



SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH  
*November 29, 2020*

*First Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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**TODAY IS NOVEMBER 29, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT. THE GOSPEL READING IS MARK 13:33-37.**

When you see an eye doctor, you may have a peripheral vision test, the one where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. Concentration and focus are key to this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attention wanders. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us. It's hard to live "in the moment." They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. It is important to hold onto those moments and rest in them as often as we can. Those momentary encounters with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God's 'now' moments come as tender instants of intimate connection where one finds profound peace, experiences joy, and rests in love. During Advent, we can reflect on the moment when Christ first was born, we can keep watch and see how God surprises us, we can be attentive to the future, when Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these 'now' times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe.

#### **ALERT- FRAUDULENT EMAIL SCAM**

Scammers are targeting the friends and parishioners of priests in the Archdiocese by sending an email asking for a 'favor' or 'financial help.' If you receive an email or text message appearing to come from a priest, check the email address carefully. Is it one you recognize? Emails from St. John Fisher end with "sjf71.org". Please know that we will never ask for a personal favor or money through an email. The best thing to do is delete an email like this, or call the Parish Office to ask if it is legitimate.

#### **FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY**



The Church teaches that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from original sin, from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

We honor the Blessed Mother on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a **vigil Mass at 7:00pm on Monday, December 7, and Masses at 9:00am and 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 8.** There will be no 7:30am Mass on December 8.



## **ADVENT PREPARATIONS 2020**

As we begin the new Liturgical year next week with the First Sunday of Advent, things may be a little different this year. Still, there are many ways you can safely join our parish family as we "Prepare the Way of the Lord!"

**FOR YOUR ADVENT READING:** Complementary copies of "The Word Among Us" can be found in baskets at the entrances of the Church. The booklet has prayers, reflections and scripture readings for the Advent season. Please take one!



**THE ADVENT GIVING TREE:** The Advent Giving Tree is a parish custom that provides gifts at Christmas to those who have little. Please take one ornament (or more) from the tree, purchase and wrap the gift, and tape the tag to the outside of the package. (Baby diapers do not need to be wrapped.) This year, all packages must be returned to the Parish Center by **Sunday, December 6.** Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!

**SANTA'S HELPERS:** A few 'elves with sleighs' (vans or trucks) are needed to help us deliver the Giving Tree packages to the charities we serve this holiday season. We will be loading up the vehicles on **Tuesday, December 8,** beginning at 10:00am, in the Parish Center Hall.



#### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS:**

If you would like to make a donation toward Christmas decorations in honor of a living or deceased loved one, please return the Christmas Flower envelope by **December 13** to be included in the special supplement. The suggested offering is \$10, but any amount is appreciated. These donations are used to beautify the church and chapel during the Advent and Christmas season and throughout the year on holy days, holidays, and special Masses.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** The Parish Reconciliation Service will be held on **Monday, December 14, at 7:00pm** in the Church. There will be multiple priests, spread out around the church, available for Reconciliation that evening. Additionally, the hours for Reconciliation will be extended on **Saturday December 19, from 2:30 until 3:45pm.** Prepare your heart for Christ's birth by receiving the Father's forgiveness!

**CHRISTMAS MASS:** Because of the need for social distancing, plans for the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve have been expanded. There will be TWO Masses celebrated concurrently at **4:00pm on December 24,** one in Church and one in the Parish Center Hall. **Mass at 6:30 pm Christmas Eve** will be celebrated in Church, with overflow seating available in the Parish Center Hall, where the Mass will be live-streamed to large televisions set up in the Hall. On Christmas Day, Mass at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:30am, will be in Church, with overflow seating the Parish Center Hall. More details to come!

## ORDER YOUR ST. JOHN FISHER SPIRIT WEAR NOW!

On-line ordering is open now for Spirit Wear featuring the St. John Fisher Parish logo! Go to the vendor's webpage, [bandesportswear.com](http://bandesportswear.com) to select and pay for the items you wish to order. This fall, the offerings are:

- ⇒ Men's Performance short sleeve T-shirt by Russell Athletic/grey
- ⇒ Gildan Women's V-neck short sleeve T- Shirt/graphite heather
- ⇒ Port Authority Men's fleece full zip jacket/grey heather
- ⇒ Port Authority Women's fleece full zip jacket/grey heather
- ⇒ Jerzees Adult/Youth full zip hooded sweatshirt/oxford grey
- ⇒ Knit 'beanie' hat with embroidered logo/grey
- ⇒ 2-Layer cotton facemask in black with the SFJ logo



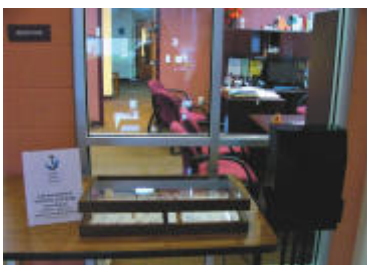
The t-shirts, masks, and hooded sweatshirts will have a silk-screen print of the logo; the fleece jackets and beanie will have embroidered logos. The jackets are made of a nice quality, heavier 8.4 ounce fleece fabric.

Ordering must be done on the B&E Sportswear website. Go to website, select the exclusive St. John Fisher page, browse through the products, and place your order

directly with them using your credit card. Order early! The St. John Fisher page was extended until **Thursday, December 3**. The orders will be delivered to the parish center in time for Christmas.

## WINDOW STICKERS AND CAR MAGNETS

Show your love of the parish by purchasing an oval St. John Fisher Parish car magnet or a window sticker! The stickers have a light adhesive on the front side for easy installation and removal. There is a self-serve display of magnets and stickers in the Parish Center lobby near the office. They cost \$5 each, cash only. Please take what you like out of the display and deposit the money in the black lock box. The sale of these items continues through December. Thanks for supporting these parish fundraisers!



## FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

**Due to early publishing deadlines, the weekend totals for November 8 will appear in the next bulletin.**

*Thank you for your continued support during this time of upheaval. Your contributions allow our parish to provide stability in a period of uncertainty.*

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



The parish wishes to extend its thanks to Jack Fitzgerald, who has served on the Parish Pastoral Council with distinction and grace. At the heart of our parish, there is Jack, who has brought his steady leadership and goodness to many facets of our parish community. In addition to his service on the Parish Pastoral Council, Jack served on the Transition Committee during the time of the parish merger, has taught PREP classes for many years, serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and as the Grand Knight for the SJF Knights of Columbus Council 14159. Many lives have been enriched by the generous service and fatherly warmth of Jack Fitzgerald. We thank our brother who continues to make a difference for good in our family of faith. Vivat Jesu!

## JUST A REMINDER...

We are happy to welcome you back to Mass in the Church. **However**, if you are sick, or someone in your household is not well, **PLEASE STAY HOME!** Those who have an underlying medical condition that puts them at higher risk of getting ill also should stay at home. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays has been dispensed by the Archbishop, and we do not want to put anyone at risk.

Please wash your hands before leaving home. **Every person age 3 and older must wear a face mask or cloth covering when entering Church. Once inside, please use non-touch hand sanitizer, and have your non-touch temperature taken.** If



you are running a fever and are asked to leave, please understand that it is for your benefit as well as for the benefit of others.

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.

Please leave 6 feet of space when walking in the Communion line. We ask that you 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. Thank you for adhering to these standards and helping to keep our parish community healthy!

### LOOKING FOR A FEW VOLUNTEERS

Did you take up crochet or knitting during the Covid lockdown? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for a few women or men who enjoy needlework to create shawls and lap blankets. These items made from the heart are blessed and distributed to sick parishioners and patients at the Veterans Hospital. We have the yarn...you have the talent! Please stop by the Parish Office to 'shop' for some yarn to start your next project!

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mark 13:33-37

*Responsorial Psalm:* "Lord make us turn to you; let us see Your face and we shall be saved."

**Monday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  
**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Luke 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Matthew 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Matthew 9:27-31

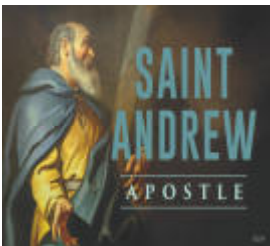
**Next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8

*Responsorial Psalm:* Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The Holy Saviour Knights of Columbus Council 13710 would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed turkeys, food, and grocery gift cards to the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive.

The outpouring of assistance was tremendous this year! Your donations allowed the Knights to assist nearly 30 families in need throughout our corner of Delaware County. The continued support by St. John Fisher parishioners is greatly appreciated! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



### FEAST OF ST. ANDREW - NOV.30

Andrew was the older brother of Peter and was among the first disciples of Jesus. Andrew was born in Bethsaida and he was a fisherman. He is mentioned briefly in a few of the Gospels, most significantly as the disciple who brought the loaves and fishes to the attention of Jesus.

Christian tradition is that Andrew preached the Good News to the villages around the shores of the Black Sea, throughout Turkey, and in Greece. He was martyred by crucifixion, bound to an X-shaped cross, in Patras, Greece. The story is that he refused to be crucified on a cross like the one of Jesus.

St. Regulus, a monk in Patras, had a dream telling him to hide some of Andrew's remains. Soon after, many of his relics were moved from Patras to Constantinople. After a second vision telling him to take the relics to the 'ends of the earth,' Regulus took the relics on a ship. It wrecked on the shore of Scotland, and Andrew's relics were enshrined there. St. Andrew's Cross is symbolized on the Scottish flag, and he is the patron saint of that country.

The Sanctuary Candle burns  
this week in memory of  
**ROSE TUZIO**  
through the generosity of  
her loving family.



**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

### ALL WHO HAVE DIED FROM COMPLICATIONS OF COVID 19

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

### Please Pray for Our Sick

EllieMae McCreight, Michael McGovern Gloria Williamson, Kim Cassano, Fred Neeson, Enzo Cardaroli, Sister Connie Davis, OSF, James Mack, Margaret Chaga, Cass Powers, Barbara Shahadi, Shawn Bedwell, Scott Moyer, Gail McCafferty, JoAnn Bezold, Rev. Greg Hickey, Linda Johnston, Hazel Neary, Frank Taylor, Norman Falkowski, Jr., 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>Nov 28</b>	
	4:00 PM	People of the Parish & Visitors
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 29</b>	
	8:00 AM	Dorothy Mitchell
	9:30 AM	Maria Kelly
	11:30 AM	Edward Haggerty
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Nov 30</b>	
	7:30 AM	George J. Ershaw
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec 1</b>	
	7:30 AM	Helen Rushton, Anniv.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec 2</b>	
	7:30AM	Pat Van Horn
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec 3</b>	
	7:30AM	Robert Schweizer
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec 4</b>	
	7:30 AM	Marshall Mancini
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec 5</b>	
	4:00 PM	Rose Bonner
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 6</b>	
	8:00 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	9:30 AM	John & Patricia Oakes
	11:30 AM	Janet Kadyszewski, 7th Anniv.

*PRAYERS FOR THE INFIRM: To add a name to the prayer list, please email Renee Devine@SJF71.org 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.*

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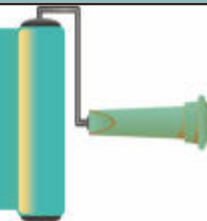


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