



Good Shepherd Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23 & 24, 2017



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Saturday December 23
4:00 PM Elizabeth Dulcey ~ Richie & Jean Gerenza
Sunday December 24
8:00 AM Wesley Deaton ~ Wife, Barbara and Son,
 Bill & Nancy and Grandchildren
10:00 AM Frank & Anna Brown ~ Don & Fran

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
9:00 PM Angeline Yancus ~ Jim & Barb
 McGuire
Monday December 25 – Christmas Day
8:00 AM M/M Connell A. McHugh ~ Son, Fr.
 Connell
10:00 AM Kristine Roig ~ Jennifer Stone



Tuesday December 26
8:00 AM Homebound/Nursing & Personal Care
 Home Parishioners ~ Parishioners of
 Good Shepherd
Wednesday December 27
8:00 AM Joan Sauers ~ Donna Good & Dorothy
 Marcinko
Thursday December 28
8:00 AM Angelo Spadell ~ Mary Helen Thomas
Friday December 29
8:00 AM Felix & Christine Kusiak ~ Robert & Lee
 Kusiak

Saturday December 30
4:00 PM John Rusnock, Jr. ~ M/M Michael
 Haraschak III
Sunday December 31
8:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
10:00 AM Mary Fedor & Jim Brown ~ Don & Fran

Solemnity of Mary – Vigil Mass

4:00 PM Joseph J. Generose, Jr. ~ M/M George
 Gombeda & George III

Stewardship

680 families received envelopes.

Offertory Envelopes for the weekend 12/16:

MASS TIME	NUMBER OF FAMILIES OFFERING	AMOUNT OF OFFERING	ATTENDANCE AT MASS
4:00 PM	84	\$1,126.00	181
8:00 AM	55	\$ 640.00	108
10:00 AM	87	\$1,480.00	202
	Loose	\$ 455.00	
	Total	\$3,701.00	491

Worship

The Tabernacle Candle burns this week in memory of Glen Rinehimer by wife, Patsy and family.

The Rose for Life this week is in memory of babies lost through miscarriages and premature births by Good Shepherd Pro-Lifers.

FROM THE PASTOR... Fr. McHugh.

The Christmas Gospels: We have four different Gospels for Christmas. The Vigil Gospel is taken from Matthew and treats the genealogy of Jesus. The purpose of the genealogy is to show that Jesus, by way of Joseph, is descended from the line of David; that both good and not good people are part of salvation history; and that women are important as well as men, which is in keeping with Luke's theology. Matthew has three groups of 14 generations, which is a typical literary number of generations. The Bible usually arranges genealogies in groups of 14 or 10. The Gospel of Christmas night is taken from Luke. It, unlike Matthew, states that originally, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and journeyed to Bethlehem to participate in a census, which is highly suspect today in the view of many scholars. In Matthew, Joseph and Mary appear to live in Bethlehem and Jesus is born at home (the version of the birth of Jesus I prefer). Luke presents shepherds as being present at Christ's birth, which is in keeping with the Gospel presenting Jesus as the friend of the poor. The Gospel for the first Mass of Christmas again is taken from Luke and continues the Gospel of the night Mass with the story of the shepherds' visit to the Christ child and tells how they spread the good news of Jesus' birth. The Gospel of Christmas during the day comes from John, who is the only evangelist to tell us of Jesus' pre-existence in heaven and emphasizes the incarnation of Jesus.

Christmas Collection: Please give generously to the Christmas collection. As stated earlier, we have fallen off to some extent for the past couple of years.

Penance Services: Approximately 100 attended St. John Bosco's Penance Service and 60 attended Good Shepherd's on two ice-cold nights. The O Antiphons were the theme of Good Shepherd's service.

Infancy Gospels on YouTube: Fr. McHugh will have 2 different presentations of the Infancy Gospels on YouTube. One is already on and there will be another posted in January. On your computer, type in "Fr. Connell McHugh Biblical Narratives" to view the presentations. Father will make a presentation on Thursday, January 4, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM on Catholicfmradio.com on the Infancy Gospels.

No Breakfast: We will not have a breakfast in January. The next breakfast will be on February 4th. We had two successful breakfasts in November and December and hope we are likewise successful in February.

Word

Theme: The Annunciation: Luke's Gospel is frequently referred to as the Gospel of Women. His Gospel tells us more about Mary and other women than all the other Gospels combined. He shows the important roles women have played in salvation history. The Infancy Gospel of Luke begins with two annunciations. Gabriel announces to Zechariah the birth of John the Baptist, and then announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus. Zechariah hesitates in accepting the angel's message, while Mary accepts the message although she does not fully understand it. People being struck mute for hesitating to believe an angel's message does not have a biblical precedent. Some scholars question the presentation of this event. Regarding the annunciations of the births of John and Jesus, Luke patterns on the Old Testament pattern of describing the annunciations of great people born to elderly couples. Those born to elderly parents often have a key role in salvation history. Luke, in the annunciation narratives, indicates that John the Baptist and Jesus will have key roles in salvation history. Luke, like the other Gospels, emphasizes that Jesus is greater than John the Baptist. John leaps in Elizabeth's womb in the presence of Mary.

Praying With Scripture:

1. Read Luke's infancy narrative, chapters 1 and 2 of his Gospel.
2. How does God call you to be an agent of grace in the presence of others?
3. How are Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary considered as figures of the Advent season?

Diocesan Annual Appeal: Currently, \$24,408 was donated by Good Shepherd to the Annual Appeal. We are at 93.8% of our \$26,000 goal. The Appeal continues in our parish until the goal is attained. Thanks to all who contributed to date. We thank Ruth Jones for delivering an excellent talk on the Annual Appeal on the weekend of December 9th and 10th.

First Friday: Friday, January 5, is the first Friday of the month. We will have our usual devotions following the 8:00 AM Mass. The devotions include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Devotion, and closing Benediction. Please join us if you are free.

Christmas and New Year (Solemnity of the Mother of God) Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve: 4:00 and 9:00 PM

Christmas Day: 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Sunday, New Year's Eve - Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary: 4:00 PM

Monday, New Year's Day – 10:00 AM only

The Solemnity of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation, and it is a good thing to start off the New Year by attending Mass. The regular weekend schedule of the 23rd and 24th of December and December 30th and 31st will remain the same – vigil at 4:00 PM and Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 AM.

Oplatki Wafers: Packs of Oplatki wafers are available on the table in the church vestibule. The cost is \$3.00 per pack of five wafers.

2018 Calendars are on the table in the church vestibule.

FR. CONNELL'S TRIVIA

1. Which 2 Yankees homered from both sides of the plate in the same game in 2000, the first teammates to do so?
2. What player hit the first World Series homerun in Yankee Stadium? Hints – it happened in 1923 and it was an inside the park one. This player, although a solid Major Leaguer, would become much better known in another capacity for the Yankees many years later.

Last Week's Answers:

1. Ron Reed was a star pitcher for the Phillies and also a star basketball player for Notre Dame and played several years in the NBA.
2. Al Leiter was the first pitcher to win at least one game against every current Major League team.

Community

Tuesday Night Bingo at Good Shepherd Church will resume on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018.**



The Valley Food Pantry helps those in need of food, paper products, and hygienic articles. We have been asked to collect tuna, canned vegetables, and rice. Please check expiration dates.

Good Shepherd Choir Notes

The children will be singing at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass beginning at 3:30 PM. The Good Shepherd Choir will be singing at the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass beginning at 8:30 PM, and will sing at the 10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass beginning at 9:30 AM.

The Women of Good Shepherd

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 8,** at **6:30 PM** in the St. Joseph Room.

Kiss of Peace

The reading of hearts in the meeting of eyes
At the holiest hour
The reaching out to friend, to stranger
With a smile and a promise.
Offering assurance that one is wanted and is needed
Pledging love and loyalty
Briefly touching, tasting community
In anticipation of tasting the Lord.

Rev. Connell A. McHugh