*. This catechism was essential to

the Counter-Reformation, was the standard for centuries, and helped renew and strengthen the Catholic faith in Europe.

Because of Peter's long labors in Germany to fight the tide of Protestantism, Peter is often called the "Second Apostle to Germany" after Saint Boniface. Peter started schools and universities, reformed parishes, converted Protestants, and served the infirmed and imprisoned.

Soon after receiving a Master's Degree from Cologne at the age of 19, Peter met Blessed Peter Faber, one of the original Jesuits with Saint Ignatius. He was so impressed with Faber that Peter Canisius became a Jesuit himself in 1543. He was the first Dutchman to join the Jesuits.

Peter added a line to the "Hail Mary: As we know, the line "*Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death*" is not found in Scripture the way the rest of the Hail Mary is. Tradition holds that Peter Canisius, who was also known for his Marian theology, began adding the sentence to the Hail Mary, and it was officially accepted and included in the Catechism of the Council of Trent in 1566.