

ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH • DECEMBER 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH EVENTS OF THE WEEK

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

8:00 am - Communion service

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 am - Communion service

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

Thursday, December 28

8:00 am – Communion service

Friday, December 29

8:00 am – Communion service



Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Fr. Del ... Points to Ponder, 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.

We’ve heard the popular saying, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Over the past few years I’ve been thinking that what we should be saying is “Keep Mass in Christmas.” The latter is the context for the former. Each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Mass, we recall the privilege that we are given to recall the Incarnation of God in the Flesh of Jesus. When His body, the Church, gathers to do what he commanded us to do, we go back to Bethlehem, literally the “House of Bread.” Christ is born, not *again*, but *still*.

You see, Christmas is not about recalling a past event in a stable on a chilly winter’s night. Christmas is about God’s plan for humanity, fulfilled in Christ. Christmas is about God wanting us to understand His unconditional love for us so much that he gave us Jesus as the fullness of Himself so that we could see and touch love. Christmas is about the very mercy of God being poured out so that we could finally “get it.”

This is what we celebrate and recall — in the present tense — every time that we gather to celebrate the Mass. There is no other time in our human existence that we are most the Church, His body, as we are when we gather for Eucharist.

The late Jesuit priest, Teilhard de Chardin once noted that “We are not human beings having a spiritual

experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.” This is the mystery of the Incarnation. When we can better accept that the Incarnation makes us sharers in the Divinity of Christ, we can better accept the holiness of our own humanity *in* Christ. This is what we recall as we celebrate the Mass.

And while I’m quoting deceased priests, the late Andrew Greeley offers a fresh perspective on the Incarnation and our tendency to be frazzled by all our world says is necessary for the Christmas celebration:

“It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush...”

You see, Jesus lives *in our world*, what we sometimes call “the secular,” and transforms it into something very holy. Even with sin. Even with imperfection. Even in confusion.

We are sharers in the Incarnation every time we allow our holiness to shine through. When we can admit our imperfection — even laugh at ourselves a bit — we allow the light of Christmas shine into a world that is shot through with the holiness of God.

Christmas is filled with Good News. We celebrate this Good News every time we gather together as God’s people. That’s why, I believe, it’s important to keep Mass in Christmas. Not for just one day in December, but each day we eagerly transform the world in which we live by our presence, the presence of Christ.

Merry Christmas. May it be so.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I wanted to personally write to you, the parishioners and many visitors of our parish, and express my deep gratitude and joy to serve as one of your priests in our parish. It is my prayer that the Lord continues to shower down his blessings upon us like a gentle falling snowfall in the cold crisp of eve and usher us safely and peacefully into a New Year as softly ring the bells of Christmastime. May we all journey together in this Christmas season and New Year in returning to the Lord Jesus the many blessings we have received and learn how to persevere with unwavering hope that “unto to us a Child is born, unto us a son is given,” (Is9:6) who is Christ our Lord.

In the peace and love of the Nativity of Christ,
Fr. David Doseck, Parochial Vicar

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

SERVER SCHEDULE

December 30th & 31st

Saturday, 4:30 pm – Cole & Ethan Kueper

Sunday, 9:00 am – Henry, Eli & John Motz

Sunday, 11:00 am – We need 3 servers, please volunteer

January 1st

Monday, 8:00 am - Mass for New Year's Day

PRESIDER SCHEDULE

December 30th and 31st

St. John Fisher

Saturday

4:30 pm – Fr. Pat

Sunday

9:00 am - Fr. Del

11:00 am – Fr. Del

Monday

8:00 am – Fr. David

St. Veronica

Saturday

4:00 pm Fr. Del

Sunday

9:30 am – Fr. David

11:30 AM – Fr. David

Monday

7:30 am – Fr. Del

A Prayer for Those In A Time of Loss During This Season

God of compassion, there is such a hole in my heart!
 Today should be a day of joy,
 but I feel only the emptiness and loss of someone so beloved.

While the world celebrates around me,
 I remember Christmas celebrations of the past
 and I long to have my loved one with me.
 I bring my sorrows to you, Lord,
 like some odd gift of the magi and dump them at your feet.
 In my blind tears I wonder if anyone
 can possibly understand the depth of my sadness.
 Yes, you can.

You sent your Son to be with us in our deepest sorrows
 and I know that even though I might not feel it at this minute,
 you are here with me, caring for me in my sadness and
 loving me.
 Dearest Lord, help me to turn to the one I miss so much
 today and speak.

Help me heal the loss of our parting
 and help me not to regret the things I didn't say.
 Sorrow tears at my heart,
 but today I ask that my loss soften my heart
 and make me more compassionate with everyone I meet.

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!

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 am - Communion Service

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 am – Communion Service

Thursday, December 28

8:00 am – Communion Service

Friday, December 29

8:00 am – Communion Service

Saturday, December 30

4:30 pm – Geraldine Maday (Her Family)

Sunday, December 31

9:00 am – Robert Barlage (Lee & Nancy Murrell)

11:00 am – St. John Fisher Community

Monday, January 1

8:00 am – Dolores Rolfes (Phil & Hazel Germann)

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME

We warmly welcome all who have come today
 to celebrate this glorious feast.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler the guest!

We welcome our students home from college
 for a good winter's rest!

We welcome parishioners who moved far away
 but join us today as old friends and guests!

We welcome all who have not been active of late
 in their Catholic faith;

and hope they will find new hope and inspiration
 this Christmas to come back

again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners,
 loyal and true;

may the Lord bless you for all you do!

Welcome to all!

May our gathering this day
 gladden our hearts and deepen our
 bonds.

We are after all one People of God –
 transformed by the Light.

May we walk by the Light

and live by the Light –

together in love.

Christmas Blessings!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS...

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

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

