

December Newsletter

AS WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, FATHER MURPHY, DEACON SOTO, DEACON JIM, SISTER THERESA, SISTER JOAN, AND OUR PARISH STAFF. IT IS MY HOPE THAT OUR PARISH FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE THE JOY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH WITH ALL OF THEIR LOVED ONES. I WELCOME ON CHRISTMAS THOSE THAT HAVE RETURNED HOME FROM THE MILITARY, THOSE WHO ARE COMING HOME ON COLLEGE BREAK, AND THOSE THAT WILL BE VISITING FROM AFAR. LET US PRAY FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE TOGETHER THIS CHRISTMAS. MAY THEY FIND THE PEACE OF THE LORD.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MSGR. GEORGE



Our Lady of Fatima

***Welcomes you this Christmas Season to join us as a Catholic Community of Faith
Come Home for Christmas***

Celebrate the Birth of Christ this Christmas Season with family, friends, new parish family members, those returning home from college, those we welcome home from the military, those together for their 1st Christmas as a couple, and especially those celebrating the birth of a newborn child.

Christmas Eve Masses:

5:00PM; 7:00PM; 9:00PM (Spanish) and our beautiful solemn Night Mass at Midnight featuring a pre-Mass program of Christmas Choral music beginning at 11:30PM.

Our Midnight Mass begins as the bells of Christmas pierce the midnight clear and includes our special Christmas choir, instruments and beautiful choral arrangements of traditional Christmas carols and a memorable solo rendition of O Holy Night.

*This year come celebrate the child born on that Silent Night so long ago and find the peace of **that Little Town of Bethlehem**. Come be with us here at Our Lady of Fatima as we sing with all **the Angels We Have Heard on High** – “Glory to the newborn King!”*

Christmas Day Masses: 8AM & 10AM



"A TWO FOR ONE MASS" THIS YEAR. BECAUSE CATHOLICS ARE OBLIGED TO ATTEND MASS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION, SOME HAVE ASKED WHETHER A SUNDAY EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE WOULD FULFILL BOTH THE OBLIGATION FOR A SUNDAY MASS AND THE OBLIGATION FOR A CHRISTMAS DAY MASS. THE U.S. BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP HAS SAID THE FAITHFUL SHOULD ATTEND TWO MASSES TO FULFILL THEIR SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS MASS OBLIGATIONS. SINCE THE MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE CHURCH HAS ALLOWED FOR CATHOLICS TO ATTEND VIGIL, OR ANTICIPATED MASSES FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION AS "A CONVENIENCE FOR MANY OF THE FAITHFUL."

THUS, WHEN CONSECUTIVE OBLIGATIONS OCCUR ON SATURDAY-SUNDAY OR SUNDAY-MONDAY, **THE FAITHFUL MUST ATTEND MASS TWICE TO FULFILL TWO SEPARATE OBLIGATIONS.** ACCORDING TO THE BISHOP'S THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH OBLIGATIONS COULD BE FULFILLED IN ONE MASS HAS BEEN RAISED BEFORE BY BISHOPS IN WHAT IS CALLED A "DUBIUM" WHICH WAS ANSWERED IN THE NEGATIVE BY THE SACRED CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY AND APPROVED BY ST. POPE PAUL VI IN 1970.

SCRIP RAFFLE: Don't forget to visit the scrip table for their once a year raffle for the Christmas Season. It's only \$1 a chance to win a gift card for \$100 of your choice. Good Luck!



Due to security issues, church side and back doors will be locked just after the Mass begins. If you are running late, please use the front entrance of church to enter God's house. Thank you.

The Word Among us: Our subscription to the *Word among Us* is coming to a close the end of December. If you are interested in obtaining a subscription you may go online and order at wau.org/advent4. They are offering a two for one discount which expires on April 30, 2018. They also have available digital editions at a very cost effective price.

The Magnificat – If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the Magnificat each month, they have a pocket size convenient booklet for purchase. You may go online at www.magnificat.com to see their special pricing. Your prayer life will never be the same.



Congratulations: Job well done. Because of work completed during the first marking quarter at Padua Academy, the following students from our parish merited honors: High Honors: Danielle DuBois, Mackenzie McCall and Rachel Tomlinson. Congratulations from the parish community.

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

Reading St. Paul's instructions sound a little like "Mission Impossible," not to mention a wee bit Pollyannaish. "*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.*" The reality is more like this: Rejoice when something good happens. Pray when we need something. (I'm assuming I'm not the only one who falls into those bad habits.) So how do we incorporate these somewhat challenging practices into completely challenging lives? It's not complicated or time intensive. It can begin with one simple practice: gratitude.



You've probably heard spiritual gurus and self-help experts touting the power of a gratitude journal. There's a reason. It works. Writing down a few things for which we are grateful every day begins to change our perspective and our lives, and it's just a short leap from daily gratitude to ceaseless prayer. When we begin to count our blessings, we become more thankful for what we have and ore aware of what others don't have. Suddenly our ordinary moments are ripe for prayer. In line at the grocery store, in the waiting room at the doctor's office, sitting in traffic – all of it is an opportunity for grace to enter in and for our lives to become a prayer. We don't have to say nonstop Our Fathers, although that is an option. What we need to do is recognize the miracles in the mundane, the divine in the everyday, and realize there is always a reason to rejoice and give thanks.

On December 12th we celebrated our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration with a Mass at 7PM in our Church followed by a reception in the hall. What a wonderful tribute to Our Lady! We had over 650 parishioners attend and celebrate the Feast of ***Our Lady of Guadalupe***.

Our Parish Reconciliation was held on Thursday, December 14th with visiting priests available for confession. Thank you to all who participated in this Advent Parish Event.

On December 15th, our ***Christmas Giving Tree*** presents were due back to our parish. We collected well over 300 gifts for the needy of our community through our parish mission program. Thank you to Mary Lou May, Tina Ramsey and the entire Giving Tree Volunteer Team for their continued support of this wonderful outreach to the children of the community.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF TRUSTEES: ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, EACH CATHOLIC CHURCH MUST HOLD AN ELECTION FOR TWO LAY TRUSTEES ON THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER JANUARY 1ST. THEREFORE, WE WILL HOLD THIS ELECTION ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 AFTER THE 10:00 O'CLOCK MASS IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE CONVENT.



2017 Contribution: We will have a list of Church contributions made during the 2017 year available after January 15, 2018. You may call the rectory for this figure from Monday thru Friday, 9AM – 2PM. Thank you.

END OF YEAR GIVING:



Charitable Gifts are one of a few deductions still available for tax payers. Perhaps you may be thinking about a larger than usual gift to your parish. Giving before December 31st makes a lot of sense from a tax point of view. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our parish.

January Calendar: <http://olfnewcastle.com/wp-content/uploads/January-2018.pdf>