



## Mass Intentions

The First Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2015

### Saturday – Nov 28<sup>th</sup> – St James of the Marches

4:00PM – Catherine Mahon (B)  
by Daughter, Barbara Knarr  
7:00PM – John “Jack” McCarty  
by Kathleen and Peggy

### Sunday – Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Mary M Vandegrift  
by Darlene Loncoski  
10:30AM – Francis J Broderick  
by Family

### Monday – Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – St Andrew the Apostle

8:00AM – Richard Pontician, Sr  
by Patricia A Bloszinski

### Tuesday – Dec 1<sup>st</sup> –

#### St Edmund Champion and Companions

8:00AM – All Memorial Fund Members  
by The Memorial Fund

#### *Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass*

### Wednesday – Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – St Bibiana

6:00PM – Donald N Knarr (WA)  
by Wife, Barbara

### Thursday – Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – St Francis Xavier

8:00AM – Angelo Vomero  
by Bob Patterson

### Friday – Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – St John Damascene

8:00AM – Charles J McCarty, Jr  
by Kathleen and Peggy

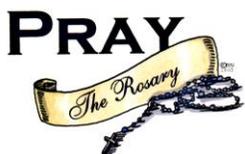
#### *Sacred Heart Novena after Mass*

### Saturday – Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – St Sabbas

8:00AM – All St John Fisher Parishioners  
4:00PM – Mary Cerulli  
by Anna Ortelli  
7:00PM – Richard Fedor (B)  
by Wife, Roma

### Sunday – Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30AM – Rev Charles Stanley Sperlak  
by Rev Eric J Gruber  
10:30AM – Francesca Mione (B)  
by Daughter



**Sunday**  
8:15AM and 10:15AM

# PASTOR'S CORNER

## The Holly House (Part I of IV)

Abby Willoughby pushed through the half-closed kitchen door with arms full of grocery bags and sacks filled like Santa's packs on Christmas Eve. “Did you leave anything at the store for others?” her husband Jerry taunted. Snickering with a wink in her eye Abby retorted, “Less commentary, more help, please, Dear.” They went through their well-oiled routine of stocking the pantry and the cupboards of Corinthia, Pennsylvania's finest Bed and Breakfast, The Holly House.

Abby and Jerry had each held coveted positions at the local hospital and college respectively, until their son Ken was injured in Iraq and returned home with more wounds than were obvious. They decided to make some adjustments in their lives and careers so as to be available for Ken's on-going recovery. They sold their family home, and bought up a local landmark, and with a couple of their IRA “nest eggs” cracked open, they refurbished the old Windsor estate houses and property as a house of hospitality for all travelers, but especially veterans and their families. With Abby's great cooking, Jerry's self-taught handy-man skills, and Ken's computer know-how, the place took off immediately as they lived in a town of rather interesting folks in picturesque and accessible eastern central PA. They named their Bed and Breakfast after the two great holly trees that flanked the driveway at the entrance from the old Fireline Road, just off the beaten path.

The Willoughby's loved their new life, even with all the adjustments, because they loved meeting people and they loved being with each other more through the day, taking on tasks together as much as apart. It made them a better family they often reflected. And, most importantly, Ken was improving.

Abby started the cooking prep for the holiday season at the B&B as soon as the groceries were away. They would have a series of visits over the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas and she wanted everything to be just right, to be like a “home away from home” for travelers and friends who were booked months in advance. The holiday season drew many to little Corinthia PA every year for their Mistletoe Festival and their Old-Time Christmas Celebration which kept their downtown businesses in the black from year to year. They liked to think their guests always left with a sense of having been part of a classic Christmas movie.

First in line with the travelers' parade at the Holly House this season is a group of three elderly couples who come for the Mistletoe Festival every year. Abby knows they want her Mom's snickerdoodles and Jerry knows they want fresh white cotton percale linens. The Holly House is getting ready. (to be continued...)

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION



**Plate Collection** \$ 4,052.00  
**Poverty Relief Collection** \$ 971.00

The Second Collection next weekend, **December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**, will be the **Christmas Flowers Collection**.



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	<b>Servers</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>E.Ministers</b>
<b>4:00PM</b>	J. Shaul D. Sullivan	J. Englert	C. Molchany Deacon Jack
<b>7:00PM</b>	A. Muschko A. Urban	J. Yanek	J. Druckenmiller Deacon Jack
<b>8:30AM</b>	M. Popovic S. Popovic	E. Snyder	C. Hetzel Deacon Jack
<b>10:30AM</b>	A. Gorr D. Gorr	M. Ottinger	J. Ottinger Deacon Jack



Flowers were placed on the altar this past week in memory of **Charles and Marge McCarty** by Family.

## OPLAKI

Our Christmas Oplaki is now available for purchase at the entrances to church. The Christmas Oplaki 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 in the packet. A \$3.00 donation for a pack of five is suggested.



## 2016 CALENDARS

Please take a 2016 Church Calendar home with you. Special thanks to Megan Nagle, Kevin, Danny and Connor O'Donnell of the O'Donnell Funeral Home, and to John and Andrew Brubaker of the Brubaker Funeral Home. Each year they donate our Church Calendars. Once again, many thanks.



## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Mark your calendar to spend some time with our Lord in **Adoration** this **First Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Adoration begins at the end of morning Mass and continues throughout the day until Holy Hour beginning at 7:00pm.



## PRAYER FOR WEEK ONE OF ADVENT

*The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made... Jeremiah 33:14*

*Light one candle on the wreath then pray:* Advent is a yearly reminder that You have fulfilled Your promise to send us a Savior. As we prepare for Christmas once again, Lord, help us not get carried away with the frantic pace of the shopping and the parties. Instead, may we keep our eyes and hearts lifted to You, the real reason for the season Who brings us true peace. Amen.

## What is Advent?

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin 'Adventus,' which means 'coming.' Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year, and encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The **first Sunday of Advent** is the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, which is November 30<sup>th</sup>. The liturgical color for this season is purple. Advent is a preparatory season. It has significance because it is a season of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the time when Christ will come again. As noted in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, during Advent, the faithful are asked:

- *to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love,*
- *thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and*
- *to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.*

## THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree benefits The Catholic Charities of Allentown. Our trees will be 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 **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. Any questions, please feel free to call **Charlotte Kerrigan** at 610-417-5900.



## DONUT SUNDAY



The next Donut Sunday will be **next Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, and is being sponsored by **Bernie and Linda Pluchinsky**. Please stop by the church hall after the Sunday masses for some coffee, tea, friendship and donuts!



## MIDNIGHT MASS

Please consider joining us in the balcony for the beautiful feast of Christmas Midnight Mass. It is a short-term commitment of four Wednesday rehearsals in December beginning on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm**.



## Holiday Meal

The 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Lions Holiday Meal is being served by the Catasauqua Area Lions at St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 417 Howertown Road on **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon**. This meal is being offered **FREE OF CHARGE** and is open for all seniors who live, attend church, or belong to an organization in the Catasauqua and North Catasauqua area. There is a signup sheet at each church entrance.

## Catty Thrift Shop

The thrift shop is in need of **infant and children clothing**. Items can be brought to the Thrift Shop, 113 Bridge Street, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm, and on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Thank you!

## Thank You

Thank you to **Marge Heffner** and the donation of **\$200.00** from the proceeds of the upcoming bus trip!

## SANTA'S WISH-LIST



HO! HO! HO! We have received a gift of **\$2,000.00** from one of our parishioners. Any Santa gift made to the ongoing renovations of our parish is greatly appreciated!

## 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 and all help, along with vans and SUV's, will be greatly appreciated!

## 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 with the words "Catasauqua Rough Riders" 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.

## Advent Traditions

The **Advent wreath** is circular, representing God's eternity, and it includes 4 candles - one for each Sunday of Advent. The **Jesse Tree**, named for the father of David, is a tree that is decorated gradually throughout Advent with symbols or pictures of biblical persons associated with the gradual coming of the Messiah, Christ. This includes, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph and Mary. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; it is a perfect way to teach and remind children about the preparatory nature of Advent.