

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH • NOVEMBER 26, 2017

THIRTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, November 28

Tuesdays @ 10

Wednesday, November 29

8:30 – 11:30 - Eucharistic Exposition

Saturday, December 2

7:45 am – Catholic Men's Fellowship

10:00 am – 2:00 pm - Advent Parish Retreat

Sunday, December 3 -

10:00 – Advent Wreath Making Workshop



Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR PARISH RETREAT!

On Saturday, December 2nd, we will have a day of prayer and reflection from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend and hear Fr. Del Staigers and Fr. David Doseck share their thoughts about “Parish: The Place People Call Home.” This event is open to the entire family. Registration forms and more details are available in the gathering space and on our website. The only cost is \$10 per person for a boxed lunch.

GIVING TREE

St. John Fisher has set up a Giving Tree in the gathering space. The Giving Tree displays tags containing gift ideas for local residents in need of assistance this Christmas season. The tags benefit Inter Parish Ministry, the Tom Geiger House, and A Caring Place Pregnancy Help Center. **All gifts must be returned to St. John Fisher no later than 12:00 pm on Sunday, December 10th.** Please be sure to sign out any tags you take on the sheets provided near the tree. For questions, contact Anne Roberto at 310-9755. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS PARTY & LUNCHEON!

The Forever 50 Group invites all parishioners age 50+ to their annual Christmas party & luncheon on December 14th at noon in Pater Hall. The cost is \$20 per person; more details and signup sheet are in the gathering space. See you on December 14th!

HOSPITALITY

There will be no hospitality on Sunday, November 26th. See you December 3rd!

ADVENT PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Mark your calendar for our Advent parish reconciliation service on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00pm. Advent is always a good time to prepare for the coming of our Lord and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful opportunity to renew our life in Christ. Please join us!

Fr. Del ... Points to Ponder, Part 10

For the coming weeks, I will be addressing some topics that people have raised about the Catholic faith, not dogmatic pronouncements, but approaches to lead to a deeper understanding of the riches we hold as followers of Christ.

I've always had this dream: I long for the day when we will really celebrate Advent. We observe the season to the extent that we see the advent wreath in our church, with candles progressively lighted each week. It's our sort of “Countdown to Christmas.” But we don't really celebrate the season of Christ's coming. Even in Catholic parishes we struggle to really “do” Advent as we hold and plan Christmas parties, put up Christmas decorations, or sing the carols that we love at various gatherings. And, then, it's all over on December 26.

This year is a short Advent as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent on the same day as we celebrate Christmas Eve. No small challenge to observe Advent.

Advent is a rich Season of waiting with Mary, John the Baptist, and the prophets of old. Our prayer is quiet, reflective, and listening to God in a world that can be all too noisy and busy. Advent is a season in which we realize our own longing for the Messiah in our own lives, that God thinks enough of us to become one of us!

The spiritual writer Thomas Merton notes, “What joy is ours when we find Jesus, the sunshine of the universe. Heaven and earth kiss in Jesus. Jesus is God's smile on the earth.” Advent is that season through which we come to a deeper understanding that the presence of Christ is with us each moment of our day — God's smile upon us.

My dream for this upcoming season is that we will celebrate the Christmas Season *during* the liturgical Season of Christmas. This year the season continues until the Baptism of the Lord on January 8, 2018. I know it is probably unrealistic, but what would it look like if we had all of our Christmas parties and gatherings from December 25 until January 8? Not only would it alleviate a lot of stress during the Season of Advent, but we'd actually celebrate the Christmas Season.

I know that the *liturgical* Seasons of Advent and Christmas no longer hold sway over what has become the commercial Christmas season. I try to be realistic about these things. But I still wonder, wouldn't it be great to celebrate both Seasons with their Christian intention? I bet we'd even grow closer to the Lord if we did, if we realized that heaven and earth kiss in Jesus.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be held at 6:15pm on Thursday, December 7th and at 8am on Friday, December 8th.

All ministers may check their future schedules at:
www.ministryschedulerpro.com?user=stjfvolunteer

SERVER SCHEDULE

December 2nd & 3rd

Saturday, 4:30 pm – Arlyn Scott & David Isaacs

Sunday, 9:00 am – Maria Taylor & Grayson Moellering,
please volunteer as we need 1 more server.

Sunday, 11:00 am – Joey Restle, Will Forte, Aris
Remsen

December 7th, Vigil Mass for the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception

Thursday, 6:15 pm – Michael & Maria Taylor

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

December 2nd & 3rd

St. John Fisher

Saturday

4:30 pm – Fr. Del

Sunday

9:00 am - Fr. David

11:00 am - Fr. David

St. Veronica

Saturday

4:00 pm - Fr. Pat

Sunday

8:00 am - Fr. Pat

9:30 am - Fr. Del

11:30 am - Fr. Del

YEAR-END CHARITABLE DONATION STRATEGIES

November is almost over, which means the end of the year will be here before you know it. Of course that also means the window of opportunity to make a financial contribution for the 2017 tax year is closing rapidly. Donations made by cash or check are by far the most common methods of charitable giving. However, contributing stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have appreciated over time has become increasingly popular in recent years, and for good reasons. There are a number of charitable planning strategies that can help you lower your taxes this year. Here are some ways to shift your taxable income to a charitable donation for St. John Fisher:

❖ **IRA Charitable Rollover (Qualified Charitable Distribution)**

If you are 70½ or older, you can rollover up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to St. John Fisher. Because the rollover counts against your required minimum distribution, this could reduce your taxable income. Although you won't receive a charitable tax deduction, you won't pay any income tax on the transfer either.

❖ **Outright Gift of Stock**

Make a gift by transferring (not selling) stock directly to St. John Fisher and avoid paying capital gains on the transfer, and receive a tax-saving charitable deduction.

❖ **Donor Advised Fund**

Make a tax-deductible gift to a donor advised fund, which gives you the ability to make grants to St. John Fisher this year and in future years.

Whatever method you choose to make a financial contribution to our church, please be assured it is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. If you have questions regarding charitable donations for the benefit of St. John Fisher parish, please consult your financial planner or tax advisor or contact the parish office at 513-561-9431 x115. Thank you for considering it!

SOCKS, SOCKS & MORE SOCKS!

The Forever 50 Group is collecting new socks for the needy and homeless in our area until December 14th. Please place your donations in the Santa sack in the gathering space. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 27

8:00 am - Dan List (Joyce List)

Tuesday, November 28

8:00 am - Communion Service

Wednesday, November 29

8:00 am – Intentions of Pete Lampert

Thursday, November 30

8:00 am - Michael Griswald (Estelle Blankenbecker)

Friday, December 1

8:00 am - Martha Wuennemann (Wuennemann Family)

Saturday, December 2

4:30 pm - Bill & Barbara Bohne (The Bohne Family)

Sunday, December 3 (First Sunday of Advent)

9:00 am - St. John Fisher Community

11:00 am - Caleb Fairley (Friends of the Fairley Family)

ADULT PARISH PARTY SIGNUPS

Sign up after any Mass next weekend, December 2 & 3, for one of the great Adult Parish parties that benefit St. Vincent Mission in David, Kentucky. The cost for each guest is \$30.00 and all proceeds support the mission and our parish mission trip. Thanks to the generous parish members willing to host a fun evening, there is a party every month from January through May. Parties include a pre-Super Bowl Bash, wine tasting, cooking lesson and delicious dinners. Please join other parish members to celebrate together and support a worthy cause.

CLEANING TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The St. John Fisher Cleaning Team is looking for five or six new members. Cleaning is done once every 2 or 3 weeks on Friday mornings around 9am. With two people it takes about an hour to complete. Each 2 person team cleans the glass doors, dusts pews and then quickly straightens the missals. Most teams clean once or twice per year, according to a schedule. Five members have retired from the team this year, so we need help to maintain the schedule. Please consider joining. Contact Mary Trout if you are interested at mvtrout@gmail.com.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

...our parishioners who are sick and in need of your prayers: John Collins and Lee Murrell.

Also, please continue to pray for those parishioners who are homebound, in nursing care facilities, or have chronic illnesses.



ADVENT WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

The Advent Wreath workshop is Sunday, December 3rd at 10:00 in Pater Hall. An Advent wreath can be a wonderful reminder to keep this holy season as a time for prayer and reflection as we await the coming of Christ. If you have a metal frame from previous years, please bring it with you!

FEATURED ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Mt. Washington Care Center
24 Hour Skilled Rehabilitation Center
& Nursing Services
513-231-4561