

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! Know that the staff, Deacon Rich, Father Csete, and myself send you prayers for a most joyous Christmas Season. I wanted to share again an insightful note from Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus on why we are praying ad orientem here at Saint Mary's:

"The turning of the priest toward the people has turned the community into a self-enclosed circle. In its outward form, it no longer opens out on what lies ahead and above, but is locked into itself. The common turning toward the East was not a "celebration toward the wall"; it did not mean that the priest "had his back to the people": the priest himself was not regarded as so important. For just as the congregation in the synagogue looked together toward Jerusalem, so in the Christian Liturgy the congregation looked together "toward the Lord". As one of the fathers of Vatican II's Constitution on the Liturgy, J.A. Jungmann, put it, it was much more a question of priest and people facing in the same direction, knowing that together they were in a procession toward the Lord. They did not lock themselves into a circle, they did not gaze at one another, but as the pilgrim People of God they set off for the Oriens, for the Christ who comes to meet us....


But is this not all romanticism and nostalgia for the past? Can the original form of Christian prayer still say something to us today, or should we try to find our own form, a form for our own times? Of course, we cannot simply replicate the past. Every age must discover and express the essence of the liturgy anew. The point is to discover this essence amid all the changing appearances. It would surely be a mistake to reject all the reforms of our century wholesale. When the altar was very remote from the faithful, it was right to move it back to the people. In cathedrals this made possible the recovery of the tradition of the altar at the crossing, the meeting-point of the nave and the presbyterium. It was also important clearly to distinguish the place for the Liturgy of the Word from the place for the strictly Eucharistic liturgy. For the Liturgy of the Word is about speaking and responding, and so a face-to-face exchange between proclaimer and hearer does make sense. In the Psalm the hearer digests what he has heard, takes it into himself, and transforms it into prayer, so that it becomes a response...

On the other hand, a common turning to the East during the Eucharistic Prayer remains essential. This is not a case of accidentals, but of essentials. Looking at the priest has no importance. What matters is looking together at the Lord. It is not now a question of dialogue, but of common worship, of setting off towards the One who is to come. What corresponds with the reality of what is happening is not the closed circle, but the common movement forward expressed in a common direction for prayer."

-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

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Be sure to take your **FREE** copy of *Resisting Happiness*. Copies of the book are available in the Narthex.

Liturgical Ministers for December 31, 2016/January 1, 2017

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	W. PONDS, A. WITKOWSKI, K. BOBISH	V. AND E. WITKOWSKI, J. LEGATO
8:30AM	M. LATINI	T. CALVARIO, W. CARMOSY, J. HENDRICK, N. SMITH	D. TRUJILLO, E. AND A. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	M. ADAMCIK, V. LIVINGSTON, D. LIVINGSTON	Z. ADAMCIK, S. CUELLO, J. EDWARDS, A. ST. LOUIS

**The parish office will be closed on Monday,
December 26th.**

Fr. Ivan Csete will be celebrating a *Hungarian Mass* on **Sunday, January 1st at 1:30pm.**

G.E.M.S. (God's extraordinary Middle Schoolers) will meet on **Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30pm** in the parish meeting room. All children in grades 5 through 8 are invited to join us.



There will be **First Friday Adoration** in the chapel on **January 6th.** Join us for first Friday Mass at 11:30 followed by exposition at 12. Two adorers must be present at all times. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

***The second collection on the weekend of
January 7th/8th is for
Catholic Communications.
Please give it your prayerful consideration.***

Court Madonna No. 114 is hosting their annual Tricky Tray on **Sunday, January 15th.** Doors open at 12 noon. Drawing begins at 2:00pm. Tickets are 25 for \$1. For more information contact: Debbie Di Toto, Regent 856-8996 or Barbara Drew, Chairperson 856-2624.

All funds raised benefit Community Charities.

We will have a bus to Washington, DC on January 27th. The cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per family. Mass will be held at 4:30am and the bus will leave promptly at 5am. For more information contact Nancy Smith 856-4610.

Volunteers still needed for staffing the warming station at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Contact Jack Austin at jfaustin@hvc.rr.com or 856-0706. for more information to volunteer. Training is free.

The collection for December 17/18 was
\$5,498.50.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, December 26 (Stephen, First Martyr)**
9:00am Stephanie Tooley, by the family
- Tuesday, December 27 (John, apostle and evangelist)**
9:00am Michele Marino, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino
Mary Caracciolo, by Agnes and Mary
- Wednesday, December 28 (Holy Innocents, martyrs)**
9:00am Bob Ritchie, by the Ritchie family
- Thursday, December 29 (Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr)**
9:00am Intentions of Fr. George La Grutta, by Bill and Catherine Simons
Susan Tynatishon, by Debbie and Anthony Di Toto
- Saturday, December 31 (Sylvester I, pope)**
4:00pm Thomas Chuckran, by Rich and Diane Quick
- Sunday, January 1 (Solemnity of Mary)**
8:30am Intentions of Joe and Betty Brennan, by Darren and Mary Case
11:30am Robert Ritchie, by Russ and Janet Smith



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Mary A. Rombousek, by her son Thomas and niece Lucy Basta.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Nick Moscatiello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Jose Ramos, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Joseph Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Angela Grillo, Ruth Lewis, Anthony Medaglia, Maureen Hildebrandt, Robert Cinerar, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Steve Wilkinson, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Ashley Avella, Robert Semerano, Christina Greeves, Amelia Quinn, Marianne Ripel, Joseph Livingston, Donna Bancala, Leonard Schweizer, Teddy Mead, Pat Arnold, Angela Lillo, Pat Muller, Debi Cotugno, Tom Earley, Conner McHugh, Bobby Fett, Sue Arnold, Dennis Perrin, Gary Lopriore, Josephine Fiorillo, Carol Tufano, Jacqueline Leggett, David M. Phillips, and Laney Carnahan.