

DECEMBER: MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *James Mahler, r.i.p., by Ann Marie Binazeski*
4:00PM (Saint Joseph): *Edward & Lynne Hassdenteufel, r.i.p., by Shirley Hassdenteufel*
5:30PM (Saint Thomas: Sunday Vigil): *John Sweeney & Neil Hogan, r.i.p., by the family*



SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER: ADVENT IV

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *John Lossino*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Conroy & Gray Families by Catherine Conroy*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Special Intention by Eric Lundgren*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *pro populo*

MONDAY 19 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *John Sweeney & Neil Hogan by the family*
6:30PM (Saint Joseph): *John Soricelli by Carol Soricelli*

TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *John McLaughlin, r.i.p., by the Ross Family*

WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER: COMMEMORATION OF SAINT PETER CANISIUS

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *The Dennehy, Downey, & Martin Families by Julia Downey*

THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER: ADVENT FERIA

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Anne Campbell by the Crispo Family*

FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER: COMMEMORATION OF SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Joshua King, a.i.d., by Mary King*

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE

8:30AM (Saint Thomas): *James McEnery, r.i.p., by William & Kathy Fogarty*
4:00PM (Saint Thomas: Vigil): *Christmas Flower Intentions*
6:00PM (Saint Joseph: Vigil): *Pastor's Intentions*
8:00PM (Saint Thomas: Vigil): *Pastor's Intentions*

NEXT SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD not be afraid."

7:30AM (Saint Thomas): *Pastor's Intentions*
9:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Pastor's Intentions*
11:00AM (Saint Thomas): *Pastor's Intentions*
12:30PM (Saint Joseph): *Pastor's Intentions*



"Joseph, son of David, do

r.i.p. (requiescat in pace: rest in peace), *a.i.d.* (ad intentionem donoris: for the intention of the donor)
pro sal. (pro salutem: for health), *pro populo* (for the people)

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING:

Sunday Regular: \$10,318.00
Immaculate Conception: \$2400.00
Retired Religious: \$3431.09
Flowers: \$294.00
Pantry: \$64.00

12 MONTHS OF CHRISTMAS DRAWING



We will begin a new year of prizes this month. Please pick up a raffle entry, complete it, place it in an envelope along with your \$20, return it to the office, or drop it in the collection plate.

December's "Get Into the Spirit" prize:
"Santa's World Travels" Hand Decorated Porcelain
by Royal Doulton (MSRP: \$175)
Set of 4 Fine Chine Christmas Tree Cocoa Mugs
by Johnson Brothers (MSRP: \$80)

January's "Ring in the New Year" prize:
"Wish Believe" Champagne Flutes
with a New Year's Surprise

ADVENT RECONCILIATION MONDAY

December 19, 2016
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saint Thomas Church

by Waterford (MSRP: \$130)

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC

Please Come to Saint Thomas at
7:30PM on Christmas Eve for a period
of Christmas Meditation in song.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saint Thomas Church **Saint Joseph Church**

Christmas Eve: ***Christmas Eve:***
4:00PM 6:00PM
8:00PM

Christmas Day: ***Christmas Day***
7:30AM 12:30PM
9:00AM
11:00AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY (NEW YEAR'S)

Saint Thomas Church **Saint Joseph Church**

Vigil: ***Vigil:***
5:30PM 4:00PM

New Year's Day ***New Year's Day***
7:30AM 12:30PM
9:00AM
11:00AM

WITH THANKS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians have
once again graciously provided
Christmas meals to local families. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Presented by the parish
Religious Education students.
December 18th at 2:00PM
Saint Thomas school gym.
All are invited!

"BRITISH LANDSCAPES" PARISH TRIP WITH FATHER DOUGHTY

Come to know the
best of England,
Scotland and Wales
on this 10-day tour
(October 19th –
28th). Enjoy the
beauty of the Lake District, York, Stratford-upon-
Avon, Edinburgh, the Borders Region and so much
more. Extend your tour 3 more nights by taking the
Eurostar Chunnel to Paris. Brochures with more



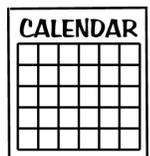
information are located in the vestibule of the
church. Contact Mary Ellen at
metiernan@comcast.net with questions. See the
parish website for registration information:
ststthomasjoseph.com

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2017 CALENDARS

Both Quigley's & Brooks Funeral Homes
have provided our parish with beautiful
calendars for the new year. We ask that
each family just take one. Thank you.



A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

*The Tuesday Study Group offers this gift to
our priests and asks the whole parish to
pray for them:*

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord
Keep them for they are Thine
Thy priests whose lives burn out
Before Thy consecrated Shrine.

Keep them for they are in the world
Though from the world apart
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure
Shelter them in Thy heart.

Keep them and comfort them
In hours of loneliness and pain
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls, seem but in vain.

Keep them, and oh remember Lord
They have no one but Thee
Yet they have only human hearts
With human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host
That they daily caress
Their every thought, word, and deed
Deign dearest Lord to bless! Amen.

LOST & FOUND

If you have lost a piece of jewelry in or around the church, please stop by the parish office to see if it has been turned in. Other items may be found in the basket in the church entrance.



A TIME FOR REVERENCE

Father Doughty

When I was in grade school, a well-known troublemaker by the name of Greg came to join our class in the middle of the year. We were all pretty good kids and the school administration figured that we might have a positive effect on his character. They figured wrong. It wasn't long before at least part of our class (me included) came under Greg's spell and became, like Greg, troublesome. I pray and hope that despite our failure to be true friends to him, he is a good man now.

It should be no surprise that one person can make such a difference, for better or ill, in another's life. The last century saw nearly the entire world drawn into a world war because one nation fell under the spell of a man unrivaled in evil. Conversely, the end of the last millennium and the beginning of a new one saw a man whose friendship with Jesus captivated the hearts of millions of youth at rallies all over the world and a woman whose love for the poor made the world believe that just maybe there was a way out of the ugly mess it has found itself in. Our creed professes a communion with one another based on holiness. St. Paul recommends we say only the good things our brothers and sisters need to hear, and by inference suggests we pay attention to one another when we speak of the highest concerns.

The mystery of the human person demands a certain reverence in itself merely from the fact we have a very poor grasp of its totality. Jesus suggested this awe extends to each individual when he challenged his disciples to love as perfectly as his heavenly Father loves. They were to find Jesus present in some inexplicable way in the least of his brethren, the hungry and the thirsty, the unclothed, the stranger and the imprisoned, even in our enemies. As well, the mystery of the human person demands a certain reverence for the means by which we make the most difference in one another's lives. We must sift and strain out the impurities that are no help to us and may even blind us to what is truly good and beautiful in our lives. Bad language is bad because it fails to communicate anything positive. Immoral behavior is immoral because it does nothing to edify one another. How susceptible we can be to the foolishness of the ages! We must beware of those destructive and distracting forces in the world that are not at all invested in our real well-being.

Advent is not the season that much of the media and advertisers in our commercial world claim it is. It is a season above all for conversion to a reverence for the mystery of the human person and for distancing ourselves from things that diminish our perception of that mystery. It is a season to find awe in the mystery Mary pondered throughout her pregnancy and in every moment after The Birth; to even find ourselves surprised once again by God's reverence *for us* in the fact that He became one of us. It is the occasion to acquire a new appreciation of who we and our sisters and brothers are by the beautiful truth that God was born in time and became our brother.

Confessions will be heard on Reconciliation Monday, December 18 from 4 pm to 8 pm at St. Thomas Church and from 6pm to 6:30 pm at St. Joseph Church.

O ANTIPHONS

The final Sunday in Advent falls within the period of the O Antiphons, December 17 – 23. These are seven prayers for the coming of Christ. One is prayed each day; it is the antiphon to the Cantic of Mary at Evening Prayer and the gospel acclamation at Mass. The O Antiphons are familiar in a hymn version: "O come, O Come, Emmanuel."

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!



December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!



December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!



December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!



December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and
in the shadow of death.



December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the
dust!



December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!



— From *Catholic Household Blessings &*

Prayers

“This is the irrational season,
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason,
There’d have been no room for the child.”

Madeleine L'Engle

