

Mass Intentions

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Monday, December 21

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00am (GS) John Kubicki by daughter, Carol

Tuesday, December 22

8:00am (GS) Rose Wertz by Michele Follen

Wednesday, December 23 Saint John of Kanty, Priest

8:00am (SJ) Wayne Lindsey by Ted & Miriam Gadowski

6:30pm (GS) Bevacqua & Vilella Families by Mary Vilella

Thursday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm Vigil (SJ) Nancy Hudak by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kardasz

4:30pm Vigil (GS) For the Shut-Ins and Ill in our Parishes

9:00pm Vigil (SJ) Eva Hertnecky by Jim & Kathie McClellan

11:00pm Vigil (GS) For Mr. & Mrs. Carr & Linda

Friday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am (GS) For the Intentions of our Christmas Benefactors

9:30am (SJ) For the Intentions of Christmas Flower Donors

11:00am (GS) For the Intentions of Christmas Flower Donors

Saturday, December 26

4:00pm Vigil (SJ) For the Living & Deceased of our Parishes

5:30pm Vigil (GS) For the Living & Deceased of our Parishes

Sunday, December 27

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00am (GS) Kyle Eugene Hochevar by Jeff & Rose Stein

9:30am (SJ) Joseph Groshardt by Ann Groshardt

11:00am (GS) Louis Antonini by Ron & Millie Coombs

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016 IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER

Blessed Mother Shrine Candle

(GS) In memory of Ida Bevacqua by sister, Mary & nieces

Holy Family Shrine Candle

(GS) In memory of Arthur J. Conti by Wife & Children

Holy Trinity Shrine Candle

(GS) In memory of Michael Pavkovich by Wife & Family

Sanctuary Candle

(GS) In memory of John Giordano by Giordano Family

Bread & Wine

(GS) in honor of the Nativity of the Lord

by Mary & Frank Pingitore & Pingitore Family

(GS) John, Veronica, Henry Kubicki and Wanda

Goodin by Carol Kubicki

(SJ) Joan DeNucci by Gerald G. DeNucci & Family

Tabernacle Flowers

(GS) Anita Lewis by husband, Ben

GOOD SAMARITAN 724-266-6565
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST 724-869-2280

Our Parish is Committed to Protecting God's Children

ABUSE HOTLINE 1-800-932-0313 ☎

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: 412-456-3060



From Father Joe

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

As we gather to celebrate this last Sunday in Advent, we hear the Gospel story of the Virgin Mary who travels in haste to the hill country to visit her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."* FROM LUKE CHAPTER 1

Catholics often site this passage as proof that life begins at conception, and that the baby in the mother's womb is no less of a human being than a baby who has already been born and is resting in his or her mother's arms.

The interesting thing in this passage is that the baby who is to become Saint John the Baptist recognizes the presence of the Blessed Mother, and perhaps even the presence of the Christ child in her womb, from the moment he first hears her voice. Sensing the presence of holiness, John LEAPS for joy in his mother's womb, and Elizabeth's reaction is to be filled with such joy that she cries out to the Blessed Virgin in a loud voice.

A lot can be discerned from a voice. When I was away at college, all I had to say was "Hello" and my mother could tell from my voice on the phone if something was wrong. It came from her ability to listen with her heart.

In the days leading up to Christmas and in the weeks that follow, most of us will encounter *hundreds* of people. For some, the holidays are a time of joy. For others it can be a time of great stress, or even a time of sadness.

Whether it is in conversation with a family member or an old friend, or even a passing greeting from the cashier at the store, listen not just to what is said, but to *how* it is said, and you just may discover the Holy Spirit prompting you to reach out to someone who needs a kind word. It's amazing what you can hear when you listen with your heart. *May you have a Blessed Christmas. Father Joe*

The Christmas Eve Singing of Traditional Carols

The Good Samaritan Choir and musicians invite everyone to join us in this great tradition of the Singing of Carols. Many of the beloved Italian, Slovak, Croatian, and Polish Carols will be included. We will begin at 10:15 pm, followed by Mass at 11pm. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, honoring him with song, just as the Angels from Heaven did that first Christmas Eve. Join us in lifting our voices in praise.



SAINT JOHN'S CORNER

SUN., DEC. 20, CHURCH DECORATING We will decorate the church immediately following 9:30AM Mass. Please stay if you are able to help. Some items require heavy lifting, some an eye for placement. All are welcome to participate.

Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy with a great new app from Our Sunday Visitor! *365 Days to Mercy* is designed to accompany you on your spiritual journey during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The app includes daily reflections on mercy, everyday Scripture reflections, Pope Francis' tweets, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, and lots more. Go to your app store and search "*365 Days to Mercy*" and install it today! Go to OSV.com/YOM to learn more.

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM REPORT

Nov. Payment: \$872 New Balance: \$13,706

MANY THANKS: To St. Nicholas, Rose Curcio, the Holy Name Society, Family Ministry....Thank you for providing Breakfast with St. Nick.

THERE IS NO PANCAKE BREAKFAST THIS MONTH.
We will see you in January! St. John's Holy Name Society

2015 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all 2015 contributions must be returned to the parish office by Monday, January 4, 2016. Any 2015 contribution received after that date will be credited to your 2016 statement. Thank you.

2015 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES — THURSDAY, DEC. 24

- 4:00pm Vigil Mass** **Saint John the Baptist**
Guest Celebrant, Fr. Lou DeNinno
- 4:30 pm Vigil Mass** **Good Samaritan**
Guest Celebrant, Fr. Frank Mitolo
- 8:30 pm** **Musical Prelude at St. John the Baptist**
- 9:00 pm Vigil Mass** **Saint John the Baptist**
Celebrant, Fr. Carr, Deacon Anthony Sciarappa Preaching
- 10:15 pm** **Traditional Carols at Good Samaritan**
- 11:00 pm Vigil Mass** **Good Samaritan**
Celebrant, Fr. Joe Carr

CHRISTMAS DAY — FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2015

- 8:00 am** **Good Samaritan** *Celebrant, Fr. Joe Carr*
- 9:30 am** **St. John the Baptist** *Celebrant, Fr. Sam Esposito*
- 11:00 am** **Good Samaritan** *Celebrant, Fr. Joe Carr*

NEW YEAR'S EVE, VIGIL—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 4:00pm** St. John the Baptist ✕ **5:30pm** Good Samaritan

NEW YEAR'S DAY—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016

- 9:00am** St. John the Baptist ✕ **10:30am** Good Samaritan

+UPCOMING EVENTS+

Sunday, December 20

- (SJ) Decorate Church after 9:30am Mass
(GS) 9:30-11:00am CCD Grades 6-8 followed by 11:00 Mass
(GS) 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Christmas Bake Sale (Jericho Hall)
(GS) 9:00am CIC/Teen RCIA (JH Classroom)

Monday, December 21 (SJ) CCD Grades 1-5

Tuesday, December 22

- 6:30pm (GS) RCIA (Susan's home)

Wednesday, December 23 (SJ) 6:30pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 24 OFFICES CLOSED-CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 25 OFFICES CLOSED- CHRISTMAS DAY

No Marian Prayer Group

Saturday, December 26 No Activities Planned

Sunday, December 27 No CIC/Teen RCIA

Good Samaritan Memorial Fund

Because of the generous donations received for the Memorial Fund, we recently purchased a new outdoor nativity set that is located in front of the Parish Center, as well as the Memorial Christmas Tree near the parking lot entrance of the church. Thanks to all our contributors!

Memorial Fund Donations

Our sincere thanks to the following for their recent donations to the Good Samaritan Memorial Fund:

In memory of Anna Popp

by Alan and Leslie Dinkfelt

In memory of Antoinette Bufalini

by Rosanne Brogno and Nick & Jean Macaluso

In memory of Lucretia DeMailo

by Rosanne Brogno

In memory of John Aloe

by Thomas Pappas Family

✦IN SYMPATHY

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all our dearly departed, especially *Edward J. Dzubak, Sr., Agnes Pollock, Maria Armstrong, and Joann Millie*. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Weekly Offering, December 13, 2015	\$7,846.00
Immaculate Conception	\$1,756.00
Children's Offering	\$93.00
Christmas Flowers	\$849.00

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Weekly Offering, December 13, 2015	\$2,755.00
Immaculate Conception	\$634.00