

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May the Lord bless you and keep you and let His face shine upon you and give you His peace! Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The feast of the Holy Family is relatively recent to the liturgical calendar of our Church. Pope Leo XIII created the feast in **1893**, but it was only celebrated universally in the Church as recent as **1921**. Pope Leo XIII particularly had a concern about the effects of Modernity on the family. This was the time of the industrial revolution and the rise of the mass production of goods. It was a time when there were children and mothers working in factories or sweat shops six days a week trying to help support the family. Family life was suffering as a result. A person could have gotten the idea that he or she was simply a cog in a great wheel of society, having very little value. Pope Leo wanted to show the necessity of the family as the building blocks of society and a place where human beings would experience God's life and love. When families are strong and healthy, so is the society we live in. God even planned a family for His son, giving Jesus a human father and mother. By His presence in the family, Jesus redeems the family and puts God as the center of the family. The Second Vatican Council's document **Lumen gentium** termed the family "the domestic church," the place where children are born and through Baptism are made children of God. **Lumen gentium** (11) further states about the family, "In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state." Family life, thus, has a special benefit for society and the Church. It is, indeed, a necessity for our world to be a better place. I pray that God may be the center of your family.

Monday, January 1st is the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** and the **8th** day of the Christmas Octave. Normally, this is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics to attend Mass. That obligation has been suspended since it has fallen on Monday. Nevertheless, we will celebrate this feast day with a special **Mass at Sacred Heart at 10:00 a.m.** I hope you can come and begin the New Year by honoring Mary and giving praise and thanks to the Father for His giving us His son and also Mary, as our mother.

May you have a happy and healthy New Year!
Fr. Kitsmiller
Associate Administrator
Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun., 12/31	9:30 a.m.	Bruno Masdea by The Masdea Family
Sun., 1/7	9:30 a.m.	Cesidio Capoccia by Maria Capoccia & Family

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Blessed Sacrament: **George J. Paesano**
by Kenneth & Barbara Miller
Marian Lights: **Pasquale A. Vaccari**
by Chris Soteriades

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** and **January** are:

- December 31** Gary Bosco
- January 7** Vincent Davis
- January 14** Margaret Contino, OFS
- January 21** Adolpho "Gus" Gastaldo
- January 28** Leslie Malek-Pasian

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
Sun., 12/31 9:30 a.m.	Bob Contino John Snoad	Pete Tamburro, Pat Rossetti, Ed Pagnanelli, Marge Contino & Claudio Pasian
	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers
Sun., 1/7 9:30 am	Nick D'Alberto Antonio D'Alberto	Leslie Pasian, Andrea Myers, Sharon D'Alberto, Judy Pishitelli & Margaret Panico-Harn

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

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.**

2017-2018 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

December 31 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Heb 11:8,
 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
January 1 – The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord;
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
January 2 – Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church
 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
January 3 – Christmas Weekday
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
January 4 – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
January 5 – Saint John Neumann, Bishop
 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
January 6 – Christmas Weekday
Saint Andre Bessette, Religious
 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
January 7 – The Epiphany of the Lord
 Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

*Pray for our Priest and seminarians

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

December 24, 2017

Number of Envelopes Used – 40

In Envelopes:	\$3,240.00	Loose Money:	\$1,016.00
Regular Collection			\$ 4,256.00
Holy Day			\$ 2,457.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment			<u>\$ (402.78)</u>
			\$ 6,310.22
Votives		\$	51.00
Diocesan Charities		\$	75.00
50/50 Drawing		\$	10.00
		\$	136.00

? \$? \$? 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	\$ 6,713.00	\$ 3,828.00	133%
FYTD:	\$75,010.00	\$70,625.00	-\$ (4,385.00)	-6%

SJB Collection Counters**for Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

Darlene Rauch, Maruja Paule & Donna Veri

SJB Collection Counters**for Monday, January 8, 2018**

Mary Spellacy, Maria Lucchin, & Tom Elliott



Office Hours: The Parish Office will be closed **Monday, New Year's Day** and resume on **Tuesday-Friday**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**January 1st****New Year's Day (SH) 10:00 a.m.****Employment Opportunity**

Saint John the Baptist/Sacred Heart Parishes

Temporary – 24 hours/week **Position:** Bookkeeper**Practicing Catholic:** Preferred**Date:** December 11, 2017 **Deadline:** January 5, 2018

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. Two 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, **January 5, 2018 to Father Robert Kitsmiller, Pastor (rkitsmiller@columbuscatholic.org).**

AROUND US

Did You Know? The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him...including the fact that He was born to die for us. The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God the Father's gift of His only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: This feast is the celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer." On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word." Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace." New Year's Day is also designated as the **World Day of Peace**, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Feast of the Holy Family: Today, we honor the Holy Family. The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

World Day of Peace (January 1): The theme for **Pope Francis'** annual **World Day of Peace** message for 2018 is **Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace**. In his message, Pope Francis urges us to turn a "contemplative gaze" toward our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters and to respond to their plight with four "mileposts for action." To read the message, please visit www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm.



"And in the end...everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this:

Father, child and Love."

~ Pope John Paul II



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

~ Luke 2:40

Prayer:

*God our Father,
may we always profit
by the prayers of the
Virgin Mother Mary,
for You bring us life
and salvation through
Jesus Christ her Son Who
lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen*