



Mass Intentions

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 30, 2017

Saturday – Dec 30th –

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

6:00PM – Bill and Peggy Harris

by Kathy McCloskey and Family

**Monday – Jan 1st – The Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God**

9:00AM – Mary Ann Faust

by Daughter, Mary Louise Faust

Tuesday – Jan 2nd –

Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:00AM – Jean Luff (L – Health)

by Nin Snyder and Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Jan 3rd –

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

6:00PM – Parents and Five Dopsovic Brothers

by Agnes Chabak

Thursday – Jan 4th – St Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00AM – Martha E. Garber

by Denise and Stan Janis

Friday – Jan 5th – St John Neumann

8:00AM – Bob Spengler and Bernadine Wehr

by Ann and Dale

Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

Saturday – Jan 6th – St Andre Bessette

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – Jeanette S. Koncz

by Constance Berner

7:00PM – Holly A. Cernobyl

by Kathy McCloskey and Family

Sunday – Jan 7th –

8:30AM – The Memorial Fund Members

by The Memorial Fund

10:30AM – David J. Sweeney

by Edward and Sylvia Urbanovitch

PASTOR'S CORNER

Slave of Whom?

[a reprise from 2016 to help shape our resolutions]

M. Scott Peck, psychologist and author, in People of the Lie, recalls:

Malachi Martin, depicting the struggle of a man to free himself from [demonic] possession, gives the best description I know of the free human will in action:

All at once he knew what that strength was. It was his will. His autonomous will. He himself as a freely-choosing being. With a sidelong glance of his mind, he dismissed once and for all that fabric of mental illusions about psychological motivations, behavioral stimulations, rationales, mentalistic hedges, situational ethics, social loyalties and communal shibboleths. All was dross and already eaten up and disintegrated in the flames of this experience which still might consume him. Only his will remained. Only his freedom of spirit to choose held firm. Only the agony of free choice remained . . . afterwards he wondered for a long time how many real choices he had made freely in his life before that night. For it was that agony of choosing freely – totally freely – that was now his. Just for the sake of choosing. Without any outside stimuli. Without any background in memory. Without any push from acquired tastes and persuasions. Without any reason or cause or motive deciding his choice. Without any gravamen from a desire to live or die – for at this moment he was indifferent to both. He was, in a sense, like the donkey medieval philosophers had fantasized as helpless, immobilized, and destined to starve because it stood equidistant from two equivalent bales of hay and could not decide which one to approach and eat. Totally free choice . . . He had to choose. The freedom to accept or reject. A proposed step into a darkness . . . All seemed waiting on his next step. His own. Only his.
(from *Hostage to the Devil*)

In my own view, (continues Peck), the issue of free will, like so many great truths, is a paradox. On the one hand, free will is a reality. We *can* be free to choose without “shibboleths” or conditioning or many other

factors. On the other hand, we cannot choose freedom. There are only two states of being: submission to God and goodness or the refusal to submit to anything beyond one's own will – refusal automatically enslaves one to the forces of evil. We must ultimately belong either to God or the devil. ...As C.S. Lewis put it, "There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan." (*Christianity and Culture*)

We cannot be under God's rule and our own rule. "But Father," you might say, "why reflect on such a topic with all the troubles in the world?" To which I might respond, "Exactly." All the evil in the world begins with the individual's choice – do I serve God or myself (and, therefore, the devil)? Choose wisely in the new year. A blessed 2018 to all!

Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$ 3,132.00
Christmas Collection \$14,223.00



Please remember in your prayers **Kathleen Ann (O'Donnell) McCloskey, and Rose M. (Luchansky) Todaro** who passed away and were recently 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 **First Slovak Ladies Association** for their \$400.00 donation and a \$100.00 anonymous donation from one of our parishioners.



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.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Friday, January 5th

Adoration begins after morning Mass, and continues throughout the day.

7:00PM ~ HOLY HOUR



SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Sunday, December 31st – 6:00PM

Monday, January 1st – 9:00AM



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Gorr D.Gorr	J.McAllister	M.Druckenmiller Deacon Jack
7:00PM	A.Muschko K.Segan	P.McCarty	J.Behum Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	E.Snyder	C.Hetzel Deacon Jack
10:30AM	C.Ritter M.Ritter	J.DeLong	L.Bolmer Deacon Jack

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.



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

2017 CONTRIBUTION FORMS

Please fill out this tear-off form to request your 2017 contribution form, and place in the collection basket. All forms will be mailed out by the end of January.

NAME _____ ENV # _____

ADDRESS _____

GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS



Please join the Helpers of God's Precious Infants at the Prayer Pilgrimage for the unborn, and all those involved in abortion on **Saturday, January 13th**. The pilgrimage begins with Mass at 8:00AM at Notre Dame

Church, 1861 Catasauqua Road, and continues with The Rosary at the abortion facility located at 31 South Commerce Way.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

924 N. Front Street, Allentown

Their Meat Bingo will be held on **Sunday, January 21st at 1:00pm**. Doors and kitchen open at 12:00 Noon. Call Bill Drost at 610.432.3505.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

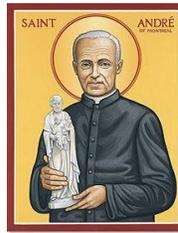
ACCHS Director of Admissions is "rounding up applications" from each of our Partner Schools for a \$3,000.00 tuition credit raffle! One drawing will be held on **January 17th and one on February 11th**. Go to www.acchs.info/apply and fill out your student's ACCHS Class of 2022 application. Each applicant is entered into our tuition raffles. For questions, contact Cara at 610-437-4601 ext.108 or cmeskill@acchs.info.

Allentown Central Catholic High School is looking for an experienced Head Middle School Softball Coach, willing to develop fundamental skills, teach strategies, and provide team building skills. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Athletic Director, Dennis Csensits - dcsensits@acchs.info.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

God and weather permitting, the Rectory will reopen on **Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 10:00AM**.

SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE



Born of a poor family near Montreal, Alfred Bessette entered the congregation of the Holy Cross, taking the name Andre. As a brother, he was assigned to be porter at the College of Notre Dame in Montreal. His humble prayers to Saint Joseph obtained physical healing and conversion of heart for many. "It is Saint Joseph who cures," he said. "I am only his little dog."

Desiring to provide a fitting shrine for his patron, Andre raised funds by doing simple haircuts for students at five cents apiece. After the Oratory of Saint Joseph was built, he was assigned as its caretaker. Andre died in 1937 and was canonized in 2010. ~ *Magnificat, January, 2018*



"O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love for your Commandments."

~~Pope Benedict XVI