

# ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH • JANUARY 7, 2018

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### PARISH EVENTS OF THE WEEK

**Tuesday, January 9**

Tuesdays @ 10

**Wednesday, January 10**

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

**Saturday, January 13**

7:45 am – Catholic Men's Fellowship



**Readings for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20**

**Gospel: John 1:35-42**

## Fr. Del... Points to Ponder, Part 16

*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.*

There's a little prayer in the Mass, an important one, though you will never hear it. At least you should not hear it, it is one of the silent prayers that a priest prays as he pours a few drops of water into the cup of wine before consecration. The quiet prayers assure that the presider will not rush through Mass, and that the Mass is *prayed*, not merely *said*.

"By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." As we continue to celebrate the Christmas Season on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, what we continue to recall is the great mystery of sharing in Christ's divinity as he shares in our humanity. The great mystery of the Incarnation is that God shares life with us, and we share life with God. Pray about that!

We can sometimes have a lopsided understanding of our life in Christ. I have been concerned over the past number of years that even some of our popular Catholic literature and media has led us to believe that all we have to do is "to become our best self," and that is enough. Really? One does not have to be a follower of Christ to make that self aggrandizing proclamation.

Further, our true holiness is a deepening awareness that being simply satisfied with the "God Within" is only part of the big picture of God. If we only focus on our personal experience of what we think is God, we can be easily distracted by self-centeredness and narcissism. My favorite

books to shake me from this tendency have been Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* and Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*. Both books, in their unique way, remind us that true fulfillment goes far beyond being entertained to become our best self.

For the Catholic Christian, our true holiness is a focus on God, not ourselves. Yes, being human is being holy, and the sure way of appreciating the Incarnation in our daily lives is becoming, more and more, a person who is rooted in prayer and action so that our lives are focused on Christ.

How do I do this, you may ask. Let me suggest that you set some time aside to read the entire Gospel of Mark. We are hearing this gospel proclaimed on Sundays in this liturgical year. It's the shortest of gospels, the most concise, and the earliest gospel written. I think you'll be amazed at how easily readable the gospel is. If you've never read a gospel from start-to-finish, this is the starting point for your prayerful reading.

Second, you are going to be hearing more about Small Church Communities this year. These are the small groups that gather at an agreed upon time by the group to ponder the upcoming Sunday's gospel reading. Small Church Communities are those gatherings where people of faith connect their own situations with the teachings and life of Christ. I have been a member of a group for the past 18 years, and I can tell you that my faith has become more enlivened and practical by praying, discussing, and forming a bond of trust with the people in the group to which I belong. For now, consider it. More next week.

May the gifts of the Magi help us to focus on God alive in our lives, leading us share in his Divine life, he who shares in our humanity.

### **ADULT PARISH PARTY SIGN UPS AND CHANGES**

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for our Adult Parish Parties to benefit St. Vincent Mission in David, Kentucky. The "Cooking with Father David Party" at Kraemer's is full, but there is still room at other parties. The January 27th party has been changed to Damiano's home at 7263 Lawyer Road and is now called "Appetizers, Drinks and Desserts". The Rauen's have moved their party from Derby weekend, May 5, to April 28. Please stop by the table this weekend to sign up or email Marty at [mmrauen@gmail.com](mailto:mmrauen@gmail.com). We hope many of you will participate in this fun way to support a great cause!

**SNOW EMERGENCY! There will be NO WEEKDAY MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE on any day that Forest Hills Schools are closed or delayed because of snow or inclement weather!**

All ministers may check their future schedules at:  
[www.ministryschedulerpro.com?user=stjvolunteer](http://www.ministryschedulerpro.com?user=stjvolunteer)

### SERVER SCHEDULE

January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Saturday, 4:30 pm – Michael & Maria Taylor**

**Sunday, 9:00 am – Will Forte, Please volunteer, we need 2 more servers**

**Sunday, 11:00 am – Noah Wadell, Zachary & Marianna Richard**

### PRESIDER SCHEDULE

January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**St. John Fisher**

Saturday

4:30 pm – Fr. David

9:00 am -- Fr. Del

11:00 am – Fr. Del

**St. Veronica**

Saturday

4:00 pm -- Fr. Del

8:00 am -- Fr. David

9:30 am – Fr. Pat

11:30 am – Fr. Pat

### 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.

### PRO- LIFE VIEWS

"A nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope"

*Pope John Paul II*

*"I believe every abortion is a tragedy"*

*Diane Abbott*

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you  
may live as you wish."

*Blessed Mother Teresa*



Please pray for the family of Barbara Mueller,  
whose funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday,  
January 4<sup>th</sup> at St. John Fisher. May she rest in peace.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, January 8

8:00 am – The Athenaeum of Ohio (Fran Holthaus)

### Tuesday, January 9

8:00 am - Communion Service

### Wednesday, January 10

8:00 am – The Athenaeum of Ohio (Fran Holthaus)

### Thursday, January 11

8:00 am – Bill Jostworth (Suzanne Schneller)

### Friday, January 12

8:00 am – Paul Lorenzini (Jack & Peggy Bunker)

### Saturday, January 13

4:30 pm – Kathy Steinmetz (Bob & Sue Winstel)

### Sunday, January 7

9:00 am – St. John Fisher Community

11:00 am – Dolores Rolfes (Lee & Nancy Murrell)

### PASSION & PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

**January 13, 2018**

**9:30am – 2:00 pm**

Come to Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7820 Beechmont Avenue, for a great morning of listening, learning, scripture, and prayer. led by bestselling author and speaker Dr. Allen Hunt. Don't worry, no one will be asked to share their feelings with the group. This is an opportunity to learn and grow as a person of faith who strives to love in all their relationships. Snacks will be provided at two breaks. As a bonus, you will receive a great swag bag to take home! Even if you cannot attend, consider sponsoring someone to attend that might not be able to afford it otherwise. This event is being held to further our parish mission, to be a living, Catholic, Christian community; therefore we must all work together. There are so many ways to purchase tickets! (\$25 per person): 1) Call 859-980-7900, or 2) Go online: <http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/CincinnatiOH>

### 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.



### FEATURED ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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