

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As **Christmas** is only two days away, I want to wish everyone a **Blessed Christmas** season on this **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. In the **Gospel of Luke**, we read of **Mary's** visit to **Elizabeth**, pregnant with **John the Baptist**. **Mary** had just been visited by the angel **Gabriel** who announced that she would become the mother of the **Son of God**. **Elizabeth** says her babe leaped with joy in her womb when she heard **Mary's** voice. Full of the **Holy Spirit**, **Elizabeth** recognized that **Mary** was carrying the **Lord**. On her part, **Mary** came to **Elizabeth** to not just help her in her pregnancy, but also to bring tidings of joy at the good news that she received from the angel **Gabriel**. The **Church**, like **Mary**, brings this good news to all who want to receive it – that a Savior has been born for us who is **God** and **Lord**. We pray that we will continue to recognize the **Lord**, in the **Eucharist** that we celebrate, the **Word of God** proclaimed and in those that we encounter. May our concern this season be for one another, especially the lonely, the suffering, those who are mourning lost loved ones. Let us share the joy of **Christmas** with those we meet.

Please see the schedule of **Masses** for **Christmas** and **New Year's Day**, the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**, in this bulletin.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all!

Fr. Kitsmiller  
Administrator

### MASSSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sun., 12/23	9:30 a.m.	<b>Yola Rossi</b> by Joanne Paesano & Julie
Mon., 12/24	5:30 p.m.	<b>Tony Solazzo</b> by Julie & Dan Kirn
Tues., 12/25	10:00 a.m.	<b>Parishioners of St. John &amp; Sacred Heart Church</b>
Sun., 12/30	9:30 a.m.	<b>Bruno Masdea</b> by Lou Massinelli
Tues., 1/1	10:00 a.m.	<b>Caterina "Rina" Tiberi</b> by The National Italian American Foundation, Inc.

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<b>Sunday, December 23, 2018, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lectors:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Margaret Panico-Harn, Pat Rossetti, Sharon D'Alberto, Judy Pishitelli & Ed Pagnanelli
<b>Monday, December 24, 2018, 5:30 p.m.</b>	
<b>Lectors:</b>	Landa Brunetto & John Snoad
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Bob Contino, Pat Rossetti, Marge Contino, Leslie Pasian, & Claudio Pasian
<b>Tuesday, December 25, 2018, 10:00 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lectors:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, & Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Ed Pagnanelli, Antonio D'Alberto, Sharon D'Alberto & Andrea Myers
<b>Sunday, December 30, 2018, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lectors:</b>	Aldolfo Gastaldo, & Ed Pagnanelli,
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Andrea Myers, Pat Rossetti, Margaret Panico-Harn, Judy Pishitelli, & Claudio Pasian

### Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

<b>Marian Lights:</b>	<b>Laura Giammarco Cua</b> by Michael Cua
<b>Blessed Sacrament:</b>	<b>Richard P. Conie</b> by Chris Soteriades

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

Mon., 12/24	Italian Village Men's & Women's Faith Sharing Group Will not be meeting until after the 1st of the year, beginning January 7th, 2019
Note: Due to the Holiday, The Piave Club will meet on January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. (Marrapese Hall)	

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

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

**Pray for Diamond Boggs, sister of Linda McCreary.**

**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:

<b>December 23</b>	<b>Norma Jean Finissi</b>
<b>December 30</b>	<b>Gary Bosco</b>
<b>January 6</b>	<b>Robert Contino, OFS</b>

Anyone interested in leading the Rosary on Sundays, please contact Bob Contino at 614-833-0371. Thank you!

### 2018 Liturgical Calendar & Mass Readings

#### December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1-39-25

#### December 24 Late Advent Weekday

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

#### December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

#### December 26 – Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

#### December 27 – Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

#### December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18

#### December 29 – Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

#### December 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

Or for Year C, 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

\*Pray for our Priest and seminarians

**La Befana Celebration** is Sunday, January 6, 2019. Sponsored by the **LeDonne** members after Mass in Marrapese Hall. Please bring children, grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful tradition.

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

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

December 16, 2018

Number of Envelopes Used – 49

In Envelopes: \$2,240.00 Loose Money \$202.10

Holy Day	\$ 10.00
Regular Collection	\$ 2,452.10
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ (147.13)
	\$ 2,304.97
Votive	\$ 32.00
Religious Relief Fund	\$ 100.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 10.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 347.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 115.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 614.00

## ? ? ? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? ? ? ? ?

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/18-6/30/19)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 2,452.10	-( \$ 432.90)	-15%
FYTD:	\$72,125.00	\$69,531.17	-( \$2,593.83)	-4%

**SJB Collection Counters for  
Wednesday, December 26, 2018**

Nick Perschetti &amp; Tom Elliott

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

Maruja Paule &amp; Darlene Rauch



**Office Hours:** The Parish Office will be closed on **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** and will resume on **Wednesday, December 26, 2018**. The office will also be closed **New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day** and will resume on **Wednesday, January 2, 2019**. Regular office hours are **Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## Christmas &amp; New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24th

Monday, Sacred Heart 4:00 p.m.

Monday, St. John 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, December 25th

Tuesday, St. John 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve, December 31st

Monday, Sacred Heart 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Day, January 1st

Tuesday, St. John 10:00 a.m.

**Christmas Flowers:** Christmas poinsettias are available again this year. Flowers may be requested in memory of a loved one and will be placed on the altar throughout the **Christmas Season**. An envelope for **Christmas** poinsettias is included in the **December** offertory envelopes. You may also put your donation and memorial request in a regular envelope and place it in the collection basket. There is a suggested donation of **\$10.00** per poinsettia. The **Christmas** flowers add such beauty to **St. John** during this special time of year. Thank you.

**A Special Thank-You!:** To the generous, kind and caring parishioners of **St. John the Baptist**, we join **St. Vincent Center** in sending our deepest thanks for making a wonderful bright **Christmas** possible for a family of four children by providing everything on their wish list. On **Saturday**, because of your overwhelming generosity, we were also able to deliver an additional fulfilled wish list for another family. We are most grateful to each of you. **Merry Christmas! Maria, Jackie and Rose Ann.**

## AROUND US

**Late Christmas Day Mass at Saint Joseph Cathedral:** There are many people who travel on **Christmas Day**, or who are required to work on **Christmas Day** – utility workers, first responders, hospital, medical and nursing home professionals, restaurant, hotel and hospitality staffs, transportation workers, and so many others. That is why we offer a **late-day Mass** on **Christmas Day**, beginning at **5:15 p.m.** If you know someone who is looking for a late-day **Mass** on **Christmas**, please let them know of this celebration of our **Savior's birth**. For more information, call the **Cathedral** at **(614) 224-1295**, or visit [www.saintjosephcathedral.org](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.org).



**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Today the Church celebrates the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. We light the last candle on our **Advent** wreath and our preparation for **Christmas** is almost finished. We also reach the culmination of the **O Antiphons**. In previous antiphons, our cry was directed to the **Messiah** as He manifested Himself to the Chosen People, to the Gentiles, and in nature; now He is addressed in person and asked to remain with us as **Emmanuel**.

**Christmas Season:** 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.

"This **Christmas**, let us ask **Mary, Mother of Jesus** and our **Mother** to help us see in our neighbor the face of **Jesus**, God made man."

– Pope Francis



"You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."

Luke 1:76

**Prayer**

*God of love,  
Father of all,  
the darkness that covered the earth  
has given way to the bright dawn of Your Word made flesh.  
Make us a people of this light.  
Make us faithful to Your Word,  
that we may bring Your life to the waiting world.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.*