



MAKING CHRIST A REALITY IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE

Pastor: Rev. Joseph C. Bordonaro
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. J. A. Grant

School: 850 Euclid Avenue, Warrington
Principal: Mrs. Deborah Jaster
Religious Education: Mrs. Cathy Cain
CCD Office: 215-672-9990/ 3020
Music Director: Mrs. Maria Lennon
 mariaalennon@comcast.net

WEBSITE: WWW.SAINTJOSEPHCHURCH.US

RECTORY: 215-672-3020 (9AM-4PM Mon. to Fri.) **EMAIL:** sjc18976@verizon.net
SCHOOL: 215-343-5100

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM,
 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM
Weekdays: 8:00 AM

Saturdays: 8:00 AM

Holy Days: 5:30 PM Vigil
 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays: 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

MASS FOR SHUT-INS:

TV - Sunday, 5:30 a.m. WPVI Channel 6,
 Radio - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. 89.3 FM

BAPTISMS: Parents should make arrangements with the Pastor at least one month before the date wanted. Baptism is celebrated on the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Sundays of the month at 12:30 PM. Preparation is held on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of each month, 7:30 PM, in Room 18 of the Church Building. Godparents must be practicing the faith and present a Letter of Eligibility from their parish. No date can be set for baptism until parents have fulfilled these responsibilities.

MATRIMONY: To set a date for a wedding, couples must make an appointment at the Rectory at least 6 months prior to the wedding date. Weddings can be scheduled for most Saturdays, at 12:00 Noon or 2:00 PM, or on Friday afternoons.

SICK CALLS: Phone the Rectory,
 215-672-3020.

REGISTRATION: All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should register. Boundaries: South of Street Road from Lower State Rd., to Norristown Rd., to County Line, to Blair Mill Rd., to Moreland Rd., to Maple Ave., to Horsham Rd., to Limekiln Pike, to Lower State Rd. & back to Street Road.

If you are not registered, we cannot serve you in ways which require us to know you. Please call the Rectory (215-672-3020.) We will welcome you as part of our community of faith.

PARISH ACTIVITIES: Catholic Youth Organization, CCD School of Religion, Choir (Adult and Children's), Home & School Association, Men's Group, Miraculous Medal Novena and Rosary, Respect Life Committee, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Senior Citizens, and Women's Group. (Notices for these groups are posted inside this bulletin.)

A Note from the Pastor



My Dear Parishioners,
 The Christmas Bazaar was a great success; thank you to all our vendors and volunteers. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Rita Roley, Mrs. Marilyn McCulla and their fantastic team of helpers. They planned and executed a great event for the parish. A job well done!

I also want to acknowledge and thank our CCD families and students. Last week we had a wonderful family Advent wreath and Christmas craft making event with parents and children in place of their regular class. It was a great way to bring parents and children together making items for the home with a religious theme. It was also a good opportunity for our CCD parents to meet other parents. A special thanks to Mrs. Danielle Staffieri who organized and received donations for our families to make a Christmas Nativity plaque using wood boards, some stickers and spray paint. Thanks also to our CCD students who donated over 50 boxes of items to the Samaritan's purse, which is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.



In the midst of all the hustle and preparations it is important that we take time to acknowledge the benefits and gifts God has blessed us with; I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the sacrifices you have made on behalf of your parish throughout the year. I am very grateful for your continued emotional, spiritual, and financial support. Your generosity inspires us all. I also want to repeat my thank you to all of our parish volunteers and remind you to pick up a special token of appreciation in classroom 18. You can choose from a number of previous items, or this year the featured gift is a custom mug with an imprint of our parish church.



The schedule for the remaining days of Advent is as follows: Our **Parish Penance** opportunity will be this **Thursday Dec. 14th at 7:00 p.m.** Additional priests will be on hand to hear confessions. Remember, there will be no actual penance service, but rather confessions will start being heard at 7:00 p.m. In addition, confessions are offered on **Saturday Dec. 23rd from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** and later that same evening from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The best opportunity will be December 14th with several additional confessors.



Continued on page 3...



Saturday	<u>December 9, 2017</u>	5:30pm	Mary Ann Dowzicky
Sunday	<u>December 10, 2017</u>	7:00am	People of the Parish
		8:30am	Raymond Generale
		10:00am	Dolores Connelly
		11:30am	Joseph Oberlies
Monday		8:00am	John F. Hayes & Family
Tuesday		8:00am	Rose & Sam Langetti
Wednesday		8:00am	Linda Generale
Thursday		8:00am	Joseph P. Chapman
Friday		8:00am	Bridget Callaghan
Saturday		8:00am	Deceased Members of the Sansoni Family
Saturday	<u>December 16, 2017</u>	5:30pm	Raymond & Clara Young
Sunday	<u>December 17, 2017</u>	7:00am	Jack Luchesi
		8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am	Stephen Hamby
		11:30am	Matthew Reilly

Please Pray For



Those who are ill: Betty Bell, Kim Bell, Gary Cain, Alicia Cruz, Bill Gaida, Lauren Gorniak, Bob Hagan, Paul Moran Kilbride, Eleanor McDonald, Dave McKay, Patricia O'Mara, baby Ronan Power, Ann Scanlon, Gil Sleutaris, Dorothy Smedley, Lorraine Smith, Jack Striewski and baby Violet Grace.

Sunday Collection

11/26/17: \$ 9,752.00
 11/27/16: \$ 8,762.00
 12/03/17: \$ 10,827.00
 12/04/16: \$ 9,506.00

This Week in Our Parish

Monday, December 11, 2017

- * Adoration – All Day – Church
- * Senior Citizens Meeting – 11 a.m. – Church Hall
- * Rosary – 7:30 p.m. – Church

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

- * RCIA – 7 p.m. – Room 18 - Church Bldg.

Thursday, December 14, 2017

- * BSA Troop 137 – 7:00 p.m. – Rectory Basement
- * Parish Advent Penance - 7:00 p.m. - Church

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3

A Note from the Pastor Continued...



There was one glitch this past weekend with the Christmas Bazaar, and that was the parking. I am sorry that some of you had trouble parking for Mass or were frustrated by the situation. I spoke with the people at the Bazaar and they assured me that next year we will have parking lot attendants to assist with the parking on this day. A number of people told me that it is time to put the yearly reminder in the bulletin about parking in the near lot and leaving large gaps in the middle. I ask your assistance once again with this issue especially during the Christmas Masses. When parking in the lot closest to the Church, please pull all the way up to the preceding car. If everyone parks in an end spot, we prevent others from getting a space. Also some of our guests may not be familiar with our parking routines and so I ask your help and patience in keeping it as orderly as possible.



God Bless you,
Fr. Bordonaro

I am the Immaculate Conception.

—Words of Our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, 1858

Monthly Food Drive

Like a Shepherd



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Our food collection is scheduled for the weekend of January 6th and 7th. Non-perishables only. Canned food items in greatest need are: **beef stew, tuna fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta, soups and pork & beans.**

Choir News



Come to Christmas Mass early and join in singing or just listen to **Christmas Caroles!** The Church Choirs, at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, and 10:00 a.m. Christmas morning masses, will be singing Christmas music for 20 minutes prior to Mass.

Any child who would like to sing with the Children's Choir at the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, please come to practice from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 16th and/or Saturday, December 23rd in the choir loft.

Any Adults who would like to sing or play an instrument with the choir at the 10:00 a.m. Mass Christmas Day, please come to practice on Thursday December 16th and/or Saturday, December 23rd at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft.

Adults who would like to sing or play an instrument the 11:30 am Christmas Mass, please meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Music Room Christmas morning.

Please contact Mrs. Maria Lennon at 215-896-9484 or mariaalennon@comcast.net for further information.

Tips from the Health and Help Ministry

Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year.

1. Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Clean your hands. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
6. Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food.

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)

CCD School of Religion

Please call 215-672-9990 or 215-672-3020 for information.



Class times: Tuesdays, 4:30- 5:50 p.m. and 6:15- 7:35 p.m.

December 2017

Tues., Dec. 12: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. Last CCD class until January 2, 2018! Merry Christmas!

January 2018

Tues., Jan. 2: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session including Junior/Senior High School.

Thurs., Jan. 4: 6:30 p.m., teachers meeting in school building.

Tues., Jan. 9: Grades "1", "2", "4", "5", "6" and Sacrament Class in session. 3rd Graders will report directly to the Church for First Penance practice from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Children will be dropped off and picked up from the Church not the school.

Wed., Jan. 10: Sacrament of First Penance for 3rd Graders, 7 p.m. in Church.

Tues., Jan. 16: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. "Protecting God's Children" classes will be presented to all grades.

Tues., Jan. 23: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. (Snow date for "Protecting God's Children" classes.)

Tues., Jan. 30: Grades 1-6 and Sacrament Class in session. End of first half of the year. Confirmation Class 2018 Service Projects due.

News of Comfort



In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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Bulletin Submittals

Please submit your bulletin requests to the Rectory. Requests may be emailed to sjc18976@verizon.net or dropped off at the Rectory Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We welcome your bulletin requests; however, all bulletin requests are subject to Pastor's approval and space availability.

St. Joseph/St. Robert School



ST. JOSEPH/ST. ROBERT SCHOOL
FOCUSED ON FAITH AND LEARNING

850 Euclid Avenue
Warrington, PA 18976
215-343-5100
www.STJSTR.ORG

Registration is now open for half day & full day Pre-K & K. Please call 215.343.5100, ext. 209 or email at kwilliamson@stjstr.org.

Tuition Assistance for 2018/2019 ~ Deadline Dec. 31, 2017

Applications for BLOCS Scholarships for the 2018-2019 year are now open. It is also recommended that you visit: www.Blocs.org and review the FAQ. It is very important that every SJR family review, and if you qualify, it is strongly recommended that you apply. Families can apply who have students enrolling in grades Pre-K through 12th. Families with one dependent must have an annual income of less than \$91, 620. For each additional dependent, you can make an additional \$15, 270 per child. To apply for tuition assistance please visit: <http://blocs.org/apply-scholarship/>

Treasures from our Tradition



Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.