

December 16, 2018

ST. NORBERT

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FERVENT DISCIPLES

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, 11:30 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)

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend this grace to all.

GOD'S JOY, OUR JOY

Zephaniah's description of God in today's first reading is quite striking. It is remarkable that after most of the book of Zephaniah paints a dark picture of God's judgment on the Day of the Lord, we see God singing with joy, partying and celebrating, bursting with love for the Chosen People. Such is God's delight in us human beings.

In the scriptures, there seem to be two kinds of moments when God is especially delighted. First, during creation, when God creates something beautiful: not only the whole universe, but also individual human persons, made in God's image. Second, after times of separation, when God celebrates the restoration of intimacy with God's beloved.

As Paul writes to the Church in Philippi, those on the path of faith might somehow get swept up in God's joy. Because in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, God continually speaks and listens to those united in faith. We participate in God's delight in creation when we are creative ourselves, when we add to the world's beauty. We also participate when we join in the work of reconciliation and act to heal human divisions and restore relationships.

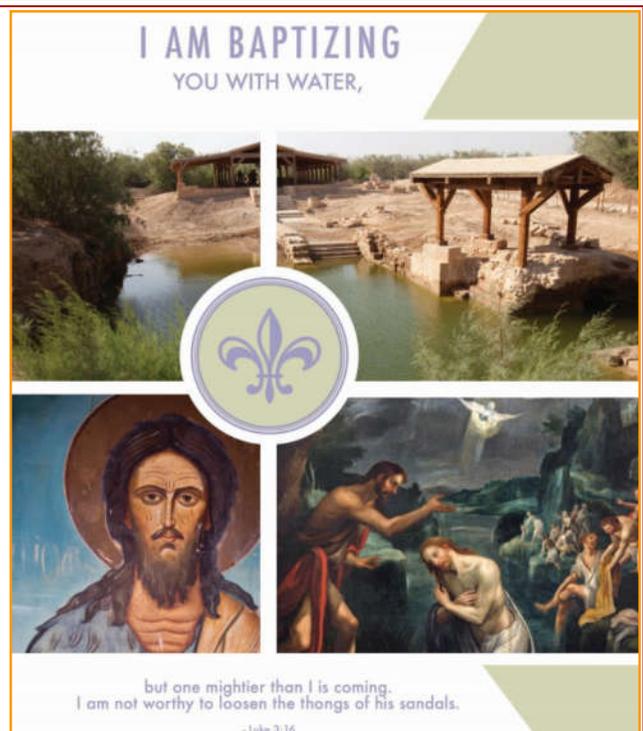
BEGIN WHERE YOU ARE

In today's Gospel, those who listened to John the Baptist's prophetic preaching were quite troubled, and moved to ask What should we do? Although John had given dire warnings about what might happen if they did not sincerely repent, he did not suggest drastic actions. He recommended that people begin where they are, and work within their daily circumstances. Share generously. Treat people fairly. Be content with what you have. These were perhaps small steps turning them, in God's time, toward deeper change.

A first step for us might be to learn, however slowly, to listen to God speaking within the context of our lives. We can respond with small concrete actions and perhaps learn what God wishes to say through them. We can then listen anew for the next step.

TODAYS READINGS: Zep 3:1418a; Is 12:23, 4, 56; Phil 4:47; Lk 3:1018

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3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear." – Zephaniah 3:15b

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

Monday, December 17

6:30 AM †Barbara Law
8:00 †Frank Castaldi

Tuesday, December 18

6:30 †Kitty McQuaid
8:00 †Raymond Dniechoski

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 †Frank Mamrol
8:00 †Helen Joe Sangermano

Thursday, December 20

6:30 †Deceased Members of the Cancelmo Family
8:00 †Mary Ann Whalen

Friday, December 21

6:30 †Fred M. Banks, Sr.
8:00 Blessings on upon Mary Bolter

Saturday, December 22

8:00 †Victor Matteo

Sunday, December 23

5:30 Janet Hogan
7:30 Parishioners
9:00 †Mary J. Morezzi
11:30 †Felice DiFrancesco
1:30 PM Spanish Mass
6 PM †Robert Buzga

HELP WANTED

Fulltime experienced custodian needed at St. Norbert Parish. Experience with a wide range of trades along with routine cleaning and maintenance tasks. Ability to organize, administer and personally perform all work necessary to provide a safe, clean and well maintained environment for our parish campus, buildings, grounds and equipment.

CONTACT:

Send resume to Dan D'Auria, Business Manager at ddauria@parish.stnorbert.org
Please: No phone calls

Gratitude

Your Gift to God?

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship



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, Guillermo Lopez, Maura Tehrani Henderson, Kate Fullam, Marion Fries, Isabelle Oravec, 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 Burroker, Layne McHugh, Deborah Nagle, J.D. Sobota, Joseph Cardile

REST IN PEACE: Julianne Adams Zelov

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



way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live*

out this thanks, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us.

When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. ©catholicsteward.com



Online Giving

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

AN CHRISTMAS TRADITION: **200 YEARS AGO** Bishop Ken Untener¹

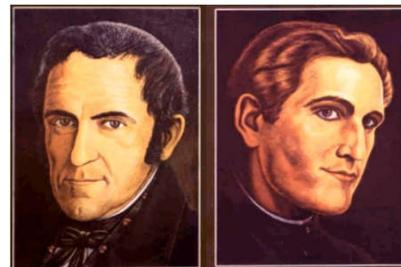
It was Christmas Eve. The year was 1818. The place was a tiny village in the Austrian Alps by the name of Oberndorf.

The assistant pastor of the local parish (*St. Nicholas Church right below*), Fr. Mohr,² was looking sadly out over the snow-covered valley, and wondering what they would do that evening for Midnight Mass. The pipe organ at church had broken and they would be unable to sing the great Christmas songs that had been their tradition.

Then it occurred to him that perhaps there was a way to make do. He found a Christmas poem he had written at his previous parish. He took it to the parish organist, Franz Gruber, and asked if he could set it to a simple tune that could be played on the guitar. The priest's verses were not great, just true words . . . And the song was not the caliber of, say Handel's "Messiah," but it was true music . . . And there was born that night in that tiny village the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Silent Night."

In the years that followed, the song slowly began to

travel by word of mouth as folk songs tend to do. Before long it was being sung here and there and eventually



Rev. Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

around the world. But no one knew who wrote the words or the music. And, at that time, the people who wrote the words and music didn't know it



was being sung throughout the world.

Today, 200 years since its first performance, "Silent Night," has become one of the most cherished Christmas songs ever.

¹ From Little Blue Book Advent, Bishop Ken Untener, 2018 Diocese of Saginaw, MI
² The Story of Silent Night: <http://inmozartsfootsteps.com/836/the-story-of-silent-night-joseph-mohr-and-franz-gruber/>

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

MEANING OF COLORS

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass.

Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for "Rejoice!"

That sentiment was certainly reflected in the Gospel of Luke when he tells of Mary's meeting her cousin Elizabeth whose infant (John the Baptist) leaps for joy at the presence of Mary.

Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath.

Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent and means penance and humility. Some parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct.

In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult



to achieve.

In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery.

That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

So, what do the other colors of the vestments mean that you see at Mass?

White vestments mean light, innocence, purity, triumph, glory. Usually you see white in Christmas and Easter, feasts of our Lord, Feasts of Mary, the angels and saints who were not martyrs, All Saints day (Nov 1), feasts of Apostles, the Nuptial Masses and for deceased children who died before the age of reason.

Red means passion, blood, fire, God's love, martyrdom and is worn for Christ's Passion, Blood and Cross; feasts of martyrs, Palm Sunday and Pentecost.

Green represents the Holy Spirit, life eternal, hope and is worn most of the year outside of Advent and Lent.

Black vestments are for mourning and sorrow. They are worn on All Souls Day and Requiem Masses for the deceased.

Rose is worn on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and the 4th Sunday of Lent.

– Adapted from Fr. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

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



TOMORROW NIGHT. . .

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Monday, **Dec 17**, 7-8:30 PM

St. Norbert Church

with Our Norbertine Fathers
† 50 Leopard Road † Paoli, PA †

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.

Saturday, December 22, Vigil 5:30 PM

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

Saturday, December 29, Vigil 5:30 PM

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

The Nativity spirit is in full swing at our St. Norbert School with the annual **Christmas Store** for our students (1-4). Gifts for siblings, parents and grand parents included toys, jams, jellies, candles, and Eagles keepsakes. **School moms** help our children work with a budget, pick out gifts and wrap presents (5). Meanwhile, our **Kindergarteners** were stuffing giraffes for the children at **Dupont Hospital for Children** (6-7). Once again, our annual **Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast** with a Bilingual Mass followed by a fiesta was a big hit. Our Knights of Columbus provided the escort during the Mass and for the procession from the Church to the Gym where a spread of tamales, empanadas, and other traditional foods awaited (8-13) along with a Piñata, corn tortilla shaped centerpieces and dancing with mom..





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:

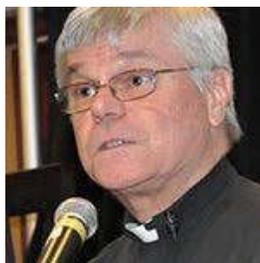
<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=88b9ef>

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 . . .

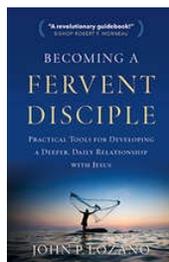
Growing in Faith



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.



ADDICTIONS PRAYER NITE:

SPIRITUAL TRIAGE

The holidays are always a trying time for those battling addictions. Join us **Thursday, Dec 20, 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



YOU'RE INVITED TO: JESUS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

St. Norbert's Young Adults
Annual Christmas Party

- Tuesday, December 18, 2018
- 50 Leopard Rd, Paoli, PA 19301
- Party Begins at 7:30pm

LEARN MORE & RSVP:

WWW.TIN4URL.COM/NORBSXMAS18

SAVE THE DATE . . .

CONFESSION NIGHTS

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Deacon Steve smartino@parish.stnorbert.org

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