



Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, January 1 9:00 AM
(Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)
 † Florence Schildgen

Tuesday, January 2 8:15 AM
(Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church)
 † Fr. John Urban
 5:15 PM
 † Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, January 3 8:15 AM
(The Most Holy Name of Jesus)
 Kathy Kreul

Thursday, January 4 8:15 AM
(Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious)
 † Fr. John Urban
 5:15 PM
 † Joyce Klaas

Friday, January 5 8:15 AM
(Saint John Neumann, Bishop)
 † Gilbert Schmitz

Saturday, January 6 8:15 AM
(Saint Andre Bessette, Religious)
 † Lona, Lynn & Darrall Leighton
5:00 PM
 † Fr. John Urban

Sunday, January 7 7:30 AM
(The Epiphany of the Lord)
 People of Our Parish
9:30 AM
 † Mary Friederick

RECONCILIATION
 (in the confessional closest to the rectory)
Mon. thru Sat. Before Mass
Saturday at 4:00 PM
 Face-to-face reconciliation by appointment only.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 23 & 24

Church Support Envelopes . . .	\$4167.00
Offertory Cash	\$589.00
Children's Offertory	\$39.00
Weekly Electronic Giving	\$978.00
Total	\$5,773.00

December 24 & 25 (Christmas)

Church Support Envelopes . . .	\$8,037.00
Offertory Cash	\$1,241.00
Children's Offertory	\$136.00
Total	\$9,414.00

Budgeted Offertory for Dec . . .	\$51,742
Offertory Received in Dec	\$40,457
Budgeted Amount Still Needed . .	\$11,285

Monthly Offertory Comparison

Nov. 2016	\$29,077.00
Nov. 2017	\$32,558.00

From Our Pastor:

Merry Christmas! As we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Only Savior of the world, in this Christmas Season (until January 8, 2018, this year), and the Feast of the Holy Family this Sunday, may we pause for a few moments and contemplate this great Mystery of Jesus' birth (with help from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Homily, December 24, 2006; General Audience, January 3, 2007):

"God's reign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. Exactly the same sign has been given to us... God's sign is simplicity... God's sign is that He makes Himself small for us. This is how He reigns. He does not come to us with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby – defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with His strength. He takes away our fear of His greatness. He asks for our love: so He makes Himself a child. He wants nothing from us other than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into His feelings, His thoughts, and His will – we learn to live with Him and to practice with Him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made Himself small so that we could understand Him, welcome Him, and love Him... Christmas has become the Feast of Gifts in imitation of God Who has given Himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul, and our mind to be touched by this fact!..."

"It is only the Child lying in the manger who possesses the true secret of life. For this reason, He asks us to welcome Him, to make room for Him within us, in our hearts, in our homes, in our cities, and in our societies. The words of Saint John's Gospel Prologue echo in our minds and hearts: 'To all who received Him... He gave power to become children of God' (John 1:12). Let us endeavor to be among those who welcome Him. Before Him one cannot remain indifferent. We too, dear friends, must continuously take sides. What will our response be? With what attitude will we welcome Him? The simplicity of the shepherds and the seeking of the Magi who scrutinized the signs of God by means of the star come to our help. The humility and docility of Mary and the wise prudence of Joseph serve as an example to us... The love that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, brought into the world binds to Himself in a lasting relationship of friendship and brotherhood all who welcome Him. Saint John of the Cross said: 'In giving us all, that is, His Son, in Him God has now said all. Fix your eyes on Him alone... and you will find in addition more than you ask and desire.'"

With prayers for a joyful and blessed Christmas Season and New Year, in Christ,
Fr. William

IMPORTANT YEAR-END DONATION REMINDER!

Please have your monetary donations you would like posted to your 2017 tax statement in the **offertory collection this weekend (December 30/31) or postmarked by Dec. 30**. All donations received or postmarked after these dates will be posted to your 2018 tax statement. Thank you for your generous support of our St. Clement Parish!

HELP AND HEALING FOR POST-ABORTION

No matter how much time has passed, recent or long ago. *Project Rachel* and *Rachel's Vineyard* retreats offer compassionate and individual care for anyone hurting from abortion. To talk with someone, contact Mary 608-221-9593 or rachel@straphael.org Confidentiality assured. www.madisondiocese.org/projectrachel

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Madison Diocesan Choir will sing *Epiphany Lessons and Carols* on Saturday, January 6 at 4 p.m. at Holy Name Heights. Scripture and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany will be used and the choir will repeat some choral music from their earlier performance.



FORMED: OUR GIFT TO YOU!

In this Season of Christmas in which we celebrate our Savior's birth, the Word Made Flesh, we are filled with gratitude to God for His gift to us. What a joy it is to know, love and serve the Lord! In becoming incarnate, Jesus desires that we come to know Him, His Father and the Holy Spirit more deeply and intimately. **FORMED** can help us do just that.

Here's our gift. St. Clement Parish recently purchased a parish subscription to **FORMED.org**. that gives everyone in the parish access to their terrific content. **FORMED** is a website that is a treasure chest of excellent Catholic movies and studies, podcasts and e-books. **FORMED** uses modern technology that allows individuals, groups and families to grow in faith, knowledge and spiritual enrichment from the comfort of their home, or even using a mobile device.

Here's how to "open your gift." When you go to the **FORMED** website for the first time, you will need to enter our parish code. Click on the box that says, "Enter Code." You will need to enter our Parish Access Code, which is **DHYNXC**. Next, you will be asked for your email address, personal information and a password. In the future when you go to **FORMED**, you will use the login icon using your email and password.

We encourage you to get registered and begin using this wonderful tool for spiritual enrichment for yourself and your family. Be sure to check out the "Custom Content" area on the **FORMED** homepage. Scroll down the page a bit and you will see our parish image and a few items we suggest. This content changes periodically as we recommend items of current interest.

Please contact the parish office if you have any questions or are having trouble getting registered. May you and your family have a blessed New Year of Grace!



FAMILY PROMISE: OUR HOST WEEK IS COMING UP SOON!

As many of you know, the family we were assisting during the summer and fall months were able to move into their new home on Thanksgiving weekend. The little 4 year-old daughter shouted, "It's going to be like Christmas!" when she found out they would be moving into their own place. This joy was made possible through the hard work of this family, Hannah's efforts, our support and that of the other 10 host churches, and through the grace of God.

Our next week to assist families experiencing homelessness is coming up the week of January 7th, which is only 1 week away. Volunteer Sign-Up Forms are on a table at the entrance of the church. You can volunteer for more than one area, or more than once. One reminder: **please do not bring in food items at this time**. As of this writing, there is not a family in the program, but that can change on any given day this week or during our host week, so we do need to prepare and be ready. **We will be calling everyone** who signed up to help as a reminder of what to bring (if we have a family), or to say that food or help is not needed (if there is not a family in the program).

If you have any questions, or are interested in helping out but have not done so in the past, please give Bill Manthe a call at 723-4990. Thanks!

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PRAYER

Bishop Robert C. Morlino wrote a personal letter to the priests of the diocese and to all people in the diocese in a recent *Catholic Herald* article in which he addressed the evil that plagues the world. In part he said, "Given the troubles of our age, I believe we are certainly called, not only to redouble our efforts in spreading Christ's plan for the redemption of Creation, but also in our struggle against the evil one and his works. For these reasons, and after consulting with and receiving the support of the Presbyteral Council, I have determined that as a diocesan Church we will begin to insert one or more "Prayers for the Triumph of Good and the Overcoming of Evil," and a call for the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel at the end of the General Intercessions."

We certainly live in troubled, violent times, and we often wonder how to respond. One response, in a word, is prayer. United in prayer throughout the diocese, following Bishop Morlino's instruction, we will ask for the Archangel Michael's intercession each Sunday and Holy Day for deliverance from evil. The prayer for St. Michael's intercession can be found inside the back cover of our church hymnal.



THE FIRST CRIB

St. Francis of Assisi had a very special love for Christmas. But he felt that people had lost the real meaning of Christ's birth and had become too materialistic. He wanted to recall for them in a very special way that very first Christmas, so he asked his friend, who owned much wooded land, to recreate the scene of that night in Bethlehem when Christ was born. Carrying a lighted torch at midnight on Christmas Eve, in the little town of Greccio, Italy, Deacon Francis led his followers and all the town's people to the woods where Mass was to be celebrated by a priest of that town. And there before their very eyes was a stable, animals, images of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and Magi. It is said that on that night Francis' message was so powerful that when the people looked into the empty manger, they saw the Christ.

RELIGIOUS ED NEWS FOR GRADES K TO 6

Jan. 3: No classes for students

Catechists meet 6:00-7:00pm

RELIGIOUS ED NEWS for Grades 7 to 9

CLASS SCHEDULE: January 3

Grades 7, 8 & 9 – CLASS, 7-8:30 pm

YOUTH MINISTRY- ISAIAH 43

Please turn in your deposit to attend Steubenville North Youth Conference to Katie at the parish office as soon as possible if you haven't paid yet. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST. CLEMENT

Sunday, December 31 Wedding Mass of Alex Benson
& Kelsy Kelly, 3 PM

Wednesday, January 3 All School Mass, 8:15 am

Friday, January 5 First Friday Adoration
(24 hours, through Saturday, 8 am)

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) NOTES

ALL women of parish are members of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). The dues of \$5 help us support parish activities, roses for life (on the altar) for two weekends per month, altar bread, Lighthouse Media CD stand etc. Thank you to members who sent in your dues. If you haven't yet, please send it in as soon as you are able. Thank you.

BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION

Please contribute to the "Bless Our Priests" collection as soon as possible. This collection, **due by today, December 31**, is used to directly support all retired priests' welfare including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Monday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00 AM

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION JANUARY 5 & 6

Please sign up on the schedule near the Fatima Chapel. You may come at any time during the 24-hour adoration, however, signing up for just one hour will assure at least one person is in the Chapel at all times keeping vigil with the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and night. Thank you for the donation of your time!

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will be the best and most profitable time you will ever spend here on Earth. . . . Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on Earth." Saint Teresa of Calcutta

HELP THE DIOCESE OF MADISON PREPARE ENGAGED COUPLES FOR MARRIAGE!

The Diocese of Madison invites you to share your marriage and your faith with newly engaged couples through our Marriage Prep Program. It is an opportunity to share your real-life experiences and the beauty of God's plan for married love with couples preparing for marriage. We need couples that have experienced the trials, struggles, and joys of marital love and are striving to live their Catholic faith within their marriage. Join us for a training session Friday January 19, 2018 from 6:30-9:00pm at Holy Name Heights in Madison. Visit madisondiocese.org/jointhempteam for more information OR Contact Beth Ulaszek at (608) 821-3026 or beth.ulaszek@madisondiocese.org for more information.

MASS INTENTION OPENINGS

We have openings for Mass Intentions in coming weeks and months. Have a Mass offered for your living and/or deceased loved ones, in thanksgiving or for your special intentions. Contact Katie at the parish office (723-4990) or use the envelopes found in the entrances of the church.

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL

THANK YOU LANCASTER COMMUNITY FUND!

Saint Clement School recently received a \$6,350 charitable grant from the Lancaster Community Fund for new classroom touch panel screens. This grant was made possible through the Charles "Sonny" Tiedemann Charitable Fund. We would like to thank all current and former members of the Lancaster Community Fund Advisory Board for their continued support of our wonderful school and the children of Lancaster!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

All of us at Saint Clement School would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We would especially like to thank you for the positive examples you provide for our children as you live your faith each and every day. We would also like to thank you for continuing to support our Saint Clement Parish School through tax-deductible donations towards our school's Tuition Assistance and Wish List funds. These generous donations help make our Saint Clement School available to every family that wishes for their children to receive a top-notch Catholic education. For all of this, we very humbly say, "Thank you and Merry Christmas!!!"

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL/HOME & SCHOOL RAFFLE CALENDAR WINNERS:

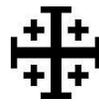
December

- | | | |
|----|-------|------------------------|
| 25 | \$250 | Belscamper Family |
| 26 | \$25 | Joe & Sally Langkamp |
| 27 | \$25 | David Knoke |
| 28 | \$25 | Alyssa Bainbridge |
| 29 | \$25 | Carol Addison |
| 30 | \$25 | Don & Michelle Bennett |
| 31 | \$50 | Betty Schurman |





WEEKEND LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



JANUARY 6 & 7

5 PM Lectors: Tom Hughey & Mary Seiler

5 PM Servers: Haley & Caden Timmerman, Brenin Belscamper

7:30 AM Lector: Lenny & Carol Bass

7:30 AM Servers: Sam & Grace Schaffer

9:30 AM Lectors: Kathy Larsen & Sheri Ihm

9:30 AM Servers: Sydney Busch, DJ Kelley & Gabi Dressler

JANUARY 13 & 14

5 PM Lectors: Bill Manthe & Emil Everix

5 PM Servers: Mason & Avery Crooks, Brianna Kirsch

7:30 AM Lector: Rita Schmitz

7:30 AM Servers: Volunteers!

9:30 AM Lectors: Kitty Mumm & Jenny/Gracie Winter

9:30 AM Servers: Cole Zenz, Alaina Stader, Mallory Olmstead

*If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled liturgical role,
please find a substitute.*

**SERVERS: Your new schedules are ready
and can be picked up in the sacristy.**

**** We need servers and lectors for Mass on the Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God, January 1, at 9:00 AM. Please contact
Bill Manthe at the parish office to volunteer.**

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI teaches us about Christmas: "The Infinite has become a child, has entered the human family. And yet, this same God cannot enter my heart unless I open the door." Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Magi were all intent upon opening the door. The Angel Gabriel and the Holy Spirit found Mary at prayer. The Shepherds were approached in the fields. Joseph was directed in the quiet of prayer that seemed like a dream. The Magi were busy studying, looking for the signs that would indicate the fulfillment of the prophecies. These saints of the Nativity provide good lessons on how to be prepared to recognize Divine Inspiration, the Breath of the Spirit. Quiet prayer and patience, like Joseph and Mary, open the ears of our hearts. Faithfulness to our vocations, like the Shepherds, makes us attentive to heavenly messages. And patient study of the truth directs us to do as the Wise Men did and follow the path to the Savior.

We hear an invitation in Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door to Me, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with Me." This holy season of Christmas is a great time to open the door and invite the Savior in to see a table set with the finest fruit, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, generosity, and self-control.

SIMPLY GRATEFUL!

You may recall, at the Thanksgiving Day Mass, the collection would go to the Lancaster Association of Churches Food Pantry. We recently received this card from Judi Bembenek on behalf of the Food Pantry.

"Dear Friends,

As the card says, we are simply grateful for the gift of \$250 from the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Thank you so much. Our pantry is truly blessed to have the support of so many wonderful friends and volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without it.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Judi and the Food Pantry



In Memoriam

As we celebrate Christ's birth, please remember in your prayers this week Alan Schwantes of our parish who died on Christmas morning and whose funeral was held on Saturday. Alan was 81 years young at the time of his passage from this life to life eternal. Alan grew up on the family farm outside of Lancaster and never moved away. Farming was in his blood and he took great pride in the care of God's creation. In school he met his true love, Dolores Hahn, whom he married in 1955. They were blessed with five wonderful children: Joe, Nancy, Judy, Amy and Dave. Alan would always help out our parish family when asked. He was a true servant of the Lord -- loving God, loving his family and friends, and helping others. As we keep this good man of faith, hope and love in our prayers, may we also pray for his dear wife Dolores, his children and sons and daughters-in-law, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all his relatives and friends who grieve. May the Holy Spirit bring them comfort and consolation in this time of sorrow.

We also remember and pray for Fr. John Urban, one of our former pastors who died on December 20 at the age of 84 at the home where he grew up in Johnson Creek. Fr. Urban's first assignment as a priest was to St. Clement Parish from 1959-1963; and his pastorate was from 1985 to 1992. He was a wonderful storyteller, as many will remember, and he enjoyed cooking, gardening and the glory of the outdoors. He loved God, he loved serving God and he loved sharing with others God's love for them. May he hear the words of Jesus, "Well done my good and faithful servant... Come share your Master's joy!" (Mt 25:21). Appropriately, Fr. Urban's funeral was at St. John the Baptist Church in Jefferson (St. John the Baptist was his patron saint) on the feast of St. John the Evangelist (December 27).

"Eternal rest grant unto Alan and Fr. Urban, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."