



Good Shepherd Church

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

December 30 & 31, 2017



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

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

Monday January 1 – Solemnity of Mary
10:00 AM Joan Sauers ~ Elaine Beltrami

Tuesday January 2
8:00 AM Veronica Astorino ~ Marty & Carol Mylet

Wednesday January 3
8:00 AM Helen Zelenak ~ Angelo & Pat Gadola & Family

Thursday January 4
8:00 AM Viola T. Ritz ~ Gallagher Family

Friday January 5
8:00 AM Elizabeth & Joseph Gallagher ~ Carey & Val Gallagher

Saturday January 6
4:00 PM Margaret Petrovich ~ Son, Sonny & Frances Petrovich and Daughter, Patsy Rinehimer

Sunday January 7
8:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
10:00 AM James A. Hoffman ~ Wife, Claire & Family



FROM THE PASTOR... *Fr. McHugh.*

Correction: The Solemnity of Mary, while a holy day of obligation, is exempt from mandatory attendance at Mass when it falls on a Monday or Saturday. You do not have to attend the Solemnity of Mary this time. Since there is not an obligation to attend, I will not have a Sunday Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31st. I will have Mass on New Year's Day at 10:00 AM.

Faith Formation: This will resume on Monday, January 8, at the regular 4:30 PM time.

Mass at Providence Place: This will be held on Tuesday, January 2, at 10:00 AM.

Thank You: I thank all who sent me cards, remembrances in Masses, and gifts for Christmas. I appreciate your generosity. I do request that you do not give me any goodies in the future.

Fr. Steven Brosk: We are grateful to Fr. Steven Brosk for taking a weekend and a Christmas Mass which allowed us the ability to not reduce the number of weekend or Christmas Masses. Many area parishes did cut either a Christmas or weekend liturgy. Fr. Steven will also take the week of January 8th for me.

Internet Scripture and YouTube Presentations: Fr. McHugh will present the second part of an Infancy Gospel series on Catholicfmradio.com on Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 PM. Just go to your computer and type in "Catholicfmradio.com" and listen in. Within a week or so after the presentation, it will also be on YouTube. Just type in "Father Connell McHugh Biblical Narratives" to reach the site.

Decorations: We thank all those involved in decorating the church for Christmas: Joe Chura, Jay Lindsey, Barbara Lawrence, Connie Marcino, and Marilyn Tedesco. The manger scene was modeled on the scene in the lobby of The Pines where we held our Christmas party this year.

Stewardship

680 families received envelopes.
 Offertory Envelopes for the weekend 12/23:

MASS TIME	NUMBER OF FAMILIES OFFERING	AMOUNT OF OFFERING	ATTENDANCE AT MASS
4:00 PM	81	\$ 918.00	242
8:00 AM	57	\$ 755.00	115
10:00 AM	32	\$ 474.00	105
	Loose	\$ 154.00	
	Total	\$2,301.00	462

Worship

The Tabernacle Candle burns this week in memory of Joseph Bousk by Louise and Edward Quinn.

The Rose for Life this week is in memory of Marian Matusick Chavez by Patsy Rinehimer

Music Ministry: We thank Carmella LaBuz and all those involved in the music ministry for enhancing our Masses so much. We had music at all the Masses except the 8:00 AM Sunday, which was a rare “quiet Mass.” The choir presented carols before the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass and before the 10:00 AM Christmas morning liturgy. The presentation of carols was a lengthy one lasting a half hour. The children also made a 10-15 minute presentation of carols before the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass which was also well-received.

Word

Theme: The Family is the Backbone of the Church:

The alternate readings from Sirach 3:2-6 and Colossians 3:12-17, in my opinion, are much better choices than the selections from Genesis and Hebrews. The selection from Sirach consists of a collection of religious instructions that guide individuals, families, and the community in their daily lives. The duties towards parents are based on the duties towards God. Sirach calls for love and reverence towards father and mother, especially elderly parents. The short reading from Colossians omits the archaic phrase “wives should be submissive to their husbands,” and instead focuses on those virtues which represent the Christian life and are taught in a loving family: compassion, gentleness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and of course, love. The Gospel for today is the Presentation in the Temple. Simeon, a devout, righteous Jew who was promised that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, encounters Jesus and blesses Him. He recites the Canticle prayer, the Nunc Dimittis, which is recited each day in the Office. Also in the Temple was Anna, a holy woman. Luke, very often when he offers a story about a woman or a man, will follow that with a story about a person of the opposite gender. We know that there are many threats to family unity today. The complexity of the contemporary family life is challenging. The family not only forms values, but really is a “little church.” Prayer and virtue are learned in the family. The Gospel illustrates that Joseph and Mary are faithful to their Jewish religion and that Jesus has an ideal situation to learn values.

Praying With Scripture:

1. Think of the values your own family emphasized and instilled in you.
2. Do you feel family life is less effective today than in the 1940s and '50s?
3. Recommit yourself to helping your own family and the church family.

When Christmas Falls on a Monday: This is the most difficult day to arrange a Mass schedule. I chose to not cut any weekend or Christmas Masses. In retrospect, I could have had one Mass only on Sunday morning and one on Christmas morning since we had a total of approximately 220 people on Sunday morning and 275 on Christmas morning. Since I had the assistance of Fr. Steven, I played it safe since there could always be a winter storm that would make it difficult to attend Mass on the day the storm occurs. I hope all enjoyed participating in the Masses. I know I did.

First Friday Devotions: Friday, January 5, is the first Friday of the month. Following the 8:00 AM Mass, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Devotion, and closing Benediction. Join us if you are free.

The Women of Good Shepherd

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

FR. CONNELL'S TRIVIA

1. Who lost the most games in Major League history?
2. Who was the first player to appear as a designated hitter in all 162 games? Hint – he was a solid player for over 20 years for multiple teams. However, he is not in the Hall of Fame.

Last Week's Answers:

1. Jorge Posada and Bernie Williams homered from both sides of the plate in the same game in 2000, the first teammates to do so.
2. Casey Stengel hit the first homerun in Yankee Stadium in 1923 as a member of the Giants. Later, he would attain great success as manager of the Yankees.

Community

Tuesday Night Bingo at Good Shepherd Church will resume on

Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Bingo starts with our Early Bird game at 6:00 PM. We play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Our regular games pay \$100 each.

The kitchen opens at 5:00 PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. We also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to our players (and volunteers).



The Valley Food Pantry helps those in need of food, paper products, and hygienic articles. We have been asked to collect tissues, tuna, stewed tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, rice and pancake mix and syrup. Please check expiration dates.

The Shepherd's Hands

Members of our group were busy elves, addressing and sending Christmas greetings to members of Good Shepherd Church who are shut-ins.

Because of the generous grant we received from the Diocese, we were able to give gift cards from Giant Food Store to the residents of Divine Providence Homeless Shelter in Hazleton. Two of our members played Santa and delivered them on Christmas Eve. Once a month, a group, mostly from Good Shepherd Church, prepares and serves a hot meal to the residents of the shelter. We are "warmed" so much by this.

We have big plans for 2018, including activities and projects for the post-Confirmation students. We will again sell pretzels on Father's Day weekend and perhaps, donuts for a pre-Lenten fundraiser – both to benefit The Shepherd's Hands. We will continue the luncheon and the sock giveaway at the Salvation Army (thanks to your generosity) and the Rose for Life program.

We always welcome new members. We meet the first Thursday of each month. Come and join us for prayer, fellowship, and service on **January 4th at 6:00 PM** in the St. Joseph Room. See you there! Have a happy and blessed New Year!

- submitted by Jean Klinger