

Saint John Gualbert  
Cathedral  
PO Box 807  
Johnstown PA  
15907-0807



536-0117  
539-2611  
Cemetery Office  
536-0117  
Fax  
535-6771

[sigcathedral@outlook.com](mailto:sigcathedral@outlook.com)

*Bishop*

Most Rev Mark L Bartchak, DD

*Rector & Pastor*

Very Rev James F Crookston

*Parochial Vicar*

Father Clarence S Bridges

*In Residence*

Father Sean K Code

*Deacon*

Senior Deacon John J Concannon



### SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm

Sundays

8:00 am

11:00 am

5:00 pm



### DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday

7:00 am

12:05 pm

Saturday

8:00 am

### CONFESSION

Saturday

3:00 pm — Cathedral

Thursday before First Friday

3:00 pm — Cathedral

# Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.



## Sunday, December 11, ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

8:00 am: Tony & Betsy Bongiovanni (Ron & Teresa Buterbaugh)

11:00 am: Mary Louise Lowes, Anniversary (Bill & Cookie Antesberger)

5:00 pm: For the Intentions of the People of the Parish

## Monday, December 12, ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10 / Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

7:00 am: Margaret Mundok (Marty & Joann Herdman)

12:05 pm: Peter Yanko (Sister, Helen Wolf & Richard)

## Tuesday, December 13, ~ Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Readings: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 / Matthew 21:28-32

7:00 am: Paul Hollern, Sr., Anniversary (Ann Eicher & Son, Jeff)

12:05 pm: Ana Vencel-Knaze (Grandson, Steve Knaze)

## Wednesday, December 14, ~ Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Readings: Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25 / Luke 7:18-23

7:00 am: Francis P. Stephens (Wife & Children)

12:05 pm: Angeline & Tony Distefano (Joyce & Babe)

## Thursday, December 15, ~ Advent Weekday

Readings: Isaiah 54:1-10 / Luke 7:24-30

7:00 am: Herb Delawder, Anniversary (Wife, Cathy)

12:05 pm: Anthony Spenger, Anniversary (Daughter, Mary)

## Friday, December 16, ~ Advent Weekday

Readings: Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8 / John 5:33-36

7:00 am: Saint Anne Society

12:05 pm: Donna Spenger-Stecker, Anniversary (Sister, Mary)

## Saturday, December 17, ~ Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 / Matthew 1:1-17

8:00 am: Special Intention (Linda Delich)

5:00 pm: Helen Fabina, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Daughter, Peg & Son-in-law, Mike)

## Sunday, December 18, ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24

8:00 am: Corita Huffman (Husband, Charles & Family)

11:00 am: Roger Stoy (Family)

5:00 pm: For the Intentions of the People of the Parish

## From Father Crookston...

**Advent: 'Tis the Season for Reconciliation** Our parish reconciliation service is this Sunday, December 11, 1:30 PM. First Reconciliation for our second graders and their families will be part of part of this parish service. Several priests will be available for the hearing of confessions.

At least five additional opportunities exist for your celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. These are: Our Mother of Sorrows, Westmont – Monday, December 12, 6:30 PM; St Patrick, Moxham and Transfiguration, East Conemaugh – both Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM; St. Benedict, Geistown – Sunday, December 18, 5:00 PM; St Francis of Assisi, Morrellville – Monday, December 19, 5:00 PM.

**The Envelope Please** Your 2017 offertory envelopes will be available for pick up near the Clinton Street entrance ways beginning this weekend. Please take your envelopes home with you.

**Pope Francis** This Sunday, the Church, looks forward to the joy of Christmas, and that is why it is called "Gaudete Sunday". In this season, a time of preparation for Christmas, we wear dark vestments, but today they are pink for the blossoming of Christmas joy. And the joy of Christmas is a special joy; but it is a joy that isn't just for the day of Christmas, it is for the entire life of a Christian. It is a serene and tranquil joy, a joy that forever accompanies the Christian. Even in difficult moments, in moments of difficulty, this joy becomes peace. When he is a true Christian, the Christian never loses his peace, even in suffering. That peace is a gift from the Lord. Christian joy is a gift from the Lord. "Ah, Father, we'll have a nice big luncheon, everybody will be happy". This is lovely, a nice luncheon is good; but this isn't the Christian joy we are talking about today. Christian joy is something else. It brings us together to celebrate, it's true. Thus, the Church wants you to understand what Christian joy is.

To have this Christian joy, first, is prayer; second, to give thanks. And what do I do to give thanks? Reflect on your life and think of the many good things that life has given you: so many. "But, Father, it's true, but I have also received so many bad things!" - "Yes, it's true, it happens to us all. But think of the good things" - "I have a Christian family, Christian parents, thank God I have a job, my family is not suffering of hunger, we are all healthy...". I don't know, so many things, and give thanks to the Lord for this. This accustoms us to joy. Pray, give thanks.

Another dimension that will help us to have joy. It is to bring others the Good News: We are Christians. "Christian" comes from "Christ", and "Christ" means "anointed". And we too are "anointed". The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord consecrated me with unction. We are anointed: Christians mean "anointed ones". And why are we anointed? To do what? "He sent me to bring the good news" to whom? "To the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (cf. Is 61:1-2). This is the vocation of Christ and the vocation of Christians as well. To go to others, to those in need, whether their needs be material or spiritual.... Many people who suffer anxiety because of family problems.... To bring peace there, to bring the unction of Jesus, the oil of Jesus which does so much good and consoles souls.

**John the Baptist's** role in the divine plane was to prepare others of the coming of the Lord. Each of us whether single or married, lay or religious, has a unique role in God's plan. How are you fulfilling your personal vocation?

**Mt 11:2-11** - The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one...?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

**Liturgical Reflection...** Advent prepares us for Christmas. In the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, the couple is directed to diligently prepare for the celebration of their marriage. The couple participates in diocesan sponsored marriage preparation programs. Couples take the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) inventory; this is reviewed with the priest or deacon celebrating the marriage. Couples meet with the priest or deacon to discuss the theology of matrimony. And a time is scheduled to prepare the marriage celebration itself. Marriage is a serious life vocation and invites serious preparation.

## FROM OUR PARISH

### Angel Tree Ornaments -

All Angel Tree Ornaments have been distributed. However Our Christian Life and Service Committee sponsors are still accepting cash donations in support of this event. If you wish to make a cash donation please place in an envelope, mark "ANGEL TREE" on the envelope and place it in the collection basket or give to one of our priests. Those of you who already have an ornament are reminded to return your gifts at any Mass the weekend of December 10/11. The committee volunteers thank you in advance for your generous support.

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** Please note our new email address: [sjgcathedral@outlook.com](mailto:sjgcathedral@outlook.com).

**Offertory Envelopes for 2017** will be available to be picked up in the back of the church (daily). Please pick up your envelopes as soon as possible. Envelopes will NOT be mailed.

**Best Advent Ever** A special Advent program is available on your computer. And it's free. Simply type in: [dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/) Each day of Advent will bring you something inspirational including: short videos, practical tips for Advent, and free Christmas music. This is for your own and your family's faith enrichment.

**Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others-educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.

## FROM OTHER PARISHES & COMMUNITY

### CHRISTMAS GOB TRAYS!! St. Francis Church

"Famous" Gobs will be sold in tray form. Bakers Dozen (13) on each tray decorated beautifully for special Christmas Gifts! Chocolate Gobs will be available with red, green and white icing. Placed on decorated tray, cellophane wrapped and tied with a beautiful bow. *Deadline for orders: Sunday, December 11. Pick up for orders is Saturday, December 17 from 9:00AM - 12Noon.* Orders can be placed by calling Betty Spisak at 536-4934 or Alice Havers at 536-0948.

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, 120 Barron Avenue will present **A Festival of Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00PM. Please join us as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child. A light social will take place in the Activity Center following the presentation.

## 8 Gifts That Don't Cost A Cent

**The Gift of Listening:** But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

**The Gift of Affection:** Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

**The Gift of Laughter:** Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

**The Gift of a Written Note:** It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

**The Gift of a Compliment:** A simple and sincere "You look great", "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

**The Gift of a Favor:** Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

**The Gift of Solitude:** There are times we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

**The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition:** The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.

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Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

## A Christmas Tree Blessing

*After the fall of our first parents, the earth was bare and desolate; the world stood in the darkness of sin. But, when the Savior was born, our earth shone with new brightness; the glory of the Almighty had renewed the world, making it more beautiful than before. This tree once stood dark and empty in a cold world outside, but now it is resplendent with lights and bright decorations and has a new glory. This Christmas Tree reflects the new beauty that God brought to earth when, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." By the tree of the cross, the whole world has been redeemed and, therefore, with great joy we celebrate the glory of this, our own Christmas Tree.*

*Lord, we ask your blessing upon this tree. May its ever-greenness be a sign in our lives of the hope of the Christmas season, its glittering ornaments a sign of the joy of the Christmas season, and the gifts beneath it a sign of the love of the Christmas season. We ask this through the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



*An Advent of Christmas Concert will be held 7pm, Saturday, December 17 at St John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Youth Chorale under the direction of Cathedral music director, Evonne Yanzetich-Homway. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.*



**Tin Can Lanterns**

Fill a tin can with water and freeze until solid ice has formed. Lay can sideways on towel. With a hammer and nail, pound holes around the can in various patterns -snowflakes, birds, trees, etc. Put the can in the sink until the ice melts. Let it dry out. Add a tea light and watch the light reflect in the darkened room.



**COLLECTION: December 4, 2016**

Collection - cash	\$1,039.00
Collection - envelopes	\$5,427.61
Second Collection	\$329.13
Maintenance	\$543.00
Food collection	\$40.00
Retired Religious	\$115.00
Catholic Charities	\$45.00
Mission Sunday	\$5.00
All Souls	\$10.00
All Saints	\$35.00
Christmas	\$280.00
Christmas Flowers	\$971.00
Immaculate Conception	\$105.00

Total \$8,944.74

Thank you for your Stewardship!

**Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, CCA Gift Cards and Audio Operators December 17 - 18**

**Saturday, December 17, 5:00 PM**

Reader: Dixie Lochrie, need one volunteer  
 Eucharistic Minister: Elizabeth Gramlich, Russ Gramlich, Betty King, Patricia Loughlin, Christine Russell  
 Server: Randy Russell, Rylee Russell  
 Audio Operator: Kevin Slonka

**Sunday, December 18, 8:00 AM**

Reader: Carolyn Concannon, Fred Oliveros  
 Eucharistic Minister: Irene Ott, Rich Ott, Gloria Stephens, Valerie Wilson, Peter T. Yanko  
 Server: Jacob Scaletta, Madalyn Scaletta  
 CCA Gift Card: Lisa Leckey, Nicole Scaletta  
 Audio Operator: Rose Eckenrod

**Sunday, December 18, 11:00 AM**

Reader: Rachel Hall, Terry Johnson  
 Eucharistic Minister: Esperanza Bair, James Hollis, Russ Smith, David Wilson, Maryann Yanko  
 Server: Alaina Popovich, Hannah Rietscha  
 CCA Gift Card: Nichol Popovich, Lonnie Rietscha  
 Audio Operator: Tracy Smith

**Sunday, December 18, 5:00 PM**

Reader: Need two volunteers  
 Eucharistic Minister: Charlotte Amenti, Louise Aust, Vi Najjar, Pat Roth, James Sandoval  
 Server: Andrew Zierer, Brent Zierer  
 CCA Gift Card: Nikkita Babyak, need one volunteer  
 Audio Operator: Mattie Updyke

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*OF*

**DAVID J. WEAVER, ESQUIRE**

*515 Main Street*

*Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901*

*Telephone (814) 535-5571*

*Email: [dweaver@djweaverlaw.com](mailto:dweaver@djweaverlaw.com)*

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