

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In the gospel for this Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus was found three days later in the Temple in the midst of the teachers. His distraught parents were upset that he had done this to them. Jesus said to them, "Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Perhaps Mary and Joseph had been lulled by the years and had forgotten what they knew of Jesus' true identity.

In our lives we often forget about our own true identity. It is not who we are, rather whose we are. God has given us our life for a purpose and we need never to forget that. God is not ours; instead we are God's own children. We are loved more than we could ever comprehend.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Sick: *Angela Pfeil Hamm, Theresa Tuite, Joe Brahler, Bill Webber, Karen Modesto, Tom Jefferson, Jean Hill, Esther Smith, Paul Connors, Fred Maskerines, Dorothy Parsick, Frederick Hossler.*

Deceased: *Cecelia Hock*

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)

Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Cemetery Information

John Consugar 622-2389

George Smith 544-3294

C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline – Tuesday prior to publication

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 31 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY CUCHARA (Mr.&Mrs. John Carroll)

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

CHARLES LORENZ (Kathleen & Gerald Tone)

Tuesday – January 1 – 10:00 a.m.

KATHY BUEHLER (John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

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Wednesday – January 2 – 9:00 a.m.

FRANCIS & MARY BURNS

Thursday – January 3 – 9:00 a.m.

DENNIS KEEFER (Herb Tamburelli)

Friday, January 4 – 9:00 a.m.

JEREMIAH BRENNAN (George & Eileen Forney)

Saturday, January 5 – 5:00 p.m.

JOSEPHINE KOCHOL (Patricia Mitnitsky)

Sunday, January 6 – 8:15 a.m.

ANTHONY HOFFMAN (Mary Ann Holley)

Sunday, January 6 – 10:30 a.m.

GEORGE & MARY CONNORS

(Larry Steficek & Family)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - Living and Deceased
St. Joseph Parishioners
Tabernacle of
Sanctuary St. John's Parish Family
Guardian Angels 1&2. Special Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Sunday – 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m.

or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism.

Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Outreach Program

Rectory 622-5470

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC

Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT

(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019

SCHEDULE
SOLEMNITY OF MARY

5:15 p.m. – Monday – December 31st

Reader: Robert Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Carol Lasco

Servers: Luke Garvey, Reese Ketner

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

10:00 a.m. Tuesday – January 1st

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Leah, Justice, Jude Scheidel

Cantor: Tina Seiger

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5 p.m. – Saturday – January 5th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bill Schweikert, Molly Zwiebel

Servers: Brooke Siket, Macie Rushannon, Patrick Ryan

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – January 6th

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel, John Corbacio

Servers: Madison & Caden Wright, Luke Schane

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – January 6th

Reader: Susan Hahner

Euch.Min.: Phil Markovich, John Ventura

Servers: Ronald, Kathryn, John Yourey

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What causes people to lose Jesus?
To find him?

Next Week's Readings

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (January 5/6)

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Men's Gospel Reflection Group meeting will take place on **Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Rectory Fellowship Room.** This group is open to any men interested in reflecting on how the Gospel impacts their lives. All are welcome! Please call Michael Scheidel 739-1808 or Bill Gianfagna 573-0105 with any questions.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 22/23: \$ 4,416.50

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for us,
a time to grow in faith and love,
a time to renew our commitment
to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing,
a time to cherish our family and friends.
May it be a time to renew our efforts at work,
as we embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please, in every day
and every hour of this New Year,
that the light of Christ might shine through us,
in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year
that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.

Amen.

... WE REMEMBER ...

The following are the names of parishioners, former parishioners and those who have been laid to rest during the past year. Please take a moment and remember them and their surviving families as we pass through to a New Year.

Mary C. Alfonsi

Catherine Bowers

Dominic DeFrank

Theresa Mary Rinaldo

Patricia Hahner

Cecelia Hock

Helen Krupa

Annette Lieberman

John Lieberman IV

Dolores Lynn

Frederick Montag

Dorothy Prokop

Verna Sauers

Gerald Schoenauer

Charles Tamburelli

Candida Webber

FAMILY MATTERS

Holy Family of the Year – We pray this week for the intercession of our Holy Family --- Jesus, Mary and Joseph to intercede for all families. Whether we struggle as family or not we ask to see Jesus' presence in our families' everyday lives.

New Year's Day. This New Year offers your family a new beginning. Consider making a family commitment (AKA resolution). Make it simple, for all to be able to do. Put it on the refrigerator door. Pray for the grace to follow through.

You pray for my family and I'll pray for yours.

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

May your Guardian Angel forever be near to guide and protect you throughout the New Year.

*May your blessings be many, your failures be few,
as you embrace the future with hope born anew.*

May you live day to day with nothing to fear.

God bless you and keep you throughout the New Year.

FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

The Family Guild will be sponsoring the Gift Card Calendar Raffle for March 2019. The members of the Guild would like to extend the opportunity to all parishioners to sponsor any type of Gift Card or make a monetary donation to purchase a gift card.



If you are interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.

Those who have donated to date:

Beehive
Crimson House
Daubert Family
DiCello Chiropractic Care
Friends of St. John's
Guzick Family
Headquarters Styling Salon
Kochol Family
Charles Miller Family
Victor E. Muncy Inc.
Nativity BVM High School
Quality Discount Heating Oil & Propane
Schlitzler Allen Pugh Funeral Home
Martin & Linda Smith

CHILDREN'S BOX ENVELOPES



If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly contribution envelopes for 2019, please contact the rectory during the week at ... 622-5470 ext.3.

2019 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the **James E. Humphrey Funeral Home** for taking care of this expense.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Assumption BVM School is looking for your help in collecting "Box Tops." Many of the products you already have in your home, has a

BOX TOP on it. All you need to do is clip them out and place them in the drop-off box in the rear of the church. With each box top collected our school earns cash to update needed materials. We are no longer collecting "Campbell Soup" labels.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE – THANK YOU

The members of St. John's Catholic Women's Union would like to thank everyone who donated cookies or gave monetary donations, and those who supported us by purchasing treats at our *Tenth Annual Christmas Cookie Sale* held December 15/16. The Christmas spirit of giving came through with the wonderful generosity of those who donated cookies. The fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you to the women on the Cookie Committee who gave of their time at this busy season and also anyone who worked at the sale. We are a small group of women, but we are mighty and strong in our efforts to raise money for the church.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Joyous New Year.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

GIVING TREE & CAROLING

You outdid yourselves again! The packages under our "Giving Tree" were overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. You are so good to others. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were:

Our Communion Calls – 26 ; Gaudenzia House - 11
Catholic Social Agency – 32; Cloud Home – 6
Care Net – 47.

We wish to thank *Gerry Schwartz* for organizing the Giving Tree and thank you to her helpers ...

*Barbara Schoenauer, the Scheidel Family,
Stanley Gorski, Joshua Steffan*

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver these gifts in the name of St. John's Parish Family and for going caroling and spreading Christmas cheer to members of our parish community in assisted living homes and on the Communion Call lists

Billy Burke
Amelia, Camden, Shanna Deibert
Maya Golden
Heather & Livia Hable
Bob & Susan Hahner
Sandra & Chloe Heintz
Heidi, Avarey, Brinley Herring
Jen & Evielyn Hower
Josette, Aliyah, Nathan Peckman
David, Tracy, Mickaellya Schatz
Amanda & Madison Wright

Thank you for giving your time, but mostly your smiles and Christmas wishes. God surely was smiling once again as you gave a little bit of yourself to others. God bless you!

NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL ...

OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION – will take place on Sunday, January 13th School tours, presentations and displays begin 1 p.m. Members of the Nativity community will be available for questions. No pre-registration required. All are welcome! Please contact the school 622-8110 or jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.



Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

- * It's inexpensive Advertising
 - * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
 - * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Own Neighborhood
 - * It Develops Good Community Relationships
 - * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers
-

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... Everyone should get vaccinated against the flu, but obese people have extra reasons to do so. It has long been known that obese people are at increased risk for more severe symptoms and complications if they get the flu, but a new NIH-funded study in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* has found that they are also likely to remain sick and infectious longer than non-obese people. Researchers analyzed data from 1,783 people in Nicaragua over three recent flu seasons; 145 of them became ill with the flu. Obese adults who came down with the flu tended to have more severe cases, as expected. What's more, obese adults with influenza A and two or more flu symptoms shed the virus 40 percent longer than their non-obese counterparts (5.2 vs 3.7 days). Obese adults with milder illness (one or no flu symptoms, not including fever) shed the influenza A virus twice as long as their non-obese counterparts (3.2 vs 1.6 days). Obesity did not increase viral shedding in people who had influenza B, which is less common than A (and does not cause pandemics), or in children ages 5 to 17.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER – As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, let us remember that God's love for us is reflected by the love we have for each other in our family. Why not encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a *Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend*. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

PARENTS & TEENS You are invited to a special event "*The Master Craftsman: God's Amazing Plan for Teens (and their Parents)*" co-sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. Join us for a faith-filled evening with nationally-recognized speaker Scott Anthony, as he helps us see the Truth of God's guiding hand in our lives. We encourage teens in grades 9-12 and their parents to attend! After this evening, you and your youth will look toward the future with a newfound sense of hope.

The event will take place on **Friday, January 11, 2019** at 7:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center (1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103). Free of charge; light refreshments provided. For registration please visit www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Thea Aclo at taflo@allentowndiocese.org.

NEW TEEN MINISTRY *Schuylkill Catholic Young Church* is the new Schuylkill County regional youth ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming "Alpha" series, which includes free dinner. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning. Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to Alpha. Please RSVP to Father Dave at the rectory 622-5470 or email stjbparish@comcast.net. Alpha will be held on **Sundays 6 – 8 p.m. at the Frackville Youth Center, 7 S. Broad Mountain Ave, Frackville, from January 27 through March 24.**

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT – An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion scheduled for **March 22-24, 2019**. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Sr. Meg Cole – **1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free) or 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019** or projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org

*** Deadline for Registration is March 14th.**

For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org
