

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas everyone! Christmas is filled with expectations. Many look forward to brightly-wrapped gifts, festive decorations and holiday meals. For Catholics, gifts, the trimmings, and celebrations of the Christmas season call to mind the unending grace of Emmanuel, God with us in the mystery of the Incarnation.

As you go about this Christmas exchanging gifts and sharing those holiday meals, try to keep Christ at the center of it all. When preparations make you harried, when family tensions start to rise, when gifts aren't appreciated, or when things don't go as planned, keep coming back to Bethlehem and that child in the manger, where nothing went as planned on human terms but everything went as planned on God's terms. Those are the only terms that matter. On behalf of our parish staff, I wish all of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 16/17: \$ 5,373;

Improvements & Repairs: \$1,881

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Jane Sunday by Don & Joanne Doyne

St. Joseph - IMO JoAnn Heller

by Joe & Barbara Wollyung

Tabernacle - IMO John & Philomena Carroll by Family

Sanctuary

1. IMO Josephine Parsick

by Joanne Schultz & Dorothy Parsick

2. IMO George Hahner Jr. by Family

3. Liv. & Dec. of St. John's Catholic Women's Union

4. IMO Thomas, Lillian, Thomas (Tucker),

Christina (Selinko) Searle by Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne

by Don & Joanne Doyne

2. IMO Frank Brozana

by Don & Joanne Doyne

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: *Mary Connell, Jerry Schoenauer, Dorothy Blum, Carl Forster, Dorothy Prokop, Beth Resnick, Doug Broughton, Mackenzie Miller, Fred Montag, Viola Dizenzo, Wayne Herring.*

MASS INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday - December 25

10 a.m. - PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S

Tuesday, December 26 to Friday, January 29

NO MASSES

Saturday, December 30 - 5 p.m.

JOSEPHINE KOCHOL (Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Sunday - December 31 - 8:15 a.m.

GERRY MEHLING (Mary Beth Harvey & Children)

Sunday - December 31 10:30 a.m.

PETER MESERAVAGE

(Dave, Deb, Mercedes Shelcusky)

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Sunday, December 31 - 5:15 p.m.

THERESA SENCAK (John & Joyce Gerace)

Monday - January 1 - 10:00 a.m.

EDWARD SMITH (Charles Camut)

SCHEDULE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 p.m. - Saturday - December 30th

Reader: Christine Disabella

Euch.Min.: Paul & Mary Ann Filiac

Servers: Mark Disabella, Lauren & Kelly Goodman

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

8:15 a.m. - Sunday - December 31st

Reader: Tyler Cooper

Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Vincent & Michael Prestileo, Jillian Guzick

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. - Sunday - December 31st

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Macie Rushannon, Madison Ryan, Riley Doyle

Cantor: Melody Newhard Kirk

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

5:15 p.m. - Sunday - December 31st

Reader: Robert Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Carol Lasco

Servers: Lindsay & Luke Garvey, Reese Ketner

Cantor: Mary Bound

10:00 a.m. Monday - January 1st

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Grace, Justice, Leah Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS. All are welcome to stop by the Rectory during office hours on weekdays to see the beautiful Christmas tree and decorations.

THANK YOU – ADVENT CANDLES

A special thank you to Dolores Smith
and Family for the donation
of the Advent Candles ...
In memory of Edward Smith.



Thank You to St. John's CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION

A special thank you to our Catholic Women's Union
here at St. John's for their generous gift this year of
\$3,000. This donation is the result of all their hard work
and efforts over this past year.

CHILDREN'S BOX ENVELOPES

If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly
contribution envelopes for 2018, please contact the
rectory during the week at ... 622-5470 ext.3.

2018 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.

FAMILY MATTERS

Christmas Time – the true meaning. Jesus is the
reason for the season. During this Christmas time
commit yourself to sharing the true meaning of
Christmas with your family. God shared His love fully
by becoming human. We too can share His love by
being Christ to one another. May God bless you and
your family during this season of good will.

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

NATIVITY BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... accepting applications for a
Head Track & Field Coach. Head Coaching experience
preferred for Track & Field. Interested candidates should
send résumé, certifications and all clearances to:

Nativity BVM High School
Attn: Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Principal
One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville, Pa. 17901
lsabol@nativitybvm.net

ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL ...

POSITION AVAILABLE ... **First Grade Teacher**
Assumption BVM School is seeking a qualified
applicant for a first grade teaching position.
Requirements listed at www.allentowndiocese.org.
Please send all information to Mrs. Teresa Keating at
Assumption BVM School.