

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Do Not Be Afraid! Open Wide the Doors to Christ!

Dear People and Friends of Saint Joseph's,

Intentional discipleship has guided us on our journey through Advent with an ever deepening longing for the Lord, so that we might be prepared for the Lord Jesus when he comes, no matter what day or hour. Now we stand at the threshold of Christmas. Each year, the Church gives us the Christmas season, not to pretend that we are back in the time of Jesus' birth, but to experience the power of his Incarnation TODAY in our lives. Jesus Christ is not simply a person of history from long ago, but desires to abide with us now and forever.

As we enter the final week before Christmas, **entering** becomes a key action. Today's joyful Psalm response indicates this dynamic: "**Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**" Accompanying a procession to the Temple, this psalm celebrates the entrance of the Lord and His people into the holy city, Jerusalem, and the Temple. Even more so, the Lord desires to enter our hearts more deeply and abide there completely. The whole purpose of Advent and our prayer, "**Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!**" is to make us more receptive and responsive to this entrance of the Lord.

Besides the joy we experience with our God entering into our world, our history and our hearts, thanksgiving and gratitude also highlight our response. The more we understand that Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and experience him as the Word made Flesh born and crucified to free us from all that weighs us down, the more our hearts will burst forth in thankfulness, praise, love and obedience for our God who has come to save us. For this reason, the Holy Mass demonstrates our best response to the Christmas mystery.

Yet, it can seem more comfortable and easier to focus on gifts and decorations, on merriment and Christmas customs and on a distant historic moment, instead of the personal encounter the Lord wants for us. After all, this personal encounter may change us. We can be hesitant or resistant to this entrance. That is why the words of the angel to our patron, Saint Joseph, encourage us as well, "Do not be afraid." Intentional disciples so focus on the Master's love that they do not allow fear to deter them. So let him enter!

The Hispanic custom of *Posadas* uses nine days to recall the journey and effort of Mary and Joseph to **enter a proper place for the Child to be born**. What a beautiful custom that capitalizes on Hispanic hospitality. For nine days, Hispanics gather at a new location each day to remember the difficulty Joseph and Mary experienced in preparing for the entrance of the Messiah into the world. Through hymns, prayers, Scriptures and sometimes the celebration of the Mass, and of course food, the *Posadas* serve as the final efforts to be open to receive the Lord. As each successive family opens their home so that their praying guests may enter to receive a hospitable welcome, we are reminded to open our

hearts hospitably for Christ to enter in.

This **entering of Christ into our hearts** more fully is key to Christmas and the Christian life. Yet, busyness, sin, selfishness, or distractions can be our way of saying to the Lord "No room in the inn." Instead, may we be completely disposed this Christmas to the Lord entering in as he desires. Let us not be afraid to remove any obstacles to that entrance, and if that means we need to seek reconciliation through the sacrament of confession, let us not be afraid to receive God's mercy.

The Lord desires to make his dwelling with us; Be not afraid!

In the Joy of our Lord's Coming,

Fr. Allan F. Wolfe

Parish Stewardship

TIME TALENT and TREASURE
A Way of Life at Saint Joseph's

<i>In Pew Collection</i>		\$9,110.60	
<i>Electronic Giving</i>		3,421.00	
<i>Online Giving</i>		565.00	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
12/11/2016	\$11,600.00	\$13,096.60	\$1,496.60
<i>Vigils</i>		278.79	
<i>Christmas</i>		240.00	
<i>Religious Retirement</i>		2,460.00	
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>		1,896.51	

GIFT CARDS FOR SHOPPING & GIFTS

Don't forget to purchase your gift cards at the church or online. Check out the updated huge list of participating stores. Copies are available from the gift card seller in the vestibule of the church. Purchases can also be made online through our website. St. Joseph Church earns 3%-16% on all gift cards sold. Remember this is a fund raiser for our church.

GIFT CARD SALES

Date	Sales	Profit
December 11, 2016	\$4,010.00	\$245.90

Mass Intentions and Calendar for the Week

Saturday, December 17

5:00 pm **Vigil Mass** - Alice Southward (Southward Family)

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am **Mass** - People of the Parish

9:15 am Focus on Faith - Tipitina's

9:15 am CCD Class - Education Building

10:30 am **Mass** - Helen Kunkle (Kunkle Family)

1:30 pm **Mass** - *Extraordinary Form*

Helen McAneny (Dave & Kathy Haddon)

3:00 pm Church Christmas Decorating

Monday, December 19

6:30 am **Mass** - Mary Darrenkamp (St. Joseph Parish)

9:00 am Legion of Mary - Good Shepherd Room

5:00 pm Catholic School Sports - Msgr. Smith Social Hall

7:00 pm RCIA - Sacred Heart

7:00 pm Scout Christmas Party - Msgr. Smith Social Hall

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 am **Mass** - All Souls Intentions

8:00 am Morning Prayer - Church

8:15 am **Mass** - Joseph & Gertrude Gardner (Mary Ellen & Margaret Gardner)

5:00 pm Catholic School Sports - Msgr. Smith Social Hall

5:45 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Church

6:30 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

6:30 am **Mass** - Elaine Swartz (Donna & Danielle D'Agostino)

4:00 pm Legion of Mary Curia - St. Francis Room

5:00 pm Catholic School Sports - Msgr. Smith Social Hall

Thursday, December 22

6:30 am **Mass** - Art Dauberman (Julie Martin & Girls)

8:00 am Morning Prayer - Church

8:15 am **Mass** - Magdalen Duffy (Mary Ellen & Margaret Gardner)

5:00 pm Catholic School Sports - Msgr. Smith Social Hall

Friday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty, Priest

6:30 am **Mass** - Robert "Bobbie" Souders (Edmund Kachnoskie)

Saturday, December 24

8:15 am **Mass** - Harry Haddon (David & Kathy Haddon)

5:00 pm **Children's Mass** - Parishioners, Friends & Benefactors

8:00 pm **Family Mass** - Parishioners, Friends & Benefactors

11:30 pm Carols and Blessing of the Crèche

Sunday, December 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00 am **Solemn Candlelight Mass** - Parishioners, Friends & Benefactors

9:00 am **Mass** - Parishioners, Friends & Benefactors



Jesus says
*"Come to Me ...
for I am the Bread of Life"*

*Have you called 397-6921 to schedule
your hour of adoration?*

*Open hours: Friday 1:00pm and 2:00pm,
Saturday 7:00 am, 10:00am and 11:00pm*

PERPETUAL ADORATION HOUR FOR CHILDREN

Tuesday, December 20, from 4:00 to 5:00pm

*The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from
4:00pm on Saturday, December 24*

until after the 6:30am Mass on December 26.

*The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from
4:45pm on Saturday, December 31*

until after the 6:30am Mass on January 2.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**The Nativity of the Lord
December 24-25**

5:00 pm and 8:00 pm

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Midnight Mass

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

9:00 am

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

*Flowers on the Altars this weekend
are given in Memory of Alice Southward
by the Southward Family*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Those who are ill: Michael Barnes, William Braungard, Marian Madonna and those in nursing homes; those presently or recently in the hospital, Dr. Albert Schreder, Frances Hamaker, John English and those in our Book of the Sick.

PLEASE PRAY OUR SEMINARIANS: Matthew Morelli, Alexander Quach, Peter Quach, Peter Rettig, Matthew Richardson, Tyler Roman, Kenneth Roth and Timothy Sahl.

DEATH: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Haines, father of Julie Kirchner. May he rest in glory with the Lord.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Tuesday, December 20 for the January 1, 2017 bulletin

MASS ATTENDANCE

December 11, 2016

5:00 pm Mass	160
8:00 am Mass	140
10:30 am Mass	225
Nursery	6
1:30 pm Mass	96
Total Attendance	627

Ten children offered their time, talent and treasure to God on December 11th totaling \$12.35 which goes to the Missionary Childhood Association.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: We need you help December 18 at 3:00pm.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve, December 24

Children's Liturgy - 5:00pm
Family Liturgy - 8:00pm
Carols and Blessing of Crèche - 11:30pm
Solemn Candlelight Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day, December 25

Mass - 9:00am

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31

Vigil Mass 5:00pm

New Year's Day, January 1

Masses 8:00am and 10:30am

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SENIOR RELIGIOUS: Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity."

NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNITY MEAL, OPEN TO ALL SERVING 1:00PM TO 3:00PM: The meal is FREE and open to ANYONE. If you would like to come or know someone who would, please bring them or invite them. This year I would like to have parishioners as table hosts to share the meal and talk with our guests. **Preparation Schedule:** Friday evening, December 30 - cook the pork; Saturday, December 31 - 1:00pm - pick the pork, peel potatoes, drop off desserts and set up the hall. New Year's Day, 8:00am, finish preparation of food and be ready to serve at 1:00pm. Help is needed beginning at 12:30pm to serve, wait on tables, refill beverages and serve desserts. Since there is Mass at 1:30 parking helpers are also needed to direct people to the correct lot. To find out more and volunteer, call or email Matt Stewart 717-587-8409, wallaby38@gmail.com.

ADVENT GIVING TREE Please return all gifts this week-end. Please help us to identify gifts by placing the request slips on the outside of all packages, and place gift cards in small boxes.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL will be held in the church from 5:45 to 7:30pm on Tuesday, December 20. **Children who wish to be a part of the Christmas pageant must attend the rehearsal.**

TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our next Community Meal is on Friday, December 30. We are again inviting our youth to volunteer for this worthwhile project. Anyone, youth or adult, interested in volunteering should arrive at St. Mary's cafeteria anytime between 4:30 and 5:30pm. Give as little or as much time as you would like.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: We need your help to take communion to the Catholic residents of Hamilton Arms one Sunday a month. Contact Deacon Marty at the rectory (397-6921).

THE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES still has openings for all of the liturgies. Please sign the list posted in the sacristy or contact Mary Ellen at the rectory (397-6921) or email mgardner@stjosephslanc.com.

USHER HELP NEEDED for Christmas and New Year liturgies. Please sign the Mass/Masses you can help with. Sign up sheets are posted at the rear of the church (left & right sides).

ORDER OF MALTA SANCTITY OF LIFE MASS will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Joseph's. The Celebrant will be the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L., Fifth Bishop of Greensburg. On site and off site parking with shuttle service will be provided.

FLOWERS FOR CHURCH: Altar Flowers for the main altar (2 vases) or the Blessed Mother or St. Joseph side altars can be ordered to celebrate a happy occasion, in thanksgiving, for a special intention or to remember a loved one who has died. The cost per vase is \$40.00. Call Deacon Marty or Becky at the rectory, 397-6921 to make arrangements. Available dates: January 15 (St. Joseph Altar), January 22, February 5, 12, 19, 26 (All Altars).

ST. JOSEPH SOFTBALL: St. Joseph Catholic Club will hold registrations for Softball (girls ages 6 to 15) on Saturday, January 7 and 14 from 11:00am to 4:00pm in the Msgr. Smith Hall at 410 St. Joseph St., Lancaster. We encourage you to register on our website www.stjosephcatholicclub.com where you will find more information. We are in desperate need of adults to help teach these young players. For more information, or, if you would be interested in helping, please call Bill Souders at 923-0951.

SAVE THE DATE - MEN'S STEAK NIGHT

Mark your calendar for this year's Men's Steak Night. It will be Friday, February 17. Tickets are \$15 each. This is a great father and son night for fathers and sons of all ages. Tickets will be available the 2 weekends before the event on February 4 and February 11.

REMAINING ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

- Assumption of the BVM (Lancaster)
Sunday, December 18 at 6:30pm
- St. Peter (Elizabethtown) –
Sunday, December 18 at 7:00pm
- St. Anthony of Padua (Lancaster)
Monday, December 19 at 7:00pm
- St. Catherine of Siena (Quarryville)
Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00pm
- Mary, Mother of the Church (Mount Joy)
Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00pm
- St. Anne (Lancaster)
Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS YOUR PARISH SCHOOL

- ◆ On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we wish that you may share the love that was born on Christmas day, and that it will touch you and your family and friends.
- ◆ The school **Mass this Thursday, December 22**, will be led by the 3rd grade and celebrated by Father Wolfe at 9:30 am at St. Anthony of Padua Church.
- ◆ We send special thanks to our benefactors who direct their gifts to cultural events. Thanks to them, our students will experience the magic of theater at the Fulton this week when they see *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

**We invite your family to become part
of the Resurrection family!
Family of Faith**

LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- ◆ All 8th graders interested in applying to Lancaster Catholic High School are required to take the Entrance Exam. For students in public school and non-Catholic private school, the exam will be held on Saturday, January 7th at 8:00 am. For more information and to register, please visit www.lchsyes.org/admissions or contact Kyla Hockley at (717) 509-0313.

Renewal at St. Joseph's through Intentional Discipleship

Small Faith Sharing Groups - Sign up to participate in a small group that, over the course of 7 sessions, beginning mid-Advent, provides opportunities to reflect and share the vibrancy of our Catholic Faith in Jesus Christ, to grow in our faith through hearing others' faith experiences, to explore being a mission-driven parish, and to pray together. Call Mary Ellen Gardner at the rectory to sign up.

Read the Parish Plan - Become familiar with our Plan for Strategic Evangelization, so that you can bring your ideas to your parish ministry, group and family as we promote this renewal. Copies are available in the vestibule at the center door pamphlet rack.

Become a Perpetual Adorer - Sign up for 1 hour a week as a perpetual adorer in our Adoration Chapel. St. Joseph's Perpetual Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, except while Mass is celebrated, 7 days a week, all year long. This is a powerful way to be renewed by the Lord personally, as well as promote the renewal of St. Joseph's through intercessory prayer. This is a wonderful way to introduce our children to personal prayer with Jesus.

Intercessory Prayer - Renewal depends on the Holy Spirit moving and transforming hearts. Commit yourself to interceding for our Parish of Saint Joseph every day. Prayer is powerful, especially as all of us do it separately but unitedly. A specific prayer has been created for this intention. Copies can be found in the pamphlet rack.

From the Diocese

"When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him." Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Brian Wayne at (717) 657-4804 or write: frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE - 25% of surveyed couples say they are "Happily Married". For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue.....or have just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it make it even worse? Retrouvaille helps couples rebuild their marriages. For information or to register for the Harrisburg program beginning with a weekend on January 13-15, 2017, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Thank you to our Bulletin Sponsor of the Week
Strosser Accounting

614 Fremont St.
717-392-0574

You can read the bulletin online at our parish website: www.stjosephslanc.com.