



Community of Faith

Dec. 21st – Jan. 10th

M: St Mary • J: St Joseph

Tuesday, 12/22 *Weekday*

9:00am M † Margaret Reese r/o family

8:00am J † Mary Sharkey r/o Alice Valanty

Wednesday, 12/23 *St. John of Kanty*

9:00am M † Betty Mickalowski r/o daughter, Pauline Lorah

8:00am J † Anthony Grabarits



Thursday, 12/24 Christmas Eve

2:30pm & midnight @ M

4:00pm & 9:00pm @ J

Friday, 12/25 Christmas Day:

10:00am @ M

8:30am @ J

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO COVID, SEATS ARE RESERVED TO THOSE WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY SIGNED UP.

Saturday, 12/26 *St. Stephen*

9:00am M No Daily Mass

8:00am J No Daily Mass

The Holy Family • Year B

3:00pm J † John Oscovitch r/o Mahasky family

4:30pm M † Joseph Scodari r/o Charles & Luann Scodari

Sunday, 12/27 **The Holy Family • Year B**

8:30am J † Rudolph Sentiway r/o grand-daughter, Carol

10:00am M † Joseph Aponick r/o Tracey, Billy Jo & Joey

Tuesday, 12/29 *St. Thomas Becket*

9:00am M † Mary Hammel

8:00am J † Joseph Careyva r/o wife Anna & family

Wednesday, 12/30

9:00am M † Lorraine Yapsuga

8:00am J † George Mehalick r/o Helen Mehalick

Thursday, 12/31

9:00am M No Daily Mass

8:00am J No Daily Mass



Thursday, 12/31 **New Year's Eve**

3:00pm @ J † Eugene Keeney

4:30pm @ M † Agnes Laky

Friday, 1/1 **Solemnity of Mary**

8:30am @ J † Stephen Frisch

10:00am @ M St. Mary & St. Joseph's Parishioners

Saturday, 1/2 *St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen*

9:00am M No Daily Mass

8:00am J No Daily Mass

The Epiphany of the Lord • Year B

3:00pm J † Belfiore Family r/o Theresa Novak

4:30pm M † James & Mary Ambrose

r/o Stan & Marie Piaskowski

Sunday, 1/3 **The Epiphany of the Lord • Year B**

8:30am J † Eugene & Helen Recla

r/o children & their families

10:00am M † IMO: Roseanne Aponick

r/o aunt, Nikki Zarcufsky

Tuesday, 1/5 *St. John Neumann*

9:00am M † Victor Cicioni r/o Ray & Arlene Sachleben

8:00am J St. Mary & St. Joseph's Parishioners

Wednesday, 1/6 *St. Andre Bessette*

9:00am M † Mary Sugra

8:00am J † Joseph Keller

Thursday, 1/7 *St. Raymond of Penyafort*

9:00am M † Hilda Dreisbach

8:00am J † Anna Csencsitz

Friday, 1/8 *Weekday*

9:00am M † Joseph Leitgeb Jr.

8:00am J † Louis Stubits

Saturday, 1/9 *Weekday*

9:00am M † Stephen Frisch

8:00am J † Rosemarie Reenock

The Baptism of the Lord • Year B

3:00pm J † Joe Konschnick, Sr.

r/o Jerry & Roseann Evangelista

4:30pm M † Betty Lou Torpey

r/o Stan & Marie Piaskowski

Sunday, 12/27 **The Baptism of the Lord • Year B**

8:30am J † Frank, Pearl & Mary Lingouski r/o Fran Abdou

10:00am M † Violet Baranowsky r/o Baranowsky family



❖ **LAST 2 SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:** M: \$1,834 J: \$2,379

Upcoming Collections:

January: Solemnity of Mary, Weekly, Dues, Bld Fund

❖ **Pray for:** Living: • Jaden Leiby • J.P. • J.A • Joseph Yablonsky
• Fr. Jim Torpey



❖ **K of C Happenings:** Council 16072

1/3 @ J Rosary prior to Mass

1/17 @ M Rosary prior to Mass-Meeting following Mass

► Please return all Birthright donations no later than January 10th; place cash or check (payable to "Birthright") donations in an envelope, clearly marked for Birthright, and place the envelopes in the collection basket. Bless you for your generous support of Birthright!



Christmas! We celebrate a fact, not a fable... the fact the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ, became a man in order to lead us to spiritual safety. This fact of our faith is backed up by logic and reason. It would take another man, who was also God, to lead all men to salvation.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Palestine, in a poor place, and was placed by His holy Mother in a manger. The night was cold and dark but a brilliant light shown in the darkness and angels appeared, singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men of good will!" (Lk 2:14)

In the nearby fields, shepherds were watching their sheep when an angel invited them to seek the Infant. The shepherds hastened to the stable. Prostrating themselves before Jesus in adoration, they offered Him their gifts. A wondrous star also appeared in the heavens of the East. The Magi saw it and left their distant homes to follow it to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, the star stood over the place where the Child was. Rejoicing, the Magi entered the house and worshiped the holy Infant. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It may come as a surprise to learn that the actual date of Christ's birth is unknown. December 25 was chosen by Rome around the year 300 A.D.

In older time, the reason of winter was long, dark and dreary the people knew that at a certain point the sun began to come back, and things changed for the better. So they had a feast to celebrate this fact. Instead of worshipping the Sun-God, people were encouraged to worship Christ, the Son of God. The church saw the coming of Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah: "The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light."

The teaching of Christ was truly a source of light to all who accepted Him. Just as Jesus said: "I am the light of the world", Christ's light was not lit in Bethlehem once and then extinguished. Unlike the Sun, the light of Christ is a persistent light which no darkness can overpower. It shines the midst of devastation, disaster and upheaval.

Christ's light comes as a friend. It brings healing not hurt, life not death. Those who follow Him will always have light of life. He doesn't guarantee that the world will be perfect, but He does supply the grace that we need in order to live like we ought to live...that is grace in the flesh. That is what we need. That is what God offers us in Jesus: the grace of gifts, not gifts earned, but grace that comes to us in our own image and inspires us to live the Christian life.

The life that God's grace makes possible for us is a life in which we, as Christians, operate from a place of compassion and love. It is a life in which we recognize the turmoil and the tragedy, and the deep grief of the neighbors around us and how we can help.

In reflection of this Christmas Season my heart is filled with gratitude for the Savior and I pray that you and your family will be blessed with joy and peace this Christmas. I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the role you and your family have played in bringing our Lord's mercy and hope to our parishes during this past year. Your generosity in Christ has been a great blessing during this most challenging year.

May the Lord in His goodness give you a taste of that joy and new heart which the shepherds experienced when the light of God's glory shown around them on that first Christmas night as you journey towards the heavenly Bethlehem, where you and your beloved ones see Him face to face, not as an infant, but in His glory. Amen.

Father Dominic Pham

❖ **Collection Envelopes 2021:** the new envelopes can be found on the tables in the church. If you do not see your envelopes on the table please call the office and we will make sure you get them. If you know of any fellow parishioners who are not able to attend mass due to COVID-19 pandemic please take their envelopes and deliver to them. We would greatly appreciate it!

Christmas Masses

For the safety of our parishioners, guests and Father, extra precautions will be in place as follows:

- * Church doors will open 30 minutes prior to Mass times; please bring your tickets.
- * Temperatures will be taken and we ask that you sanitize your hands prior to entering the church.
- * Seats are reserved for all who signed up for a Mass; please call Arlene @ 570-590-5810, Stan @ 570-889-3825 or Nancy@ 215-801-5797 if you wish to reserve a seat.
- * Please refrain from congregating at the entrance or in the church.
- * Please do not come to church, if you are not feeling well or, in any way, have been exposed.

Save the Date!



If you are unable to attend Mass in person this Christmas, you can still participate from home by viewing the Christmas Eve Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Bishop Alfred Schlert will be celebrant and homilist for the Mass Thursday, Dec. 24 at 10 p.m. It will be livestreamed on AD Today at www.ad-today.com, the Diocese of Allentown Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/DiocesofAllentown and the Diocesan YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/DiocesofAllentown; and broadcast live on Service Electric Cable TV on channels 50 and 550. SECTV will also replay the Mass on Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 at 8 a.m. on channels 50 and 550. Viewers who wish to make an offertory donation to their parish's Christmas collection can do so through the universal offertory form on the Diocesan website at www.allentowndiocese.org/parish-support. Your generosity is needed – and much appreciated – now more than ever.



*Fr. Dominic & the
parish staff would
like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas
&
Happy & Healthy
New Year!*

