



# SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH

*July 26, 2020*

**17<sup>th</sup>**  
**SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44  
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*

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the office hours have been changed to  
Sunday—Thursday 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
At other times, please call and leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

### *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 JULY 26, THE 17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME. THE GOSPEL READING IS MATTHEW 13: 44-52.**

A single mother who has a child with special needs works two jobs and sacrifices much of her own pleasures in order to be available for her son. Being the best mother possible is important to her and brings her joy.

People are willing to make great and often heroic sacrifices for people and things that matter most to them. If one doesn't have something important in their immediate path, it is easy to fall into a more haphazard and chaotic lifestyle, jumping from one thing to another, responding to whatever it is that is competing for attention. When everything is important, nothing is important.

It is all too easy to get caught up in the superficial stuff and neglect spending time on the things that really matter. The kingdom of God is like the pearl of great price that is worth selling everything for so that it can be obtained. Think of where you invest time and energy each day, and consider... are you serving God's kingdom or your own? We allow our agendas to set the clock of our lives. We forget that joy and a true sense of purpose are not going to be found in following a planner. Joy is the expression of the happiness that is discovered when living in the kingdom of God. When our agenda matches God, not only do we leap for joy but God leaps with delight as well. Our well-being is what matters most to God.

Can you imagine God delighting in you? Have our senses been deadened to the whole reality of God and the joy that living the Gospel can bring? The demands of secular life and the agendas competing for our attention can quickly do that. We can get spiritually apathetic. If we can cut through the conflicting voices and hear the voice of God, we can rediscover our zeal and passion and redirect our focus. When we begin to see as God sees, we can rise each day and notice what really needs our attention and embrace it with exuberance. It may not be what we originally had on our 'to do' list. Responding to it, however, will be worth putting everything else aside.

### 2021 MASS INTENTIONS

The 2021 Mass Intentions Book will open on **Friday, July 31 from 9:00 a.m. until noon**, in the Parish Center Hall. Please keep in mind the following:

- ◆ You can request a maximum of four intentions per family at this time.
- ◆ Requests must be made in person.
- ◆ There is a \$10 stipend for each Mass intention.
- ◆ Preference for specific dates are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ◆ Please plan ahead. Jot down the names and dates you are hoping to reserve, and alternatives if those dates are not available.
- ◆ After July 31, you may stop into the Parish Office to request Masses.

### MISSION APPEAL

The needs of the overseas foreign Missionary groups are supported each year with the Mission Appeal. Envelopes for the annual Mission Appeal have been distributed with the August monthly parish giving envelopes. The date on the envelope is August 1-2.

The COVID 19 pandemic required some rescheduling, so Father Raju Pilla will be visiting St. John Fisher Parish the second weekend of the month, August 8 and 9. Father Pilla, who is in residence at Our Lady of Grace in Pennel, will speak at each Mass that weekend about the works and needs of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum in India. Trivandrum has about 270,000 Catholics. The Archdiocese is bordered by the Arabian sea, and ninety percent of the people are traditional fishermen. Fishing has been strictly forbidden during the pandemic, leading to rampant unemployment and poverty within the community. The Archdiocese of Trivandrum depends on outside assistance to support its clergy, seminarians, catechists, and to continue its developmental programs. The special collection envelopes will be forwarded to the missions regardless of the day they are received at the parish. Your sacrifices for the Missions is deeply appreciated!

### PRAYING THE PSALMS

We often hear the Psalms read at Mass and we even sing them in hymns, but have you ever thought about them outside of Mass?

The Psalms are actually the prayers of Christ himself! The Holy Family would have prayed these very Psalms and probably even memorized them. So, when we read, sing, or listen to the Psalms, we are reading, singing, and listening to the very same words Jesus, Mary, and Joseph did. How amazing!

While you may have read, sung, or listened to the Psalms before, have you ever prayed them? Join our Seminarian Philip Cheung for a scriptural study program focused on the Psalms. The study group will meet on Thursdays in the Church "Living Room" to allow for ample social distance. Join us to explore the richness of the Psalms and pray together the very words our Lord – the Word of God – Himself prayed. The first session began on Thursday, July 23, but it's not too late to join in! The meeting begins at 11:00 am.

### WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

The people of St. John Fisher Parish are pleased to welcome our newly baptized member,

**LAINY RUTH LANTZER**, daughter of Shawna and Timothy. Please pray for Lainey and her parents, as they commit to raising her in the Catholic faith.



Please return the registration forms for the PREP 2020-2021 as soon as possible. A tuition discount is applied for all registrations received by August 16!

## WELCOME BACK TO MASS

We are happy you are here! Please take the time to read the guidelines for attending Mass during this period:

**In General**, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation continues to be lifted. You are not required to attend Mass at this time. Please stay home if you are sick, someone in your household is sick, or if your health is compromised, putting you at higher risk of severe illness with COVID19. We will follow the regular Sunday Mass schedule. Weekday Mass will be held in the church at 7:30 a.m. The Saturday Vigil Mass is available via live-stream. View it on our website home page ([stjohnfisherchurch.com](http://stjohnfisherchurch.com)), or on the parish facebook page (Saint John Fisher).

**Before coming to Mass**, please wash your hands before leaving home. **Every person age 3 and older must wear a face mask or cloth covering when entering Church.**

Use the parking lot entrance or the main entrance nearest the parish center. Once inside, please use non-touch hand sanitizer, and have your non-touch temperature taken.



Every other pew is taped off for social distancing. Those living in the same household can sit together. Please sit 6 feet away from another person or family. The Church Hall is available for seating.

**To receive Holy Communion**, please leave 6 feet of space when walking in the Communion line. Parishioners are requested to receive the Eucharist in the hand. Wear your mask, receive the Sacred Host in your hands, step to the side, lift/lower your mask, receive Holy Communion, refit your mask and proceed back to the pew. Anyone who prefers to receive the Eucharist on their tongue is asked to join the end of the line for the priest.



**Before leaving the Church**, check the pew and make sure you have everything with you. You may pick up a bulletin from the table in the church foyers. When you exit the Church, please do not congregate; proceed directly to your car. Please leave your mask on until you reach your automobile.

**Cleaning will be done after each Mass.** We'll ask for volunteers to help disinfect the surfaces of pews and chairs. Supplies are provided. The Church and bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during weekdays in preparation for Sunday Masses.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The St. John Fisher Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is in need of volunteers for the upcoming school year. We are looking for a few classroom aides that can assist the primary instructor during class time. If you have questions or are interested, please call Kathy Aaronson, 610-484-0441, ext. 5, and leave a message. All volunteers will need a background check and child abuse clearances; we will guide you through that process.



## BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

Thanks to the many people who signed up and donated blood at the St. John Fisher – Red Cross blood drive at the end of June. The Red Cross collected 46 pints on our goal of 50 that day, which is an excellent turn out! Your spirit of generosity is much appreciated!

## WHY TO CATHOLICS LIGHT CANDLES IN CHURCH?

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.



Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal, a romantic dinner for two, and candles on birthday cakes — we use them to celebrate. People also place candles at make-shift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness, the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration. As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayers offered at these shrines.

What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God.

## FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### WEEKEND OF JULY 5

TOTAL:	\$ 12,527
NUMBER:	324

### WEEKEND OF JULY 12

TOTAL:	\$ 10,105
NUMBER:	266

*Your generous support throughout this period of uncertainty is most appreciated! Thank you!*



### ST. TIMOTHY AWARD RECIPIENT

Congratulations to recent high school graduate Matthew Pham, this year's recipient of the St. Timothy Award given by our parish. This national honor is given to a young parishioner who has made a significant contribution of time to the Church. Matthew has devoted the past seven years to music ministry for St. John Fisher Parish. He graduated from Saliesanim Prep and will attend University of Delaware to study engineering and physics. Matthew also was awarded a \$500 scholarship by the ladies' group who sell Boscov's certificates. Best wishes to Matthew for a successful college career!

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Were you baptized as a child but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation? Do you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic?

RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, is not a program or class or lecture, but a journey by which women and men can learn about the Catholic faith through prayer and formative activities. RCIA prepares individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation during the Easter season. For more information, please contact Deacon Dan Bingnear, by calling him at 610-494-3929 or via email at [daniel.bingnear@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.bingnear@gmail.com)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26

**Sunday:** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

**Daily Entrance Antiphon:** *God is in His holy place, God who unites those who dwell in His house; He Himself gives might and strength to His people,*

**Monday:** Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]  
Matthew 13:31-35

**Tuesday:** Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [9]/Matthew 13:36-43

**Wednesday:** Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 [2]/John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

**Thursday:** Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab [5a]/  
Matthew 13:47-53

**Friday:** Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 [14c]/Matt 13:54-58

**Next Sunday:** Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/  
Rom 8:35, 37-39/Matthew 14:13-21

### FOOD DONATIONS

The Parish continues to collect food donations each week. Please place your donations in the cabinets at the rear of the Church Hall. Please open the cabinets and place your food donations inside. Only if the shelves are full should you leave donations on the countertop. During the week, you can drop a donation on the cart in the Parish Center lobby. 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)

## *May They Rest in Peace*

**DOMINGO CO  
NELLIE LLOYD**

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

## *Please Pray for Our Sick*

Joe Kane, Helen Norton, Jane Holfelder, EllieMae McCreight, Andrew Montagna, Delores Verticelli, Marie Ouly, Ida Durning, Parker Millison, Bill Achuff, Jeanne Brown, Tom McDonald, Gail McCafferty, JoAnn Bezold, Rev. Greg Hickey, Linda Johnston, Hazel Neary, Frank Taylor, Norman Falkowski, Jr., Diane Kelly, Ruth Jobe, Ruth Ann Moffett, Connie Carney, Billie Hobdell, 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

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 25</b>	
	4:00 PM	Vincent Broomall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 26</b>	
	8:00 AM	Marie Conlan
	9:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	11:30 AM	Kellie Ann Friday
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 27</b>	
	7:30 AM	Sharon Kerzner
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 28</b>	
	7:30 AM	Sara and Larry
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 29</b>	
	7:30 AM	Michael Simchock
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 30</b>	
	7:30AM	Anthony Fenza
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 31</b>	
	7:30 AM	Carol Farrell
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug 1</b>	
	4:00 PM	The McNulty Family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug 2</b>	
	8:00 AM	Oscar Valdez
	9:30 AM	Vickie Salvatori Smith 22nd Anniv.
	11:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors

Now is an excellent time to try *Relavant Radio!* **640AM** in Philadelphia airs programming, conversation, humor, and prayer with a Catholic perspective. **Live Mass is at 1:00PM Eastern.** Give it a try!

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