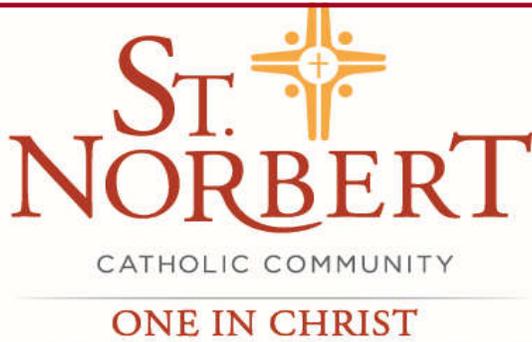


December 10, 2017



CHURCH 50 LEOPARD ROAD, PAOLI, PA 19301
PHONE 610.644.1655
FAX 610.644.1928

SCHOOL 6 GREENLAWN ROAD, PAOLI, PA 19301
PHONE: 610.644.1670
FAX: 610.644.0201
MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:30PM

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

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 6:30, 8AM; **Saturday** 8AM

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

Adoration: Thursdays 8:30AM-8PM; Saturdays 4-5PM

CLERGY

REV. MICHAEL J. LEE, O.PRAEM., PASTOR

REV. STEVEN ALBERO, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

REV. CARL W. BRASCHOS, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR
(PART TIME)

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRED)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Eagerness. Today's readings combine to tell a story of eagerness--enthusiasm, zeal, wholehearted dedication. Eager anticipation is not a surprising topic for the Advent season, but very surprising, perhaps, is what our readings urge us to be eager about: the cleansing of sins. Isaiah tells God's people to cry out loudly, proclaiming that the Lord will come with power to comfort them and forgive all their sins. Saint Peter inspires us to "be eager to be found without spot or blemish." In Mark's Gospel, people from all over stream to the Jordan, acknowledging their sins and repenting. John the Baptist preaches the mighty power of the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Today's readings wake us up, reminding us how great God is. May we eagerly seek the powerful peace that God's forgiveness brings.

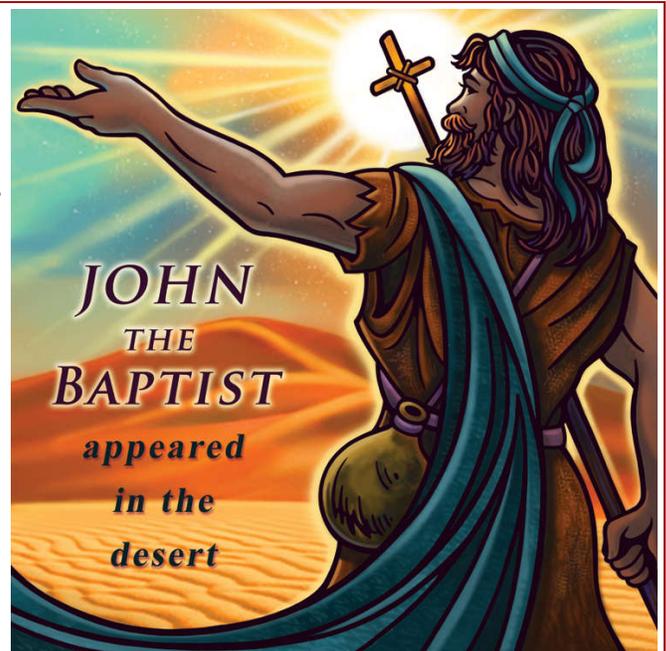
REALITY CHECK

The spiritual world is real, every bit as real as the material world. We cannot properly "see" spiritual realities like love, wisdom, and goodness, but we know they exist and influence our lives. We may not be able to point out hatred or sin on a map, but each one of us has encountered those destructive powers. Today's readings testify to a fact we often overlook: sin is real. Sin changes our hearts and has real consequences for our relationships with others. For followers of Christ, acknowledging the reality of sin is not at all depressing. We naturally grow frustrated with ourselves when we sin, but Jesus has a different reaction. In his astonishing mercy, the Lord sees our sin as an occasion to show just how much he loves us--and how he loves us. Jesus Christ takes our own sin upon himself and accepts the punishment--death--that should rightfully come to us.

AIM HIGH

In dying for us, Jesus shattered the limitations of human life. Sin had doomed our earthly existence, but then Jesus died for us and gave us an all-access pass to everlasting life. Saint Peter speaks gently to us about Jesus' gift. Jesus is patient with us, Peter assures us, "not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Knowing that Jesus opened heaven to us, we can aim high each day, striving to avoid sin and do good. Not even the sky is our limit! Peter encourages us further. We are not frightened to hear "the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire," because we are not trapped in the material realm. The salvation of God is real and unifying. We hope one day to live--body and soul--in the "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." This is the Lord's plan for us, a plan of deep and lasting peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:4, 6; Mk 1:1-8



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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” – Mark 1:3

Sunday, December 10

Vigil †Bernard Connor
7:30 †Jon Lucks
9:00 †Charlie O’Neill
11:30 Maria Korom
1:30 PM **NO Mass**
6 PM Our Parishioners

Monday, December 11

6:30 Military Services
8:00 †Ralph & Mary Elsie DiFronzo

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 †Robert Christmyer
8:00 †Peggy Welsh

Wednesday, December 13

6:30 †Mary Reynolds
8:00 †Peggy Welsh

Thursday, December 14

6:30 †Suzanne Christmyer
8:00 †Coby & Gunnar Magovera

Friday, December 15

6:30 †Alfred Vaughn Graves
8:00 †Michael Dillon

Saturday, December 16

8:00 †Stephanie Walsh Beilman

Sunday, December 17

Vigil †Peter Messantonio, Jr.
7:30 †Florence DiMonte
9:00 †Joseph Stellabotte
11:30 †Felice DiFrancesco
1:30 PM Soul of Jose Mari Lanz
6 PM Our Parishioners

“We must watch over our mind, ur heart and our senses, for these are the gates by which the deveil enters in.”

**– St. John Vianney
On Temptation**

**OUR VISION**

St. Norbert Parish aspires to become one in Christ as a community of fervent disciples, who listen attentively for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and who lovingly embrace Jesus, present in the poor, the alienated and the spiritually hungry.

Stewardship

2nd Chance

Our readings from Holy Scripture on this Second Sunday of Advent remind us of what we are supposed to be doing during Advent, in fact throughout our lives. The reading from Isaiah anticipates the coming of Christ and John the Baptist as it proclaims “... prepare the way of the Lord.” This is a time of preparation for us.

That message is repeated in our Gospel from St. Mark. Today’s Gospel is the absolute beginning of Mark’s Gospel and it immediately gives us that same signal by declaring, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

Of course, we all realize that the path to the Lord may not always be straight for us, but now is a time to correct that.

God is waiting for us. St. Peter in his Second Letter, from which our Second Reading is drawn, indicates that God, however, “is patient with you.” You might say on this Second Sunday of Advent that the Lord is

†

PRAYERS & READINGS

PRAY FOR HEALING:

Corinne Kerrigan, Greg Kleckner, Maria Palfy, Ryan Schlecht, Julian D’Orazio, William Denney, Elena Prota, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Aaron Gelstine, Mary Corcoran, William Wilbur, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Rofi, Guillermo Ramirez Maldonado, Rudy Spina, Helen Gelstine, Peter Lim, Ed Welsh, Ann Sassaman, Clare Rossmesl, Diana Reyes, Frank Henriquez, Phyllis McCullough, Lonz Baldino, Patricia Boyce, Louanne Armstrong, Joan Schauble, Ruth Chavez, John Francis Erickson, Trudy DiNardo, Sr. Helena Mayer, John Valenti, Debra Ulicny, Roberto Barajas, Joseph Mongiello, Mary Alice Spina, Sue Birmingham, Todd Monastero

PRAYERS FOR OUR TROOPS:

Pvt. **Matthew Cress**, USA; Pvt. **Jessica Flowers**, Pvt. **Michael Flowers**, USA; Capt. **Rob Kersey**, USN; 1st.Lt. **Spencer Lahiff**, USMC; Sgt. **Justin Lansford**, USA; Pvt. **Bryan McCormick**, USA; Maj. **James Merenda**, USAF; Sgt. **R. J. Paski**, USA; Sgt. **Matthew Paski**, USAF; CPT **Brian Wallin**, DO, USA



giving us a second chance to respond to His call.

One of the basics of St. John the Baptist’s messages was that we need to get ourselves right with the Lord, perhaps turn our lives in a different direction. We can change; now is the time to do that.

Pope St. John XXIII once stated during a homily in Advent, “We are all part of an immense family. This is proven by what is in our hearts during Advent and Christmas.”

Now is the time to put love in our hearts and to truly prepare the way of the Lord.

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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

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

Tuesday: 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

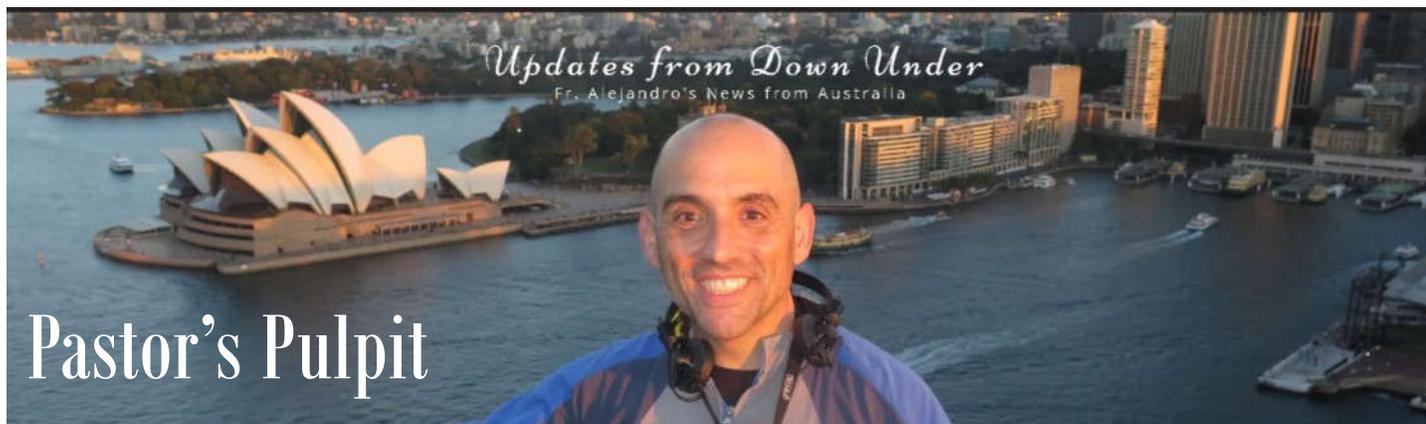
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

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: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Pastor's Pulpit

ARE YOU IN THE MOMENT?

ALL SCREENS OFF!

My Franciscan friend, Father Alejandro Lopez from Australia, periodically publishes poems. This "Advent Reflection" from "Down Under" is to be read prayerfully and slowly. Pay special attention to the "highlighted" words.

This moment never seems enough!

This right here, right now!
We **hate** sitting still!

And so pick up the **iPad**.

Or check out the **smart phones**.
If at home, **channel surf**.

And when **that isn't** enough,
minds go **meandering**.

Like persons "**traveling abroad**."

We love to visit the "Ghosts of Christmas **Past**."

The haunts of **other** years...and **other** hurts.
(You'd think we'd avoid those **painful** journeys!)

Or we visit Ghosts which **do not yet exist**...
may **never exist**...

of **Future**, equally painful, fretful Christmases!

Anything to avoid

this right **here, right now!**

Now, as a **Franciscan**

you'd think **staying awake**,
being **present** to the **present**, would be **easy** for me.

It's not!

I, too, mentally meader!
Because sleepwalking through life's **much easier!**

Yet all spiritual teaching
(Catholic or **otherwise**),
is about this **one** Truth:

How to be **present** to the **present**.
How to be **awake** to what is.

For it **is** in **this...present...moment**
where **you or I** can encounter **the Lord**.

The Lord who comes to us
not 2,000 years ago...

Nor at some **unknown End of Days**.
Nor even **just** in the **Eucharist**...
but **now!**

In **this** moment...to those who "stay awake,"
as he puts it.

He comes "**dreadfully** disguised" (St. Mother Teresa)
as he taught us in **last week's** parable.

Today, in the needy of **David's Place**.
Or the clients of **St. Vincent de Paul Society**.

Or in **today's** bulletin,
in a parishioner needing a lift to Sunday Mass.

Here, **now**, he arrives **unexpectedly!**

We expected him to come
"**tearing open**" the heavens!

Instead, he comes to tear open our hearts...
by his poverty.

And so humbly...he knocks.

Are we **home**?
Are we "**awake**"

Dare we **answer**...
dare we not?

– Father Mike



ST. NORBERT
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
IN CHRIST

RESPOND

Deepening Discipleship



ST. NORBERT
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Recognize
Engage
Share
Purpose
Others
Notice
Do
Deepening
Discipleship
ST. NORBERT

WE ARE SO BLESSED BY YOU

In talking to Marsha Mendendez, who along with Carol Coyne Shannahan, leads the Christmas Giving Tree Ministry, Marsha said that over 2,000 individuals will be blessed by your generosity through your gifts this year. As we think about "Others" this holiday season, please take to heart Isaiah's first reading today, "Comfort, give comfort to my people..." (Isaiah 40:1) and continue to "Respond" this Advent by exploring Fervent Discipleship in the Sunday readings. — Fr. Mike



News & Events



PLAN NOW FOR A ...

UNIQUE CHRISTMAS

With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday this year, we have a unique situation where we can receive a double blessing. Attending morning Mass is required this year as your Sunday Obligation and then you can participate in a Christmas Eve Mass OR come Sunday and then again Monday and you are doubly blessed. Here's our Christmas Schedule and **PLEASE** note that the 4 PM Children's Mass is one of the most heavily attended Masses of the year. So come early and avoid the rush. Also, as a special treat, Bishop McIntyre will be joining us for the 6 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

Saturday, December 23, 4th Sunday of Advent
5:30 PM Vigil 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24
7:30, 9, 11:30 AM Bilingual Mass

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

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Saturday, December 30
Vigil at 5:30 PM
Sunday, December 31
7:30, 9, 11:30 AM; 1:30 PM Spanish Mass
Vigil for Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God 6 PM
Youth Mass

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
Monday, January 1, 2018
10 AM ONLY

STUNNINGLY RANDOM ...

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Dear Parishioners:
We are constantly SHOCKED by the random acts of kindness particularly as they pertain to our Christmas Giving Tree effort to make a



WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ?

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is presepio, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge." Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the presepio, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a "Where's Waldo?" children's book. The oldest surviving presepio is in St. Mary Major and dates from the 13th century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. St. Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living presepio. By the 17th century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find presepios with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

Top: Sant' Ignazio presepio, Capliari, Sardina, Italy. Bottom: Neapolitan presepio at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

— Rev. James Field © J. S. Paluch Co.



small gesture of Christmas gifts for those in need.

This year in particular, your generosity has been stunning.

The following are by no means all of what we have seen and are not intended as any statement **ONLY** to say thanks to all who have been able to give in a special way.

ORNAMENTS:

- ◆ **Paper Cutter:** One parishioner brought a gift of a special paper cutter that can be set to different sizes to cut ornaments fast and easily. In my view, "the best thing since sliced bread, and I'm showing my age!"
- ◆ **Santa's Helpers:** Cub Pack 7 from St. Norbert and St. Patrick along with several of their parents in addition to 17 parishioners came to this year's ornament party on Nov 14th which was a fun time for all.
- ◆ **Wooden Ornaments:** One woodworker in our parish used his talents to make 42 handmade, hand turned wooden ornaments for the Giving Trees. These ornaments will be attached to gifts for the various agencies we support. Check out the talents of our woodworker in the NatheX trees.



TAGS: This is a small sample of parishioners who took one tag and became very creative and generous with their gifts:

- ◆ **Blanket:** One was requested and two handmade baby blankets returned with books – all were "extras"
- ◆ **Finger Nails:** Nail polish tag was returned with an entire nail care kit as well as multiple colors of nail polish
- ◆ **Towels:** 1 set of towels requested and returned with 4 sets of towels.
- ◆ **1 coat:** returned 4 coats as well as multiple socks, hats and gloves
- ◆ **Shoes** tag returned with shoes and multiple pairs of socks
- ◆ **Beard trimmer** tag returned with beard trimmer and additional attachment for eyebrows, nose and mustache
- ◆ **Guitar strings** tag returned with guitar strings as

well as a guitar string tuner and device to change the guitar strings

- ◆ **Gift Card:** Multiple people were seen taking many gift card envelopes.

Let me be clear on this one: we never want anyone who takes one tag or one gift request to feel like they are not appreciated or not doing enough. Everything you do is greatly appreciated.

Merry Christmas,
Marsha Mendenez and Helping Hand Ministry



NEXT WEEKEND . . .

HAITI MEDICAL MISSION

"Helping the poor of Haiti has been a very humbling experience. The poor have nothing to give us back but their thanks."

– Martina Tamaro

"Haiti Weekend" will be held at St Norbert Church **Dec 16-17**. For the fourth time, we will sponsor a volunteer medical mission team of eleven physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and pharmacy personnel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti **Feb 3-10** to offer free medical care and attention to the poorest of the poor at the St Jude Clinic. The poor in Haiti endure daily hardships due to contaminated water, no sanitation and malnutrition, and are in dire need of medical attention. On top of their struggle just to survive, they are not able to afford medicines or doctor visits.

Our mission costs around \$25,000 per trip. Our **volunteers pay their own travel costs**, and we stay very close to the clinic itself in a tough area of Port-au-Prince. The greatest challenge is to procure enough medical supplies to treat approximately 800 patients, but this is not enough and we are always in need of more supplies.

CONTACT: Martina Molsbergen at mmolsbergen@c14consultinggroup.com

St. Norbert parishioners have been extremely generous in the past. Your contribution will go a long way for these needy and dire people. To support our Medical Mission, a second collection will be held at all Masses **Dec 16-17** or you can make a donation online at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/MedMissionStJude>

DEADLINE TOMORROW . . .

PRESENTS DUE

The deadline to return Christmas Giving Tree gifts is Monday, Dec 11. Again, thank you all for your outpouring of generosity and fervency at this time of year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





CALLING ALL YOUTH...

JUST 4 U TEENS

CAN YOU HEAR ME CALLING? Hey Teens, are you listening? Hearing any voices? How about "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 27:10). Join us as we "FOLLOW" — this year's Xanten XIV High School Retreat, **Jan 19-21** at Camp Sankanac in Spring City. **COST:** \$125. **CONTACT:** Clare Kane ckane@parish.stnorbert.org or 610.644.1670 ext 127 **REGISTER:**

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=face60>

Don't forget about our weekly Youth Group right after the 6 PM Youth Mass on Sunday. Also search and join our NorbsYM Facebook Group and ask to join.

RENEW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Make your plans now for a 50+ Group Spiritual Retreat at Malvern Retreat House on **Tuesday, Jan 23**, from **9 AM – 2:30 PM**. This 50+ group inaugural spiritual retreat with Father John Meyers on "The View from the Top of the Hill," will explore how we can refresh and re-energize our relationship with Jesus as well as continue to find meaning and fulfillment in our lives and reflect on our spiritual legacies. A full day that includes Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, personal reflection time, and fellowship over breakfast and lunch. **RSVP** early to reserve your place! **DEADLINE** is **Jan 15**. Drop off or mail the registration form below along with payment to the Parish Office. **CONTACT:** Nancy Stemper at nancystemper@comcast.net or Nina Gallacher at ngal-lacher9@aol.com



**50+ GROUP SPIRITUAL RETREAT
AT MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE
Tuesday, Jan 23, 9 AM-2:30 PM**

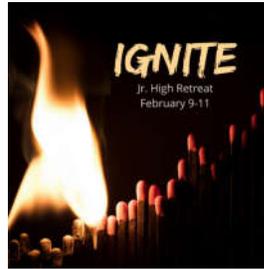
Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____ (\$30/person, cash or check payable to St. Norbert 50+ Group)

Return or mail completed form with payment to the St. Norbert Parish Office, 50 Leopard Road, Paoli, PA 19301 **by Monday, Jan 15**. If Office is closed, please use mail slot next to front door. Thank You.



7 & 8 GRADERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT: Attention all 7th & 8th graders: A special "IGNITE" overnight retreat will be held for you **Feb 9-11**.

CONTACT: Clare Kane at ckane@parish.stnorbert.org or

610.644.1670 ext 127 **REGISTER:** <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=6a7259>

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED . . .

SOUND PEOPLE NEEDED

Do you love music? Do you want to get involved, but don't have much time? Join the Sound Ministry! We will train you and in a short period of time, you could be working the sound board. A once a month commitment at Mass provides a great service. **CONTACT:** Paul Stadter, stadterpm@yahoo.com or 610.710.6117



IN NEED?

ADDICTIONS HELP EVENINGS

GETHSEMANI 12 STEP SPIRITUALITY



NIGHT: This **Sunday, Dec 10, 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 mchristmyer@stnorbert.org or 610.644.1655 ext.131

YOUNG ADULTS . . .

CHRISTMAS MERRY BAR

Our Young Adult group will be hosting a Hot Chocolate party on **Tuesday, Dec 19th** at **7:30 PM**. Get "warmed up" to encounter Christ on December 25th! Hot Chocolate Bar complete with marshmallows, whipped cream and more! Christmas (minute to win it) games for those who are a little competitive :) and most importantly, building a community of disciples who are eager to celebrate Advent. We will be "merry" until **10 PM**. All are welcome!

