

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice...Indeed, the Lord is near.” These words come from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians (4:4-5), in which he encouraged the Philippians to rejoice because of the grace of God that was working through them, especially in their faith and their spirit of generosity. This passage from Scripture is also the entrance antiphon for today’s Mass. Attached to every Mass setting is an antiphon (a Scriptural passage) for the opening entrance and the communion procession which can be sung. We often replace these with hymns. This Third Sunday of Advent has come to have a joyful, expectant tone, as if waiting for the birth of a child. This is also why the color pink or rose is used in the Advent wreath and sometimes the liturgical vestments. We pray that a spirit of joy in the Lord will infuse our hearts this season.

I wish to point out that Aggie Howard, our parish business manager, is leaving in January. She will be gone for three months in Florida, helping her son take care of his daughter. Aggie plans on returning in April, but, in the meantime, we are looking for someone who can fill in for Aggie on a temporary basis. There is an advertisement in today’s bulletin regarding her job and duties. Please contact me if you know someone who might be able to fill this position.

**May God bless you this week!**

**Fr. Kitsmiller**

**Associate Administrator**

**Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist**

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Sun., 12/17	9:30 a.m.	<b>Damato &amp; Ventresco Families</b> by Carol Ventresca
Sun., 12/24	9:30 a.m.	<b>Delores Di Sabato</b> by Margaret Panico-Harn & Steve Panico
Sun., 12/24	4:00 p.m. <b>Christmas Vigil</b>	<b>Don Veri</b> by Donna Veri
Sun., 12/25	10:00 a.m.	<b>Antonio Frissora</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Caradonna

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Blessed Sacrament:** Lucy DeLellis  
by Irene Solazzo  
**Marian Lights:** Laura Giammarco Cua  
by Michael Cua

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***

MOTHER ANGELINE McCrory: Marie Tarantelli

**\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input.**

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact the Men’s Faith Sharing group. Leaders for **December** are:

- December 17 Margaret Contino, OFS
- December 24
- December 31 Gary Bosco

We will be decorating the Church for **Christmas** following Mass on **Sunday, December 17, 2017**. Volunteers are needed!



**Office Hours:**

The Parish Office hours are **Monday** through **Friday**, from **9:00 a.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
<b>Sun., 12/17</b> 9:30 a.m.	Nick D’Alberto Antonio D’Alberto	Sharon D’Alberto, Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli, Margaret Panico-Harn & Margi Baker
	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<b>Sun., 12/24</b> 9:30 a.m.	Gabe Bishop Bob Contino	Antonio D’Alberto, Ed Pagnanelli, Margaret Panico-Harn, Judy Pishitelli & Marge Contino
<b>Sun., 12/24</b> 4:00 p.m.	Landa Brunetto John Snoad	Margaret Panico-Harn, Pat Rossetti, Bob Contino, Judy Pishitelli & Marge Contino
<b>Mon., 12/25</b> 10:00 a.m.	Nick D’Alberto Ed Pagnanelli	Claudio Pasion, Sharon D’Alberto, Andrea Myers, Leslie Pasion & Ed Pagnanelli

*Please remember in your prayers those who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in Hospitals, Nursing Facilities or Homebound suffering.*

**2017 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings**

- December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**  
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 18 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
- December 19 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
- December 20 – Late Advent Weekday**  
Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- December 21 – Late Advent Weekday**  
**Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
- December 22 – Advent Weekday**  
1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
- December 23 – Advent Weekday**  
**Saint John of Kanty, Priest**  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
- December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

\* Pray for our Priests and seminarians

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S**

December 10, 2017

Number of Envelopes Used – 50

In Envelopes: \$2,595.00 Loose Money \$232.00

Holy Day	\$ 135.00
Regular Collection	\$ 2,962.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (177.72)
	<b>\$ 2,784.28</b>
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$ 37.00</b>
<b>Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 120.00</b>
<b>Saint Anthony Bread</b>	<b>\$ 37.00</b>
<b>Christmas Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 280.00</b>
<b>50/50 Drawing</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>
	<b>\$ 504.00</b>

**? \$ ? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? \$ ? \$ ?**

**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/17-6/30/18)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,962.00	\$ 77.00	3%
FYTD:	\$69,240.00	\$61,811.00	\$(7,429.00)	-11%

**SJB Collection Counters  
for Monday, December 18, 2017**

Gus Gastaldo & Nick Perschetti

**SJB Collection Counters  
for Tuesday, December 26, 2017**

Mary Spellacy, Maria Lucchin & Tom Elliott

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**December 24th**

Christmas Eve Vigil (SJB) 4:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Vigil (SH) 5:30 p.m.

**December 25th**

Christmas Day (SJB) 10:00 a.m.

**January 1st**

New Year's Day (SH) 10:00 a.m.

**Thank you!**

Our Christmas Adopted family will enjoy a wonderful Christmas, thanks to the caring and generous **Saint John the Baptist Parishioners**. Your generosity has provided all six children with not only their expressed wishes but also a coat, shoes, socks and clothing for each and generous Kroger gift cards. St. Vincent Center joins us in extending our wish for a Merry Christmas to each of you with our gratitude and our hope that your love and generosity will be returned a hundredfold.

– Maria, Jackie and Rose Ann

**Employment Opportunity**

Saint John the Baptist/Sacred Heart Parishes  
Temporary – 24 hours/week **Position:** Bookkeeper  
**Practicing Catholic:** Preferred  
**Date:** December 11, 2017 **Deadline:** December 29, 2017

**Qualifications for the position:** The ideal candidate must be self-motivated to complete the responsibilities of the job with minimum supervision; ability to multi-task and establish priorities; ability to maintain flexible attitude and approach towards assignments and successfully operate under appropriate guidelines; ability to read and comprehend simple instructions, write short correspondence, and memos; ability to effectively communicate with staff, parishioners, and other visitors to the parish; ability to exercise discreet judgment in maintaining all information highly confidential; ability to be flexible but meet deadlines when required; establish good organizational skills and priorities; exhibit initiative and responsibility. To perform this job successfully, an individual should have knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook) and QuickBooks systems.

**Education/Experience:** A college degree is preferred with a degree in a related field or comparable bookkeeping experience. 2 years of previous accounting experience is required or equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Offer of position is contingent upon successful completion of a mandatory background screening and the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

For complete job description, please contact parish office or Father Robert Kitsmiller.

Send cover letter, résumé, and references by Friday, **December 29, 2017** to **Father Robert Kitsmiller, Pastor (rkitsmiller@columbuscatholic.org)**.

**AROUND US**

**Third Sunday of Advent:** Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.

~ catholicculture.org

**Christmas Catholic Charities Collection:** This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year.

**The Beauty of the Advent Wreath:** The Advent Wreath is a long-standing Christmas tradition, adding beauty and light to the season. However, it is easy to let slip the true meaning of Christmas it is meant to call to mind. The wreath is a circle, without beginning or end, symbolizing our participation in God's plan of salvation, and our hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The traditional wreath is made from fresh, natural materials, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death and Resurrection. There are three purple or white (depending on tradition) candles, symbolizing penance, preparation and sacrifice. The pink (or rose) colored candle symbolizes the same ideas, but it highlights the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), when we rejoice because our preparation is now halfway finished. The light itself represents Christ. Some modern adaptations include a white candle in the middle of the wreath which also represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.

– From an article by Fr. William Saunders

*Spreading His Word:*

**"Find new ways to spread the Word of god to every corner of the world."**

~ Pope Francis



I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul.  
Isaiah 61:10

**Prayer**

*God of power and mercy,  
open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy,  
so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when  
he comes in glory,  
for He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen*