



Weekly Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 18 8:15 AM
 Busch Family

Wednesday, December 19. 8:15 AM
 Members of Lancaster Police Department

Thursday, December 20 8:15 AM
 † Al Karleskint

Friday, December 21. 8:15 AM
(Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church)
 † Paul Penchi Jr.

Saturday, December 22. 8:15 AM
 † Fr. John Norder
5:00 PM
 † Leo Abing

Sunday, December 23 7:30 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 People of Our Parish
9:30 AM
 † Alan Schwantes

RECONCILIATION

Before Daily & Sunday Masses
Saturday at 4:00 PM

Face-to-face reconciliation by appointment only.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays:
 9 am to 5 pm

Thursdays & Fridays:
 9 am to 2 pm

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 8 & 9

Church Support Envelopes	\$4,642.00
Offertory Cash.	\$815.00
Children's Offertory.	\$41.00
Weekly Electronic Giving	\$988.00
Total	\$6,486.00
Budgeted Offertory for Dec . . .	\$42,882.00
Offertory Received in Dec. . . .	\$ 14,813.00
Budgeted Amount Still Needed . .	\$ 28,069.00

Monthly Offertory Comparison

November 2018 (4 weeks).	\$33,092.00
November 2017 (4 weeks).	\$32,558.00

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS REMINDER

Christmas memorials are due in the Parish Office by this **Monday, December 17** for publication in the upcoming Dec. 22/23 bulletin. All checks should be payable to St. Clement Parish. Thank you!

From Our Pastor:

As our Advent Season journey continues in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, which is just nine days away, please remember our parish Penance Service (four priests will be available for Confessions) at 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 19 (in addition to the regularly scheduled times on Saturdays at 4:00pm and before daily Mass). When we celebrate the birthday of the Only Savior of the world, may we be as well prepared as possible for a worthy celebration – as Saint John the Baptist reminds us this Sunday, and as our beloved Bishop Robert C. Morlino (1946-2018) encouraged and invited us to do every year. Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop Morlino.

In the Gospel on this Third Sunday of Advent (Luke 3:10-18), we read that the people who came out to the desert to hear Saint John the Baptist preach the Good News, whatever their background, asked a common question: “What should we do?” Saint John’s message, of course, was of the imminent coming of the Messiah – and it is understandable that such an expectation aroused a desire to prepare for the momentous event, symbolized in Saint John’s baptism of repentance by water.

Saint John’s answer to the question “what to do” is both practical and mysterious. Saint John’s answer is *practical* in that he tells them to do what is right and good (for example: give food and clothing to the poor, be upright and honest). In other words, God asks us to be faithful in the ordinary circumstances of our daily life, for He will make Himself evident there. Saint John’s answer is *mysterious* in that he speaks of a new baptism by fire and the Holy Spirit, and of a judgment that awaits souls. “His winnowing fan is in His hand to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The world in which we live today seems increasingly disinclined to acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ as the central event of human history. Some people and groups appear so filled with themselves and their selfish concerns that they go to extremes to forbid the public display of manger scenes and suppress the use of the word “Christmas.” Regardless of such efforts by atheists and sects of the secular culture that try to impose their anti-Christian “religion” on Christians, the Truth of Jesus Christ cannot be ignored. And on this third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete* Sunday, Rejoice Sunday), the Church reminds us to proclaim and prepare evermore joyfully for the birthday of Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:4-5). Every person in history takes a stand to either proclaim or attack or remain indifferent to the mystery of God the Son, Jesus Christ, offered for our salvation. The question then is always relevant and pertinent – *what should we do?* As Christmas draws near, may we respond to the question by renewing deeply our faith in and our love for Jesus Christ and His Church, living in our words and deeds the virtues of faith, hope and love, and praying fervently for a world that needs His Presence more than ever.

With peace and prayers in Christ,
Fr. William

BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION ENVELOPES

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Please join us in this last full week of the Advent Season as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. This week, we will view and reflect on a beautiful video on the nativity of our Lord. There will be two opportunities to do so. On Wednesday, December 19, we will gather following the 8:15 Mass; and on Thursday, December 20, we will meet at 6:15 PM. Both gatherings will be held in the parish office meeting room, with sessions lasting about 1 ½ hours. All are welcome as we prepare to welcome the King of Kings!



**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE:
DECEMBER 22 & 23**



5 PM Lectors: Mary Seiler & Emil Everix
5 PM Servers: Owen & Aurora Fritz, Hope Williams
7:30 AM Lector: Connie Reinsbach
7:30 AM Servers: Gabi & JoJo Dressler, Olivia Webster
9:30 AM Lectors: Kitty Mumm & Sam Jonas
9:30 AM Servers: Matthew Crosby, Logan Muldoon
 & Fin Hoffman

Lectors & Servers: We need volunteers for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Christmas Mass times are December 24, at 5 PM and 9 PM. Mass on Christmas Day is at 9:30 AM. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

FORMED: FOR CHRISTMAS

We're only a week away before the birthday of our Savior. FORMED has some excellent videos for young and old alike. For kids, consider watching "Brother Francis: O Holy Night" or "Nicholas, the Boy who Became Santa" or "Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree." For adults and families, FORMED offers the films "Mary of Nazareth" and "Joseph of Nazareth." For a study of the birth of Jesus, watch "The Story of the Nativity." To make these easy to find, we have included them in the Community section on FORMED.

To register on FORMED, go to www.FORMED.org. Click on "Enter Code" and enter our parish code: **DHYNXC** and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

ADVENT: A SEASON TO REJOICE

Gaudete everyone! Yes, rejoice! The Third Sunday of Advent has been traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday, drawing its name from the first word of the Latin Opening Antiphon of Mass: "Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always, again I say rejoice! The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5).

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE
(HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION)**

CHRISTMAS EVE *Monday, December 24*
 Vigil of Christmas 5:00 PM
 Vigil of Christmas 9:00 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY *Tuesday, December 25*
 Nativity of the Lord 9:30 AM
NEW YEAR'S EVE *Monday, December 31*
 Vigil Mass for the Holyday 5:30 PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY *Tuesday, January 1*
 Mary, Mother of God. 9:00 AM

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) NOTES

ALL women of our 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, donate to various causes 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. CLEMENT

Wednesday, December 19. . . . 9:30 am, Mass at Orchard Manor
 10:30 am, Mass at Atrium Post Acute Care
 Noon, Finance Council Meeting
 7 pm, Communal Penance, St. Clement Church
 (4 priests available)
 RE classes; Grades K-6 (6-7 pm); Grades 7-9 (7-8:30 pm)
 Friday, December 21. 8:15 am, All School Mass
 11:15 am, Mass at Morningside Assisted Living

ST CLEMENT FALL FESTIVAL 2018 UPDATE

Net proceeds from our St. Clement Fall Festival were \$49,500.00, up \$2,500.00 from last year! Thanks and much appreciation go to our chairpersons; Josh & Erin Jensen, Kevin & Cheryl Raisbeck and Kevin & Renee Timmerman! We were able to transfer \$50,000.00 to our parish general operating fund to help cover expenses such as payroll for school and church. The following are the general profits from the main areas of our Fall Festival (please see the bulletin board for detailed breakdown):

Main Raffle	\$7,514.00
Raffle Donations	\$17,041.00
Dinner (Dine-In & Carry-Out)	\$11,815.00
Cash Donations	\$5,345.00
Sweet Rolls	\$707.00
Beer Tent.	\$1,585.00
Silent Auction	\$4,365.00
Country Store	\$1,186.00
Games	\$676.00
Vegas Tickets	\$766.00
*Misc. Expenses	\$1,517.00

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for your dedication, generous donation of time, and contributions, all of which contributed to a successful Fall Festival even on a rainy day!

**COMMUNAL PENANCE SCHEDULE
(WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS):**

- Wednesday, Dec. 19, St. Clement, 7 pm

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL

SCRIP WARS

Saint Clement School students are currently competing in our annual SCRIP War Competition, and the class that recruits their family and friends to purchase the most SCRIP before December 23rd will be declared the winner. The winning class will then get the opportunity to present a \$100 donation to Family Promise on their behalf, as we continue to look for ways in which we can live our faith by serving others. In addition, if we reach our goal of \$125,000 worth of SCRIP during the competition, all students will be rewarded with a special Pajama Party! So, please stop by the SCRIP table after Mass to do your Christmas shopping or get SCRIP for everyday purchases like gas and groceries. Thank you all once again for your continued support of our students and our wonderful parish school and have a Merry Christmas!!!