



Mass Intentions

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2019

Saturday– Dec 14th –

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – William Columbo, Sr. (B)
by Bill and Bobbie Columbo
7:00PM – Thomas Vincent Tomasic
by Dennis and Rosalie Weiss

Sunday – Dec 15th –

8:30AM – Robert L. Strohl
by Keith Krautsack
10:30AM – Agnes and Homer Collis
by Family

Monday – Dec 16th – St Haggai the Prophet

8:00AM – Irene Tanzosh
by Carolyn, Chris Danny and Brian Lloyd

Tuesday – Dec 17th – St John of Matha

8:00AM – Father Joseph J. Morrell (A)
by McCloskey Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – Dec 18th – St Malachi the Prophet

6:00PM – David Cunningham
by Sister, Betty

Thursday – Dec 19th – Bl Urban V

8:00AM – Steven Steffie
by Monica Hodges

Friday – Dec 20th – St Dominic of Silos

8:00AM – John and Anna Kish
by Jean Marhefka and Family

Saturday– Dec 21st – St Peter Canisius

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – James DiLiberto, Sr. (A)
by Jim and Carmela Meyer
7:00PM – William Molchany, Sr.
by Wife, Mary

Sunday – Dec 22nd –

8:30AM – Joseph Tomasic
by Wife, Mary, and Family
10:30AM – Kathy McCloskey (A)
by Family



Pray the Rosary Sundays
8:15AM and 10:15AM

PASTOR'S CORNER

The Narrow Door (Revised)

...and, here I arrived, my corpulent self,
at the kingdom for which I had been made.
And what do I encounter but a wall as high as
a great oak,
and wider than an elephant!

“There’s got to be a way in,” I think and then
say to myself
while looking down the course of the kingdom
wall – it hurt to look at it shining white in the
sunlight. No entrance or break in the wall
could be found.
“Figures...” I mutter to myself, “I’d come all
this way only to arrive on the wrong side of the
place.”

Away from the trees and taller growth, there
was no hiding from the beating light.
I walked clockwise, to my left, hoping to
round the corner and find an open door.
No such fortune awaited; for the next right turn
merely displayed what seemed an interminably
long “side” to the place – just as high and
bright as the first I encountered.

Frustration sets in...and nearly despair...but I
think and then say to myself,
“What other choice do I have?” I answer
myself, “Just keep going.”

The next turn yields some sort of opening in
the center of the wall.
I approach with renewed vigor, until I get
close enough to gauge the width and height of
the entrance – a small blue door, no more than
a foot and a half wide and three feet tall.
“What?” I ask of my Host,...sweating and
panting in self-importance, “Why such a small
door? After all this time and effort...why?”
The answer comes – was it thunder? “My
grace is sufficient for thee.” -- A reply which
echoes down the long kingdom walls and finds
my ears again with exclamations.

I camp there for days and months out-of-time, until my fast allows me through.
I enter through the narrow door.

Advent is a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but for the day we will meet Jesus face-to-face. Fasting, prayer and charity are our true preparation for that day.
Fr. Eric.



O Come Emmanuel

Advent Wreath Prayer for the Third Week of Advent
O Lord God, as we, Thy people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ, let us remember that He came to seek and save that which was lost and call all to penance, lest they perish. Grant that we bring forth worthy fruits of penance in preparation for experiencing the joyous arrival of our salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Sunday, December 15th – 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Sunday, December 22nd – 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Monday, December 23rd – 6:30pm – 8:00pm



CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Tuesday, December 24th – 4:00pm (with Children's Choir) and 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Wednesday, December 25th – 9:30am



OPLATKI



Our **Christmas Oplatki** is now available for purchase at both 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 four is suggested.



Please remember in your prayers **Margaret F. (Groeller) Hodge, Gloria Ann Reinert, and Raymond B. Hahn, Jr.**, who passed away and were recently buried. We pray their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CCD CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Next Sunday, December 22nd, is 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.**

Mrs. Regina Marhefka, D.R.E.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection \$4,657.00
Retired Religious Collection \$ 792.00



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	S.Ruda L.Ruda	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	A.Muschko L.McGinley	P.McCarty	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	B.Molchany	C.Molchany
10:30AM	Z.Bossons K.Gair	P.McCloskey	F.Hutterer



CHURCH DECORATING

Christmas Decorating will take place **after the 10:30am Mass next Sunday, December 22nd**. 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 the sanctuary for Our Lord's Nativity!



BAPTISM

We welcome **Levi Augustin Chovanes**, son of **Michael George and Kathleen Mary (Corrigan) Chovanes**, who was baptized recently, and is the newest member of our family of God at St John Fisher Parish.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Rectory Office will be open for business on Monday, December 23rd. The office will then be closed from Tuesday, December 24th and, God permitting, the rectory will reopen on Monday, January 6th.



ANNUAL GIVING TREE



Reminder! All gifts to the children in our community should be placed under the Giving Tree and all monetary gifts should be placed in the collection basket by next Sunday, December 22nd.

~ Kathy Newhall, Gloria Gontkosky and Diana Rutt

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



The carol was a secret catechism for Catholics in England when Catholicism was persecuted during the war of religions from Henry the VIII to 1829. This song gave them a chance to teach their children knowledge of the saints and doctrine in a secret code when the Protestants were cracking down on the Catholics. The Catholic version has the Christmas season starting on December 25th, and concluding with the Epiphany on January 6th.

Each day represents the celebration of a martyr, saint or a feast connected with Jesus' birth. December 26th, or Boxing Day, considered day two of Christmas, is the Feast of Saint Stephen, a deacon who gave present boxes to the poor.

The feast wraps up on January 6th, which is the revelation of Christ as the saviour and son of God to the world. On that day, Catholics celebrate the arrival of the Magi — the three wise men with their presents and it is in their memory that we give presents.

On the **first day** of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree," symbolizing God, our true love, and Jesus Christ, the partridge.

Second day: Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Third day: Three French hens represented the three gifts of faith, hope and love.

Fourth day: Calling birds were the four gospels.

Fifth day: Five golden rings were the Books of Moses.

Sixth day: Geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation.

Seventh day: Swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eighth day: Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Ninth day: Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as charity, peace and kindness.

Tenth day: Lords a-leaping represent the 10 Commandments.

Eleventh day: Pipers piping were the 11 faithful apostles.

Twelfth day: Twelve drummers drumming represented the points of the Apostles Creed.