

The Fourth Sunday Of Advent

December 23, 2018

Mass Intentions

December	24	6:00 PM	People Of The Parish
		9:00 PM	Deceased of The King and Sharman Families
December	25	9:00 AM	Megan Moyer Seiber requested by The Moyer Family
December	26	8:00 AM	Intentions of Father Donald Raila, O.S.B. req. by Teresa Warlow
December	27	8:00 AM	Jean Murphy requested by John & Rosanne Wheatley
December	28	8:00 AM	Intentions of Father Donald Raila, O.S.B. req. by Teresa Warlow
December	29	5:00 PM	Victoria Lis requested by Joe & Suzanne Matunis
December	30	8:00 AM	People Of The Parish
		10:30 AM	Barbara Mondell requested by Marie Dishman

Liturgical Ministries for the Week of December 29-30, January 1

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
5:00 PM	Pat Pray	Karen Kupris	Daniel & Zack Raugh
8:00 AM	Scott Sheaffer	Joan Dunkelberger	Anna Horn Noah & Owen Jenkins
10:30 AM	Michael Pray	Nancy Stanton	Andrew Aldrich, Gerry Ford Matthew White
Sol. Of Mary 5PM	Pat Pray	Nancy Stanton	D. Failor, D. & Z. Raugh
9:00 AM	Joe DeFrancesco	Mark Ticehurst	H., A., & C. Robinson

Schmidt Center Cleaning

December 30

Phyllis & Helena Krieger

January 6

Kim & Kiki Lane & Marian McCoy

Next Sunday's Readings

Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from the Sacred Scriptures

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3: 12-21

Luke 2: 41-52

Christian Stewardship

Last Sunday's Collection amounted to:\$5,182.75

The Collection on this date one year ago amounted to: \$4,961.47

May God Bless you for your generous and responsible stewardship!!!

Church Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 23rd (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00AM and 10:30AM

No CCD (Christmas break)

Decorate Church for Christmas, 11:30AM

Monday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

No Morning Mass

Christmas Eve Mass, 6:00PM

Christmas Solemn Mass, 9:00PM

Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas)

Christmas Morning Mass, 9:00AM

Wednesday, December 26th

Mass, 8:00AM

Thursday, December 27th

Mass, 8:00AM

Friday, December 28th

Mass, 8:00AM

Saturday, December 29th

Confessions, 4:00-4:45PM

Mass, 5:00PM

Sunday, December 30th (Feast of the Holy Family)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

No CCD (Christmas break)

Monday, December 31st (New Year's Eve)

No Morning Mass

Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God, 5:00PM

Tuesday, January 1st (Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

Mass, 9:00AM

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent is a time to live in joyful expectation at the coming of the Lord Jesus. One may presume that this kind of expectation anticipates a large momentous event.



Today's scriptures tell us that it is to the smallest and humblest that Jesus will come. Today you are given the opportunity to become the very dwelling place of God by listening to God's living Word and receiving the sacred Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. In the town of Bethlehem the world was changed forever. In the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary grew the One Who would save the world from sin and death. And within you lies the potential to bring justice and peace to all you meet. Too insignificant you ask? So was Bethlehem!! During the busyness of this coming week, let us not forget the very reason for this

holy season: to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

Remember the Sick of our Parish in your charity and prayers: Beth Kingsborough, John and Martha Kapp, Joan Mathews, Russel Montrose, Dennis Haag, Crystal Groff, Rose LaVia, Bill Sharman, Pat Conroy, Bill Davies, Elsie Seagrist, Dr. Matunis, and all the long-suffering in our community and at Perry Village.

Deacon Robinson's Contact Information: You may contact Deacon Robinson at his cell phone (717-602-6298) or through his email: dcnrobin@ptd.net.

On Line Information: You can access the weekly bulletin and information at our parish website at www.stbernardsnbpa.org.

Prayer Group meets each Wednesday morning at 8:30AM in church. If you have prayer intentions for your loved ones or family members, for sick co-workers or people in the community, please give them to Marie Dishman for prayer and spiritual support!

March for Life January 2019: The St. Bernard Knights of Columbus are again sponsoring and subsidizing a bus down to Washington DC for the annual March for Life. This year's march will be on Friday, January 18. As in prior years, we will have Mass at 7:15 AM and then board the bus to depart St. Bernard by 8 AM. Please feel free to invite all pro-life people you know to join us on the large 59 passenger bus. Let's fill the bus! Those not attending Mass should plan to arrive by 7:45 AM. The cost this year is again \$20 per adult, and \$10 per youth 16 and under. Youth must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Church Decorating for Christmas will take place after Mass on Sunday, December 23rd at 11:30 AM. Your gracious assistance is needed to help with the



Christmas trees and poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary. Please sign up at the bulletin board if

you can assist us.

Ushers Needed: If you want to serve our parish as an usher during Mass and other liturgical services, please sign up at the bulletin board. A training session will be held in late January to outline the duties and responsibilities of ushering. We will discuss issues of church security and medical emergencies. Please seriously consider serving your parish family in this capacity!



Give the gift of Blood: Our parish will host the winter blood drive for the Central PA Blood Bank on Sunday, January 27th from 8:00AM to 12 Noon. With our efforts, patients will see another tomorrow. Please sign up for a convenient time and give someone the gift of life.

Card Shower for Martha Kapp: On January 12th, Martha Kapp will celebrate her 89th birthday. Please share some love and best wishes with her by sending a card for her birthday. Cards can be addressed:

Mrs. Martha Kapp
Kinkora Pythian Home
25 Cove Road
Duncannon, PA 17020

Be Considerate of Others: In consideration of parishioners listening to the readings from Sacred Scripture or to the homily, or if people are kneeling during the consecration of the Mass, please wait until the congregation stands to seat yourself. Walking down the aisle while everyone is seated and listening is very distracting. If you are late for Mass (*which sometimes cannot be helped*) or if you need to leave Mass for some reason, please return to your seat only when the congregation stands! This will help eliminate distractions during Mass for parishioners and the celebrant.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families the love of Christ at Christmas and the blessings of God for the New Year. You have blessed our lives at Saint Bernard's with your friendship and prayerful

support. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be your Pastoral Shepherds and journey with you to God's kingdom.

Let us rightly remember the birth of Jesus, that with the angels we may sing of His glory, and share the joy of the shepherds who came to worship him. With the Wise Men, let us share with Him the special gifts and talents we possess as if treasures of gold, frankincense and Myrrh. In Christ we can close the doors of our hearts to hate and open wide the doors of our hearts to love God and our neighbor.

On Christmas morning relive the joy of your childhood and thank God our Father for sending us His most precious gift – His Son – our Savior!

Blessings in the Lord!
*Father Sharman
Deacon Robinson*

Listening Session: Bishop Gainer invites all members of our parish to attend a "Listening Session" on January 21st at 7:00PM in Saint Joseph Church, Mechanicsburg. During this session, Bishop Gainer will address concerns regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese's response to abuse, our path forward, and any other questions or concern from parishioners. If you are unable to attend this Listening Session, but would still like to ask Bishop Gainer a question, please email your question to AskBishopGainer@hbgsdiocese.org.



Christmas Masses

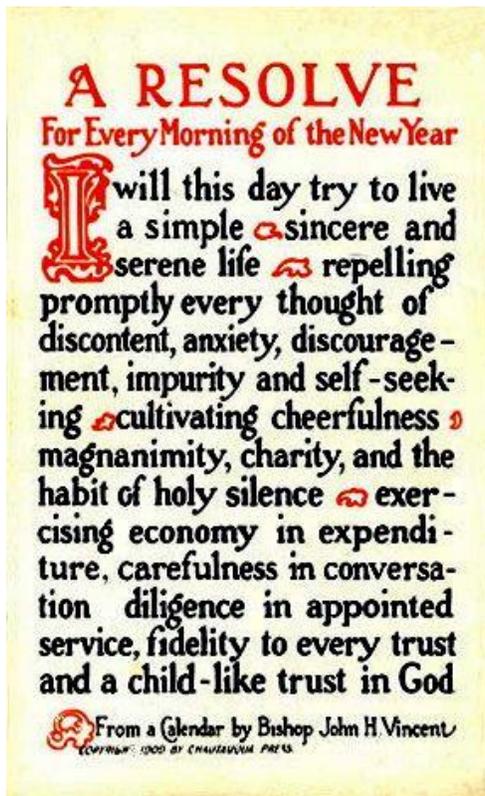
**Christmas Eve
Mass with Children
6:00 PM**

**This Mass is primarily for families
with small children**

**Solemn Mass on Christmas Eve
9:00 PM**

**Mass on Christmas Day
9:00 AM**

Catholic Spirituality for Everyday New Year's Resolutions



January is here again, and it's time to make the annual New Year's resolutions. Every Catholic should add to their list a few spiritual resolutions designed to help them walk higher up that mountain of faith. Let the freshness of a new year be your impetus to make new strides in your walk with God! There is no time but the present! Here are some ideas.

1. Increase Your Marian Devotion

In all her apparitions, Our Lady asks her children to return to her Son, Jesus, and increase their life of prayer and penance. Sadly, Our Lady's pleas are not heeded, and we continue to witness a widespread loss of Christian faith, breakdowns in marriages and families, and a rejection of basic morality. This affects all of us, and, as a result, anxiety and depression have risen to epidemic levels. The way to turn back to God is the same way that God came to us—through the Blessed Mother. In 2019, commit yourself to increasing your Marian devotion so that she may lead you to deeper conversion, to follow God's will for your life more perfectly, and to increase your faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

2. Make more time for spiritual reading

The brilliant St. Athanasius once said, *"You will not see anyone who is striving after his advancement who is not given to spiritual reading. And as to him who neglects it, the fact will soon be observed in his [lack of] progress."*

If you want to make progress in your walk with God in 2019, spiritual reading should be high on your list. Your best bet is to stick to the classics written by Catholic saints known for their practical spiritual wisdom—such as Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, Therese of Lisieux, and John of the Cross. There are also audio books available for many classic Catholic titles. The four Gospels and the letters of St. Peter and St. Paul are also excellent choices for reading, being the very inspired Word of God. If you struggle with finding the time to read, maybe it will mean cutting out TV time or slimming back on unnecessary social activities. The time you spend feeding your soul is time better spent.

3. Share your Catholic faith with others

With so many people far away from God today and yet there is a palpable hunger for God and his Truth. Modern Catholics aren't usually great about sharing their faith with others, but this is something that can change with practice. You don't have to be obnoxious or overbearing about your faith, just focus on doing simple things like being joyful in your walk with Christ or inviting people to come to Mass with you. Another good idea is to buy some sacramentals in bulk, get them blessed, and hand them out to people as the Holy Spirit leads.

If someone you know is going through a difficult time and you hand them a Miraculous Medal or a prayer card out of a stash you always keep handy, it might be for them the touch of God in that moment.

4. Bring back regular penances

Living a penitential life, even outside of Advent and Lent, is the Catholic way of life. All of the Church's saints performed penances habitually, either internally or externally, great and small, for themselves and for others. Many do not know that the Fridays outside of Lent are also days of abstinence and fasting. While the Church law against eating meat on the Fridays outside of Lent was lifted by the U.S. bishops, it is meant to be substituted with some other form of penance in order to continue to give special reverence to the day of the week on which Our Lord died on the cross. What penitential practice can you do each Friday in 2019? Maybe it is tried-and-true abstinence from meat, or perhaps another penitential practice such as praying the Stations of the Cross, or even acts of service for the less fortunate. Be creative. Remember that penances aren't meant to be pleasant at first, but the graces that come from them grow sweeter with time.

5. Go an extra day to Mass

Mass is not only the source and summit of our faith, it is the source and summit of our very life. For 2019 think of ways you can arrange your schedule and activities so that you can make it to Mass either an extra day each week, or a few extra days a month. If you have trouble with this due to a packed schedule, pray and ask Our Lord to help you find the time. Maybe it will involve switching a travel route, or leaving for work an hour early, skipping lunch, or missing a regular Saturday morning activity for one Saturday a month.

6. Pray the rosary

No Catholic list of New Year's resolutions would be complete without a daily rosary added in. If you already pray the rosary daily, your resolution can then be to spread devotion to the rosary in 2019. There are many ways you can do this. You can purchase inexpensive rosaries in bulk, get them blessed, and hand them out as the opportunity arises. You can also invite others to pray the rosary with you, teach others how to pray it, or encourage those who don't pray it daily to do so. Tell them about Our Lady's promises to those who pray the rosary. Maybe they don't know that the rosary is a spiritual weapon that will help them fight all their personal battles.

7. Pick a new saint companion

Why not begin the tradition of walking along your pilgrimage of faith with a different Catholic saint each year? There are so many of them with unique graces to bestow. Pray about your New Year and the goals you have for your spiritual life, your family, your relationships, your career, etc. Then choose a patron saint whose virtues you would like to emulate in New Year, and entrust your year to their special intercession. This is a great way to guard against the typical two week lifespan of New Year's resolutions; with a new saint by your side praying with you, it will be a lot harder for your goals to slip away. There may be a particular saint whom you already admire, but to whom you have never prayed or had a devotion. Ask this saint to be your guide for 2019.

What else would you add to this list?