

Saint John Gualbert
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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 Concanon

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

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.



Sunday, December 24, - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38

Vigil Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6 / Titus 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-14

8:00 am: Todd Mabon (Anthony & Marion Oravec)

11:00 am: Nicholas Marovic (David & Sheila Marovich)

5:00 pm: Christine Barber (Family)

Midnight: Peter Clark (Wife, Dorothy)

Monday, December 25, - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Dawn Readings: Isaiah 62:11-12 / Titus 3:4-7 / Luke 2:15-20

Day Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-6 / John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

8:00 am: Mr. & Mrs. John O'Donnell (Ed O'Donnell and Family)

11:00 pm: Michael Rosey, Anniversary (Family)

Tuesday, December 26, - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 / Matthew 10:17-22

7:00 am: Paul Hollern, Jr. Anniversary Dec. 25th (Loving Cousin, Jeff)

12:05 pm: Kasper Family (Valerie Kasper)

Wednesday, December 27, - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: 1 John 1:1-4 / John 20:1-8

7:00 am: James & Mildred Sexton (Daughter, Mary Elizabeth & Family)

12:05 pm: Elizabeth Klotz (Oliveros Family)

Thursday, December 28, - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2 / Matthew 2:13-18

7:00 am: Cheryl Eckenrod (Husband, Tom)

12:05 pm: Evelyn Mikas, Birthday Remembrance (Children)

Friday, December 29, - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Readings: 1 John 2:3-11 / Luke 2:22-35

7:00 am: Saint Anne Society

12:05 pm: Ernestine Barkhimer (Anna M. Barkhimer)

Saturday, December 30, - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Readings: 1 John 2:12-17 / Luke 2:36-40

8:00 am: Robert Crookston (Jonathan & Lindsey Despot)

5:00 pm: Frances Hasenstab, Birthday Remembrance (Daughter, Dorothy)

Sunday, December 31, - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

8:00 am: For the Intentions of the People of the Parish

11:00 am: Dorothy Ellis (David Ellis, Carol & Paul Harnish)

5:00 pm: Eleanor Heider (John & Cha Cha Bair)

From Father Crookston . . .

Welcome, Yule! We warmly welcome all who will come this Christmas Season to celebrate the glorious feast of the Messiah's birth. We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest! We welcome our students home from college for a good winter's rest! We welcome parishioners who moved far away but join us today as old friends! We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith. We hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again! We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true; may the Lord bless you for all you do! Welcome to all! May our gathering this Christmas gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds. We are after all one People of God -redeemed by the Light. May we walk by the Light and live by the Light -- together in the mercy and favor of Christ.

From Pope Francis' Homily at Christmas Midnight Mass 2016

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all". The words of the apostle Paul reveal the mystery of this holy night: The grace of God has appeared, his free gift. In the child given to us, the love of God is made visible.

To meet him, we need to go where he is. We need to bow down, to humble ourselves, to make ourselves small. The newborn child challenges us. He calls us to leave behind fleeting illusions and to turn to what is essential, to renounce our insatiable cravings, to abandon our endless yearning for things we will never have. We do well to leave such things behind, to discover, in the simplicity of the divine child, peace, joy and the luminous meaning of life.

Let us allow the child in the manger to challenge us, but let us also be challenged by all those children in today's world who are lying not in a crib, caressed with affection by their mothers and fathers, but in squalid "mangers that devour dignity."

Children who hide underground to escape bombardment, on the pavements of large cities, in the hold of a boat overladen with immigrants. ... Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by those children who are not allowed to be born, by those who cry because no one relieves their hunger, by those who hold in their hands not toys but weapons.

The mystery of Christmas, which is light and joy, challenges and unsettles us because it is at once a mystery of hope and of sadness. It has a taste of sadness, because love is not accepted, and life discarded. Such was the case with Joseph and Mary who met with closed doors, and placed Jesus in a manger "because there was no place for them in the inn." Jesus was born rejected by some and regarded by many others with indifference. Today too, that same indifference can exist, whenever Christmas becomes a holiday with ourselves at the center rather than Jesus; when the lights of shop windows push the light of God into the shadows; when we are enthused about gifts but indifferent to our neighbors in need. This worldliness has kidnapped Christmas; we need to liberate it!

Yet Christmas has above all a taste of hope because, for all the darkness in our lives, God's light shines forth. His gentle light does not frighten us. God, who is in love with us, draws us to himself with his tenderness, by being born poor and frail in our midst, as one of us.

He is born in Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." In this way, he seems to tell us that he is born as bread for us; he enters our life to give us his life; he comes into our world to give us his love. He does not come to devour or to lord it over us, but instead to feed and serve us.

There is a straight line between the manger and the cross where Jesus will become bread that is broken. It is the straight line of love that gives and saves, the love that brings light to our lives and peace to our hearts. That night the shepherds understood this. They were among the marginalized of those times. Yet no one is marginalized in the sight of God, and that Christmas, they themselves were the guests. People who felt sure of themselves, self-sufficient, were at home with their possessions. It was the shepherds who "set out with haste."

Tonight, may we too be challenged and called by Jesus. Let us approach him with trust, starting from all those things that make us feel marginalized, from our limitations and our sins. Let us be touched by the tenderness that saves. Let us draw close to God who draws close to us. Let us pause to gaze upon the crib and relive in our imagination the birth of Jesus: light and peace, dire poverty and rejection.

With the shepherds, let us enter the real Christmas, bringing to Jesus all that we are, our alienation, our unhealed wounds, our sins. Then, in Jesus, we will enjoy the taste of the true spirit of Christmas: the beauty of being loved by God. With Mary and Joseph, let us pause before the manger, before Jesus who is born as bread for my life. Contemplating his humble and infinite love, let us simply tell him: Thank you. Thank you because you have done all this for me.

FROM OUR PARISH

What I Know Now- Letters to my Younger Self, a collection of letters by Ellyn Spragins, will be the next read for the **Saint John Gualbert Book Club**. It asks the question, "If you could send a letter back through time to your younger self, what would the letter say?" It is a moving collection filled with advice and insights from forty-one famous folks to themselves years before. This book is available at our local library. The next meeting will be Monday, January 15, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Activity Center. Start your year off by reading this book and joining us for fellowship and conversation.

Offertory Envelopes for 2018 will be available to be picked up in the back of the church at all Masses this weekend.

Our weekly **Bulletins** are available on the Home Page of our website at www.stjohngualbert.org.

FROM OTHER PARISHES & THE COMMUNITY

St. Benedict 2018 Winter/Spring Bible Study Schedule - The letter of St. Paul that is heard more often than any other as the Second Reading on Sundays in the three-year Catholic lectionary, is his Letter to the Romans. This letter is the longest, the most influential and most rewarding of Paul's undisputed letters. The Letter to the Romans is a powerful exposition of the doctrine of the supremacy of Christ and of faith in Christ as the source of salvation. It is an implicit plea to the Christians at Rome, and to all Christians, to hold fast to that faith. Deacon Michael Russo will facilitate an in-depth study of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans Saturdays from 9:30 -11:30 AM beginning January 6th in the School Music Room. Please bring your Bible. For additional information, contact Deacon Michael at 288-3036 or michael.russo@atlanticbb.net. ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus invite girls in grades 7-12 to a weekend retreat, Stepping Stones to Prayer, from Jan 12-14, 2018. Held at St. Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Rd., Portage, the weekend begins Fri 6:00pm to Sun. 1:00pm. Please register by Wednesday, January 10th by contacting Sister Jacinta sisterjacinta@gmail.com or 814-886-4459. Meals will be provided. Suggested donation \$35.

New Benedictine Oblate Novices Benedictine Oblate Moderator for the Johnstown Deanery, Deacon Michael Russo welcomes four new Benedictine Oblate Novices to the Benedictine Oblate Community: Lori Little, Jerome

Nevling, Lori Nevling, and Jill Van Scoyoc. Their installation is set for the February meeting.

The Johnstown Deanery parishes meet monthly at St. Benedict Church, Johnstown. Beginning in February, the Benedictine Oblates will meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. The monthly meeting begins with Evening Prayer in the church followed by the regular meeting in the St. John Paul II Center on the campus of St. Benedict Church. The Oblates are currently discussing the book, "Everyone Needs to Forgive Somebody" by Allen R. Hunt.

All are welcome to attend and learn about Benedictine Spirituality and the role St. Benedict plays in drawing us closer to God. For more information contact Deacon Michael at 288-3036 or michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

Families and the Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Q: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son who ran away from them and was eventually executed as a criminal?

A: HOLY! Two lessons: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with You." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

Families and the Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving **acceptance** of our children.

Liturgical Reflection... The word of God at the time of death reminds believers of the promise of life. The biblical readings proclaim to those gathered the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the living to give witness to the Christian life. The living word of God provides those mourning the opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998 1989, General Introduction, Number 22.

Liturgical Reflection... The Eternal Word of God becomes flesh and makes his dwelling among us. This is Christmas Day and the Christian world celebrates the mystery of God becoming one like us in all things but sin. In the course of time and when all was ready, God sent us his only begotten Son. The God who has no beginning or end has arrived as an infant in a manger. We are filled with holy awe; we gather with the angels and shepherds to sing our Christmas praises. Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will!

COLLECTION: December 17, 2017

Collection – cash	\$969.20
Collection – envelopes	\$3,689.90
Flush Fund	\$302.75
Immaculate Conception	\$33.00
Maintenance	\$46.00
Retirement for Religious	\$335.00
Christmas	\$125.00
Christmas Flowers	\$81.00

Total \$5,581.85

Thank you for your Stewardship

What is Hope?

First of all, it's not wishful thinking. I can wish to win a lottery, but that wish, all by itself, contains no real power to make it happen. Second, hope is not just natural optimism, an upbeat temperament that always sees the bright side of things. An unwavering optimism about things can sometimes even be helpful, but it's no basis for hope, like wishful thinking it lacks the power to make its own dream come true. Finally, hope is not simply shrewd observation and common sense, the talent for sorting out the real from the fluff. Useful as this is, it's still not hope. Why not?

Because hope doesn't base itself upon a shrewd assessment of the empirical facts, but upon belief in a deeper set of realities: God's existence, God's power, God's goodness, and the promise that flows from that...

We light advent candles with just that in mind ...we continue to light candles and hope anyway, not on the basis of a worsening or improving evening newscast, but because the deepest reality of all is that God exists... We light candles of hope because God, who is more real than anything else, has promised to establish a kingdom of love and peace on this earth and is gracious, forgiving, and powerful enough to do it.

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"Apple Seeds", Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

**Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers,
CCA Gift Cards and Audio Operators, Dec 30 – Jan 1****Saturday, December 30, 5:00 PM**

Reader: Dixie Lochrie, Larry Olek

Eucharistic Minister: Russ Gramlich, Betty King,
Elizabeth King, Patricia Loughlin, Amy Oliveros

Server: Keara Brandon, Thomas Meagher

Audio Operator: Kevin Slonka

Sunday, December 31, 8:00 AM

Reader: Dave Harteis, Heather Jezeskie

Eucharistic Minister: Anthony Kamnikar, Susan Kamnikar,
Rose Ann Schellhammer, Gloria Stephens,
Diane Thomas

Server: Carlie Jezeskie, Ron Jezeskie

Gift Card: Kara Homan-Gustkey

Audio Operator: Ronnie Jezeskie

Sunday, December 31, 11:00 AM

Reader: Terry Johnson, Beth Stem

Eucharistic Minister: Jodie Hall, Gene Podratsky,
Lonnie Rietscha, Russ Smith, David Wilson

Server: Hannah Rietscha, John Werzyn

Gift Card: Lonnie Rietscha

Audio Operator: Tracy Smith

Sunday, December 31, 5:00 PM

Reader: Christine Brothers, Vi Najjar

Eucharistic Minister: Charlotte Amenti, Louise Aust,
Pat Roth, Justin Zierer, need one volunteer

Server: Namita Gallo, James Sandoval

Audio Operator: Matthew Updyke

Monday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Reader: Mary Jane Verbiar, need one volunteer

Eucharistic Minister: Carmen Grasso, Sam Grasso,
Rose Ann Schellhammer, Valerie Wilson

Server: need two volunteers

Audio Operator: need one volunteer

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