



REVITALIZE IN CHRIST - RAISING THE ROOF

SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH *Dec. 23, 2018*



“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

- Lk 1:43-45

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

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TODAY IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT. The Gospel is Luke 1:39-45.

Mere days before Christmas, today we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Although pregnant, Mary "set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." She had recently received the greatest news of her life - that she is to be mother to the Messiah, but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God's grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary's example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for most of us. We'll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! They probably come with their own to-do list: shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. How do you tell your parents you're pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, will he want to care for the practical needs of you and your child? Yet, when Mary receives news that someone is in need, she goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome someone, provide hospitality, and offer compassion. It might be tempting to reject these opportunities to tend to your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

THE GIVING TREE

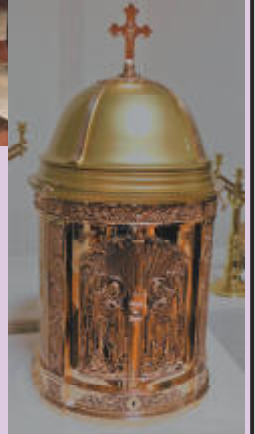
On Tuesday, December 11, Santa's elves loaded up their SUV's and trucks with hundreds of packages that were donated through the Giving Tree by St. John Fisher parishioners. The tremendous outpouring of gifts will certainly brighten Christmas for the hundreds of people served by the organizations we support: **Mother's Home**, a home for at-risk mothers, Darby; **Emmaus House**, a day program for individuals with intellectual disabilities, Aston; **St. Katherine Drexel Outreach**, Chester; **the Bernadine Center**, a social service center operated by the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters, Chester; **Parkview and Luthern Knolls**, senior residential facilities, Boothwyn. A huge thank you to all who thoughtfully shopped for gifts to bring cheer to others!



Revitalize in Christ - Raising the Roof!



A highlight of the December 8 Open House 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.



BE CAREFUL DRIVING!

Due to the high volume of traffic for the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses, the local police department will provide traffic control at the exit of the Church parking lot. Please be considerate of your fellow parishioners while driving in the parking lot, and follow the instructions of the police when exiting the parish property. Please drive safely so everyone gets home without incident!



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Vigil - 4:00 PM, Monday, December 31
10:00 AM, - Tuesday, January 1



This
Christmas,
end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion
and replace it with trust.
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer.
Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty
in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
time. Forget a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think
first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle.
Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence.
Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express
your gratitude. Go to Church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden
the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of
the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again.
Speak it still
once again.

2019 CALENDARS

The 2019 St. John Fisher Parish wall calendars can be found on the tables at the rear of Church. It lists many holy days and holidays and features beautiful artwork. Many thanks to the Joseph A. Ward Funeral Home for providing the calendars this year. Please take **one** for your home!



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!

FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Total:	\$ 12,507
Number of Envelopes	574

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Total:	\$ 2,410
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Because of early printing deadlines and the Parish Business Office holiday schedule, the offertory totals for Sunday, December 16, 23 and 30 will appear in the January 6 bulletin. 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 13th 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@holylamilaston.org.

NEWS FROM THE PREP OFFICE

There will be no PREP classes on December 25, 26, January 1, and 2. Classes will resume on January 8 and 9. Enjoy the Christmas break!

CATECHIST NEEDED

The PREP program is in need of a Catechist to teach one class of the 5th Grade on Wednesdays, from 4:30 until 6:00 pm, beginning January 9, 2019. If you can help in this special ministry of the Church, please contact Kathy Aaronson, at 610-485-0581, extension 5.

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 610-485-0581, extension 5.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

For the safety of our PREP students, we place orange safety cones in the parking lot on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons before 4:00pm. We need a volunteer who can lift the cones and put them out in any kind of weather. This act of kindness would begin on January 8, 2019. Please contact Kathy Aaronson in the PREP office, 610-485-0581, ext. 5, for more details.



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!

UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Mon. Dec. 24	4:00pm Vigil*	Youth Choir
	6:30pm Vigil*	Adult Choir
	8:30pm Vigil*	Knights Choir
Tues. Dec. 25	8:00am	Cantor
	9:30am	Adult Choir
	11:30am	Cantor
Sat. Dec. 29	4:00pm Vigil	Cantor
Sun. Dec. 30	8:00am	Cantor
	9:30am	Cantor
	11:30am	Cantor
Mon. Dec. 31	4:00pm Vigil	Cantor
Tues. Jan. 1	10:00am	Cantor

*A Concert of Christmas Carols will begin 30 minutes before each Vigil Mass. To ensure everyone in your family gets a seat for Mass, you may wish to arrive in time for the concerts at 3:30, 6:00 and 8:00 on Christmas Eve.

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 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, 1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm; General membership meeting, 3rd 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 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 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

May They Rest in Peace

EUGENE LARKIN

HELEN SMARGIASSI

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

Please Pray for Our Sick

Donald Arner, Gladys Kinsler, Gerald Murphy, Annunzio Sindoni, Kathleen Kozubal, Emmanuel Broomall, Sal Severino, Thomas Gaska, Ray Weed, John & Joseph Glynn, Frank Breitmayer, Mary Giambri, Marie Creedon, Theresa Matteredo, 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 **Josephine Maratea** through the generosity of Cookie and John Magee.

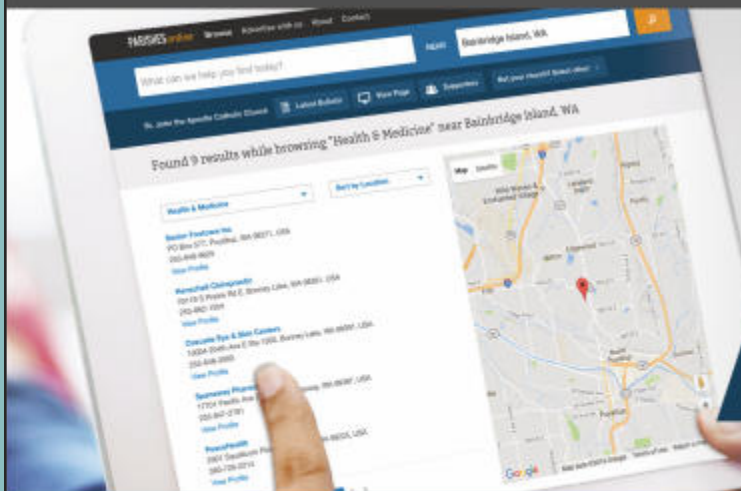


MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Dec. 22	4:00 PM	Anna & Bernard Kravitz
Sunday	Dec. 23	8:00 AM	People of the Parish and Visitors
		9:30 AM	Mary V. Liberato
		11:30 AM	Andrew Tuzio
Monday	Dec. 24	4:00 PM	Vigil, Nativity of Our Lord
		6:30 PM	
		8:30 PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 25	8:00 AM	Nativity of Our Lord
		9:30 AM	
		11:30 AM	
Wednesday	Dec. 26	7:30 AM	Sweeney, Dougherty & Pyne Families
Thursday	Dec. 27	7:30 AM	Larry Moeller
Friday	Dec. 28	7:30 AM	Capt. Phillip Oenbrink, USN Ret.
Saturday	Dec. 29	4:00 PM	George J. Ershaw
Sunday	Dec. 30	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of the O'Leary and Aaronson Families
		9:30 AM	People of the Parish and Visitors
		11:30 AM	William Grussemeier

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