

MACH1

Monaca, Aliquippa, Center and Hopewell Catholics
Coming together as ONE in Christ!

St. John the Baptist - St. Titus - St. Frances Cabrini - Our Lady of Fatima

Holy Family Sunday
December 29, 2019



Mass Schedule (MB: Fr. Martin; TS: Fr. Thomas More; JM: Fr. Joachim;
RA: Fr. Regis; PK: Fr. Philip Kanfush; CF: Fr. Chris Fronk, SJ)

Saturday Evening Dec. 29 - Vigil: Holy Family

4 p.m.	OLF	JM	†Richard Bargon (The Testa Family)
4:30 p.m.	SFC	MB	†Albert Unis, Jr. (Rita Unis Family)

Sunday Dec. 29 - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8 a.m.	SJB	TS	†Nathan Gianantonio (Morris & Gianantonio Families)
8:30 a.m.	OLF	JM	†Bruce Brown (Steve Giles Family)
9 a.m.	SFC	MB	†Walter Sylvester (Wife & Family)
10 a.m.	ST	TS	†Michael Sestile (Wife, Cathy)
10:30 a.m.	SJB	JM	†Chick DiBiagio (Carol Natale)
11 a.m.	OLF	MB	†Dorothy Ludwico (Kathleen & Paul Diulus)
11:30 a.m.	SFC	TS	†Pasquale DeChellis, B'day (Adele & Dave Miller)

Monday Dec. 30—6th Day within Octave of Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m.	OLF	JM	†Carol Dishong (Debbie & Eddie Kallen)
8:30 a.m.	SFC	TS	†John Gdula (Daughter, Karen Gdula)
6:30 p.m.	OLF	RA	†Rachel DelTondo (Mom & Dad)

Tuesday Dec. 31—7th Day within Octave of Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m.	SJB	TS	†Fr. John Haney (St. John's Staff)
8:30 a.m.	ST	MB	†Faye Bontempo (Dorothy Bucan)

Tuesday Evening Dec. 31—Vigil: Mary, Mother of God

4 p.m.	ST	MB	†Rachael DelTondo (Mom & Dad)
6:30 p.m.	SFC	MB	†Ed Vasko, Anniv. (Wife and Family)

Wednesday Jan. 1—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:30 a.m.	SJB	JM	†Bill Gleason (Wife, Virginia)
10 a.m.	OLF	MB	†Marie Haney (Buono & Shemer Families)

Thursday Jan. 2—Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:30 a.m.	SJB	JM	†Chad Mancini & Family (Mary Ann Dessler)
8:30 a.m.	ST	MB	†Aledy Sisson (Phil Rossi)

Friday Jan. 3 - Christmas Weekday

8:30 a.m.	OLF	MB	†Greg Morelli & Family (Mary Ann Dessler)
8:30 a.m.	SFC	TS	†Rosa & †Giovanni Martino (Family)
12 n.	ST	RA	†Arthur Pirolì, Sr. (Wife, Ann and Family)
7 p.m.	ST	Latin Mass	In rep. for sins against the Sacred Heart & IHM (KoC)
8:30 a.m.	SJB	TS	Living & †Deceased Catholic Educations
8:30 a.m.	ST	JM	†Frances Beck (Frank Beck)

Saturday Evening Jan. 4 - Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord

4 p.m.	OLF	TS	†Joan Hayden (Joyce Kraus)
4:30 p.m.	SFC	JM	†Robert Zanker (Wife and Family)

Sunday Jan. 5 - Epiphany of the Lord

8 a.m.	SJB	MB	†Val C. Rocco (Mary Halama & Family)
8:30 a.m.	OLF	TS	†Shirley Zunic (Lee & John McFarland)
9 a.m.	SFC	JM	†Leona & †Joseph Masciantonio (Family)
10 a.m.	ST	BM	†James Yannuzzi (Daughter, Cathy)
10:30 a.m.	SJB	TS	†Mike Butchki (Laura & Jim Corrado)
11 a.m.	OLF	JM	†Jennie Mancini (Vickie Lampone)
11:30 a.m.	SFC	MB	†Lucy Ann Vallecorsa (Denise & Mark Komraus)

Parish Staff

Rev. Martin R. Bartel, OSB, *Administrator*
Rev. Thomas More Sikora, OSB, and
Rev. Joachim Morgan, OSB,
Parochial Vicars

Mr. Joe Basko, Mr. Robert Bittner, *Deacons*
Mr. David Schmidt, *Seminarian*

Confessions: Saturdays:

9 - 9:45 a.m. at St. Titus
11 - 12n. at Our Lady of Fatima
11 - 12n. at St. Frances Cabrini
12:15 - 1 p.m. at St John the Baptist
Before and after evening and Friday after-
noon Masses. Other times by appointment.

Website: www.mach1diopitt.org



Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Friday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Today's Readings

First Reading: Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).

Psalms: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

Second Reading: You are called into one body. Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21).

Gospel — Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23).





St. John the Baptist 1501 Virginia Avenue, Monaca PA 15061
724-775-3940 Voice † 724-775-6886 Fax † officesjbp@gmail.com

Acknowledgments -- Thanks to Lou Ann Nudi and Luiz Baccaro and to M/M Guy Polce for their donations to St. John the Baptist Parish in memory of †*Vickie Mangie*.

Faith Formation -- There are no Faith Formation classes **this** Sunday, Dec. 29. Happy New Year! We will see you on Jan. 5 after the 8 a.m. Mass.

Office Hours -- Our office will be open on Monday Dec. 30 from 8 a.m. to Noon and will not reopen until Thursday, January 2 at 9 a.m. Happy New Year!



The SVPD Angel Tree Thank You! -- A great BIG thank you to All who participated in our Angel Tree program. Because of your generosity, there were many smiling faces on Christmas morning! Special thanks to our fantastic Youth

Group and Paul Polce for their continued help. Have a blessed holiday season!

Gift Cards are not only great gifts; they are easy to use to accomplish your weekly shopping tasks. Please consider purchasing a few after Sunday Mass, in the back of the Church to have on hand for groceries, fuel and dining out. Your purchase helps support Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School!



A Note from the Money Counters -- To help eliminate errors in recording your weekly offertory contributions, please take a moment and mark your envelope with the amount of your donation. Approximately one-third of the envelopes each week are unmarked. By indicating the amount of your contribution, you assist the counters in their task and in the weekly posting of parishioner contributions to our church census program, Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



Please Give Us Your Email Address! -- We are emailing the weekly bulletin and other notices about activities and events to parishioners with active email addresses. Send an email to officesjbp@gmail.com so that we can add yours to our census information. Your email address will only be used for Parish purposes and will not be sold or otherwise disseminated to any other organizations.

50+ Friends -- will not meet in January or February; meetings resume in March 2020. Happy New Year!

Young Adult Group -- Stay up to date or if you have any questions, join our Facebook page (search St. John's Young Adult Group) or email adri3151@yahoo.com.

Faith In Action -- We are in need of additional drivers for Faith in Action. We are a nonprofit organization that drives clients to doctor appointments within Beaver County. We do not service people who cannot get to and from the car independently. Clients must be 60 years old or older. We accept no money for our services. If you volunteer to be one of our drivers, you must have a current driver's license, valid auto insurance, and obtain background checks and criminal clearances. I will direct you how to obtain this information.

We have serviced well over one thousand rides since Faith in Action came into Beaver County. If you are interested in serving God through this ministry, please call Mary Horzempa at 724-774-4289.



Blessed Sacrament Candles



In memory of
†*Rose Cinderich*
by Jim Lucic

In memory of
†*Kay Korcan*
by Ann



Blessed Mother Candle

In memory of
†*Orazio Petrella*
†*Violanda Petrella*
by Carol & Henry Adamek



For those who wish to make a monetary donation to St. Vincent dePaul, please make checks payable to *Society of St. Vincent dePaul*. Thank you for your continued support and generosity! May He continue to bless you during this Christmas Season!

Weekly Financial Report

December 22, 2019

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the report will be published in the January 5, 2020 bulletin.



St. Titus 952 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa PA 15001
724-378-8561 Voice † 724-378-7851 Fax † sttituschurch@comcast.net



Eucharistic Adoration -- will be held this **Friday, Jan. 3**. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed following the 12 Noon Mass and Adoration will conclude at 1:30 p.m. You are invited to spend some time in the Real Presence of Our Lord Outside of Mass, we come to Adoration to be with Jesus in the Eucharist to pray, listen and rest in Him. *"Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Jesus and ready to make reparation for the great evils of the world. Let your adoration never cease."*

Latin Mass--The Traditional Latin Mass will be offered this **Friday, Jan. 3** at 7 p.m. at St. Titus. The Latin Mass is offered on the First Friday of each month. Confessions begin at 6:15 p.m. and the Holy Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Sacred Heart devotions after Mass include the Litany of the Sacred Heart, Act of Reparation, and Act of Consecration. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Woodlawn Council 2161. For more info KnightsOfColumbusLatinMass.blogspot.com.

20+C+M+B+20

Epiphany Tradition -- You may remember the days when the parish priest would come to your home after the Feast of the Epiphany to bless your home. Of course, that was when there were more priests serving the parishes and the demands of the day were not so extensive. In honor of the beautiful tradition the parish will again provide kits for you to bless your home. Next weekend near the Creche, envelopes filled with a small amount of incense, a piece of chalk and 3 gold beads along with a prayer will be available for you to take home and bless your home with your family. The incense and the gold beads (three beads for the 3 Magi) represent the gifts of the Magi that were given to Mary and Joseph in honor of the Infant Jesus. (If you do not have charcoal to light the incense, you may place a aluminum pie pan on the stove burner, let it get warm, turn off the burner and place the incense in the pan.)

FAB 50 -- The FAB 50 Bingo Social Group will be taking a break during January & February from its Monday afternoon get-togethers. We will start up on March 2, 2020!

Year End Contributions --To comply with Diocesan policy we are required to send parishioner contribution statements to every parish family of St. Titus. The IRS requires all tax related statements to be delivered to your home by Jan. 31. We are planning to have the statements mailed out during the week of Jan. 20. Please note, we will not take any request for statements through phone calls. **There will be NO exceptions to this policy.**

The Week Ahead At St. Titus

Dec. 31 & Jan. 1: Parish Office closed

Friday, Jan. 3: Eucharistic Adoration after 12 n. Mass
Latin Mass - 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 4: Catholic Men's Fellowship
(Cassidy Hall) 9 a.m.
Confessions 9:00 a.m. ~ 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 5: Religious Education
8:45-9:45 a.m., Grades K to 6
8:30-9:45 a.m., Grades 7 - 8

Altar Ministers For December 29

Server ~ A. McCloskey

Readers ~ M. Janicki S. Briczinski

EM~L. Trombetta-T. B. & C. Colalella

T. Pesut M. Richter

Altar Ministers For January 5

Server ~ D. Duncan

Readers ~ MJ Paich J. DeSantis

EM ~ M. Thomas -T D. & M. Betke



The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of
†Anna & †Angiolino Cialone
by cousin, Elizabeth



The Holy Family Candle is lit in memory of
†Mary & †Thomas Ginard
by daughter, Bernadette Griswold

Lucky Days Winners

Due to the early deadline for this week's bulletin, Lucky Days winners will be posted next week's bulletin.

Weekly Financial Report & Lucky Days Winners

December 22, 2019

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the reports will be published in the January 5, 2020 bulletin.

HAPPY
New Year



St. Frances Cabrini 115 Trinity Drive, Aliquippa PA 15001
724-775-6363 Voice † 724-775-3848 Fax † info@sfcabrini.us



Office Hours – The Religious Education office is closed and will reopen on Monday, January 6.

St. Frances Cabrini 50+ Group Christmas Break – Next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 2, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in O'Connell Hall. Bingo, cards and fellowship. Membership is open to anyone over 50.

St. Frances Cabrini Preschool will be accepting registrations for September 2019. Any child registering must be 3, 4, or 5 years of age before September 1, 2019. Registration will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 in the Preschool Office from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. for students currently enrolled in our program and their siblings; 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. for children with parent(s) that are registered members of St. Frances Cabrini Parish; 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. registration will be open to the public. We will continue to take registrations daily in the preschool office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. until all classes are filled. All Preschool registrations must be made by the parent(s) or the legal guardian only! The following items are needed when registering your child. Child's birth certificate (new students only), \$25 non-refundable registration fee (all students). A check is preferred, payable to St. Frances Cabrini Preschool. No registrations will be taken by phone. All classes will be filled on a first come, first served basis. For additional information, call the preschool office at 724-774-4888.



Pray For Our Infirm And Homebound

Pete Ayoob	Eddie Jozsa	Angela Ross
Louis B. (infant)	E.K.	Mia Scalamogna
Rochelle Barness	Pat Kayla	Helen Schreiber
Steven Cercone	Elias Kazas (child)	Marjorie Sewasky
Filomena DeChellis	Hannah K. (toddler)	Jean Shingleton
Ida DiNardo	Robert Konarski	Sue Sokol
Linda Ermi	Pauline Leo	Jean Vickodil
Stephanie F.	Shirley Lopata	J.W.
Mike Fordyce	Sam Lucci	Peter Weisenmiller
Larry Garuccio	Greg Merulli	Alan Zanker
James George	Edward Mineard	
Hallie H. (toddler)	Peggy Murphy	

Please Note: To be added to this list, a family member is asked to please contact the Parish Office at 724-775-6363 or email info@sfcabrini.us. First Friday Communicants will remain on the list indefinitely; all others will remain for one month unless renewed by a family member.

The Sanctuary Candle acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle is burning this week in loving memory of †**Deceased Members of Shahren Family** from Shahren Family. May the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar be praised, adored and loved in all the tabernacles of the world even until the end of time.



The Holy Family Candle is burning this week in loving memory of †**John Nairn, Sr.** from wife and family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us now and at the hour of our death.



A Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

God the Father, draw us into Your arms, that we might know how cherished we are as members of Your family. May our homes and our hearts be living expressions of Your desire to gather all people into Your family, now and forever, Amen.



Weekly Financial Report

December 22, 2019

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the report will be published in the January 5, 2020 bulletin.



Our Lady of Fatima 2270 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa PA 15001

724-375-7626 Voice † 724-375-0219 Fax † olofo1@yahoo.com

Eucharistic Adoration -- on Friday, Jan. 3, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 1 p.m. What a great practice to initiate in the new year: to spend an hour with our Eucharistic Lord. There is also Adoration every Monday evening after the 6:30 p.m. Mass.



The 10 tips from Pope Francis were originally published on USCCB's To Go Forth Blog. Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

In *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis calls dialogue “essential” for family life.

1. **Recognize the real “importance” and dignity of the other person.** Recognize others’ right “to think as they do and to be happy.” Pope Francis challenges us to acknowledge the values of the other’s “deepest concerns” and what he or she is try to say (no. 138).
2. **Try to understand where the other person is coming from:** his or her pain, disappointments, fear, anger, hopes, and dreams (no. 137).
3. **Put yourself in the other’s “shoes”;** try to “peer” into his or her heart. This is the starting point for dialogue (no. 138).
4. **Be ready to “listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say.”** Dialogue requires the “self-discipline” of waiting until someone is finished speaking before responding. And, it means *truly* listening to what someone else is saying—not planning a comeback before the other person has even finished speaking (no. 137).
5. **“Keep an open mind.”** We need not stick to our own “limited ideas and opinions,” but we must “be prepared to change or expand them.” Our goal is “synthesis” that enriches everyone involved in the dialogue. We don’t seek unity in diversity, Pope Francis says, but rather “reconciled diversity” (no. 139).
6. **Our goal is to advance the common good.** Respect and appreciation for the “other” are necessary prerequisites (no. 139).
7. **Try not to offend, and don’t vent.** We must choose our words carefully, be sensitive to how

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Feast of the Holy Family

POPE FRANCIS' VISION IS A
VISION OF JOY-FILLED LOVE.
LET'S SHARE IT!



Pierino, MET Museum

- others feel, and never seek to inflict hurt. We must also avoid a “patronizing” tone, which “only serves to hurt, ridicule, accuse and offend others” (no. 139).
8. **Love everyone.** “Love,” Pope Francis writes, “surmounts even the worst barriers.” When we come from a place of love, we can better understand others (no. 140).
 9. **Base positions on beliefs and values, not on the desire to “win” an argument or be “proved right”** (no. 140).
 10. **Pray!** True dialogue, Pope Francis reminds us, “can only be the fruit of an interior richness” nourished by our quiet time with God through reading, reflection, prayer, and “openness to the world around us” (no. 141).
 11. **These are challenging words from Pope Francis.** How might our own families be different if we took his words to heart?

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SCHOOL

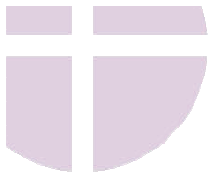
It is the Mission of Our Lady of Fatima School to develop the individual child Spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically, in a faith environment rooted in Gospel Values. The administration, faculty, staff, and parents dedicate their energies and talents to meeting these needs of the children in all facets of their education by incorporating Gospel values in everyday activities with in the family, school, community and the church: by teaching as Jesus taught living Gospel values boldly by examples of our lives, building community, and being of service to each other and the world around us.



On Wednesday, Dec. 11, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School students in preschool, kindergarten, and first and second grades helped us get into the Christmas spirit with their annual Christmas program. The students worked hard on their songs in music class and did a great job! Festive student artwork was also on display, and several student readers were featured. A special thank you is extended to our PTG for providing cookies and punch afterward!

On Thursday, Dec. 19, in in the Church, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School students in grades 3 - 8 presented their annual Christmas pageant, sharing the true meaning of Christmas and the story of Jesus' birth. In word, song and actions, they proclaimed that *"a savior has been born for [us] who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:11-14*





Life-Giving Love in a Violent World

MOTHER TERESA OFNEN SAID THAT ABORTION WAS THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WORLD. WHEREVER THERE IS VIOLENCE AGAINST LIFE, WHETHER IT BE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE, THERE CAN NEVER BE TRUE PEACE.

Loss of respect for life increases the cycle of violence in society. Every time an abortion happens, there are two victims of violence: the baby and the mother. The promotion of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide supports the idea that the lives of the elderly and sick are "not worth living." This idea, along with a culture that places a priority on personal gratification over helping those in need, encourages those who are younger to view elderly people as burdens, placing them at greater risk for abuse and neglect.

Respect for life is fostered in families, most particularly in a person's childhood experiences and formative years. How important it is to educate children and young people from an early age about their personal dignity, and to awaken in them sensitivity for the dignity of others! One need only look on the typical school playground to see children who are ridiculed, bullied, or shunned by stronger or more popular children, either because they have special needs, uncommon physical characteristics or other attributes. Sometimes these children experience the bullying and shunning of others even into adulthood, and then the bullied victims sometimes respond in violent or inappropriate ways in their local communities.

In contrast to the violence of the anti-life mentality, respect for life builds peace. Respect for life comes from acknowledging the dignity of each human being. It is rooted in

love, which each of us needs to live. A person without love is at war with himself and the world, causing violence and divisions in the most intimate relationships and extending to the wider society. Love affirms the profound respect and God-given dignity of each person.

In his 2013 Message on the WorldDay of Peace on January 1, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted the importance of respect for life for peace in the world:

"The path to the attainment of the common good and to peace is above all that of respect for human life in all its many aspects, beginning with its conception, through its development and up to its natural end. True peacemakers, then, are those who love, defend and promote human life in all its dimensions, personal, communitarian and transcendent. Life in its fullness is the height of peace. Anyone who loves peace cannot tolerate attacks and crimes against life."

Disregard for human life - in whatever form this may take - does not make the world more "convenient" or "free." Instead of solving problems, it only causes more pain and division in society. All of us, whatever our calling, can contribute to promoting a culture of life through our own personal daily witness, radiating Christ's love by upholding respect for others. When you help another person discover his own dignity, you are helping to build a more peaceful world, one life at a time.

Kimberly Baker was a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the time this article was written in 2013. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, please visit www.usccb.org/prolife.





MACH1 GROUPING NEWS

Monaca, Aliquippa, Center and Hopewell Catholics
Coming together as ONE in Christ!

St. John the Baptist - St. Titus - St. Frances Cabrini - Our Lady of Fatima



Youth Group 12/29 -- The Youth Group will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 29. Meetings will resume on Sunday, Jan. 5. Have a blessed and Happy New Year!



Upcoming Weekends For Couples -- Does Your Marriage Need a Rebirth? Retrouvaille has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment through deep misery. For confidential information, please email 3041@retrouvaille.org or call 412-277-3434. We will be hosting two weekend retreats in 2020: Jan. 31-Feb.

Prayers For Healing -- is a monthly setting of evening prayer that begins on Monday, Jan. 6, and continues the first Monday of each month throughout the year. Prayer is held from 7-8 p.m. in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel, 1020 State Street, Baden. Reservations are NOT necessary. Future dates include Feb. 3, March 2, (no April), and May 4, 2020.

Retrouvaille -- has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment through deep misery. For confidential information, please call 412-277-3434 or email 3041@retrouvaille.org. We will be hosting two weekend retreats in 2020: Jan. 31-Feb. 2 and Sept. 11-13, 2020 www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Divorced And Separated Support Group -- sponsored by Sts. John & Paul Parish, will begin its next 13-week cycle of meetings on Monday, Jan. 6. This peer-led group provides caring support to anyone who is experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. Topics covered include: anger, loneliness, annulment, forgiveness, financial survival and more. Meetings are on Monday evenings, 7 - 9 p.m. at Sts. John & Paul Church (2586 Wexford Bayne Rd., Sewickley, PA) in Rooms 8 & 9 in the lower Cardinal DiNardo Center. Anyone who has questions or would like more information should contact Ralph Joy: 412-741-5456 or ralph.r.joy@gmail.com.



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God -- celebrated annually on January 1, the Octave of Christmas, is a feast day honoring the Blessed Virgin's motherhood of Jesus. The precise title *Mother of God* goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek formulation, *Theotokos* — God-bearer—it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. This title for Mary was affirmed as the Council of Ephesus in 431.

The Mass Schedule for this holy day of obligation is:

Tuesday, Dec. 31: 4 p.m. at St. Titus

Tuesday, Dec. 31: 6:30 p.m. at St. Frances Cabrini

Wednesday, Jan. 1: 8:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

Wednesday, Jan. 1: 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima

Lord's Laughter *A joyful heart is a good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.* Prov. 17:22

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BIG SISTER AND A BIG BROTHER...



10 New Year's Resolutions for Christians in 2020

1. *Be a peacemaker.*

It is so easy to get worked up about things; people who wrong us, family drama, church drama, etc. But resolve to be the one who brings peace. Don't spread the rumors, don't listen to the stories, don't join the clique. Be the one who initiates peace and unity.

2. *Only do things that are pleasing to God.*

Jesus made the statement that he only does those things that please the Father. He is our Older Brother and our perfect example – so we too, should only do the things that please our Father. We are not saved and justified just so we can do whatever we like – our salvation comes at a great price! Therefore, Paul tells us, you are not your own.

3. *Always do the work of the Lord.*

This old broken world makes it seem pointless to do good works. But it is not pointless. We need to keep on working, keep standing steady on God's Word. Nothing done for Christ is lost.

4. *Triumph in Christ.*

This is only possible by the power of God's Spirit within you. To triumph over depression, bad moods, grumpy attitudes, jealousy, selfishness – this is a bigger miracle than healing from sickness! Ask God to fill you with His Spirit, and walk in obedience and humility, and you will begin to triumph in Christ!

5. *Die to self every day.*

This is the secret to victory over sin. To die to self; all MY desires, MY will, MY plans – and offer myself as a sacrifice to God, daily. Dying to my need to be right, dying to my need to be respected, dying to my need for comfort... dying to ME daily. This is what 'taking up my cross' means. It's not some woo-woo theory – it is painful, daily, death to self and all my flesh desires. Wanting to get back at someone who has hurt me, wanting to profit at someone else's expense, thinking only of my own interests – these selfish desires and habits need to die, so I can be transformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

6. *Walk by faith.*

Faith that God's Word is true. Faith that He will fulfill His Word. Faith that God will take care of me, also faith that He will punish sinners – like He said. Faith that He will guide me every day. Faith that if I live a life fully given to God, and walk by the power of the Spirit – everything I do will be rewarded by God. Maybe not in this life – maybe not physically – but rewards of an eternal nature.

7. *Always be rejoicing in the Lord.*

Life is often hard. Painful. Unexpected trials. But when we have the assurance of God's love, we can rejoice in the midst of our trials, because we know that God uses everything in our lives to draw us closer to Him, and form us into the image of Christ. If we have this faith in our hearts, we can be like the apostles who sang hymns at midnight when they were in jail.

8. *Give thanks for everything.*

Again – we don't feel like giving thanks in every circumstance! But here we can go back to giving our bodies as a living sacrifice; giving thanks whether we feel thankful or not! It doesn't say: "give thanks if you feel thankful", no, we need to give thanks – period. End of story. It is a command, and this is where we need to obey in faith. If you start giving thanks regularly, I bet you will start to have more peace in tough circumstances. It just works that way!

9. *Let Christ be exalted in my body.*

We like to sing about giving it all for Jesus', but when it comes to our body and what we do with it – there we take a step backwards. We want to do things we want to do. We have freedom, right? But here's the thing – when Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of death, he paid an immense price! So we should not take that lightly. Our eating habits, manner of dress, how we care for our bodies – these things all need to be surrendered to Jesus and His Lordship. I want my body to glorify Him this year.

10. *Be humble.*

Humility is such a tricky thing, isn't it? The thing I like to remind myself of, is that other people's opinion is worthless to me. Only what God thinks of me, matters! Whether others think we are good, or whether they think we are bad – throw it into the trash! I only consider whether God is pleased with me.

"Do not desire to be the principal man in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified."

–Charles Spurgeon

I hope this list of New Year's resolutions for Christians has prodded your mind to think of what is truly important, what needs to come first in our lives. It surely has given us a lot to think about.

May God bless your new year, and may your life reflect His, in every way!



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