

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH • DECEMBER 3, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am - Tuesdays @ 10

7:00 pm – Advent Parish Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 6

8:30 – 11:30 - Eucharistic Exposition

Thursday, December 7

6:15 pm – Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Friday, December 8

8:00 am – Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday, December 9

7:45 am – Catholic Men's Fellowship

Sunday, December 10

6:00 pm – St. Nick Dinner in Pater Hall



Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Fr. Del ... Points to Ponder, Part 11

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.

The phrase “The Fear of the Lord,” may conjure up images of us quaking in our boots because we are so scared of God. We may think of our heart skipping a beat, or our breath being taken away because we are startled at the very thought of God smiting people or causing cataclysmic natural disasters. But none of this is what we mean when we talk about the fear of the Lord. The sentiment is actually very positive and reassuring. The fear of the Lord has *nothing* to do with being afraid of God, and *everything* to do with *standing in awe* of God's mighty works.

We ponder these mighty works of God's mercy as we prepare our hearts in the Season of Advent. Our prayers lead us to more deeply understand the Incarnation, or the WORD taking on flesh in our human form. Talk about awe!

The power of God's forgiveness may be one of the most poignant moments when we stand in fear/awe of the Lord. Where else can we find this unconditional mercy that allows us to pick up, start over, and begin with a fresh start? The liturgical Season of Advent is one of these times that we ponder God's mercy, God's unwillingness to give up on us, so that we can be fashioned anew.

One important way to acknowledge, celebrate and stand in awe of God's mercy is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Incarnation is God's

statement that if sin affects the entire people of God, so does forgiveness! The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession is not meant to be punishment for our sins, nor a guilt trip, nor a reminder that we could do anything to make God stop loving us. No, the Sacrament is God's pledge to us that we can always start over with a renewed understanding that we can always stand in awe of God's unconditional love — like we find nowhere else in our human existence. There are two opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament communally in our Pastoral Region:

- **On Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to our Advent Penance Service at St. John Fisher.**
- **On Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to celebrate our Advent Penance Service at St. Veronica.**

Both of these celebrations will include our children, who will celebrate the Sacrament for the first time. There will be multiple priests available to celebrate the Sacrament as part of the service. If you have any fear about the celebrating the Sacrament — if it's been awhile since you have celebrated the Sacrament — just tell the priest, he will be happy to help you.

Fear of the Lord has little to do with being scared, and everything to do with standing in awe of God's unconditional mercy. Let's humbly use these opportunities together to get ourselves a fresh start, a new beginning, a healthy understanding of why we stand in awe of God's mercy.

GIVING TREE

Just a reminder that all Giving Tree gifts are due back next weekend. Gifts must be returned to St. John Fisher no later than 12:00 pm on Sunday, December 10th. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

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!

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 8am on Friday, December 8th.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION

Anyone wishing to donate toward the beautiful flowers and trees used to decorate our worship space during the Christmas season may do so using the envelopes found in the Gathering Space. All money and remembrances must be received by Monday, December 18th. A list of remembrances will be included in the bulletin on December 30th and 31st.

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

SERVER SCHEDULE
December 9th & 10th

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

Sunday, 9:00 am – Mac Castellini, Lilly Sharp, Jordan Fanning

Sunday, 11:00 am – Michael & Maria Taylor, Francesca Damiano

PRESIDER SCHEDULE
December 9th & 10th

St. John Fisher

Saturday

4:30 pm – Fr. David

Sunday

9:00 am - Fr. Del

11:00 am - Fr. Del

St. Veronica

Saturday

4:00 pm - Fr. Del

Sunday

8:00 am - Fr. David

9:30 am - Fr. Pat

11:30 am - Fr. Pat

YEAR-END CHARITABLE DONATION STRATEGIES

We are well into December, 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!**

CHRISTMAS PARTY & LUNCHEON

The Forever 50 Group invites all parishioners 50+ to the annual Christmas Party & Luncheon on December 14th at noon in Pater Hall. The cost is \$20 per person. Registration deadline is December 10th. More details and signup forms are in the Gathering Space. See you on the December 14th!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4

8:00 am - Intentions of Larry Sova

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am - Communion Service

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 am - Daniel R. Kallmyer

Thursday, December 7

8:00 am - Rosemarie Steele

6:15 pm - Tom Moehringer (Diana Reitz)

Friday, December 8

8:00 am - Intentions of Eugene Haywood (Skip & Rosemary Winkler)

Saturday, December 9

4:30 pm - Tom Moehringer (Pat Volk)

Sunday, December 10 (Second Sunday of Advent)

9:00 am - Intentions of Mary Roberts (Skip & Rosemary Winkler)

11:00 am - St. John Fisher Community

SJF & STV YOUTH MINISTRY

All Middle School and High School teens (6-12th Grades) are invited to attend our *Advent Youth Group* on December 10, 2017 @ 7pm at St. Veronica Parish Ministry Center. Fun, Faith, and Understanding Advent will be the theme of the evening together. Parents/Guardians must complete the permission form found online at sjfchurch.org and return it to Fr. David via email/mail/or with child at the registration table on the night of the event. The pickup time and end of the event will be at 9pm. Please encourage our youth in the parish and surrounding area to attend. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Fr. David at davidd@sjfchurch.org or 513-527-5244.

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. is home to the Trinity Dome, its central and largest dome. A nationwide effort is underway to fund the completion of a beautiful mosaic which will adorn the dome, depicting the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and a procession of saints. Checks should be made payable to St. John Fisher; please reference the National Shrine in the memo line. Donation envelopes and more information will be available in the gathering space through December 10th. Thank you!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

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

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



ST. NICK DINNER – NEXT SUNDAY!

Please join us for the St. Nick Dinner in Pater Hall at 6pm next Sunday, December 10th. We'll have a visit from St. Nick himself! Sign up in the gathering space today!

FEATURED ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Mt. Washington Motors
Quality Auto Repair & Body Work
513-271-4118