

Holy Family Parish

PO Box 405 – 5 Main Street
Russell, Massachusetts 01071
413-862-4418

December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

Growing Our Parish



Church Support envelopes are available in the front of the Church. If you cannot find yours, please let the office know so they may be ordered for you.

Christmas wafers are also available at the entrance of the church. Please take one to share with your family on Christmas Day. \$1 Donation.

The Religious Education Faith Formation Program will be presenting a Christmas/ Nativity Tableau which will take place during the first part of class at 9:30 am, Sunday December 17th. All families and parishioners are invited to attend.



The 18th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols will be celebrated on Saturday, December 16th, 7:30 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, 260 State Street in Springfield. The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults will be accompanied by strings, hand bells and the mighty cathedral organ. Highlights of the service will include the Gloria and Et In Terra Pax from a rarely heard Gloria by Vivaldi, the Benedictus of Sir John Elgar, and the Nunc Dimittis of Herbert Howells. The service consists of nine scripture readings of the season paired with congregational carols and choral anthems. The service begins in darkness and as

the story of the nativity progresses the candles and lights of the cathedral are lit. For further information contact the Office of worship at worship@diospringfield.org, or by calling (413) 452-0839

The Southern Hilltown Domestic Violence Task Force and all of us at Holy Family Parish want every home and every relationship to be safe and peaceful. If you are worried about yourself or someone you care about there is someone you can talk to locally. Call Hilltown Safety at Home's advocate Gail @ 413-559-8039 or Bev at 413-387-3120. You can speak by phone or meet in person. All calls are confidential and can be anonymous.



Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

December 24: Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.

December 25: Nativity of the Lord Mass at 8:15 am and 11:00 am

December 31: Vigil Mass; Solemnity of Mary at 5 pm

January 1, 2018 Solemnity of Mary Mass at 10:00 am.

✳ **Snow Alert!** Daily Mass and/or Communion Prayer Services will be cancelled if the Gateway Regional School District announces a 2-hour day or cancels classes. Please check local TV channels for info on school cancellations before heading to Mass!

Daily Mass and Communion Prayer Services in the Parish Hall at 8 a.m. Masses for Holy Days of Obligation will be held in Church

MASS SCHEDULE

December 16-24, 2017

Saturday, December 16 *Vigil*

5:00 p.m. Bishop Rozanski

Sunday December 17 *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:15 a.m. Roland Collins † by Barbara Leja

9:30 a.m. Religious Education

11:00 a.m. Terry Castro † requested by Rob, Jessica and Aubrey Gottsche

12:15 p.m. Baptism of Aubrey Lynn Gottsche

Monday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Missions/Missionaries in the US and Worldwide

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Civic Leaders

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Those Working for Social Justice

Thursday, December 21 *St Peter Canisius, Priest*

8:00 a.m. Communion Prayer Service

Friday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Military Personnel (Active or Retired)

Saturday, December 23 *Vigil*

5:00 p.m. Michael Sadlowski † 8th Anniversary, requested by his brothers

Sunday, December 24 *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:15 a.m. Homebound/Hospitalized Members of the Parish

9:30 a.m. No Religious Education

11:00 a.m. Needs of the Parishioners and Friends

Sunday, December 24 –VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

5:00 p.m. Henry Daglio † 5th anniversary requested by son Marty and Pam

Monday, December 25—NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:15 a.m. The People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

Second Collections: December 16th and 17th for Maintenance and Improvements. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Pastor: Fr. Ron F. Sadlowski
(413-862-4418)

Deacon David Baillargeon
(413-667-3147 or cell phone: 413-207-1301)

Religious Education Director:
Deb Bogoff ~ 413-888-7412

Cemetery Superintendent
Please contact the parish office

Administrative Assistant: Carla Tacke

Office Hours:
Monday-Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Email: holyfamily.parish@aol.com
Phone/FAX: 413-862-4418

Parish Website: holyfamilyrussell.org

Baptisms & Marriages:
Please call the office at 862-4418 to schedule.

To request a Mass Intention,
call the office at 862-4418

NEW PARISHIONERS—Welcome!
PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE
TO REGISTER

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.

Sunday Masses:
8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Daily Mass IN PARISH HALL
(Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri): 8 a.m.

Communion Prayer Service IN PARISH HALL
Thursday 8 a.m.

Confessions (In Children's Room):
Saturday 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday 7:30-8:00am

Religious Education:
Sunday, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
Holy Family Parish, Russell

Suggested donations for Huntington Food Pantry:

Pie crust mix, pie fillings, stuffing mix, chicken broth, biscuit mix, cake and cookie mixes, and frosting. Also needed are Pasta and Pasta sauce. Canned soups, broth, chili, corned beef hash, and ravioli. Canned tuna, salmon, crabmeat. Mac & Cheese. Meals in a Box. Canned fruit, fruit cups, and veggies (including beets). Canned and dried beans. Coffee, tea, instant hot chocolate, juice and juice boxes. Instant oatmeal, hot and cold cereals, granola and breakfast bars, peanut butter and jelly, graham crackers, snack crackers.

Place your donations in the blue bin at the entrance of Church.

Monetary donations may be mailed directly to Huntington Food Pantry, PO Box 477, Huntington, MA 01050-0477.

Lector and Usher Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Ushers</i>
Dec 16	5:00 pm	Diane DeMoss	Bill Hardie
Dec 17	8:15 am	Christine Lindberg	Steve Morawski
	11:00 am	Ellen Hirtle	Dave Norton
Dec 23	5:00 pm	Ginny Hardie	
Dec 24	8:15 am	Phil Winterson	Del Lavature Mel/Mike Scuderi
	11:00 am	Jo-Anne Auclair	
	5:00 pm	Volunteer	Volunteer
Dec 25	8:15 am	Volunteer	Volunteer
	11:00 am	Volunteer	Volunteer

Parish Prayer Request Board and Pastoral Visits

Call Fr Ron at 862-4418 with your prayer requests. Also, if you or a family member will be hospitalized, admitted to a nursing home or rehabilitation facility and would like a Pastoral Visit, please notify Fr Ron.

Reflection

by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

We all know the expression “the man of the hour.” In today’s culture, we should wisely add that there can also be “the woman” of the same. The dictionary tells us the phrase describes “a person in whose honor a gathering is held.” Or, “the person who is currently an object of public attention.”

A case can be made that the words fit John the Baptist as he makes his annual appearance in the Gospels of Advent. He is the scriptural version of an “advance man” for his cousin as the adult Jesus comes striding along the Jordan riverbank. John will shortly lose that “man of the hour” title when Jesus begins His unique ministry.

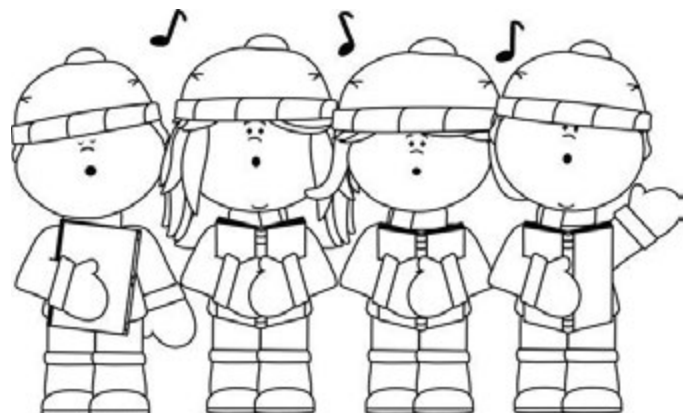
But St. Mark’s gospel section this weekend lets us pause to take a closer look at the Baptist for the short time he is before our eyes. Certainly he is an intimidating figure just for his wardrobe! And that diet of his! Ugh! Definitely he followed that for ritual purity and not for flavor. But above all, he was a humble man, whose prophetic role he saw as service to one greater than he.

Humility oozes from John’s every pore as you watch him never capitalizing on the admiring crowds. Instead he talks always of Jesus and practically urges his followers to turn to the Man from Nazareth. I believe that along with tremendous humility, John was blest with healthy self-awareness and control. Imagine a celebrity of our time urging us to pay more attention to someone other than themselves! As Jesus’ precursor, John had to know his role would soon be forgotten and gone like a fly in the wind.

Listen to him here again: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.” Humility is truth if nothing else. There speaks a humble man.

As we approach Christmas and its gift-giving, being humble may be the best choice of holiday behavior. Not going overboard with lavish gifts that make the deed really all about you. No excess drinking at parties just because the bottle is there and you feel like you deserve another. No spoiling the children lest they think the feast is about them and not the poor Babe in the manger. Showing a positive attitude at family gatherings.

Such would be the way of the man of the hour: John the Baptist. Always remember that despite dress and diet, we call him “saint.” As for his humility, here is a rather earthy description of the virtue that John just might like: “Humility is like underwear. We should have it—but not let it show!”



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