



REVITALIZE IN CHRIST - RAISING THE ROOF

# SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH *Dec. 16, 2018*



Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:15-16a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### Mass Schedule

**SATURDAY VIGIL:** 4:00 PM  
**SUNDAY:** 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM  
**WEEKDAYS (Chapel):** Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM  
**HOLY DAYS:** Vigil - 7:00 PM; 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM  
**HOLIDAYS:** 9:00 AM  
**CONFESSION:** Sat., 3:00 - 3:45 PM or by appointment

### Business Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
 Friday: 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
 Saturday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 Sunday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
 (Office closed weekdays from 12:00-1:00pm for lunch)

### Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert B. McDermott (ext. 3)  
**Permanent Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Daniel Bingnear  
**Weekend Assistant:** Rev. Francis X. Devlin, O.S.A.  
**Business Manager:** Mr. Daniel Kinnik (ext. 4)  
**Director of Religious Education & Music Ministry:**  
 Mrs. Kathleen Aaronson (ext. 5)  
**PREP Secretary:** Mrs. Patricia Donnelly (ext. 8)  
**Maintenance Coordinator:** Mr. John Leahy (ext. 7)  
**Parish Administrative Assistant:** Mrs. Regina Robinson (ext. 6)  
**Communications Secretary:** Mrs. Renee Devine (ext. 2)

### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Joseph Amalfitano Rev. John Sibel

**4225 CHICHESTER AVENUE • BOOTHWYN, PA 19061**

Website: [stjohnfisherchurch.com](http://stjohnfisherchurch.com) Facebook: Saint John Fisher Phone: (610) 485-0441 E-mail: [contact@sjf71.org](mailto:contact@sjf71.org)

**TODAY IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. The Gospel is Luke 3:10-18.**

Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert?" Today we read that John "preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. He warns that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." This is 'good news?'

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! They asked him "What should we do?" The crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers were asking. This is why he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.

How would John answer you in your particular state in life? What must you do to prepare for the Messiah? The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. The work that we do to make the changes we need to make would be a great gift to bring to Jesus this week!

#### BEST WISHES TO OUR SEMINARIAN

Since mid-September, our parish has been blessed to have Matthew Nwafor, a seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, here on Thursdays as his field assignment. Matthew was born in Nigeria and was studying under a student visa. He now has a working visa, and will be returning to his home Diocese of Raleigh, NC. He will be assigned to a parish to serve full-time, awaiting Ordination as a Transitional Deacon in April, and hopefully as a Priest in May 2020. Matthew's joyful spirit and enthusiasm was evident to all in his role as teacher of Thursday morning Bible Study and of religion to the students at Holy Family School. Matthew also visited parishioners to bring them Holy Communion. We thank Matthew and pledge our prayers for his pastoral formation in Raleigh and preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders.



#### WEATHER AND SAFETY

'Tis the season...for freezing rain, sleet, snow, and ice! **Safety** is the primary concern for our parishioners when attending Mass and other functions at parish properties. Please stay informed of the weather conditions and **use common sense for travel**. We strive to keep the parish property safe with snow removal and salting the walkways.

Expenses do not take a break with inclement weather, they typically increase. The parish annual budget relies on regular contributions through the Sunday offertory. Please be mindful of any missed collections. You can hold onto your envelope until the next Sunday, mail it or drop it by the Parish office, or sign up for electronic giving by going to the parish website and clicking on the "We Share" link at the bottom of the home page. Thank you, and be careful out there!



### Revitalize in Christ - Raising the Roof!



The Open House on Saturday (without snow!) was a great success in sharing information about the church remodeling and the progress of the capital campaign. A highlight of the evening was the presentation by the Holy Saviour Knights of Columbus Council 13710 of a check for \$15,000. The Knights' gift to the campaign sponsored the refinishing of the tabernacle from Holy Saviour Church. We thank them for their generous spirit and the many activities they do to promote the Catholic faith and care for the needs of the community.

We are pleased to report that in the 10 weeks since the campaign began, just over \$321,970 toward a goal of \$450,000, or 71% of the total, has been raised in gifts and pledges. This incredible display of generosity confirms to us that you believe in the project. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 22

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 23

Vigil - 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 22

8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM Sunday

### Christmas Eve — Monday, December 24

3:30 PM Concert by the Youth Choir

**4:00 PM Mass**

6:00 PM Concert by the Adult Choir

**6:30 PM Mass**

8:00 PM Concert by the Holy Saviour

Knights of Columbus Choir

**8:30 PM Mass**

### Christmas Day — Tuesday, December 25

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

### Feast of the Holy Family — Sunday December 30

Vigil - 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 29

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Sunday

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil - 4:00 PM, Monday, December 31

**New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1**

10:00 AM



## ADVENT PREPARATIONS

"Gaudete in Domino semper" means "Rejoice in the Lord always." Today is Gaudete Sunday, and so in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** The Christmas Flower bulletin insert will be included in the December 23 bulletin. Donations for Christmas decorations that were received after December 9 will be acknowledged in the January 6 bulletin. Thank you!

**2019 CALENDARS:** The 2019 St. John Fisher Parish wall calendars will be available after all Masses this weekend. With it, you can follow the Church's liturgical calendar, holy days and holidays, and enjoy the beautiful artwork. Many thanks to the Joseph A. Ward Funeral Home for providing the calendars this year. Please take one for your home!



**DECORATING THE PARISH:** If you have an hour of two to spare, we are looking for volunteers to help prepare the Church for the celebration of Christmas. We will be decorating the interior of the Church on **Tuesday, December 18** at 10am. Thanks in advance!

### HELP WANTED

Do you attend Mass at 11:30am on Sundays? We are in need of a volunteer who would be willing to sell grocery gift cards and 50/50 chances for 10-15 minutes before and after Mass beginning on January 6. This is a great way to get to know other parishioners! We will show you what needs to be done. If you can help, please contact Regina Robinson in the Business Office, 61-485-0441, ext. 6.



### SAVE THE DATE: BLOOD DRIVE

The St. John Fisher American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for **Monday February 4, 2019**. Please mark your calendar and plan to Give the Gift of Life!

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA PHOTOS** will be available in two to three weeks in the Parish Business Office. Please watch the bulletin for updates. Thank you!

### FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Total:	\$ 14,768
Number of Envelopes	531

#### Special Collection - Retired Religious

Total:	\$ 1,828
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The offertory totals for The Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Sunday, December 9, were unavailable by the early printing deadline. They will appear next week.

Thank you for your faithful support!



## What's Happening at Holy Family Regional Catholic School

Thanks, in a large part, to our collaborative relationship with the Sisters of St. Francis and Neumann University, our students in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8, visited the Franciscan Spirituality Center on December 13<sup>th</sup> for a morning Advent

Retreat. The retreat was directed by Sister Julia Keegan, and provided our students with time to reflect, discuss, and pray on the theme of 'gratitude,' a perfect topic for the holiday season. Holy Family Regional Catholic School and Neumann University hope to collaborate on other events in the future!

*If you, or someone you know, may be considering enrolling a child in Holy Family Regional School for the 2019-20 school year, please contact the school office at 610-494-0147 or email [chughes@holymfamilaston.org](mailto:chughes@holymfamilaston.org).*

### NEWS FROM THE PREP OFFICE

The students in the PREP classes celebrated the season with prayer and a party this past week. There will be no PREP classes on December 18, 19, 25, 26, January 1, and 2. Classes will resume on January 8 and 9. Enjoy the Christmas break!

### FOR RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES...

The students who will make their first Reconciliation on January 28 are required to attend a retreat with one or both of their parents on **Monday, January 7, at 7:00pm** in the Church.

A rehearsal for Reconciliation will be held on **Sunday, January 20, beginning at 12:30pm**. All children receiving the sacrament must be present. If you have any questions, please call the Director of Religious Education, Kathy Aaronson, at 610-485-0441, extension 5.



### WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

The people of St. John Fisher Parish rejoice with the families of our newly baptized members!

**VIENNA RAE DANIELS**, daughter of Stephen and Alanna

**ROLAND JAMES MONAGHAN**, son of Shane and Chelsea.

May God bless these children and their parents! Please pray for them as they commit to raise their children in the faith!

### PLAY SUPERMATCH!

Looking for a great stocking stuffer? Tickets for the special Football Mania game, *Supermatch*, are for sale each weekend after Mass! This game is tied to **Super Bowl LIII**.

Each game card has two numbers for each quarter played, one for the NFC team and one for the AFC team. At the end of each quarter, if your ticket matches both teams' score, you are a winner!

Match 1 Quarter: Win \$10

Match 2 Quarters: Win \$50

Match 3 Quarters: Win \$500

Match 4 Quarters: Win \$5000

Tickets will be sold after Mass in the Church Hall, or in the Parish Office until February 2, for **\$5 each**. Thanks for playing!





### FOOTBALL MANIA!

The winners of *Football Mania* for the week of December 9 are Christian & Jennifer Aaronson (\$25). Congratulations!

**Ever feel like you are alone?** Give *Relevant Radio* a try! You will hear real Catholics, living real lives, addressing real problems. Through the personal and intimate conversation, humor, and prayer, you may find direction and draw closer to Christ and His Church. *Relevant Radio* is creating a community of hope! You can listen on the radio at **940 AM**, or on line at [relevantradio.com](http://relevantradio.com).



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### UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sat., Dec. 22	4:00pm	Cantor
Sun., Dec. 23	8:00am	Cantor
	9:30am	Adult Choir
	11:30am	Cantor

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

**ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE:** Wednesdays at 7:15pm in Church

**YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE:** Sundays at 10:35 – 11:10am in Church

**CONTEMPORARY CHOIR:** Every other Tuesday evening at 7:00pm

**RESURRECTION CHOIR:** Sings for funeral Masses. No rehearsals.

**MEN'S GATHERING:** Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the 'Living Room' meeting space in Church

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Mondays after the 7:30am Mass until noon in the Chapel. Benediction follows at noon.

**THE ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY:** Daily after the 7:30am Mass

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (R.C.I.A.):** Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Email items to [ReneeDevine@sjf71.org](mailto:ReneeDevine@sjf71.org) by noon on Tuesday.

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Meets on the first Thursday of the month

**FINANCE COUNCIL:** Meets on the second Tuesday of the month

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Meets every other Monday at 7:00pm in the Parish Center; begins September 17, 2018.

**ST. JOHN'S ON THE HILL SENIORS:** Second and fourth Thursdays at 12:30pm in the Church Hall

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOLY SAVIOUR COUNCIL 13710:** Officers' Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00pm; General membership meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. Meetings held at Immaculate Conception in the Hall. Contact Joe DiMarco, Grand Knight, at 302-218-5261 for information.

### PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Business Office will be closed on the following days so the staff can enjoy Christmas with their families:

**Monday, December 24**

**Tuesday, December 25**

**Wednesday, December 26**

**Monday, December 31**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

Items for the December 30 bulletin are due by December 19; items for the January 6 bulletin are due on December 27. *We wish you a joyous Christmas!*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Celebrated on the First, Second and Fourth Sundays of each month at 12:45pm. Pre-Jordan baptismal instruction is held on the Third Sunday at 12:45pm. Please call or visit the Parish Office to arrange baptisms.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays, 3:00 - 3:45pm; other times by appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** One party must be a registered member of Saint John Fisher Parish. Couples must make arrangements with the Pastor at least six months prior to the intended date. Weddings can be held at Saint John Fisher or at Immaculate Conception Church. Couples are required to attend the Archdiocesan Sacramental Preparation Program for Marriage (four sessions) or a Pre-Cana program.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** We welcome new members to Saint John Fisher! If you are new to our parish, please call or visit the Parish Office to register.

**LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY:** If you need a Letter of Eligibility from Saint John Fisher Parish to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation, you must be

- a registered member of the parish,
- at least 16 years of age,
- a practicing Catholic (have received the Sacraments and attend Mass regularly).
- If married, you must be in a 'valid' marriage.

The pastor is unable to sign a letter unless you meet these requirements. To request a letter, please speak with Father McDermott after any Mass or call the Parish Office at 610-485-0441, ext. 2.

**PARISH ON-LINE GIVING:** Visit the parish website, [www.stjohnfisherchurch.com](http://www.stjohnfisherchurch.com) and click on the **We Share** icon to sign up for the electronic giving program.

**PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP):** The PREP program provides religious education for public school children from September through May. Please call the PREP office at 610-485-0441, ext. 5, for more information and to register.

**HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Grades Pre-K through Eight:** St. John Fisher parishioners support Holy Family Regional Catholic School. Children from the parish who enroll there receive the supporting parish tuition rate. Principal: Charles Hughes Business Manager: Kristy Cobb 3265 Concord Road, Aston, PA (610) 494-0147 [www.holyfamilyaston.org](http://www.holyfamilyaston.org)

*May They Rest in Peace*

**CHARLES EDWARD FELL, SR.**

**ALL OF OUR DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS**

*"Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name."*

*Please Pray for Our Sick*

Kathleen Kozubal, Emmanuel Broomall, Sal Severino, Thomas Gaska, Ray Weed, John & Joseph Glynn, Frank Breitmayer, Mary Giambri, Marie Creedon, Theresa Mattero, Velia Brill, Peg Camero, Brian Allison, Pasquale Mignogna, Rob Busch, Judy & Jerry Frezetti, Paula Davis, Pat Oakes, Hank Granville, Colleen Hughes, John Rossi, May Graves, Amy Calcagno, Susan Curl, Marie Barker, Veronica & Joe Egan, Helen Brogley, Judy Giovan, Kevin Neary, Tom O'Leary, Nancy Finn, Barbara Rogers, Miles Owen. Names remain on our prayer list for 30 days. Beyond that, please call the parish office at 610-485-0441, ext. 2, to ask that the person be added to the list again.

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **Steve Strazdus** through the generosity of his wife, Maureen, and their children.



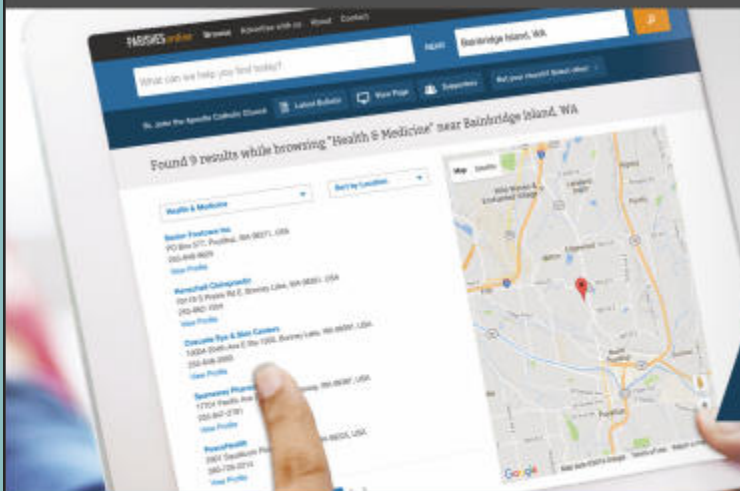
**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 15</b>	4:00 PM	People of the Parish and Visitors
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 16</b>	8:00 AM	Ruth Polinsky
		9:30 AM	Donna Crawford
		11:30 AM	John and Patricia Oakes
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	7:30 AM	In Thanksgiving
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>	7:30 AM	Frank Monks
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 19</b>	7:30 AM	Margaret Jackson
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	7:30 AM	Giovanna DiMarino
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>	7:30 AM	Elsie Sweeney
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>	4:00 PM	Anna & Bernard Kravitz
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 23</b>	8:00 AM	People of the Parish and Visitors
		9:30 AM	Mary V. Liberato
		11:30 AM	Andrew Tuzio

Do you know a local business that should advertise in this bulletin? Please call the Parish Office and let us know, and remember to support the business who advertise with us.

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