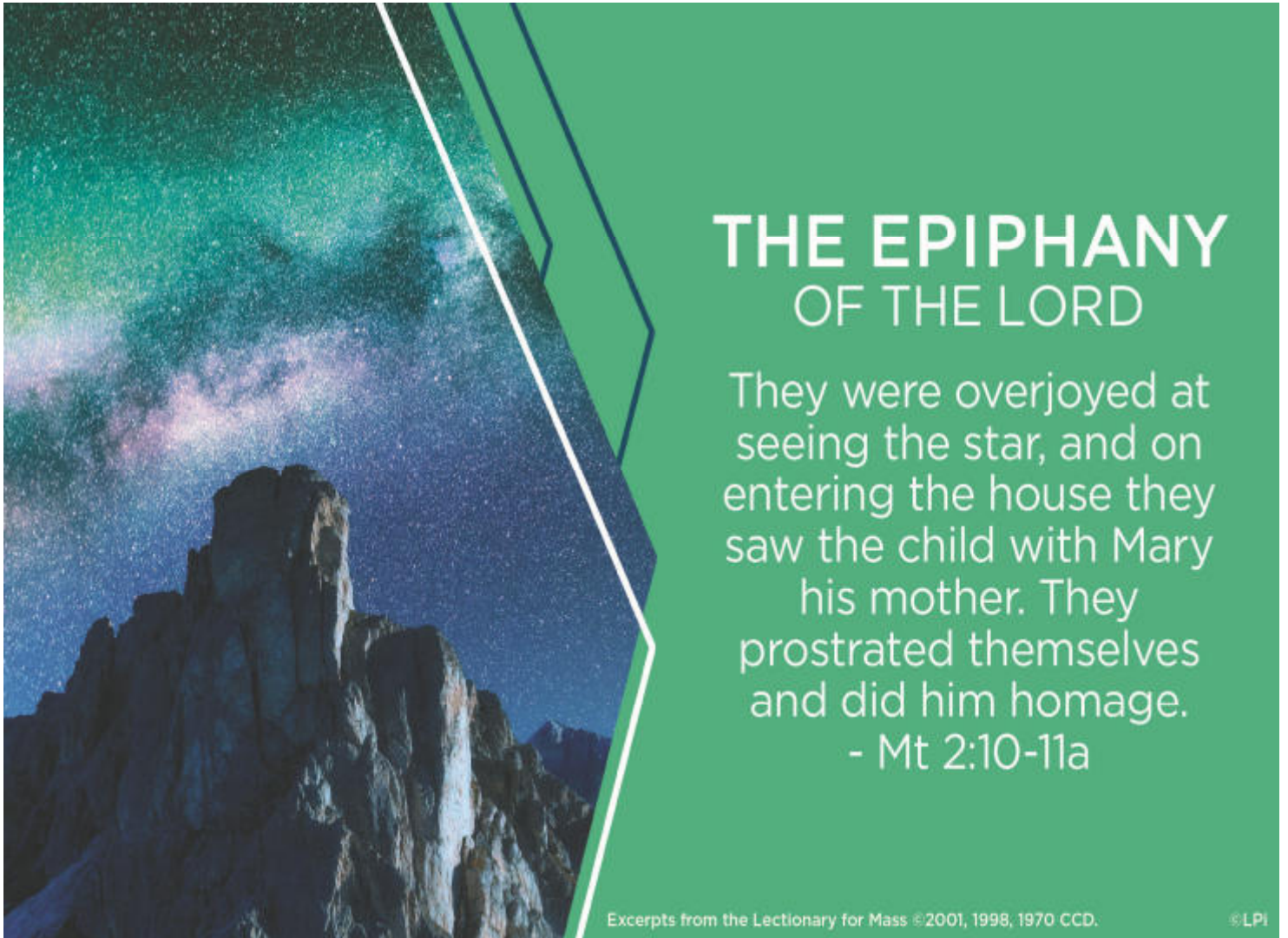




# SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH

## JANUARY 5, 2020



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.  
- Mt 2:10-11a

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

©LPI

### 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)  
**Parish Admin. Assistant:** Mrs. Regina Robinson (ext. 6)  
**Communications Secretary:** Mrs. Renee Devine (ext. 2)  
**Maintenance:** Bill Casey (ext. 7)

### Pastor Emeritus

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 JANUARY 5, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. The Gospel Reading is Matthew 2:1-12.**

We may walk many roads when we search for God, and He leads us all the while. The men we honor today were not Jews. The Messiah wasn't coming for them, not in the minds of Jesus'

contemporaries. These men were astrologers. They were adept at reading portents in the sky, a practice condemned in the Mosaic covenant. Still, to the best of their knowledge and awareness, they were seeking the truth. This truth led them to journey from their own homeland to honor a king they'd never met, one they couldn't be sure truly existed. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Who do you know seeks God so tenaciously? Maybe it's your cautiously curious co-worker, the neighbor who unexpectedly found peace on a yoga retreat, or a desperately angry child who has chosen, for now, to go their own way. Perhaps they're not overtly headed for Jesus now, not yet. Our invitation is to listen, inquire, and give directions when appropriate.

The magi and modern-day seekers can inspire us as well. When is the last time you sought God's truth so tenaciously? As believers, it can perhaps be easy to become desensitized to the Christmas season and to the miraculous reality we recently celebrated. Mass may have been lovely, but so was the succulent roast beef, the crisp smell of evergreen, and the warm glow of family. Consider asking yourself, "God, do I know you as well as I should? Would I journey as far as the magi to meet You, if I could? What do those answer say about me, and about our relationship?" Perhaps we, like the magi, can once again be "overjoyed" at seeing the Light of the World.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Thank you to the following parishioners for their contribution to purchase flowers and greenery for the church this holiday season!

#### DONATED BY:

Marcella Anderson

Mr. & Mrs. Timoteo Cuadra

Mr. & Mrs. Seven Gaines

Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Linares

Mrs. Esther McCarthy

Mrs. Rose Ritz

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Toto

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wissert

#### IN HONOR OF:

Anderson and Kapuscinski Families

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Jack & Edith Donaghy, Bernadine & Warren Gaines

Louis F. Mayer, Joseph & Marian Matlock, Anne Marie & Bob Keough, Bencida & Ramon Linares

Tom, Michael & John McCarthy

Sam & Ricardo Ritz

Helen & Lou Robinson, Ann & Margaret Mary Robinson, George Bond, Israel Sacks, Robinson, O'Grady, Bond, Flanagan & Magee Families

Mary Toto

Wissert & Wood Families

#### WITH HUMBLE THANKS...

We are blessed to serve and lead the parishioners of St. John Fisher. Thank you for your witness of faith in family life. We received many warm expressions for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, wonderful treats, and other gifts of kindness during the Christmas season. and we want to thank you for your thoughtfulness. Many blessings in the New Year! -- Fr. Robert McDermott, Fr. Francis Devlin, OSA, and Deacon Daniel Bingnear



### OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following outstanding high school students from St. John Fisher Parish who achieved honors at Cardinal O'Hara during the first marking period this academic year. We are proud of you! Keep up the good work!

#### FIRST HONORS

Abigail Loyson

#### SECOND HONORS

Nicholas Kazanjian John Schueren

### BREAKFAST BAGS FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN

PREP is kicking off 2020 with its "Breakfast Bag" service project. We are asking for your help in feeding hungry children by filling a brown lunch bag with some of the following: a 100% juice bag/box, granola bar, cheese or peanut butter crackers, applesauce, raisins or fruit cup, or any other non-perishable breakfast food. You can also include an upbeat note or decorate the brown bag if you want. This is a great family project! It will run through January 31. Drop off Breakfast Bags in the Church Hall in the designated bin.



### CONFIRMATION NEWS

All candidates for Confirmation have a few important activities this January.

For second year candidates, the white envelope provided to you in the Fall is due by **Monday, January 13**. If you have not turned it in yet, please do so.

First and second year candidates, plus at least one parent, and your sponsor if available, are expected to attend an event on **Wednesday, January 15**, beginning at 6:20 pm. We will meet in the Church Hall for a presentation by a guest speaker.

All retreat paperwork is due on **Wednesday, January 29**. The retreat is scheduled for **Sunday, February 9**, beginning with Mass at 11:30 and concluding at 4:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Aaronson, at 610-485-0441, ext. 5.

### FOR RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES

The students who will make their first Reconciliation on January 27 are required to attend a retreat with one or both of their parents on **Monday, January 6, at 7:00pm** in the church.

Rehearsal for Reconciliation will be held on **Sunday, January 19, 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.

## PREP Classes resume on January 7-8.

### FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

#### DECEMBER 22:

Total:	\$ 12,184
Number	382

*What we do with what we have been given is a sign to God and to the world of the depth and meaning of our commitment. Thank you for your faithful support!*

### CATECHETICAL AWARDS

Congratulations to three staff members of the Parish Religious Education Program who will be acknowledged by the Archdiocese for their years of service as catechists. A special Mass will be celebrated Saturday morning at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their service to our children.

*St. John Neumann Award - 5 Years of Service*

**Dawn Wyzen**

*St. Pius X Award - 10 +Years of Service*

**Rachel Ferry**

*St. Martin de Porres Award - 20 Years of Service*

**Sharon Sebelist**

### IN APPRECIATION

Christmas is a time to be thankful to our God for sharing the gift of His Son with us, and to the many people who share their time, talent, and treasure with our parish. We truly appreciate all that you do! Thank you...



- ◆ To all who helped decorate the church and parish grounds for Advent and Christmas.
- ◆ To all who donated to the Christmas flower fund so we could fill the church with fresh greenery, pointsettias, and floral arrangements.
- ◆ To those who regularly support our food drives and Aid for Friends, and to the Knights of Columbus for delivering food to our neighbors in need.
- ◆ To all who thoughtfully shopped for gifts suggested through the Giving Tree, and those who helped deliver them to the agencies we support.
- ◆ To the Adult, Contemporary, Youth, and Knights of Columbus Choirs who dedicated their time to provide us with beautiful music during the Christmas season, and in particular to the musicians and cantors.
- ◆ To you, for your faithful financial support throughout the year.

### PLAY SUPERMATCH DURING THE SUPER BOWL!

Tickets are on sale now for the special Football Mania game, **Supermatch**. Tickets are \$5 each, on sale after Mass or in the Parish Office.

This game is tied to Super Bowl LIV, which is on February 2, 2020. 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 the numbers on your your ticket match the teams' scores, you are a winner!

Match 1 Quarter: Win \$10 Match 2 Quarters: Win \$50 Match 3 Quarters: Win \$500 Match 4 Quarters: Win \$5000

Thanks for supporting this Parish Fundraiser!



### EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Here's a resolution for 2020: Join us every Monday from 8:00am to Noon in the chapel, to visit the Blessed Sacrament. Join in reflection before the Eucharist to pray for your needs, or join others in praying for good health, strong families, faith, peace, justice, and hope for the struggling. Let Jesus speak to the quiet of your heart and lead you to peace and happiness.



### KICK OFF SUMMER 2020 WITH A VACATION!

It's never too early to think about your next vacation! Join the St. John's on the Hill Seniors for a trip to Mystic Seaport, Foxwoods Casio, and a tour inside one of the fabulous Newport mansions! The trip includes luxury motor-coach transportation, four nights lodging, four breakfasts and dinners, and much more. Departs on Sunday, May 31, 2020, and returns to St. John Fisher on Thursday, June 4. The cost is \$549, double occupancy. There is a \$75 deposit to reserve a spot on this trip. Contact Barbara Tarone, 610-485-6067, for more details or to reserve your seat.

### FOOTBALL MANIA WINNER!

Thanks for playing this parish fundraiser! Congratulations to the winner of **Week #15: Dec.19 - Dec. 23:**

Mike A. Tart, Boothwyn (\$400)

### UPCOMING MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>Sat. Jan. 11</b>	4:00pm	Cantor
<b>Sun. Jan. 12</b>	8:00am	Cantor
	9:30am	Contemporary 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:** Mondays at 7:00pm; meetings are held in the Meeting Room in the 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; Spring study begins Jan. 20.

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

### FOOD SUNDAY

The next **Food Sunday is January 19**. It doesn't take much for a family living on the edge of poverty to become 'food insecure.' A cut-back in hours at work, an unexpected car repair, or new shoes for a growing child can have a big impact on the food budget.

Please place non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, paper products, and personal care items in the designated bins at the rear of the Church Hall. Thank you!



**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. Charles Hughes, Principal  
Kristy Cobb, Business Manager 610-494-0147  
3265 Concord Road, Aston, PA [www.holyfamilyaston.org](http://www.holyfamilyaston.org)

# Growing in FAITH™

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January 2020

St. John Fisher Parish

Rev. Robert B. McDermott, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Thomas Aquinas

Against his family's wishes, St. Thomas Aquinas joined the newly founded

Dominican Order of Preachers. A brilliant, humble scholar, he taught theology at universities in Paris, Cologne, and Rome, and advised popes, kings, and students. His greatest achievement was his *Summa Theologica*, a thorough, logical, concise treatise on the faith. Exhausted by constant work and travel, St. Thomas collapsed en route to a Church council and died at Fossanova. He is the patron of students and schools.

### Well-placed faith

Our world is filled with pain, sorrow, and suffering. Putting our faith in worldly powers guarantees disappointment. Putting faith in God guarantees that we will never be disappointed.

*"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).*



## Shed bad habits in the New Year

Bad habits are sinful inclinations acquired through repetition. Unless we overcome them, they come between us and God and can destroy our peace. Working to overcome our bad habits puts us on the path to true holiness.

### Identify the root.

It sounds simple, but recognizing what causes us to sin repeatedly is the first step to overcoming the behavior. That doesn't mean it's easy to do. It can be uncomfortable to look at our failings, but change won't come without courage. Ask for help if you need it.

**Replace a bad habit with a good one.** Once we understand what is behind our bad habits, we can replace

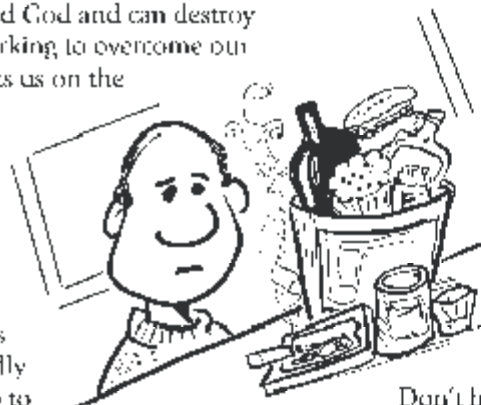
them with new and healthy ways to deal with the underlying issue. If we overeat or drink too much when

stressed, for example, we can adopt exercise or meditation to cope instead.

**Eliminate triggers.** Make it easier to cure bad habits by avoiding the conditions that nurture them. Do you want to avoid eating junk food?

Don't have it around you at home or at work. Want to change a gossip habit? Avoid the people with whom you gossip. Change your environment to change your behavior.

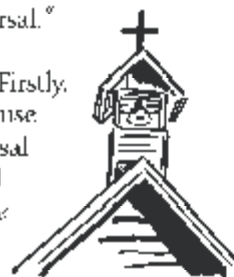
**Find good influences.** It may not be necessary to lose your old friends, but consider finding new ones who already live the way you want to live.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are Catholics called "catholic"?

"Catholic" means "universal." In the Greek, it also means "wholeness" or "fullness." Firstly, the Church is catholic because her members have a universal mission. Jesus commanded his Apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew



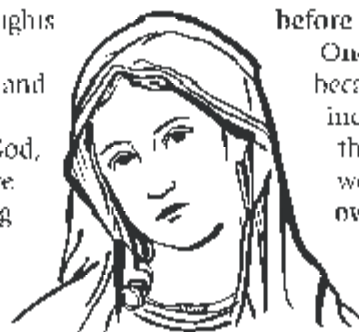
28:19). Secondly, the Church is catholic because, being founded by Christ and united to him, her members have the "correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #830*).

## The keys to Mary's success

Jesus loved his mother dearly, and his last thoughts on Earth were of her. We know she is Queen of Heaven, but what did she do to receive His love and great reward?

When Mary agreed to become the mother of God, she could have expected an easy life but Scripture tells us that all Mary expected was the joy of doing God's will. **She put God's will before her own.**

Mary didn't have to go with Joseph to Bethlehem for the census. She chose to go with Joseph as his wife. **She put Joseph's needs**



**before her own.**

Once there, the couple lodged with animals because there was no room at the inn. Instead of indulging in self-pity, Mary graciously received the shepherds and the Magi, who came to worship her baby. **She put their joy before her own discomfort.**

Throughout her life, Mary said "yes" to God, put his will first, and thought of others before herself. If we follow her example, we'll receive our reward in Heaven, too.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 4:12-23, The common call

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). When invited to know Jesus better and follow him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing things. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, converted countless souls for heaven, and suffered hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as



their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – intimate friends of God. Jesus invites each of us to know him personally and follow him closely. While few of us are called to leave everything,

we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still imitate the first disciples who dropped everything "at once" to accept God's invitation. Knowing Jesus personally and closely makes for a great adventure.

### Q & A Why are we required to respect Jesus' name?

As the Son of God, Jesus' name is "above every name" (Philippians 2:9) and commands respect.

It is the name God gave himself when he became man (Luke 1:31). In Jesus' day, there was no internet, no media, no network to use to find out if someone was reputable or reliable. All people had was



their good name and the way others used it with respect. He knew he would need a recognizable name.

Jesus' name tells us of his mission. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to name the child "Jesus," "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And he did.

There is great power in Jesus' name. Jesus promised his disciples that whatever they asked in his name, he would do (John 14:14). In his name, the Apostles cast out demons (Luke 10:17), cured the sick and even raised the dead (Acts 5:16; 4:10). "There is no other name under heaven...by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.** On this holy day of obligation, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary and attend Mass.

**Jan. 6 – St. André Bessette (1937).** Born near Montreal, Canada, André joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed. He helped build a beautiful chapel to St. Joseph.

**Jan. 12 – The Baptism of the Lord**

(1st century). Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan.

**Jan. 20 – St. Fabian (250).** During his long reign as pope, Fabian organized Rome into seven districts, countered a heresy in Africa, and founded churches in France. He was martyred during the Decian persecutions.



#### Our Mission

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\*Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

## May They Rest in Peace

**WILLIAM J. COOK, JR.  
EDNA MIELCAREK**

*"Come me to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*

## Please Pray for Our Sick

Dorothy Stone, Ralph Nather, Norman Falkowski, Jr., Regina Klinke, Honor Mahoney, Nicky Ortiz, Rita O'Neal, John and Kris Skulski, Linda Buchanan, Stephanie Ermolowich, Deborah Knight, Diane Kelly, Pat Donnelly, Baby Robert Sitaras, Ruth Jobe, Ruth Ann Moffett, Chip Natrin, Connie Carney, Billie Hobdell, Mike Steinmacher, Gloria Patterson, John Grady, Bryan Snyder, Rose Liott, Betty Ann Deshullo, Ann Walley, Gladys Kinsler, Frank Breitmayer, Mary Giambri, 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

*PRAYERS FOR THE INFIRM: To add a name to the prayer list, please contact Renee Devine at 610-485-0441, ext. 2. People remain on our prayer list for 30 days, except for those with long-term medical issues. If you wish to add a person again, after 30 days, please contact the office.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 4</b>	
	4:00 PM	Jim Hanavin
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 5</b>	
	8:00 AM	George Brill
	9:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	11:30 AM	Janet Kadyszewski
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan. 6</b>	
	7:30 AM	Patricia Jones
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 7</b>	
	7:30 AM	Rita Bubernak
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>	
	7:30 AM	George Arnholt
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan. 9</b>	
	7:30 AM	James Palmer
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Jan. 10</b>	
	7:30 AM	Christofer Berti
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 11</b>	
	4:00 PM	Jack Kelley
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>	
	8:00 AM	Michael Perreault
	9:30 AM	Denise Stang
	11:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors

To see photos of the renovation of the Church building, visit the parish website, [www.stjohnfisherchurch.com](http://www.stjohnfisherchurch.com), and click the "Church Remodeling" tab on the home page.

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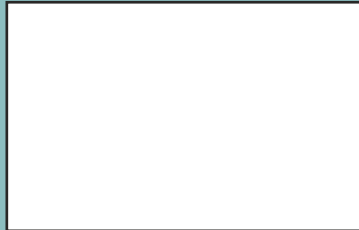
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