

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

With only a few days left before Christmas, hopefully we are all prepared and this includes spiritually. As we grow older our understanding of Christmas hopefully grows as well. What we were told as youngsters was appropriate to that age. We should not be at that same nostalgic place we were at when we were 10 years old.

The manger scene, the wonderful Christmas songs, the shepherds, magi and the star all help to visualize a moment in history. But Christmas is more than the celebration of something that happened 2000 years ago. That's the reason the Gospel for the Mass on Christmas day is not one of the narratives about the Nativity. The Gospel for the Mass on Christmas day is the Prologue of the Gospel of St. John.

The Prologue of St. John's Gospel (John 1:1-18) speaks of the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. This Gospel reflects on the mystery of the Incarnation. The mystery of the Incarnation is the mystery that Christmas celebrated.

The Infancy Narratives in the Gospel of Luke and Matthew attempt to lead us into the mystery through the story of the birth of Jesus. The authors never meant for us to stop there. Rather the story is meant as an invitation and a gateway to the deeper mystery we celebrate at this time of the year.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. The mystery that Christmas celebrates is even better.

*Merry Christmas! Father Rick*



**BASKET RAFFLE THANK YOU!** Thank you to Wayne & Pam Nasman, Steve & Katie Courson, Andrew & Jennifer Hoffman, Cindy Strausser, Mary & Leo DeFabio, Father Jim, Roy & Betsy Williams, Tim & Marlene Sandberg, Ashton & Linda Ditka, Julie Myler, Scott & Anna Anderson, Paul & Holly Strausser, Charles & Susan Andracki, David & Jennifer Wortman, Chris & Kirsten Darling, Mike & Barb Smelko, Rose Troyan, Deacon Joe Lucia and the Saint Joseph Church Choir for their generous donations to the Basket Raffle. Thank you also to all those who bought tickets or made monetary donations in support of our youth. The following were the winners of the baskets: Hoop Shoot- Chuck Tower; Kitchen Kaboodle- Holly Strausser; Tidings of Comfort & Joy- Kim Nelson; Lottery Wreath- Mary Jo Sharp; A Night In & A Night Out- Kim Frazier; Gift Card Tree - Kim Nelson; Candle Basket- Elyssa Horn; Cookie Tree- Renee Tower; Family Photo Board- Linda Falconer; Lego Basket- Sue Shall; Around Warren County- Joanne Rickert; Aromatherapy Basket- Debbie Pfeifer. We raised \$1593.00 for CCY activities and mission trips.

**CRAFT FAIR LUNCHEON THANK YOU!** Thank you to all those who supported the luncheon with baked goods or by eating in. We raised \$1124.10 for CCY. A special thank you to Katie Courson, Missy Shene and Betsy Williams for their hard work in the kitchen!

**PARISH NEWS**



**APPRECIATION DINNER:** Calling all volunteers! January 5<sup>th</sup> after the 5:30 Mass we would like to show you how much you are appreciated. Join us for a relaxing dinner and enjoy the fellowship of your church family. Sign up sheets are at the doors of the Church or you can call the Parish Office to sign up.

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

A Catholic education helps children mature into Christ-like people. Students are encouraged to recognize the presence of Christ in themselves and others. If you or someone you know wants to attend St. Joseph Catholic School, please call the School Office at 723-2030.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

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**Please thank them**

**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP 2019**

Join us in Cumberland, Maryland the week of June 16th-22nd. Those students going in 8th grade (in 2019) through 12th grade and adults are invited. Cost is \$175.00 per person and participation in fundraising. Pick up a brochure at the doors of the Church and in the gathering space at St Luke Church and mark your calendars!

**March for Life January 2019**

The March for Life 2019 is January 18th in Washington DC. The bus would leave on January 17th at 10pm. If you are interested in attending or would like more information **please call or text Jennifer at 688-3842 ASAP** or you can call the Parish Office.

**Christmas Food Baskets Project**



**Thank you** for the tremendous response to this project. Without all of **your food donations, monetary donations, time and prayers**, what we accomplished would not have been possible. Seeing the smiles, relief and gratitude to those receiving our boxes on Saturday was such a grace filled experience. Due to space, it is not possible to list all the individuals who helped with donations, setting up, sorting, packing and delivering, but please know how much the families **greatly appreciated** all your efforts. This project truly shows the heart of this Parish. Many blessings to all of you and your families this Christmas.

*Christmas Food Core Committee*

**LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 12/23 Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**8:00am** (St Luke) M/M Joe Kwiatkowski by Mary Ann Morgan Family  
**10:45am** For the Living and Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish

**Monday, 12/24 Late Advent Weekday**  
**4:30pm** Jackie Franklin by Deacon Joe Lucia  
**7:00pm** (St Luke) For the Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish  
**10:00pm** Karlene Molinaro by Family

**Tuesday, 12/25 The Nativity of the Lord**  
**9:00am** Troy Patrick Albaugh by Mom & Dad

**Wednesday, 12/26 Saint Stephen, the First Martyr**  
**9:05am** Joe & Jennie Colosimo by Mary, Patty, & Bob

**Thursday, 12/27 Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist**  
**12:05pm** David Lopez by Catherine & Charlie Ditz

**Friday, 12/28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
**8:00am** Catherine Sheldon by Sherry Albrecht & Frances Durante

**Saturday, 12/29 Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
**5:30pm** Theresa Ressler by Terry, Janice, & Katie Ressler

**Sunday, 12/30 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**8:00am** (St Luke) For the Living & Deceased Members of St Joseph Parish  
**10:45am** Sam & Helen Pusateri by Denise Pusateri

**Monday, 12/31 (Vigil Mass) The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**  
**5:30pm** Helen & Peter Lucia by Family

**Tuesday, 1/1 Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**  
**10:00am** Victor Benigni by Roy & Betsy Williams

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Gospel Luke 2:1-14

**Tuesday** Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; Gospel John 1:1-18

**Wednesday** Act 6:8-10;7:54-59; Gospel Matthew 10:17-22

**Thursday** 1 John 1:1-4; Gospel John 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday** 1 John 1:5-22; Gospel Matthew 2:13-18

**Saturday** 1 John 2:3-11; Gospel Luke 2:22-35

**Sunday** 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Gospel Luke 2:41-52

**SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 23rd**  
**8:00am (St Luke) Mass**  
 9:45am Pageant Rehearsal (St Joseph Church)  
**10:45am Mass**  
 DOG Liturgy of the Word for Children  
 11:45am Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal PreK-12 Gr.

**Monday, December 24th**  
 4:00pm Children's Christmas Choir Prelude  
**4:30pm Children's Mass**  
**7:00pm (St Luke) Mass**  
 9:30pm Choir Prelude  
**10:00pm Mass**

**Tuesday, December 25th The Nativity of the Lord**  
**9:00am Mass**

**Wednesday, December 26th**  
**9:05am Mass**

**Thursday, December 27th**  
**12:05pm Mass**  
 12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration  
 7:15pm Evening Prayer

**Friday, December 28th**  
**8:00am Mass**

**Saturday, December 30th**  
**4:30-5:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**5:30pm Mass**

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/24			
4:30pm	Students	R & B Williams, J Anderson, P Bailey, B Smelko, D Labowski, D Pusateri, K Jones, J Sabat	M Walker P Shene H Harrison
7:00pm	M Donahue	M Morgan, C Knapp	B Bower
10:00pm	P Nasman	T & R Fadale, S & K Courson, A Kiehl, C Luppino, K Darling	M Fadale O Strandburg A Strandburg
12/25			
9:00am	Volunteer	C Zawacki, C Bevacqua	3 Volunteers
12/29			
5:30pm	M Sandberg	T & R Fadale, D Labowski	L Fincher 2 Volunteers
12/30			
8:00am	M Donahue	A & D Harlan	B Bower
10:45am	D Pusateri	A & P Webster	3 Volunteers
		5 Volunteers	

12-26—The Rouse Home— Carol Knapp/Bob Pangello/Mary Donahue  
 12/24—7:00am Mass Ushers—Vince Pillar/Timber Bower  
 12/30—8:00am Doug & Diana Sandberg

**St. Joseph Parish Weekly Offering—December 15th & 16th**  
 St Joseph - \$7060.25  
 St Luke - \$775.00  
*Thank you for your continued support of our Parish!*

**ST JOSEPH PARISH SOUP KITCHEN will not be serving dinners on Christmas Day. We will be serving dinners on New Years Day at 4:30pm. All are Welcome!**

**WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES IN MEMORY OF**  
*Joe & Helen Castagnino by Joe & Loní*



In your charity please pray for the soul of **Frank Hopshire** who passed away this past week. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

***Thank you for your continued Generosity!***  
Items to be collected in January

**St Joseph Church —Toilet Paper / Paper Towels**  
**St Luke Church —Spaghetti Sauce/Pasta/Noodles**  
**\*\*Items collected are distributed to the Salvation Army and the Youngsville Food Pantry.**