

Saint John Gualbert
Cathedral
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Most Rev Bishop
Mark L. Bartchak, JDC

Rector & Pastor
Very Rev James F. Crookston

SUNDAY LITURGIES

Saturday Evening
5:00 pm

Sundays
8:00 am
11:00 am
5:00 pm

OUTDOOR COMMUNION

Sundays
12:30-1:00 pm
St John Activities Center

DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday
7:00 am
12:05 pm

Saturday
8:00 am

CONFESSION

Thursday before 1st Friday 3:00 pm
Saturday 3:00 pm @ the Cathedral

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish

ALL MASSES ARE NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CALL THE RECTORY TO SECURE A WEEKEND SEATING LOCATION

Prepare the way of
the Lord, make straight
his paths: All flesh shall
see the salvation of God.



Sunday

Readings:
8:00 am
11:00 am
5:00 pm

December 6 *Second Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-14 / Mark 1:1-8
Mary O'Donnell *Anniversary (Ed O'Donnell & Family)*
Proclaim TV Ministry
Dante Todaro *Wedding Anniversary (Marissa Todaro)*

Monday

Readings:
7:00 am
12:05 pm
6:00 pm

December 7 *St Ambrose, Bishop*

Isiah 35:1-10 / Luke 5:17-26
Guadalupe C. White (*Juanita C. Burkhart*)
Krall & Leech Families (*Frank Krall*)
Linda Calpin (*Peter T. & Sharon Yanko*)

Tuesday

Readings:
7:00 am
12:05 pm
6:00 pm

December 8 *Immaculate Conception BVM*

Genesis 3:9-15 / Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 / Luke 1:26-38
Rita Murillo *Birthday Celebration (Cha Cha & John Bair)*
George Najjar (*Wife, Children & Grandchildren*)
Mike Aust (*Lou & Louise Aust*)

Wednesday

Readings:
7:00 am
12:05 pm

December 9 *Weekday St Juan Diego*

Isaiah 40:25-31 / Matthew 11:28-30
Joyce Karafa *Birthday Celebration (Husband-Jerry)*
Joseph A. Carona (*Wife-Mary*)

Thursday

Readings:
7:00 am
12:05 pm

December 10 *Weekday*

Isaiah 41:13-20 / Matthew 11:11-15
John Bair & Aurora Gilmore *Birthday Rmbr (Cha Cha Bair)*
Carolyn Gwen King (*Dee Dee Osborne*)

Friday

Readings:
7:00 am
5:00 pm

December 11 *Weekday St. Damasus I, Pope*

Isaiah 48:17-19, / Matthew 11:16-19
St Anne Society
Irene E. Yanko *Birthday Rmbr (Children & Grandchildren)*

Saturday

Readings:
8:00 am
5:00 pm

December 12 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Zechariah 2:14-17 / Luke 1:26-38
Cha Cha Bair *Birthday Celebration (Family)*
Christopher Mauro (*Mary Ellen Herdman*)

Sunday

Readings:
8:00 am
11:00 am
5:00 pm

December 13 *Third Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 /
John 1:6-8, 19-28
People of the Parish
Joseph Hart III (*Mary Alice Newnam*)
John Kucenski (*Wife-Mary Ann*)

Second Sunday of Advent

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.



Prophet on the border

In its October 5 issue, the editors of **TIME** Magazine compiled a list of the "100 most influential people of 2020." The list included leaders' expected names in politics, science, education, business, and the arts.

However, the **TIME** list included an individual whom few readers had heard of: a 67-year-old Mexican-American nun from Brownsville, Texas. Nevertheless, her "influence" is as prophetic and as challenging as John the Baptist's preaching on the Jordan River.

Sister Norma Pimentel is a Missionary of Jesus and executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. Sister Norma and her staff have assisted more than 100,000 migrants



seeking refuge in the United States along Texas' border with Mexico with emergency food, shelter, housing assistance, clinical counseling, and pregnancy care.

Sister Norma and her sisters began working with migrants 40 years ago. The experience, she says, "marked me for life forever. [It] triggered in me a profound sense of commitment and dedication to making sure that I become that voice for them, that I can be that force that can defend and protect life, especially the immigrants."

Sister Norma was born in Texas, the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She says she is a U.S. citizen by *chiripa* — "sheer chance." As a young woman, she studied art and design, but along the way found God — not the God of fear and punishment she first learned about as a child but the God of compassion and love. Sister Norma's vocation propelled her to the epicenter of something that is nothing less than a humanitarian crisis along the border she has called home all of her life.

Though the number of incoming migrants may vary over the years, their reasons for leaving their home countries remain consistent.

"It is the gangs and instability and how easily they are abused," Sister Norma explains. "They are afraid for their children, afraid of how easily someone can break into their house and kill their

children or themselves if they do not cooperate, if they do not hand over their children to join the gang."

Such instability also makes finding work more difficult, and families are often extorted for more money than they have and forced to work for gangs to pay off whatever is demanded.

This soft-spoken religious possesses a passion and power about her work, work to which all of us are called, work that Sister Norma believes is centered in our "connectedness to each other as human beings — that is key to every relationship and every ministry we do. If we put that as secondary, then we have lost what we are doing."

Here are excerpts of Sister Norma' TED Talk in which she comments of the effect of compassion and prayer: "It was so difficult to be there with them. I started to cry with them, and I told them, "Let us pray." (Spanish) "Vamos a rezar." And they repeated after me, (Spanish) "Diosito, ayúdanos." "God, please, help us." As we prayed, I could see the Border Patrol officers looking through a glass window. They were at the verge of tears. As they heard the children praying and witness."



"I had a little boy get close to me, closer, because they were all over, we could barely fit in that little cell. And this little boy tells me, (Spanish) "Ayúdame. Quiero irme con mi mamá." "Please, help me. I want to be with my mother. She is here, I was separated from her." I said to him, "Mijo, if your mom is here, I'm certain you will be reunited."

"When I walked out of the cell, an officer got close to me and said to me, "Sister, thank you. You have helped us realize that they are human beings." You know, sometimes, no matter what job we have, we must never forget to recognize the humanity in others. Otherwise, we will lose our own humanity."

In her work, Sister Norma Pimentel speaks a "prophetic" word of hope to terrorized immigrants and a word of justice to the nation they have come to seeking asylum. To be a prophet of God's justice begins with embracing God's vision of what the world can and should become and then giving oneself totally and unreservedly to realizing that vision. In baptism, each one of us has been called by God to the work of the "prophet," using whatever talents



and skills we possess to transform the wastelands around us into harvests of justice and forgiveness, to create highways for God to enter and re-create our

world in his compassion and peace.

Resurrection Religious Education News:

Confirmation Sessions 10A and 11B have changed from in person to virtual sessions. Sr. Cindy will contact all students who have registered for the sessions.

In light of the overabundance of new Covid-19 cases, we **WILL NOT** have our monthly Parent Session or our Confirmation Student meetings scheduled for December 13. The next meetings will be January 10, 2021.

Safe Environment lessons were emailed to K-8 parents. Once you go over the lessons with your children, return the acknowledgement form by December 14. You may email the form or mail it to the parish center.

RUSSELL HOUSE CHRISTMAS IS HERE!

Christmas is a beloved season and we intend to celebrate it! Moxham Renaissance will hold its 21st annual **Christmas at the Russell House** event this year on the second weekend of December. Our theme? *A Live/Virtual Christmas: Shades of 2020*. The Russell House at 538 Park Avenue in Moxham will be open to visitors from 1:00 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 12 and from 12:00 to 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 13.

Plan to visit in person or online on our new website: www.MoxhamRenaissance.com and on our Face Book site.

We appreciate your support.



THE ATRIUM

The Atrium Manor, a non-profit personal care home located at 216 Main St, Johnstown, PA 15901, is in need of your help for some of our residents this holiday season.

We need size large pajamas and personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste for five male residents. You can drop off your donation at the front office or call 814-535-5347 and arrangements can be made to pick them up by December 15th. We greatly appreciate any donation, items or monetary, you can give to make our residents Christmas a little brighter in this darkest of years.

"Thank You"

Denise Walter, Life Enrichment Director

2021 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The 2021 collection envelopes for members of St. John Gualbert Cathedral are available for pick-up again this weekend at the Activity Center. The doors will be open as follows:

Sunday: Dec. 6 from 7:00 am -1:00 pm and 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Weekdays: from 6:30 am – 1:30 pm plus (on Dec. 7 and 8) from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

We ask that you please pick-up your envelopes by December 9. After that date, the envelopes will be available at the rectory. You can call to schedule a pick-up time or stop by between the hours of 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Men, we gals need your help!

St John Gualbert Cathedral Liturgical Environment Team needs volunteers to help set up the manger scene on December 20th at 6:00pm. This will include bringing up five trees from the cathedral basement along with many statues. Fourteen wreathes will be hung on the church windows.

Please volunteer.

Thank You

Opalki/Angel Bread

We have 50 packets on a first purchase basis for a donation of \$2.50 per packet. Contact the rectory @ 536-0117 to reserve a packet. Please limit your order to three packets.

Kick off your Christmas shopping by stopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop! Hours will be Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm (always closed on Sundays). The address is 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg and our phone number 814-695-3802 if you have any questions. Please follow us on Facebook for update.

COLLECTIONS: 11/29/2020

Cash	\$ 497.00
Envelopes	3,574.50
Maintenance	36.00
Thanksgiving	40.00
All Saints	8.00
All Souls	5.00
Christmas	5.00
Christmas Flowers	60.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	20.00
Immaculate Conception	23.00
Catholic Charities	191.00
Catholic Register	8.00
Total	\$ 4,467.50

Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, and Audio Operators December 12th & 13th

Saturday December 12 5:00 pm

Readers: Dixie Lochrie
Pat Loughlin
Eucharistic Minister: Russ Gramlich
Server: Keara Brandon
Audio Operator: Michael Stoskey

Sunday December 13 8:00 am

Readers: Carrie Weaver
Dave Harteis
Eucharistic Minister: Don Yokitis
Server: Nathan Gates
Audio Operator: Rose Eckenrod

Sunday December 13 11:00 am

Readers: Geoffrey Stumpo
Mary Jane Verbiar
Eucharistic Minister: James Hollis
Server: Damien Byer
Audio Operator: Tracy Smith

Sunday December 13 5:00 pm

Readers: Vi Najjar
Charlotte Amenti
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Roth
Server: Makaylee Duvall
Audio Operator: Mattie Updyke

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Envelope offerings, Catholic Ministry Drive gifts, Mass requests and stipends, you may mail these or place them in the rectory mail slot. You also may give online. Please go to Dioceseaj.org, click on the "Giving" icon, select the appropriate "Make a Donation" rectangle then enter select a recurring or a one-time gift before continuing to enter your gift information. Thank you for your generosity in these challenging times.



Bishop Mark Joins Other U.S. Bishops in Clarifying Vaccine Confusion

By Tony DeGol December 1, 2020

Bishop Mark Bartchak is joining other bishops in the United States in clarifying recent confusion regarding the “moral permissibility” of vaccines for COVID-19.



According to Bishop Kevin Rhoades and Archbishop Joseph Naumann, vaccines from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna did not involve the use of cell lines that originated in fetal tissue from an aborted baby.

Bishop Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, is the chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine. Archbishop Naumann of Kansas City is the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The two went on to say that the vaccines are not completely free from any connection to abortion since Pfizer and Moderna used a tainted cell line for a confirmatory lab test.

“There is thus a connection, but it is relatively remote,” Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann explained. “Some are asserting that if a vaccine is connected in any way with tainted cell lines then it is immoral to be vaccinated with them. This is an inaccurate portrayal of Catholic moral teaching.”

The bishops referred to studies by the Pontifical Academy for Life in 2005 and 2017, as well as a 2008 document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith regarding bioethical questions.

“These documents all point to the immorality of using tissue taken from an aborted child for creating cell lines,” they stated. “They also make distinctions in terms of the moral responsibility of the various actors involved, from those in designing and producing a vaccine to those receiving the vaccine. Most importantly, they all make it clear that, at the level of the recipient, it is morally permissible to accept vaccination when there are no alternatives and there is a serious risk to health.”

Bishop Mark echoed the message from Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann.

“Church teaching prohibits the direct use of cells taken from aborted babies, but that is not the issue here,” the Bishop said. “I am confident in advising people that based on research by qualified experts in moral theology and bioethics that the vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna appear to be acceptable for use by Catholics according to official Church teaching.”

In recent days, the Catholic Health Association has also stated that it finds nothing morally prohibitive with the vaccines and encourages Catholic health organizations to distribute the vaccines developed by Pfizer, BioNTech (Pfizer’s German partner), and Moderna.

“CHA applauds the work of the scientists who have developed these vaccines in a manner consistent with human dignity and will work to support efforts to educate the public about the importance of getting vaccinated,” commented Sister Mary Haddad, RSM, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Locally, Attorney Tom Forr of the Blair County chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life is not opposed to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

“Most pro-life organizations do not have a problem with these vaccines,” Forr said. “I haven’t seen any direct criticism of these two.”

As vaccines become available in the near future, Bishop Mark expressed confidence that any additional moral questions will be answered by the appropriate USCCB office and the Vatican.

He also urged his fellow Catholics to remain vigilant.

“We must always continue to advocate for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and the faithful should make known to researchers and pharmaceutical companies to observe this fundamental principle concerning human life and not use cells from aborted babies,” Bishop Mark urged.

Editor’s Note: Bishop Mark will join Tony DeGol for a discussion about COVID-19 vaccines on Proclaim! TV on December 6 at 10:30 a.m. on WATM ABC 23.

Flow Chart for Creation and Testing of Vaccines

