Very Rev. Jeffery J. Noble, V.F., Pastor

Weekend Masses
Saturday Evening: 6:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 & 10:00 am

Confessions
Saturday: 4:30 pm
Thursday before First Friday: 4:00

Parish office Holiday hours:
Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

December 24, 2017

The True Gift of Christmas - Jesus

Merry Christmas
MINISTERS’ SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24th, 25th, 30th & 31st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td>7:30 AM</td>
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Please check the schedule in the vestibule and consider signing up to serve.

Greeters: Please feel free to welcome your fellow parishioners at the Mass you are attending. Thank you for your ministry!

All Ministers: Always check the website at www.qwchurch.com for any last minute changes to the ministers schedule. It is the most up to date for the schedule!

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is held at the 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Mass. If your child is between the ages of 5 years old through to third grade, have them participate in this special Children’s Liturgy.
DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday, December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday, December 26th
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16be and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27th
Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday, December 28th
Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29th
Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30th
Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31st
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
**LIFE TEEN**

- Visit the newly designed website: www.disciples.life.
- Text @DLIFE to 81010 to receive alerts and notifications of ministry events.
- Visit disciples.life to view upcoming Faith Formation events.

For more information, call Janet at 781-1019.

**COMMUNITY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Please note that there is NO 5 pm Community Mass on Sunday, Dec. 31 as previously scheduled. It would be too confusing given the Holy Day (without obligation) on Monday, Jan. 1, especially since there is a Vigil Mass scheduled at another parish in town. Our Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, Dec. 31: Saturday Vigil: 6 pm; Sunday, 7:30 and 10:00 am. For the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, New Year’s Day, one Mass at 9 am.

The next one will Sunday, Jan. 7.

**SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM**

Saint Vincent College in Latrobe will host its eighth annual Faith and Reason Summer Program, an intensive, one-week introduction to the Catholic liberal arts tradition. The program will be held June 10-15, 2018, and will be directed by Dr. Michael P. Krom, professor and chair of the Philosophy Department. Each day is structured around the Saint Vincent monastic schedule of prayer and Mass. During the class sessions, students analyze and discuss selected readings in a seminar setting. There also is time for recreational activities, movies and excursions to attractions in the Laurel Highlands and Pittsburgh areas. Housing in a college residence hall and three daily meals in the college dining hall are included in the cost ($495). Limited scholarship funding is available. Further information is available by contacting Dr. Krom at 724-805-2844 or emailing him at michael.krom@stvincent.edu. Registration is accepted at www.stvincent.edu/faithandreason.

**BENEDICTINE GIFT SHOP HOURS**

The Benedictine Gift Shop will be closed this Monday and Tuesday for the Christmas Holiday. The shop will be open Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 am to 5 pm and on Saturday, 10 am to 1:00 pm.

**MAKE IT.....A FAMILY CHRISTMAS**

If Christmas and the joys it brings have fallen into some remote, dusty corner of your life, now, this Christmas is the time for you to take a few simple steps to resurrect the spirit of Christmas in your life so that you can share once again it incomparable gifts of happiness and hope. Some suggestions on how YOU can work this transformation in your life so that the miracle of Christmas can come alive within you. **Make your Christmas a family Christmas!**

Make whatever efforts are necessary to be the bond which draws your family members together to experience and to share the “Good News” of Christmas.

How do you do that? By keeping in touch. By using a card, a letter, a phone call, a visit to open your life to make room for others to come into that life, by encouraging others’ lives to open, to venture away from a solitary, even lonely existence to taste the unsurpassed happiness of knowing, of sharing the feeling of family, of belonging, of loving.

The home, the family offer untold opportunities to us all to put into practice the virtues of kindness, patience, concern, caring. Christmastime multiples those opportunities even more. Whether you live in a home as a member of a family, a parish, or a community, you can share and spread the joy of a family Christmas with those around you.

Christmas offers us a golden opportunity to reflect on our love of God and our fellow human beings through material sacrifice. Remember the poor and your parish family at Christmas. Give them a place on your Christmas list. Remember the sick, the shut-ins you know, bring Christmas to them through yourself. Your visit, your greeting. Remember those you know, who like Ebeneezer Scrooge, do not keep Christmas or who have forgotten how to keep Christmas. In your own way, through prayer, through the incomparable gift of yourself, open their lives to Christmas, to a family Christmas. When you do these things, you can be sure that your Christmas will be a happy one, a Christmas which will leave its mark on your life and on the lives of others all year long.

**PRO-LIFE PERSPECTIVE** — A Christmas reflection:

“The Church knows how to celebrate; the world has forgotten. The Church knows how to receive and give life and love. But the world has become too preoccupied with usefulness, efficiency and productivity.” In this season of life and love, let us rejoice and be eternally grateful that we have been given such extravagant gifts.

*Fr. Frank Pavone*

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

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Dear Parishioners,

There’s a story coming out of World War II that American and German soldiers in trenches not far from one another began to sing “Silent Night” simultaneously, each in their own language, as Midnight came upon them Christmas Eve. Though each side was singing in its own native tongue, they all knew what they were singing. Eventually, they came out of their foxholes and joined their voices in praise of God coming in-the-flesh. For one night, at least, they recognized their common humanity, their need for salvation, and a moment of peace in the midst of war. That scene could be repeated in many places on earth tonight. There are places of war, for sure. And there are many other places where we have dug our trenches and sit in our foxholes, our one-sided ideals keeping us apart and fighting. We need a truce! But not one that lasts for a day. God came to us to make “peace” with us and for us. God came to unify the human family, to make us part of the same family. How could we gaze upon the Christ Child and come to any other conclusion? What commitment can we make to our Lord, ourselves, and one another to stop the division? Let’s start right where we are - by making our family lives work, and work better. That means give-and-take on the part of all of us. Forgiveness - communication - cooperation. Let’s also make the commitment to strengthen our faith family. Too many of us just come for Christmas and Easter. Too many of us come and pray liturgy like it’s being done to us, not with us. Each Mass is a celebration of Christ Jesus present to us in the flesh, a little Christmas. What is our gift to the King? There is much work to be done for the Church to give witness, to thrive, to grow, to bring the Good News of Jesus to others. Tomorrow, we pause for one day. We sing our praises to the Lord. We attend Mass. We have a deeper measure of peace and joy in our family. Let’s keep it going well past midnight, into the next day, the next week, the next year, the next crisis, and the next appearance of our Savior. Merry Christmas! Know that you will be in prayers in the liturgies of the entire Christmas season. - - fr jeff

WELCOME!

We welcome all our visitors and those who have come home for the holidays! Enjoy your time with family, and your celebrations of the Birth of the Lord. Be safe in your travels.

SEE YOU SOON!

Our Christmas Mass schedule begins this evening with Vigil Masses at 5 and 7:30 pm. The Principal Mass at Night will be celebrated at 10 pm. For each of these Masses, a music program will begin one-half hour prior to the Liturgy. Christmas morning Mass will be at 9 am. Be sure to come early to make sure you have a seat, especially for the evening Masses.

OTHER CHRISTMAS MASSES AROUND THE AREA

Sacred Heart Church: Vigil Masses - 4 & 6 pm; Principal Mass at Night is at 12:00 am (Hymns start at 11:30 pm). Christmas morning Masses will be at 7 & 11 am.

St. Mary’s Church: Vigil Masses - 4:30 & 7:30 pm; Principal Mass at Night is at 10:00 pm. Christmas morning Masses will be at 7:30 & 10:30 am

St. Boniface Church: Vigil Masses - 4:15 & 6:15 pm; Principal Mass at Night is at 11:15 pm. Christmas morning Mass is at 9:15 am

FROM US TO YOU!

Merry Christmas from Fr. Jeff and all our parish staff. You will be in our prayers as we celebrate our liturgies in this holy season.

The parish office will be closed Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday so that we can also enjoy some time with family.

NOT SO MERRY.....

Remember those for who Christmas will be difficult. In particular, we pray for those who are in mourning, those who are alone, and those who suffer from mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety. May the Peace of the Christ Child give you strength!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would still like to make a donation towards the Christmas Flowers in Honor of / Memory of someone, please use the envelope in your monthly packet or just place in a plain envelope with the information for your loved ones and mark the envelope: ‘For Christmas Flowers’. An acknowledgement flyer will appear in the bulletin after Christmas. Thank You in advance for helping to beautify our worship space for Christmas.