



SAINT JOHN FISHER CHURCH  
*December 13, 2020*

*Third Sunday of*  
ADVENT



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

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TODAY IS DECEMBER 13, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT. THE GOSPEL READING IS JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28.



Have you ever wondered what earthly gain would really satisfy you? Think of winning the Lotto. We dream about what we would do with all of that money - the new car, house, vacations, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to purchase a ticket. Then, one day we win! Dreams are fulfilled and happiness is on the horizon. After a while, though, we realize that we're not as satisfied as we thought we would be. We live in our incompleteness, sometime with sorrow and grief. Winning the lottery did not bring joy.

Glimpses of joy are not brought by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And these glimpses of joy do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory.

To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something we create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. Our need for joy mirrors our need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who we are and desires a home within us. Joy is a surprise that speaks to the very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves us.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! Our human and earthly joy experiences are just glimpses. They never fully satisfy, sustain, or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of the soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2020

**Christmas Eve 4:00 PM - Church & Parish Center**

*Masses will be held in Church and the Parish Center at the same time to accommodate the anticipated crowd.*

**Christmas Eve - 6:30pm - Church**

**Christmas Day - 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM - Church**

*Overflow seating for the 6:30pm and Christmas Day Masses*

*will be available in the Parish Center Hall and Chapel, with screens for live-streaming; a Eucharistic Minister will bring Communion to the Hall and Chapel.*

*All Masses will be live-streamed through Facebook and the Parish Website.*



## ADVENT PREPARATIONS 2020

**FOR YOUR ADVENT READING:** Do you miss having a Sunday missal? The scripture readings for Sunday and weekday Masses are included in the complementary copies of "The Word Among Us" booklet. These can be found at the entrances of the Church. Please take one!



**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!

**DECORATING HELP NEEDED:** Do you have a few hours to spare to help us decorate both the outside and inside of the Church for the celebration of Christmas? We need volunteers to help on **Sunday, December 13**, beginning at 12:30. Wear work clothes and bring gloves. We will begin decorating and set up the Parish Center Hall and Chapel for Christmas Eve Mass. Many hands make light work! We appreciate your help in beautifying the Church and Parish Center in glory to our Newborn King!

**2021 CALENDARS:** The 2021 St. John Fisher wall calendar will be available the weekend of **December 27**. Many thanks to the Ward Funeral Home for providing the calendars this year. Please take **one** for your home.

### IN APPRECIATION

Parishioner Stephen Barrar has served as Representative for the 160th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for over two decades. This district includes Bethel and five wards of Upper Chichester Township. Steve is retiring after 23 years of tireless public service. Our military veterans and first responders have been especially blessed by Steve's leadership and advocacy. Steve and his wife Elena have two daughters and their family includes five grandchildren. We are proud of our parishioner and wish Steve and Elena good health and an enjoyable retirement. Thank you for your service to our community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!



### ADVENT GIVING TREE



The incredible generosity of our parishioners was on full display as we collected, bagged, and delivered the gifts made to the Giving Tree this year. The charitable organizations we support through the Giving Tree include Mother's Home, Darby; Emmaus Home, Aston; St. Katherine Drexel Food Cupboard and Clothing Closet; Bernadine Center, Chester; Lutheran Knolls Senior Housing; Parkview at Naaman's Creek, Upper Chichester; and the school ministry of the Upper Chichester School District. Thank you for sharing the love of the Infant Jesus to those in need!

### COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET:

#### RAISING THE ROOF—REVITALIZED IN CHRIST

Just a year ago on December 15, we celebrated the re-opening of the renovated church building. The commemorative booklet, marking the completion of the church remodeling, is filled with many photographs, and the text chronicles the project and the joyful celebration last year. The full list of donors is remembered in the booklet. It is a wonderful way to remember the efforts and generosity of so many.

Copies are available on tables in the rear of church during the remaining Sundays of Advent. You are welcome to take one for yourself, and others to share with relatives or neighbors who have not been able to attend church during the Covid pandemic.

Many thanks to parishioner Bob Barksdale of Barksdale School Portraits (barksdalephoto.com) for assistance in producing this beautiful commemorative.



### HOLY SAVIOUR KNIGHTS HONORED WITH AWARD

The Holy Saviour Knights of Columbus Council 13710 was recently honored with the presentation of a Star Council Award. Only a mere handful of the 400 Councils statewide received this tribute and recognition. The award criteria are based on the council's performance in faith-centered programs which focus on Faith, Family, Community, and Life.

Pictured below with the award is Joe DiMarco, Past Grand Knight, under whose term the award was earned. Also pictured (from left to right) are Ben Linowski, District Deputy; Harry Stefchak, current Grand Knight, and Francis O'Hara, Statewide COALS Chair.

Council 13710 wishes to thank our parishioners who support us in all of activities and helped make this award possible.



### AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile, the charitable program of the online shopping giant, has donated over \$100 million to charities when customers shop through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia is one of the charities that receives cash from AmazonSmile. To support CSS, just enter the specific website and code below when doing your holiday shopping online.

[smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352063](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352063)

### FINANCIAL OFFERING: STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

#### WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29:

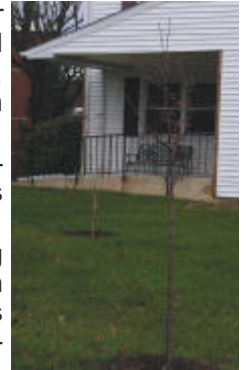
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 12,005</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>245</b>

*Thank you for your continued support during this uncertain time.*

### PROJECTS AROUND THE PROPERTIES

In 2019, certain maintenance items were deferred as the church renovation was the financial and timing priority. You may notice that some of these projects are now being completed.

- ◆ Thanks to the assistance of Tucker Kistler, trees were planted around the rectory. This will add shade, wind protection, and privacy in coming years.
- ◆ The iron railing at the PREP entrance ramp on the Rectory has been repaired.
- ◆ Concrete sidewalks surrounding church have been leveled with spray foam injections. This has saved time, construction disturbances, and the expense of replacing concrete.
- ◆ Traffic directional arrows, curbing, and the entrance islands have been painted, and reflectors line the driveway to the parking lot. These improvements have been completed for greater safety as you enter and leave St. John Fisher property at Chichester Avenue.
- ◆ Exterior sandstone, roofing eaves, and interior plaster work is being completed at Immaculate Conception Church in Marcus Hook.
- ◆ Replacement and sealant of the hip and ridge shingles on the main section of the church roof was done.



We appreciate the expertise and advice of the Finance Committee, as well as parishioners Jack Leahy, Jeff Mlynarski, and Michael Pauly.

The faithful support of our parishioners allows us to keep the buildings and grounds safe and beautiful, something that we hope makes you proud to be a member of St. John Fisher Parish! Thank you for your stewardship!

### ANNA'S PLACE, CHESTER

Anna's Place is a Franciscan Hospitality Center, a safe environment for neighbors to gather for educational and social activities in Chester. Located at 226 Norris Street, the center offers a variety of services, including a visiting nurse for those with medical questions. The residents of Chester struggle with violence, poverty, and now Covid. Donations for the Poor Box during December will be sent to Anna's Place to help fund their outreach and activities.

### HELP NEEDED FOR PREP PROGRAM

The Parish Religious Education Program is in need of classroom aides. Adults over the age of 18 who are committed to the faith and sharing it with children are encouraged to volunteer for these positions. If you have the time on Tuesday or Wednesday evening, one night a week for 17 sessions, until the PREP year ends in April, we could use your help! Please contact Kathy Aaronson in the PREP office, 610-485-0441, ext. 5.



### WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

The people of St. John Fisher Parish rejoice with the family of our newly baptized member: **DOMINIC PATTON ANDREW**, son of Brandon and Kristina.

May God bless this child and his parents! Please pray for them as they commit to raise their child in the faith!

### CARDINAL O'HARA HONOR STUDENTS

St. John Fisher parish recently received notice of the performance of our high school students at the end of the first quarter. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence during this unusual school year. Keep up the great work!

#### FIRST HONORS

**Abigail Loyson, '22**

#### SECOND HONORS

**Sean Creelman, '21 & Nicholas Alkins, '24**

### WEATHER AND SAFETY

'Tis the season...for freezing rain, sleet, snow and ice! **Safety** is the primary concern for our parishioners when coming to Mass or attending to business on 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.



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Responsorial Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God.*

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Matthew 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Matthew 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Luke 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:18-25

**Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Luke 1:26-38

*Responsorial Psalm: Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*

### SUNDAY AND WEEK DAY READINGS ON LINE

In addition to the *Word Among Us* booklet, which has the weekday and Sunday readings in it, there is another place where you can find and follow the readings and responsorial psalms for Mass. Go to [usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings). Click on "All Daily Readings" to select by date, or get them sent directly to your email address.

The Sanctuary Candle burns  
this week in memory of  
**Andrew Tuzio**  
through the generosity of  
**Regina Tuzio and 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*

**FRANK MONTECALVO  
WALT SMITH**

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

## *Please Pray for Our Sick*

Betty Wenger, Lorraine Karpinski, Donald Feeser, Nicholas Pilch, Frank English, Marylou Barile, Michael Goodnight, 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>Dec 12</b>	
	4:00 PM	Margaret Jackson
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 13</b>	
	8:00 AM	Charles Smith
	9:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors
	11:30 AM	Michael Murphy
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	
	7:30 AM	Anne Marie & Robert Keough
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec 15</b>	
	7:30 AM	Elsie & Marty Sweeney
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec 16</b>	
	7:30AM	Ed Tait, 1st Anniv.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	
	7:30AM	Donna Crawford
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	
	7:30 AM	Giovanna DiMarino
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>	
	4:00 PM	Anna & Bernard Kravitz
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec 20</b>	
	8:00 AM	Margaret Ash
	9:30 AM	William Grussemeyer
	11:30 AM	People of the Parish & Visitors

*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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