

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF December 28 2025  
 Feast Of The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph

Please note that all daily masses will be held in the chapel unless otherwise noted. In the event of a funeral mass there will be no (8:30 AM) daily mass.

Monday 8:30AM: NO MASS

Tuesday 8:30 AM: Ronald Castillo

Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God:

Wednesday 6:00 PM: Loretta Fochtman (B'day) By: Family  
 Thursday 10:30 AM: Ida Mae (Weimer) Straub (B'day) By: The Restly Family Reunion

Friday 8:30 AM: NO MASS / OFFICE CLOSED

Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of The Lord:

Saturday 6:00 PM: Loretta Fochtman By: The Christan Mothers Of St. John's  
 Sunday 8:00 AM: Ed Will (Anniv) By: Greg Will and Family  
 Sunday 10:30 AM: Pat Stoe By: The Loving Family

Sanctuary Candle: Raymond, Irene & Elizabeth McGreevey By: The McGreevey Family  
 St. Peregrine Candle:

Mass Readings for the Week:

- Monday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
 Optional Memorial Of St. Thomas Beckett, Bishop And Martyr  
 1 John 2:3-11/PS Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 (R/.11a)/Luke 2:27-35
- Tuesday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
 1 John 2:12-17/PS Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 (R/.11a)/ Luke 2:36-40
- Wednesday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
 Optional Memorial of St. Sylvester I, Pope  
 1 John 2:18-21/PS Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/John 1:1-18
- Thursday: Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God  
 Numbers 6:22-27/PS Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Galatians 4:4-7/Luke 2:16-21 , 5-6
- Friday: Memorial Of Ss. Basil The Great And Gregory Nazianzien,  
 Bishops And Doctors Of The Church  
 1 John 2:22-28/PS Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/John 1:19-28  
 Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13/PS Psalm 23:1/Matthew 23:8-12
- Saturday: Optional Memorial Of The Most Holy Name Of Jesus  
 1 John 2:29-3:6/PS Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/John 1:29-34  
 Philippians 2:1-11/PS Psalm 8:2ab/Luke 2:21-24
- Sunday: The Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of The Lord  
 Isaiah 60:1-6/PS Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (R/.cf.11)/Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
 Matthew 2:1-12

“Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod.”

St John The Baptist Catholic Church

Box 10 New Baltimore, PA 15553 Phone: 733-2210 Hall: 733-4113  
 Email: dwambaugh@dioceseaj.org Website: https://newbaltimorecatholic.com/

Fr. Mark Pattock, OFMcap Pastor Sacramental Emergencies: 724-272-5474

Mass Schedule:

Mon: No Mass Tues: 8:30 AM Wed - Fri: 8:30 AM Sat: 6:00 PM (Vigil) Sun: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Secretary Office Hours:

Mon :8:00 AM-3:00PM Wed :8:00 AM-3:00PM Thurs :8:00 AM-3:00 PM Fri :8:00AM –3:00 PM

Baptism: Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

Confessions: Saturday 5:00 – 5:45 PM

Holy Communion:

Low Gluten hosts will be available for anyone with a low gluten tolerance. If you have a low gluten tolerance, please tell the priest before mass so a low gluten host can be placed in a pyx for you.

Matrimony: Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program

Rosary: Saturday Evenings beginning at 5:25 PM

Christian Mothers: Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the basement.

Parish Mission Statement

St. John the Baptist Parish is a Catholic Christian Community centered in rural New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. As members of the Body of Christ, we seek to live as entrusted stewards using God’s gifts responsibly, intelligently, prudently, and gratefully to bring about His kingdom. As stewards of our time, talents, possessions, and faith, we are called to put our lives in proper focus and to live in accord with one another giving love and caring support, to accept Christ’s challenge as related in the Gospels- to serve one another.



# St. John’s News & Upcoming Events:

## Feast Of The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary, And Joseph

### Holy Day Of Obligation - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is on **Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>** and is a **Holy Day of Obligation** this year. Mass times will be **Wednesday Dec 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 AM** please come celebrate Mary’s unwavering faith and trust in God!



### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:

On this Sunday we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but there is another holy family to consider, one that we are all part of: **the Church**. After all, Jesus tells us, “Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.” We are called to treat our neighbor with that same compassion, kindness and patience. No matter which sense of family we are speaking of, we are called to bear with one another, forgive one another and put on love above all.! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

### A Big Day for Families

**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>** is a very special day for families. Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family. We read in the gospel about the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple and offered him to God. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were a family just like you and your parents. Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph, and grew wise, loving and good. You can learn from your parents to live and love as Jesus did. **This is truly a happy family day!**

### Prayer to the Holy Family:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to love the Church as we ought, above every other thing, and always to show forth our love by deeds. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to profess openly as we ought the faith given to us in Baptism, without fear or human respect. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to share in the defense and propagation of the Faith whether by word or by the sacrifice of our fortunes and our lives. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to love one another, and to live together in perfect harmony of thought, will and action, under the rule and guidance of our pastors. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to conform our lives to the precepts of God and of the Church, so as to live always in that charity which they set forth. Amen

### Offertory Envelopes and Calendars:

The **2026** Offertory Envelopes and Calendars can now be picked up in the church basement.

### The Word Among Us:

Be sure to get your **FREE** copy of the **Word Among Us** for the **months of January** on the table in the back of Church. The **Word Among Us** magazine offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings of the Catholic Church, inspirational essays, stories of the saints and more!

### Christmas Cards and Rosaries For Sale:

The Knights of Columbus have some beautiful Christmas cards and rosaries for sale on the back table of the Church. The cost for either item is **\$15.00** each. The rosaries are **not** blessed and will need to be blessed.

### Women At The Well:

There is a Women At The Well group forming here at St. John’s. Come and learn how to pray Lectio Divina – praying with that Sunday’s Gospel. **We meet Monday morning at 9:00 AM in the Church Basement.** For more information please contact Lindsay Hankinson at (814) 233-8786. We would love to have you join us.

*“Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.”*

### PRAYER LIST

John Andzelik, Abby Barnes, Lori Barnes, Fr. William Barron, Debbie Brady, Cindy (Miller) Bearer, Jane Beyer, Theresa Beyer, Lisa Bischof, Tonya Brown, Mark Bruck, Macy Burke, Doug Burkett, Max Bulger, Tim Bruck, Sara Cairo, Larry Clarr, Randy Clites, Denis Crum, Lee Crum, Andrew Davenport, Sara Davenport, Michael Davis, Velma Davis, Larry DeArmitt, Alice Deitz, Donna Dennison, Peg Diehl, Tracy Dickey, Dorothy Dittmer, Joyce Dively, Tara Dively, Lisa Easter, Chris Edes, George Faidley III, Tabitha Flick, Bradley Fochtman, Harry Fochtman, Mike Fochtman, Mark Frankenfield, Myrna Fries, Becky Foor, Carol Ann Gallagher, Brian Gardill, Jarrett Gowatty, Paisley Goetzl, Helen Greenway, Kelsey Grove, Grayson Gumbert, Sam Hall, Ron Hagens, Nellie Hall, Eugene Hankinson, Phyllis Harris, Mary Jo Harrington, Aaron Hay, Paisley Hay, Bob Jenkins, Elizabeth Heider, Nickole Herdman, Sandra Herzing, Dale Hickey, Ida Mae Hillegass, Lisa Hillegass, Missy Hillegass, Tara Hillegass, Todd Hillegass, Amy Jo Hoffman, Phyllis Hoppert, Tina Hoover, Ernest Imgrund, Pete Innis, Mary Janachovski, Martha (Lewis) Kalbach, Matt Karns, Jason Kinzer, David Krieie, Fr. Robert Kaylor, Todd Kline, Eric Knott, Virginia Lambert, John Lancaster, Eli Lankey, Kelly Legarski, Bruce Leonard, Carol Leppert, Gordon Leppert, Brenda Leister, Kaitlyn Lewis, Barry Leydig, John Lynch, Norma Jean Lynch, Toots Maddy, Ron Makarun, Martha Marker, Susan Martin, Tim Martin, George Maser, Angie Matey, Joseph Matey, Brooks May, Janet Michael, Tony and Janet Miele, Linda McCahan, Shirley McVicker, Betty Meslovich, Terry Metevier, Erica Miller, Ray & June Miller, Tara Miller, Mike Montreal, Reed Morgan, Tracey Mowry, Carol Murphy, Kai Musselman, John Myers, Ashley Nail, Dr. Cyril Nathaniel, Eugene Nickelow, Elissa Nunamaker, Donna Otto, Rick Otto, Michael Price, Sabina Restly, Tara Ritchey, Cindy Robb, Katherine Rosenbaum, Teri Schreiber, Nancy Schrock, Barb Sarver, Shirley Sechler, Greg Seeley, Richard Seese Jr. , Jordon Seville, Lorraine Shadduck, Sandra Shaffer, Terry Shaffer, Harold Shannon, Tom Shippy, Daniel Smith, Eddie Smith, Edith Smith, Marie Smith, Shaun Smith, Tom Smith, Oscar Speicher, Linda Stiffler, Rosalie Swingle, Carol Taylor, Janet Valentine, Michael Valentine, Julianne Viselli, Gail Wade, Anna Lee Wambaugh, Tom Warren, Jr., Staci Weaver, Aaron Weiss, Bonnie Welsh, Dee Werline, John & Doris Werner, Christina Whetstone, Logan Weyand, Alyssa Will, Charlotte Will, Jan Will, Joe Will, Pat Will, Tracy Williams, Lucy Wright, Angie Wolfhope, Dorothy Wolfhope, Ron Wolfhope, Steve Wolfhope, Shirley Varchetti, Roger Yarnell

**If you added a person’s name to the prayer list and they have since recovered, please call to remove their name from our prayer list.**

### OFFERTORY

<b>Sunday Loose:</b> \$667.00	<b>Sunday Adults:</b> \$2923.00	<b>Total Sunday:</b> \$3590.00
<b>Christmas Flowers:</b> \$300.00	<b>Local Needs:</b> \$50.00	<b>Retirement Fund For Religious:</b> \$10.00
<b>Heating Fuel Fund:</b> \$125.00	<b>Christmas:</b> \$155.00 (This is what was received on Sunday December 21 <sup>st</sup> )	

We’re always collecting non- perishable food items for our local foodbanks. Items can be placed in the bins in the back of church.

### Feast Of The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph - A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar:

Today’s gospel says Joseph “made his home in Nazareth.” A “home” is built on the foundation of love, commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don’t live ‘anyplace’, live at HOME!

### The Pope’s Prayer Intention For December:

*For Christians in areas of conflict*

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



**WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS PART OF OUR FLOCK. Keep in touch with us via email and text. Just simply Text BALTIMORE to 84576 Or Connect with Us Online At: [newbaltimorecath.flocknote.com](http://newbaltimorecath.flocknote.com)**



# Religious Education News:

**Office Of Youth Protection- “Empowering God’s Children Lessons For Youth:**

Youth protection Lessons for students in our Religious Education Programs will need to be completed and turned into the Office **ASAP** which then will be recorded ONLINE!! Unless they are recorded online, they are considered incomplete. Year after year, many are not completing these until the last minute and we are chasing around students up to the end of their session. **Since both St. John The Baptist Catholic Church and the Diocese Of Altoona-Johnstown** gets either an in-person or paper audit **EVERY** year, this information is needed in order to get it prepared for the reports. The lessons will be emailed to the parents for each child (s) grade level in the upcoming weeks. The email address that is on file for religious education will be the email the lessons are sent to. If you don’t receive these lessons please call the office to ensure correct contact information is on file.

**2025-2026 Confirmation Retreat Schedule for Grades 9 to 12:**

Praying With Scripture	3 Zoom Sessions	<b>January 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup></b>
Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit	3 Zoom Sessions	<b>January 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup></b>
Living The Discipleship And Mission Of Jesus Christ	5 Zoom Sessions	<b>February 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup></b>
Living The Discipleship And Mission Of Jesus Christ	5 Zoom Sessions	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 22nd</b>

Students need to attend one zoom session for each retreat. Final registration needs to be sent from the parish office at least **2 weeks** before retreat begins to Sr. Suzanne Thiabult. There is no cost to the student as it will be covered by the parish. All retreats are conducted via Zoom by Sr. Suzanne Thibault of Bethany Youth Retreat Center. Sr. Suzanne Thibault has been presenting youth retreats since 1986. She is best known for the ability to engage students and adults on retreat. For more information call Sr. Suzanne at 814-263-4177 or by email [BethanyYouthCenter@gmail.com](mailto:BethanyYouthCenter@gmail.com)

**Religious Education Update:**

**All Classes will resume Sunday January 4th.**

**Volunteer to take up the Offertory At Mass:**

During Mass, there’s a little moment that often goes unnoticed. After the collection baskets are passed, there is a very meaningful part of the Mass: members of our parish carry the gifts of bread, wine and the offertory to the priest. **The entire congregation is represented by those who bear the gifts. Through this act, we return to God a small part of the many blessings that He has given to us. What a wonderful way to express thanks and joy to God by bearing these gifts! There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for the month for families to sign up to carry the offertory gifts up at mass.**

**Empty Egg Cartons Needed:**

Harry Fochtman and his wife Wilma are looking for empty egg carton containers and is asking the parish for our help. If anyone has any empty egg cartons they wish to give please place them in the back of the Church in the Food Pantry Bins or in the plastic bags provided. Thank You for your generosity!



**Fr. Mark Pattock, OFM Cap Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church wants to say THANK YOU for all of the cards, cookies, gifts, and food for Christmas! He really appreciated it! He prays that everyone has a most Blessed New Year 2026.**

**Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the Church for the Christmas Season. Also, a huge thanks to our musicians and cantors who helped make the liturgies so beautiful for Christmas.**

**Did You Know?** In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manager for Christmas Eve of 1223.

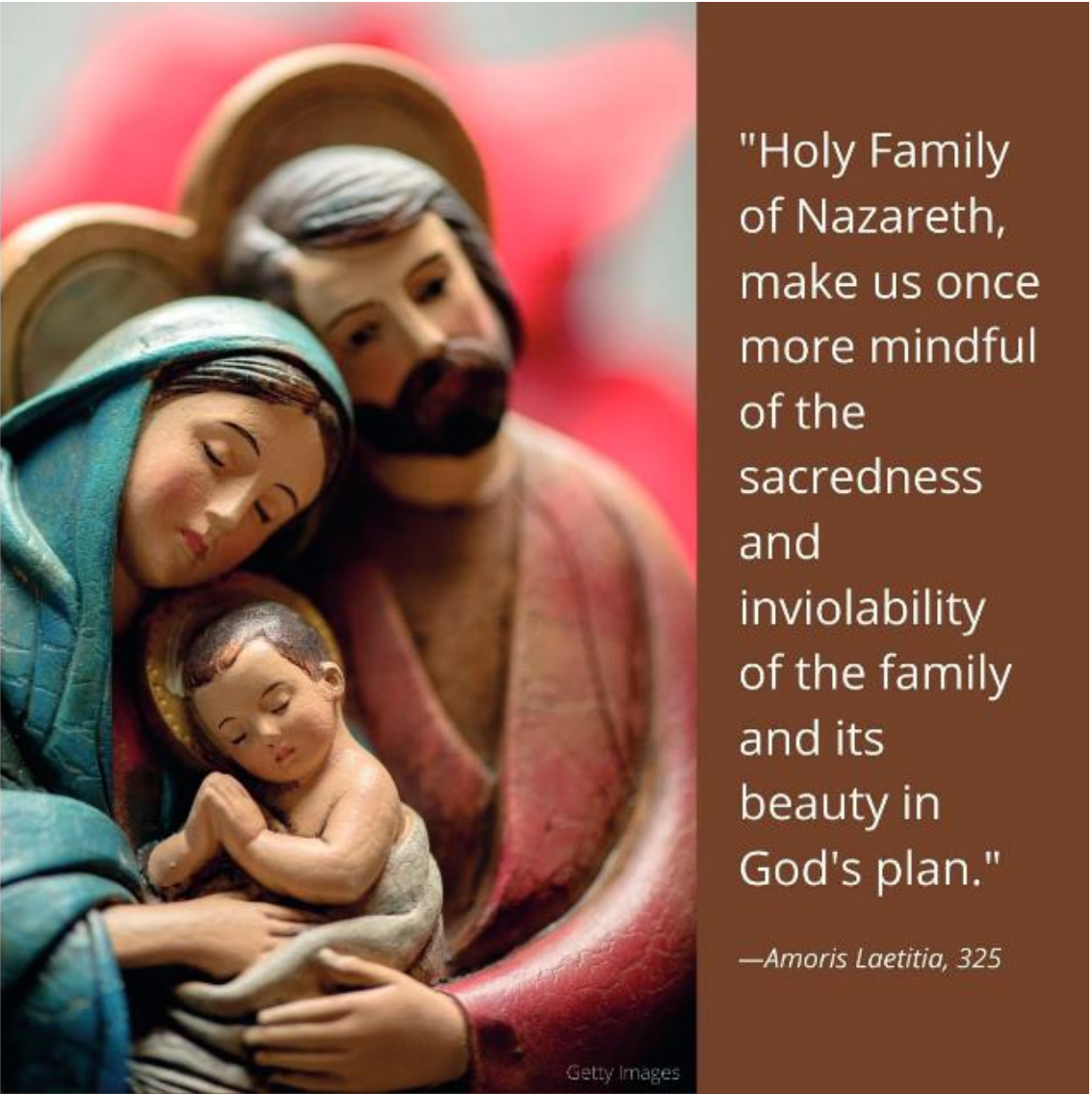


**Thank you** to all who donated to our **Advent Hat & Mitten Tree**. These gifts have been given to the Santa Workshop In Berlin. There were: 12 Sock Sets, 6 Footies, 1 Pair of boots, 4 coats, 1 T-Shirt, 1 Football, 1 Basketball, 6 Scarves, 58 Hat & Glove Sets, 1 Ear Muff, 24 Hats, 65 Gloves and 1 -\$25.00 Gift Card

**Solemnity Of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God - A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar:**  
The gospel tells us “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” We would do well to imitate Mary in our New Year’s resolution. Instead of criticizing let’s “keep it in our hearts.” Criticism isn’t productive or well received anyway!



From Fr. Mark Pattock OFMcap and the Staff here at St. John’s we want to wish you and your family a **HAPPY, SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**





***Diocesan News & Upcoming Events:***

**All Saints Parish in Boswell (Somerset County) will host their annual singing of Polish Christmas Carols** (known as Kolędy or Pastoralki) on **Sunday, January 4th, at 2:00 PM** at the church (325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell). The hymns will be sung by their Polish choir. Following the singing of hymns by the parish’s Polish choir, there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. While the singing of koledy was once a very common practice in the Polish-American community, in recent times church choirs that continue the tradition of singing koledy have become increasingly rare. These hymns help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience the time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information please call the parish office at 814-629-5551

**67<sup>th</sup> Magnificat Meal:**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Magnificat Meal will be held on **Saturday January 24, 2026** at Rizzo’s Banquet Hall, 126 Rizzo Rd., Crabtree, PA 15624. During the meal, you will have the opportunity to engage with Fr. Joe Freedy and learn from his wealth of wisdom and experience. As we gather together, we will enjoy a delightful meal, participate in prayer and worship, and forge connections with other women on the same spiritual journey. This is a unique chance to be inspired by Fr. Joe’s testimony, experience the transformative power of prayer, and build connections with a community of women who share your passion for Christ. The cost is **\$28.00** but space is limited, so it is strongly recommended to register early. Walk-in registration is not available and **online registration will close on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Mail in registration must be post-marked by Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.** Any registration (online or by mail) received by January 1<sup>st</sup>, will be entered in our early-bird incentive drawing to win one of our flower arrangements at the event. **The doors will open at 8:15 am, Meal begins at 9:00 am. Registration is available online here :** <https://magnificatgreensburg.com/registration/>

**Stewardship Reflection December 28<sup>th</sup> – Feast Of The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph**

Today, as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we focus our attention in a special way on the Holy Family. This is a great time to thank God for the gift of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the family as the “domestic church”, so today’s feast is also a fitting time to consider the importance of the virtue of hospitality – a fundamental aspect of the stewardship way of life – within the context of our domestic churches. Why is hospitality so important to a stewardship way of life, beginning with family life? Well, we can hardly expect our family members to pray together, study their faith, and serve others if we have a home where we are disconnected from each other or the atmosphere is stressful and tense. Of course there will be moments like this. But we must be intentional in creating homes where everyone feels cherished, accepted and important. We want our homes to be the place where we can get recharged and filled up to go out and bring love to everyone we encounter outside our home. Lest we think that the Holy Family is somehow unable to sympathize with our struggles, we see in our Gospel passage from Matthew that this Family was certainly not free from trials and stress, quite the contrary. The very life of the newborn Jesus was threatened by Herod’s extreme jealousy such that the family had to flee suddenly into a foreign land for protection until Herod’s death. Yet Mary and Joseph remained united and ever obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction. Who better to turn to for help and inspiration for our own families?! Happy feast day to all families living a stewardship way of life!

**Basilica Christmas Concert Planned**

The Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto will host its annual Christmas concert on **Monday December 29 at 6:00 p.m.** The concert will feature beautiful Christmas music by the Saint Michael School Choir and the Basilica Adult Choir, both under the direction of Basilica Music Director Jonathan Nagy.

**St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Breakfast:**

St. Benedict’s K Of C helps their local food pantry (which will surely need replenished after the holidays) as well as providing support as a philanthropic organization supporting various charities. St Benedict Knights of Columbus in Johnstown, PA is hosting a Breakfast on **Sunday January 4 2025 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM** in the school cafeteria. The last seating will immediately be after the 10:30 mass. MENU: Egg muffins (plain, vegetable, ham and cheese). Ham, bacon, sausage (choice of two), breakfast potatoes, toast,French Toast with Berry Compote, and Plain, Blueberry, and Banana Pancakes and Sausage Gravy and biscuits. The meal includes choice of coffee, tea, milk (white or chocolate) or juice. The COST is: **Adults \$10.00 - Children 6-12 \$5.00 –Children 5 and under are FREE! Immediate family members of four or more \$30.** Mastercard and Visa accepted!

**Legend Of The Poinsettia:**

One of the decorative plants for the Christmas season is the Poinsettia. There is a legend behind the popularity of this plant. Once a poor young Mexican girl called Pepita was heartbroken at not having the money to buy baby Jesus a present at the Christmas Eve service. She was so disturbed and sad thinking of the situation that she was in. As usual the church displayed a beautiful manger for the crowd that year which drew a lot of admirers. Pepita and her cousin Pablo could see the villagers walk miles to admire the manger, bringing lovely, expensive gifts for the Baby Jesus. As Pepita and Pablo watched the villagers place their gifts in the soft hay around the manger, they felt sad. They had no money to buy gifts for their family and no money to buy a gift for the Baby Jesus. That evening they went for the church service, as they walked to the church, her cousin Pablo noticed how depressed Pepita was and he tried to cheer her up. He said, “Pepita, I’m sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves Jesus will make Him happy.” However the botheration haunted her as she walked towards the church. When we hear this story, maybe we are also expecting to see miracles happen in our lives. So Let us place what we have during this Christmas at the manger of Baby Jesus and expect miracles to happen. Look at even a lowly weed was elevated to such a high status. God can turn everything the way He wants. So as we go through this season of Advent, let us find time to be still and to be quiet, and give what we have wholeheartedly so that we can be prepared for the unexpected pleasant surprises that Jesus wants to give us, like how the poinsettia leaves turn from green to red. He will change sadness into joy, the profane into the profound, and the secular into the sacred. Therefore, desire and preparation are necessary for something extraordinary to happen in our lives like that of Pepita because we don’t know what the next moment is going to bring into our lives. Seeing her in tears, an angel appears to Pepita and Pablo and tells them to gather a bundle of the weeds growing nearby. Then the angel told them that the weeds they place before the manger will miraculously turn into glorious red blooms. So they picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. They felt embarrassed because they could only give this small present to Jesus. As they walked through the church to the altar, many of the villagers turned to stare at them but Pepita remembered what the angel and Pablo had said. She began to feel better, and knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the Nativity scene, some of the villagers laughed at them and told among themselves “Why are those children putting weeds by the manger?” Pepita and Pablo began to feel ashamed of their gift to Baby Jesus, but they stood bravely near the manger, placing the weeds on the soft hay, as the angel had instructed. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red colors, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. They stopped talking about them and laughing at them which led to the pin drop silence there. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the ‘Flowers of the Holy Night’. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes seen as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent His purity.

