

Saint Joseph on the Brandywine

Founded 1841

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Schedule of Liturgies

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY EUCHARISTS:

7:30 AM; 9:00 AM; 10:30 AM

DAILY EUCHARISTS:

7 AM; 12:05 (Mon. - Fri.) 8:00 AM (Saturday)

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST: As announced

SICK CALLS: Anytime

RECONCILIATION SERVICES:

Saturdays: 4 to 4:45 PM; Anytime by appointment

BAPTISMS: By appointment with at least one preparation session for new parents.

WEDDINGS: Engaged couples wishing to marry in the church should contact a Parish Priest at least one year prior to the planned wedding date to begin the marriage preparation process. The year-long process includes diocesan pre-marriage classes and meetings with clergy.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

COUNCIL #15436: Council meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Family Center Conference Room. Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics. Contact Paul Thorson, 302-229-5644, LTCThorson@gmail.com or John Strusowski, 302-753-2928, johnstru@comcast.net.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS: All are welcome to join the Knights of Columbus Council #15436 at the First Saturday of the month devotions to Our Lady of Fatima at 8 a.m. in the church.

PROPER UNDERTAKING

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Religious Education

Dear Friends,

Today at 10am is our Christmas pageant, and Breakfast in Bethlehem for grades K-5. Parents of children in grades K-5 please stay with your children – instead of class for those grades, we have activity centers around the hall which represent different aspects of the nativity story: make gifts for loved ones, enjoy hot chocolate and muffins, and remember the REAL reason we celebrate Christmas. Our Confirmation class helps to make this morning possible by volunteering their time. Class for grades 6, 7 and 8 does meet today.

Blessings, Eva

Vocational Reflection

Through the ministry of priests, deacons and religious women and men, the Lord brings glad tidings to the poor, proclaims liberty to captives and announces His favor to all who would follow in His ways. Is God calling you to serve His people through a religious vocation? If you think so, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations/



The message this week once again emphasizes the role of John the Baptist. John's humility is one that we should strive to emulate. He recognized that the Lord has given him gifts and talents, but more importantly, that these gifts are for the honor and glory of the Lord. Do you utilize your gifts and talents to bring glory to yourself, or to the Lord? This week evaluate your skills, and the gifts that Christ has blessed you with. How are you utilizing them to bolster your faith, and bring glory to the Lord? There are numerous parish ministries that can benefit from your participation, join one, and watch how your gifts flourish in serving the one that provided them to you.

Pastor's Notes

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for Eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

RCIA: We invite those who are considering becoming a Catholic to become part of the RCIA process. This includes Christians of other denominations, non-baptized or Catholics who might have been baptized as infants in the Catholic Church but have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Call 658-7017.

Novena of Masses

Envelopes can be found in your monthly envelope mailing as well as in the church to honor your intentions during Christmas. Place your request in the collection basket or drop box at the Rectory.



Many individuals and families struggle to meet their basic nutritional needs. Your gifts of food may bring immediate relief and hope to a family or individual suffering from hunger. Suggested items are: whole grain breakfast cereals, old fashioned oats, add water pancake mix, coffee, tea, low fat evaporated milk, flour, protein bars, dried fruits, nuts, peanut butter, jelly, low sodium hearty soups, canned meats and fish, rice and beans, pasta and crushed or diced tomatoes, canned lite fruit, natural low sugar applesauce, canned low sodium vegetables, olive oil or canola oil, bar soap, shampoo, toilet paper and toothpaste. Our collection is the Dec. 30/31.

Treasures from Our Tradition

Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presepio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.

A Christmas Tradition

Join us for a festive Christmas celebration. We encourage all to prepare in our Church or elsewhere by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The insert in today's bulletin includes the mass schedule for Christmas. It is also displayed on our website for your convenience and in the back of church.



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Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec. 16

5:00 p.m. Mary & Howard Simpson by family

Sunday, Dec. 17

7:30 a.m. Betty Campanella by Barbara Harris

9:00 a.m. Mia Shorteno Fraser by the Graef family

10:30 a.m. Mia Shorteno Fraser by Vita Hendry & Tina Miller

Monday, Dec. 18

7:00 a.m. Neila Hunter Biden, Naomi Christina Biden and Beau Biden by the Biden family

12:05 p.m. Isabel MacDermott by Claire Hanavan

Tuesday, Dec. 19

7:00 a.m. Bridie White by Therese Glynn & family

12:05 p.m. Kitty Durman by Gloria Pierse

Wednesday, Dec. 20

7:00 a.m. Hipolit Moncevicz by Dr. Bill Moncevicz

12:05 p.m. Drs. William & Stephan Butler by family

Thursday, Dec. 21

7:00 a.m. Dr. Idilio Elazegui by family

12:05 p.m. Mary Gallagher by Dr. & Mrs. Garry Lyons and family

Friday, Dec. 22

7:00 a.m. Cecilia VanDerhoef by Mary Helen & John Carr

12:05 p.m. For the private intentions of St. Joseph on the Brandywine Catechists

Saturday, Dec. 23

8:00 a.m. Rachael & Frank P. Alisa by daughters

5:00 p.m. John Swajeski with love from the family

LET US PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN
SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.



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Thank you to everyone who selected an item from the Advent Angel Tree or who has contributed in other ways. We are truly blessed by your kindness!

In the rush of the Christmas season, let us not forget to focus our thoughts, our hearts and our minds on Christ, the very reason we celebrate.