

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

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;  
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.



## 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)

## Monday, January 1, - The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;

**The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

Readings: Numbers 6:22-27 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:16-21

9:00 am: Florence Eckenrod, Birthday Remembrance (Pat & Denny Heptner)

9:00 am: Roger Stoy (Stoy Girls)

## Tuesday, January 2, - Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,

**Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

Readings: 1 John 2:22-28 / John 1:19-28

7:00 am: Mary Spenger (Mary Spenger Estate)

12:05 pm: Eileen Wehner (Barbara Knect)

## Wednesday, January 3, - Christmas Weekday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings: 1 John 2:29-3:6 / John 1:29-34

7:00 am: Saint Anne Society

12:05 pm: Don Behe (Dorothy, John Jr., & Mary Alice Behe)

## Thursday, January 4, - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Readings: 1 John 3:7-10 / John 1:35-42

7:00 am: Frank Trio (Eugene & Gina Kupchella)

12:05 pm: Geraldine Herdman, Birthday Remembrance (Family)

## Friday, January 5, - Saint John Neumann, Bishop

Readings: 1 John 3:11-21 / John 1:43-51

7:00 am: Mary C. Weinzeirl (Jean Ann Walls & Family)

12:05 pm: Marie Werner (Janet Koval)

## Saturday, January 6, - Christmas Weekday, Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

Readings: 1 John 5:5-13 / Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38

8:00 am: Anna Kegg (Sue Klingensmith)

5:00 pm: Leo W. Klug, Jr. (Cathy & Jensen Delawder)

## Sunday, January 7, - The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12

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

11:00 am: John W. Sweeney, Sr., Birthday Remembrance

(Wife, Children & Families)

5:00 pm: Jack Brady (Butch Huffman, Jackie & Gary Horvath)

From Father Crookston . . .

**Ministries Make Yuletide Glorious** Our voices, along with piano, organ, brass, wind, and percussion are wonderfully uplifting our Christmas worship. The musical splendor evokes glee, and exuberant, spiritual joy. Evonne Yanzetich-Homway directs choral and instrumental excellence and enlivens our praise of God. The Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Youth Chorale bring warm, brilliant coloring to beloved Christmas hymns and inspiration echoing the heavenly angelic chorus.

The artistic efforts of Patricia Loughlin, Elizabeth Gramlich, and many others magnificently embellish our foyer and sanctuary. Church custodians, Marylee Gelles and Donald Henry, give sparkle to pew, wall, and floor. Ushers and altar ministers also help create an uplifting atmosphere for our worship of the Christ who has come to dwell among us. Also, the highly appreciative assemblage for our Advent of Christmas Concert continues to share with friends their joyous memories of the beautiful musical offerings by the Festival Choir and Chorale, and the Hilltop Chamber Orchestra.

**Obligation Set Aside** We observe of the Solemnity of Mary as the Holy Mother of God with Mass on Monday, January 1, at **9:00 AM**. The holy day obligation does not apply this year because the Solemnity is adjacent to Sunday. Begin 2018 with Mass as we invoke Mary's intercession.

To say yes to our vow as a spouse, to our vocation as a parent, to our friendships and commitments, is hard, constant work. On New Year's Day, we celebrate just such a yes: Mary's yes to God's call to her to be what the Eastern Church calls Theotokos — the "bearer of God." Despite her understandable confusion and fear, Mary's yes is offered in complete faith and trust in the God of all that is good. Moreover, because of her yes, the Christ event, the new Genesis, the second creation begins. In her yes to God, Mary our sister becomes a model for and inspiration to our own yes to God and our yes to one another.

**Pro-Life Ribbon Campaign** in support of pro-life will be conducted before and after all Masses next weekend, January 6/7. The annual March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19, in Washington DC. For bus information, call Vi Najjar at 536-7137 or Pat Loughlin 255-8915. Limited seating is available. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this effort.

**Pope Francis on the Holy Family** On this first Sunday after Christmas, while we are still immersed in the joyous climate of celebration, the Church calls us to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth. The Gospel today presents Our Lady and St Joseph at the time when, 40 days after Jesus' birth, they go to the temple in Jerusalem.

We can imagine this tiny family, amid so many people, in the temple's grand courtyards. They do not stand out; they are not distinguishable. Yet they do not pass unnoticed! Two older adults, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, approach and praise God for that Child, in whom they recognize the Messiah, the light of the people and the salvation of Israel (cf. Lk 2:22-38). It is a simple moment but rich with prophecy: the encounter between two young spouses full of joy and faith due to the grace of the Lord; and two elderly people also filled with joy and faith through the action of the Spirit. Who causes them to meet? Jesus. Jesus makes them meet: young and old. Jesus is He who brings generations closer. He is the font of that love which unites families and people, conquering all diffidence, all isolation, all distance. This causes us to also think of grandparents: how vital their presence is, the presence of grandparents! How valuable their role is in the family and society! A good relationship between the young and the elderly is crucial for the journey of the civil and ecclesial community. Looking at these two elderly people — Simeon and Anna — let us greet from here, with applause, all the worlds' grandparents.

The message that comes from the Holy Family is first a message of faith. In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the center, and He is so in the Person of Jesus. Therefore, the Family of Nazareth is holy. Why? Because it is centered on Jesus.

When parents and children together breathe in this climate of faith, they have an energy that allows them to face even difficult trials, as the experience of the Holy Family shows, for example, in the dramatic event of their flight to Egypt: a stressful ordeal.

The Baby Jesus with his Mother Mary and with St Joseph are a pure but so luminous icon of the family. The light it casts is the light of mercy and salvation for all the world, the light of truth for every man, for the human family and for individual families. This light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth in those family situations in which, for various reasons, peace is lacking, harmony is lacking, and forgiveness is lacking. May our concrete solidarity not diminish especially about the families who are experiencing more difficult situations due to illness, unemployment, discrimination, the need to emigrate. Let us pause here for a moment and pray in silence for all these families in difficulty, whether due to problems of illness, unemployment, discrimination, need to emigrate, due to difficulty in understanding each other and to disunion. Let us pray in silence for all these families.

Let us entrust to Mary, Queen and mother of the family, all the families of the world, that they may live in faith, in accord, in mutual aid, and for this, I invoke upon them the maternal protection of the One who was the mother and daughter of her Son.

## 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.

**2018 Offertory Envelopes** are available in the back of the church through January 1, 2018. After that you can pick up your envelopes at the church rectory. A complete list of envelopes sent to the rectory will be printed in next week's bulletin.

**Our weekly Bulletins** are available on the Home Page of our website at [www.stjohngualbert.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:sisterjacinta@gmail.com) or 814-886-4459. Meals will be provided. Suggested donation \$35.

## People Touch Our Lives

People important to you, people unimportant to you, cross your life, touch it with love and carelessness, and move on. There are people that leave you, and you breathe a sigh of relief, and you wonder why you ever came in contact with them. There are people who leave, and you breathe a sigh of remorse, and wonder why they had to go and leave such a gaping hole.

Children leave parents, friends leave friends, acquaintances move on. You think on the many who have moved into your life with hazy memory. You look on those present and wonder.

I believe in God's master plan for our lives.

People move in and out of each other's lives, and each leaves his mark on the other. You find you are made up of bits and pieces of all who have touched your life, and you are more because of it, and you would be less if they had not touched you.



Pray to God that you can accept the bits and pieces in humility and wonder, and never question, and never regret.

Reprinted from Apple Seeds  
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR

## Spiritual Resolutions

It's that time of year when we flood to the health clubs, hit the jogging trails and throw out the cookies. We work on our physical fitness but what about our spiritual fitness?



January: Breathe in the patient love of God. "Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live" (Ez 37:5).

Be aware of how essential healthy breathing is to all other physical activity. Notice when you hold your breath rather than letting it flow (often when anxious or stressed). When you exert yourself physically, listen to the rhythm of your breath. Listen to your breath at rest. Listen to the breath of others. Let the breath of God fill you in moments of stress and anxiety. Exhale. Think of your words and actions as God breathing out of you and into others in your family, neighborhood, schools, places of work.

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**COLLECTION: December 24, 2017 & Christmas**

Collection – cash	\$1,568.43
Collection – envelopes	\$4,103.38
Flush Fund	\$715.00
Immaculate Conception	\$63.00
Maintenance	\$45.00
Retirement for Religious	\$70.00
Christmas - cash	\$1,427.46
Christmas - envelopes	\$10,277.50
Christmas Flowers	\$25.00
New Year's	\$10.00
Catholic Charities	\$5.00

Total 18,309.77

Thank you for your Stewardship

**Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers,  
CCA Gift Cards and Audio Operators, Jan. 6-7**

**Saturday, January 6, 5:00 PM**

**Reader:** Patricia Loughlin, Karen Pavlosky  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Elizabeth Gramlich, Russ Gramlich,  
 Betty King, Elizabeth King, Christine Russell  
**Server:** Randy Russell, Rylee Russell  
**Audio Operator:** Michael Stoskey

**Sunday, January 7, 8:00 AM**

**Reader:** Heather Jezeskie, Brigid Starchok  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Carmen Grasso, Sam Grasso,  
 Irene Ott, Rich Ott, Rose Ann Schellhammer  
**Server:** Carlie Jezeskie, Ron Jezeskie  
**Gift Card:** Neil Leckey  
**Audio Operator:** Ronnie Jezeskie

**Sunday, January 7, 11:00 AM**

**Reader:** Christine Brothers, Mary Jane Verbiar  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Esperanza Bair, Jodie Hall,  
 Gene Podratsky, Russ Smith, David Wilson  
**Server:** Damien Byer, Rachel Hall  
**Gift Card:** Ron Michlena  
**Audio Operator:** Tracy Smith

**Sunday, January 7, 5:00 PM**

**Reader:** Dixie Lochrie, Michael Stuck  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Charlotte Amenti, Louise Aust,  
 Pat Roth, James Sandoval, Justin Zierer  
**Server:** Vi Najjar, Eli Updyke  
**Audio Operator:** Monica Updyke

We are called to offer everything we have in faith as an offering to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Christian stewards are called to "give thanks to God" as we offer our gifts in the "peace of Christ."

**Families and the Gospel: Luke 2:15-20**

The gospel shows Mary and Joseph weren't perfect parents. Have you ever been amazed and astonished at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company - so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

**Liturgical Reflection...** We gaze at the Holy Family this Christmas time. We gather with our families these days of Christmas. Our attention is focused on the infant who is surrounded by love. We pray that our families be grounded in the love of the newborn Child. When faced with challenges and crises, turn to the Holy Family and seek guidance and protection. When the challenges of life seem overbearing, turn to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to find comfort. Pray for right judgement and the faith to live in harmony.

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