

December 9, 2018

ST. NORBERT

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FERVENT DISCIPLES

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SCHOOL 6 GREENLAWN ROAD, PAOLI, PA 19301
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MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:30PM

SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9, 11:30 AM; **Spanish** 1:30PM;
Youth Mass 6PM

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 6:30 & 8 AM; **SATURDAY** 8AM

RECONCILIATION: **Thursdays** 7-8 PM; **Saturday** 4-5 PM or by
Appointment

ADORATION: **Thursdays** 8:30 AM - 8 PM; **Saturdays** 4-5 PM

CLERGY

REV. STEVEN J. ALBERO, O. PRAEM., PASTOR

REV. ARUL AMALRAJ, O. PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON STEVE MARTINO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRED)



Judean wilderness as seen from Masada near Qumran where John the Baptists is believed to have lived. Photo Courtesy Sarah Christmyer

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, as today's Gospel relates, he called people to a deep change of heart. For John the Baptist, repentance was not simply regret for past failings, but a commitment to orient life around God's desires and purposes. What might living in alignment with God's desires look like? Our readings offer some clues. Baruch indicates that when mercy and justice are embraced like a royal garment, we may see the fruits of repentance. Paul notes how the Holy Spirit has been active within the church in Philippi, forming them to live in a loving and united community of faith, so they may witness to the love of God. And John himself suggests that a repentant heart clears a path for God to enter, leveling the mountains and valleys of our resistance, so that God might dwell within.

HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS

John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today's Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John's listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John's listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

EARTH-MOVING

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

TODAY'S READINGS: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low."

– Baruch 5:7

Sunday, December 9

5:30 †Peter Messantonio, Jr
 7:30 Parishioners
 9:00 †Joseph Manion & Regina Westhoff
 11:30 †Carlo DiValerio
 1:30 PM **No Mass:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival School Gym
 6 PM †Frank E. Mamrol, Jr

Monday, December 10

6:30 AM †Richard Walsh
 8:00 †Frank Castaldi

Tuesday, December 11

6:30 †Robert Lipton
 8:00 †Dolores Albero

Wednesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 †Catherine Lee Murphy
 8:00 †Michele Lilly

Thursday, December 13

6:30 †Deceased Members of the Mellet Family
 8:00 †Catherine Lee Murphy

Friday, December 14

6:30 †J. Anthony Hayden
 8:00 Lord's Blessing on the Mogavero Family

Saturday, December 15

8:00 †Michael Dillon

Sunday, December 16

5:30 †Mary & Adiel Van de Weghe
 7:30 †Florence DiMonte
 9:00 †Mario, Nicolino & Iolanda Melchiorre
 11:30 †Joseph Page
 1:30 PM Spanish Mass
 6 PM Parishioners



Gratitude

Getting Closer

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two "comings" of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us.

While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made



PRAYERS & READINGS



PRAY FOR HEALING: Corinne Kerrigan, Greg Kleckner, Maria Palfy, Julian D'Orazio, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Mary Corcoran, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Rofi, Guillermo Maldonado, Helen Gelstine, Peter Lim, Ann Sassaman, Clare Rossmeisl, Diana Reyes, Frank Henriquez, Patricia Boyce, Louanne Armstrong, Ruth Chavez, John F. Erickson, Debra Ulicny, Roberto Barajas, Joseph Mongiello, Mary Alice Spina, Sue Birmingham, Todd Monastero, Dan Petrella, Julianne Zelov, Guillermo Lopez, Maura Tehrani Henderson, Kate Fullam, Marion Fries, Isabelle Oravecz, Midge Malloy, Bob Denney, Mary Pyne, William R. Ewing, Jackson Kahn, Marc Palfy, Mary Ann Gallagher, Missy Schwartz, Eduardo "Lalo" Quintana, Joseph Morelli, Gerry Hughes, James Buroker, Layne McHugh, Deborah Nagle

REST IN PEACE: Trudy DiNardo, Francisco Piña

PRAYERS FOR OUR TROOPS:

Pvt. **Matthew Cress**, USA; Pvt. Jessica **Flowers** USA; Pvt. **Michael Flowers**, USA; Capt. **Rob Kersey**, USN; Capt. **Spencer Lahiff**, USMC; Sgt. **Justin Lansford**, USA; Pvt. **Bryan McCormick**, USA; Lt. Col. **James Merenda**, USAF; Lt. **Nicholas Prestipino**, USA; Sgt. **R. J. Paski**, USA; Sgt. **Matthew Paski**, USAF; Maj. **Brian Wallin**, DO, USA, Lt. Col. **Keith Benedict**, USA



for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for *eternal* life by the way that we use our time, our talents and our

treasure *now*.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God's love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ's coming among us. We are told the precise time, place and person — John the Baptist — He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior.

John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first "coming" on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

This Advent, let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept in to our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about — moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

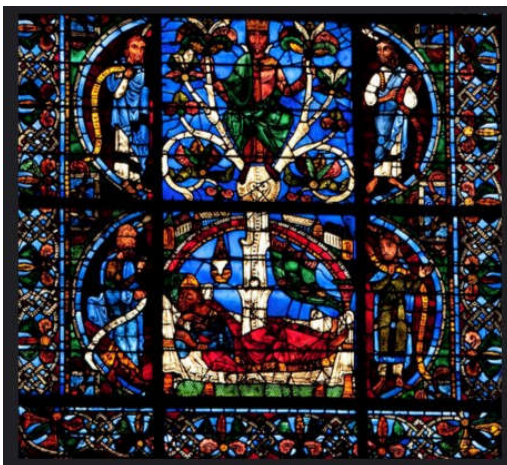
AN ADVENT TRADITION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY:

THE JESSE TREE

By Sarah Christmyer

When a new star shone bright enough that grown men (wise men? kings?) saddled up, dropped everything else and set out for the tiny town of Bethlehem, it didn't herald something unexpected. The king it announced had been expected for centuries! Jesus's birth was not "Plan B," some sort of last-ditch effort to save the human race when it resisted all other efforts. God always planned to become one of us, so we could in turn become his.

Recalling the story of why Jesus came can help deepen our own appreciation of Christmas. One time-honored way is the "Jesse Tree" tradition. Based on Isaiah's prophecy that "a shoot" or royal descendant would come from the "stump of Jesse," father of King David (see Isaiah 11:1), the original "Jesse trees" took shape in Medieval times as artwork picturing the ancestors of Jesus. The Cathedral of Chartres, for example, has a beautiful Jesse Tree window in stained glass (*above center*). Over time, the Jesse Tree came to represent not only ancestors of the Messiah, but the whole succession of Old Testament people and events that find their culmination in Christ.



Jesse Tree Ornaments Can Be Made For A Tree:

Today, the popular Advent custom combines these events of salvation history with Christmas tree ornaments to mark the days of December leading to Christ's birth. Every day, a passage of Scripture is read and a new ornament signifying that event is hung on the tree. Ornaments can be made of anything from paper to cookie dough to felt or even clay. The internet is full of lists and patterns for making and using the ornaments, or they can be bought pre-made.

Or, Here's a "Grown-up Jesse

Tree: Now that my kids are grown, I find myself less interested in the ornaments than in the readings. Several years ago, I put together a "Grown-up" Jesse Tree: a Bible Reading Plan for Advent. Here's a link to the free

checklist, which includes readings for the "O antiphons" we hear in the week leading up to Christmas, in the liturgy: <http://comeintotheword.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Jesse-Tree-Reading-Plan1.pdf>

To connect more to Christ through Scripture visit Sarah's website: comeintotheword.com



PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

SUNDAY, DEC 9, 11:30 AM

BILINGUAL MASS

- ◆ **Rosary** to Our Lady at 11 AM in the Oratory
- ◆ **Procession** to the Parish Activity Center
- ◆ **Traditional** foods, music and more
- ◆ **Everyone** in the parish is invited
- ◆ **Express** our love and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Volunteers needed for set up, clean, and bring fruit or dessert

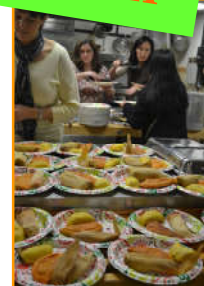
CONTACT:

Cecilia Silva Palacios at 610.353.3882 or silvacd77@gmail.com

Laura Peterson or 610.644.1655 ext. 121 or lpeterson@parish.stnorbert.org



THIS SUNDAY



News & Events

LIVING OUR FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD

CALLED TO MISSION

Make your plans now for a 50+ Group Spiritual Retreat at the Family Life Center at Malvern Retreat House on **Thursday, Jan 24**, from **9 AM-2:30 PM**. **Fr. James McGuinn**, a dynamic speaker and



Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist parish in Manayunk, will direct our 2nd annual spiritual retreat. The retreat day will focus on understanding what Catholic evangelization is, and how we can help our parish and ourselves grow in the area of evangelization. Fr. Jim will inspire you to become a fully devoted disciple of Christ. The day includes Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, personal reflection time, and fellowship



over breakfast and lunch. **COST:** \$36 per person. **RSVP** early to reserve your place! **DEADLINE:** Friday **Jan 18**. Drop off or mail the registration form below along with payment to the Parish Office. **CONTACT:** Barbara DiGiulielmo at bbarbdi@aol.com or 610.283.5548

REGISTRATION

50+ Day of Recollection at Malvern Retreat House
Thursday, Jan 24, 9 AM-2:30 PM

Name(s): _____
Telephone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Total Enclosed: _____ (\$36/person, cash or check payable to St. Norbert 50+ Group)

DROP OFF OR MAIL completed form with payment to the Parish Office (50 Leopard Road, Paoli PA 19301) no later than Friday, January 18, 2019. If the Office is closed, just use the mail slot next to the front door.

DO YOU HAVE . . .

THE RIGHT STUFF?



St. Norbert Parish is developing a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and we need you! We are looking for individuals with experience in security, retired or active law enforcement or military to help serve on our planning committee.

CONTACT: Barrie Fila at filab@becket-lee.com if you are interested and please

include information regarding your experience and availability.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO... SERVE THE POOR



Our next mission to serve lunch at the St. Francis Inn in the Kensington area of Philadelphia will be on **Friday, Dec 21**. The Inn serves the daily needs of the poor and homeless with food, clothing, and hospitality. Our St. Norbert's ministry has served every month for many years. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Help break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. **CONTACT:** Cal Fastuca at cal.fastuca@me.com

DEADLINE TOMORROW . . .

PRESENTS DUE

The deadline to return Christmas Giving Tree gifts is **Monday, Dec 10**. Again, thank you all for your outpouring of generosity and fervency at this time of year. **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Make your plans now for Christmas. Don't forget that the 4 pm Children's Liturgy is the most attended Mass.

Come early to sit in your regular seat.

Sunday, December 23, 4th Sunday of Advent
7:30, 9, 11:30 AM, 1:30 Spanish Mass, 6 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES
Monday, December 24
4 PM Children's Liturgy Church and Oratory (Overflow)
6PM, 8 PM and 11 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday, December 25
7:30, 9, 11:30 AM & 1:30 PM Spanish Mass
(**No** 6 PM Youth Mass)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Sunday, December 30
7:30, 9, 11:30 AM; 1:30 PM Spanish Mass, 6 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
Monday, December 31, Vigil 5:30 PM
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 10 AM ONLY

No matter what your **present status** is in the Catholic Church;
no matter your **family** or **marital status**;
no matter where you are in the **practice of faith**;
no matter your **personal history**, age or background;
no matter what your **self-image** may be;
YOU are invited, welcomed,
and loved at St. Norbert Parish.

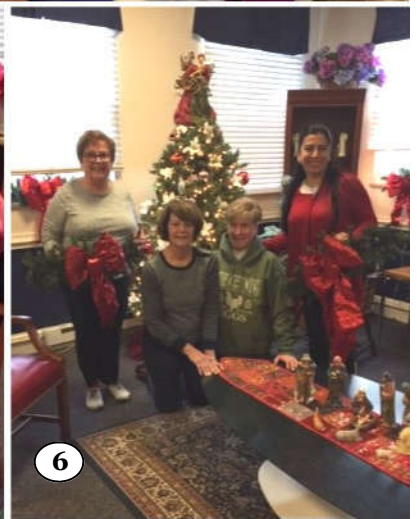


Around Our Parish

Fr. Steve's installation as our new Pastor last Sunday was a Spirit-filled and joyous occasion (1). **Bishop John McIntyre** (center 2) adeptly moved between English and Spanish in the Bilingual Mass (3). Our **Norbertine fathers** (4) participated and touching moments came when the Bishop said special prayers for the pastor as he prayed over parishioners, Parish Council, staff and school under Fr. Steve's new stewardship. **Denise Duffy** and her "Outdoor Elves" (5) were hard at work on our campus decorating for Christmas while **Irene West** and her "Indoor Elves" (6) provided Christmas magic for the Parish Office. Meanwhile, **Cynthia Castaldi** and her Walking With Purpose Core Team (7) solidified plans for the next semester. Save the date and plan to attend the **School Nativity** (8-9) Thursday, **Dec 13**, at 7 PM.



Fr. Steve Photos by Michelle Kilgore





HEY TEENS . . .

HIGH SCHOOLERS ONLY

Join us for the **15th annual Xanten** retreat for high school students.

Jan 11-13

at St. Mary of Providence retreat center in Elverson.

REGISTER:

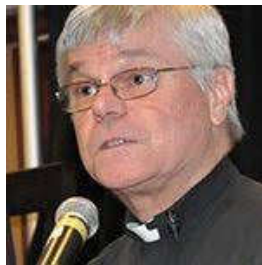
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CONTACT: Clare Field at ckane@parish.stnorbert.org

NO GREATER GIFT. NO GREATER LOVE.

WITH FR. JAMES BLOUNT

Jesus, our newborn King, is the most perfect gift our loving Father could give to His beloved children. This Advent, we anticipate the gifts of **hope, healing, and peace** that can only come from Jesus. Join **Fr. James Blount**, SOLT, on **Tuesday, Dec 18**, beginning with Mass at **6 PM** at St. Patrick's Malvern to explore how we can experience these gifts in our times and realize the promise of joy that awaits us in the gift of our Savior's birth. The Mass will be followed by a presentation from Fr. Blount, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and a Healing Service.



GIVE THE GIFT OF . . .

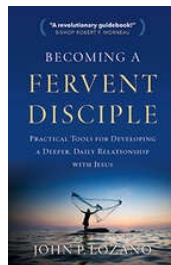
Growing in Faith



This Christmas, give a special spiritual gift to a loved one. Our parish Book Store has many great books and timeless classics including our own Deacon **John Lozano's** new book

"Becoming a Fervent Disciple," C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity," Fr. Richard

Rohr's "Breathing Underwater," and more. Check out the Narthex books for yourself or someone you love.



TUESDAY NIGHTS . . .

REFLECT & NOURISH

Join us on **Tuesday nights** for fellowship and Scripture reflection at **7:30 PM**. St. Norbert Young Adults gather in the Parish Office Lower Level Meeting Room. No experience or materials necessary, just bring yourself.

St. Norbert's
YOUNG ADULTS

WHY GETHSEMANI WAY?

SPIRITUAL TRIAGE

GETHSEMANI 12 STEP

SPIRITUALITY NIGHT:

This **Sunday, Dec 9, 7:30-8:30 PM**, in the St. Norbert Oratory. Open to people in 12 Step programs (AA, Al-Anon, Gamblers Anonymous, etc.). Held the 2nd Sunday of the month. **Contact:** Martin K 610.291.114



GETHSEMANI ADDICTIONS

PRAYER NITE: The holidays are always a trying time for those battling addictions. Join us **Thursday, Dec 21, 7 PM** in the Oratory to pray for family members and loved ones suffering from addictions. Confessions and Adoration

available. **CONTACT:** Mark Christmyer at 610.644.1655 ext.131 or mchristmyer@stnorbert.org

SAVE THE DATE . . .

RECONCILIATION NIGHT

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus, in His abundant love and mercy, established Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ. Options this Advent:

- ◆ **Advent Reconciliation Service** – Monday, **December 17, 7–8:30 PM** (many priests available)
- ◆ **Saturdays** from 4 – 5 PM
- ◆ **Thursdays** from 7 – 8 PM
- ◆ **By appointment** through the parish office

KEY PARISH CONTACTS

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