

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Over the past few weeks I have had the privilege of being part of the Christmas experience at St. Joe's and St. Luke's. Watching all the hard work that went into the preparations, decorating, music and background was very uplifting. I am very thankful for the beauty of the celebration.

I am also overwhelmed by the generosity of parishioners. I am thankful to each and every person who sent a card and/or gave me a gift. Just trying to read every card took a while. Thank you to all as I keep you in my prayers.

This week you might have noticed that there aren't nearly as many Masses for New Year's Day as there were for Christmas. That's because that when New Year's Day is on a Monday or a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is relaxed. While New Year's Day, the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, is still a holy day, for this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. Good news for those who enjoy celebrating and counting the final seconds of 2017.

Finally, I enjoyed having Deacon Ian here for Christmas and I hope you did as well. He will be returning the Friday before Palm Sunday to spend Holy Week with us. We certainly wish him well as he continues his preparations for Priesthood Ordination. I think we, at St. Joe's and St. Luke's have had a good influence on him!

Fr. Rick

PARISH NEWS

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH APP

Our parish APP has been well received. There are currently 238 users! If you haven't had a chance to download it to your smart phone, take a minute now, it's simple. Open a new text message and in the "To" box enter 88202, then in the message box text "APP" and send it. You will then receive a link that walks you through the download. Or download from the following link: <http://www.myparishapp.com/appstore>. Having the app allows you keep up with parish life, daily readings, prayers, and much more. Call the parish office if you have any questions.

There are still some 2018 Calendars and *Perfectly Yourself* books available at the doors of the Church and in the Parish Office. Please stop by and pick one up, we have extras.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**Jones Chevrolet
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Please thank them.

**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER**

Mark your calendars now for our **Annual Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, January 6th after the 5:30pm Mass in the Saint Joseph School Gym.** The dinner is our thank you to all of you who volunteer in some capacity at Saint Joseph Parish. RSVP by signing up at the doors of the Church or call the Parish Office at 723-2090 by January 2nd. Thank you for making Saint Joseph Parish the wonderful community it is!

A SPECIAL Thank You

Thank you to Jim & Vilma Siliano and Committee who helped decorate the Church for Christmas. You did a wonderful job and the Church looks beautiful! Without your help and dedication none of this would be possible.

Thank you to our parishioner, Tom Pupo who donated and bagged all the candy given to the children at the Christmas Masses. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Adult Formation Ministry who selected the new Matthew Kelly book, *Perfectly Yourself*, as the parish gift.

Thank you to Rachel Harvey and the Cherub and Sunrise Choirs and the Youth Praise Team. The music was just wonderful at our 4:30 Children's Mass.

Thank you to Jenn Wortman and the children who had a part in the Christmas pageant. All of you did a great job bringing the Nativity scene to life.

Thank you to Fran Leto and the Choir for the wonderful music at the 10:00pm Midnight Mass.

Thank you to all of the wonderful parishioners who volunteered to serve at the Masses and all who supported our Parish in any other way this Christmas Season. Blessings to all of you in the New Year.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, January 19th

Join Us and be part of the

MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON DC

See the bulletin insert for all the details

To register call Kathy Amsdell at 723-2090Ext 14

Let's Fill the Bus

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

ITEMS NEEDED IN JANUARY

The Month of January we will be collecting **paper towels** and **toilet tissue**. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the needy families of our community through this ministry.

LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, 12/31 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
 8:00am Mass @ St. Luke Living & Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters of America Court #834
 10:30am Robert Hackman, Dixie Hackman, Kimberly Hackman Doninetz by Joan Olson

Monday, 1/1 **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
 9:00am Victor Benigni by Betsy & Roy Williams

Tuesday, 1/2 **St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**
 12:05pm Roger Morrison by Gretchen

Wednesday, 1/3 **Christmas Weekday**
 9:05am John Proebstle by the Wilson Family
 2:00pm Mass at the Rouse Home Mary Russo by Dennis & Ann Rock

Thursday, 1/4 **USA: St Elizabeth Ann Seton**
 12:05pm Ruth Figliuzzi by Sirianni Family

Friday, 1/5 **USA: St John Neumann, Bishop**
 8:00am Deceased Members of the Derr & Williams Family by Family

Saturday, 1/6 **The Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil Mass)**
 5:30pm Catherine Sheldon by Sherry Albrecht & Frances Durante

Sunday, 1/7 **The Epiphany of the Lord**
 8:00am Mass @ St. Luke Living & Deceased Members of St. Luke Church
 10:30am Jim Hackman & Timothy Hackman by Joan Olson

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
1/6			
5:30pm	L Courson	R & B Williams, H Zaffino D Labowski, S Courson,	A Courson R Courson
		<u>G & P Peck</u>	<u>J Hunter</u>
1/7	M Smelko	J & R Cecco, W Harvey,	S Sokolski
10:30am		R Beyer, C & J Kostrzewski, T Grana	W Sokolski <u>R Siliano</u>

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES IN MEMORY OF
 Theresa Ressler by Terry & Janice & Katie Ressler

BAPTISM Through the waters of Baptism, we at Saint Joseph Parish wish to **welcome Mary Angela Anderson** into our community of faith in Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless her life with His love. Mary is the daughter of Scott & Anna Anderson and Granddaughter of Roy & Betsy Williams.

St. Joseph Church

Weekly Offering-December 24th—\$8642.84

Christmas - December 25th—\$7498.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God's blessings. If you or someone you know wants to attend St. Joseph School, please call the school at 814-723-2030. We have open enrollment. Catholic Schools week will begin January 28th with School Choir singing at 10:30am Mass followed by Open House at the School. Plan to join us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Gospel Luke 2:16-21

Tuesday 1 John 2:22-28; Gospel John 1:19-28

Wednesday 1 John 2:29-3:6; Gospel John 1:29-34

Thursday 1 John 3:7-10; Gospel John 1:35-42

Friday 1 John 3:11-21; Gospel 1:43-51

Saturday 1 John 5:5-13; Gospel Mark 1:7-11

Sunday Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6; Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, December 31 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
 8:00am Mass @ St. Luke Church
 10:30am Mass

Monday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 9:00am Mass @ St. Joseph Church

Tuesday, January 2
 12:05pm Mass
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen
 6:00pm Pastoral Council Meeting (Boardroom)

Wednesday, January 3
 9:05am School Mass
 6:00pm Tiger Cubs (Loranger Hall)
 6:30pm RCIA (Meyer Hall)

Thursday, January 4
 12:05pm Mass
 12:30pm Adoration (Mothers Chapel)
 6:00pm First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (Meyer Hall)
 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Mother's Chapel)

Friday, January 5
 8:00am Mass

Saturday, January 6
 4:30pm to 5:15pm Reconciliation
 5:30pm Mass
 6:30pm Parish Appreciation Dinner (Gym)

Sunday, January 7
 8:00am Mass @ St. Luke Church
 9:00am—1:00pm 4th Grade Retreat
 9:15am K-9 Faith Formation
 10 & 11 Confirmation
 10:30am Mass
 Liturgy of Word for Children

VOCATIONS ICON

We would like to thank **Terry & Janice Ressler** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Parish.

In your charity please pray for the soul of **Dr. Howard Ferguson**, who passed away this past week. We extend our sympathy to his family, and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation. Dr. Ferguson will be sadly missed by our Saint Joseph Catholic School and Saint Joseph Parish community.