

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH • DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 am – 11:30 am - Eucharistic Exposition

Friday, December 22 – Office is closed

8:30 am – 11:30 am - Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 23

7:45 am – Catholic Men's Fellowship

12 Noon – Christmas Pageant practice

4:30 pm – Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

9:00 – Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:00 pm – Children's Christmas Pageant

3:30 pm Mass for Christmas

5:30 pm Mass for Christmas

10:00 pm Choral Prelude

10:30 pm Mass for Christmas

Monday, December 25

10:00 am – Mass on Christmas

Tuesday, December 26

No Mass or Communion Service, the office is closed.



Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE SALE THIS WEEKEND

Be prepared to buy that extra for the holidays.

HONOR STUDENTS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER

We congratulate students at St. Xavier High School who have achieved honors for the 1st quarter of the 2017- 2018 school year.

First Honors:

Logan A'Hearn

Carter Rammes

Patrick A'Hearn

John Arthur Williams

Nicholas Bach

Second Honors

William A'Hearn

John Sayre

Sean Face

Archbishop Moeller Honor Students

1st Honors

Evan Chick

Grandy Jackson

Congratulations to everyone!

Fr. Del ... Points to Powder, Part 13

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 place of Mary in Salvation is an important role to understand, especially during the Advent and Christmas Season. What Catholic has not been confronted, sometimes accosted with the question, "Why do Catholics worship Mary?" To be sure, we do not worship Mary. The reality is that many people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, do not make the distinction between *worship* and *honor*. We only worship God. We do honor great examples of people who follow God; Mary is the primary model of one who worshipped God with every fiber of her being. Mary magnified God in her total submission to God's will for her by her saying "yes" to the role that God had pre-ordained for her. It is interesting to note that when the fathers of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) discussed the role of Mary, they placed her role in the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, in Latin, *Lumen Gentium* (Light to the Nations). This placement made the dramatic statement that Mary's role in the life of the Church is integral to our life in Christ. Two statements stand out:

"The Father of mercies willed that the incarnation should be preceded by the acceptance of her who was predestined to be the mother of His Son, so that just as a woman contributed to death, so also a woman should contribute to life." (LG #56)

"For no creature could ever be counted as equal with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source." (LG #67)

Mary is our model in faith because she is what we hope to become by our turning our will and our lives over to God. Mary, the New Eve, shows us how to respond appropriately to God's life.

There is a famous story about a group who came to visit President Abraham Lincoln before the Civil War started to warn him that they would win the war because God was on their side. Lincoln responded, "It is more important to know that we are on God's side."

We can spend so much asking God to come into our hopes and dreams, our requests and situations, that we fail to ask God what he wants *us* to do. Do we know *God's* side? Mary did. Our honor of Mary is placed in the very life of the Church because she contributed to God's life in the Mystery of Salvation.

The Incarnation, God choosing to show holiness in and through human beings, is God's statement that he is on our side. Are we on God's?

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

SERVER SCHEDULE

December 23rd & 24th

- Saturday, 4:30 pm – Maria & Michael Taylor**
- Sunday, 9:00 am – Please volunteer, we need 3 servers**
- Sunday, 3:30 pm – Olivia Walsh, Maria Taylor, Lauren Sayre**
- Sunday 5:30 pm – Andrew & Stephen Kroeger, Please volunteer, we need 1 more server**
- Sunday 10:30 pm – We need 3 servers**
- Christmas Day Dec. 25**
- Monday 10:00 am – We need 2 servers please volunteer**

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

December 23rd, 24th

St. John Fisher	St. Veronica
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
4:30 pm – Fr. David	4:00 pm Fr. Del
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
9:00 am - Fr. Del	9:30 am – Fr. Pat
Christmas Masses	
3:30 pm – Fr. Del	3:00 pm Fr. David
5:30 pm – Fr. Del	5:30 pm – Fr. David
10:30 pm – Fr. David	11:00 pm – Fr. Del
Monday Christmas Day	
10:00 am – Fr. David	9:30 am – Fr. Pat

PROJECT RACHEL - Project Rachel is a ministry of the Archdiocese that serves anyone who has experienced a loss of a child due to abortion. There are a variety of ways persons can engage in this ministry for healing from a recent loss or a loss that occurred decades ago: one-on-one conversation with a peer, consultation with a priest (we can accommodate a need for consulting in Spanish), a day of reflection for anyone who has experienced loss (mother, retreats for mothers who lost their child due to abortion. Check out our website at www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel or call the Project Rachel Help Line at 513.784.0531 for information. All conversations and emails are confidential. Day of Reflection **January 27, 2018** and a retreat in the Dayton/Northern area **March 9-11, 2018**.

NOVEMBER 2017 OFFERTORY

Weekly Offertory - \$32,742
Electronic Giving - \$9,589
Actual Offertory Received - \$42,331
Budgeted Offertory - \$38,800
 Thank you for your financial support!

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

If you are planning on making a donation for the 2017 tax year, please be aware IRS regulations require that the gift must be either postmarked or received by the parish office no later than **December 31, 2017**. This includes gifts of cash and/or stock and mutual fund donations. Checks that are dated before January 1st but are not either received or postmarked until 2018 will be processed as a 2018 tax year donation. For important detailed instructions regarding stock donations or for general questions, please contact the parish office at 561-9431 x115. Thank you for your generosity!

- Monday, December 18**
8:00 am – Bill & Pauline Fanning (Tina, Patty, Nancy)
- Tuesday, December 19**
8:00 am - Communion Service
- Wednesday, December 20**
8:00 am – Tom Woebkenberg (Elaine Leonard)
- Thursday, December 21**
8:00 am – Luke & Peter Leonard (Elaine Leonard)
- Friday, December 22**
8:00 am – The Athenaeum of Ohio (Fran Holthaus)
- Saturday, December 23**
4:30 pm – Tom Rohling (Ted & Mary Ann Rohling)
- Sunday, December 24**
9:00 am – Caryl Crew (Mike & Amy Castellini)
3:30 pm – St. John Fisher Community
5:30 pm- Robert Bollinger (Steve & Patti Sholtes)
10:30 pm – Jim McNamara (Lynn McNamara)
- Monday, December 25**
10:00 am – Special Intentions of the Frede Family

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM DEC. 22

Jackie Seurkamp and Sue Schoenbrger

HONOR STUDENTS FROM ST. JOHN FISHER

We congratulate students at Saint Ursula Academy who have achieved honors during the 1st quarter of the current school year.

First Honors

Grace Scheve Caroline Hemmer
 Lauren Crew Gabrielle Wyenandt

Second Honors

Sophia Bernloehr Francesca D'Agostino

Ursuline Academy

Second Honors

Natalie Sayre

Congratulations to all

VOCATION VIEWS

Rejoice always! Our Savior is near! The call to priesthood and/or religious life is a source of great joy to those who embrace their call with their whole heart, mind and soul. (1 Thes 5:16)

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.



FEATURED ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
PERRY FINANCIAL SERVICES CO.
Helena B. Perry
 • Tax Preparation
 • Tax Planning & Consultation
513-315-1718
helenabperry@gmail.com