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MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL

December 17, 2017

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:30PM

SUNDAY MASSES: 7:30, 9, 11:30AM; Spanish1:30PM; 6PM

Youth Mass

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

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4-5PM; **Thursdays** 7-8 PM 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. BRASCHOSS, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

(PART TIME)

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRED)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Last week our readings urged us to cast off sin and to pursue holiness eagerly. God's grace helps us do this and prepares us for limitless, everlasting glory. Today's readings confirm the great joy of this endeavor and provide specific advice on how to proceed: by becoming poor. The prophet Isaiah describes the savior who comes "to bring glad tidings to the poor." We are the poor people in need of glad tidings. Following the example of John the Baptist, we acknowledge that we are poor; we are "not worthy" of the Lord's attention. Even so, Jesus delights in caring for us. Recognizing how poor we are, and yet how great is God's love for us, we can only "rejoice always," as Saint Paul advises. We continue our Advent journey, becoming poor by emptying our hearts of sin and giving thanks to God for helping us grow in holiness.



THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Children who are poor make toys out of the unlikeliest things: milk

cartons, nails, bottle caps, sticks, plastic bags, corn cobs, clothespins. Folks who have plenty consider these things trash in fact, some poor children literally make their toys out of trash. Their abject need gives them a different perspective, seeing blessing where the rich see only waste.

Material poverty is a scourge on our planet, and we must never make excuses for it. We must work tirelessly for decent conditions for every human person. As we work, we can learn from the special perspective of our brothers and sisters who do not have enough to live. We can see how depending on others for resources can transform a rich person's trash into a poor child's treasure.

SPIRITUAL POVERTY

On this "Rejoice!" Sunday in Advent, we can pray in a particular way for an end to material poverty. Today's readings assure us that the kind of poverty God desires for us is spiritual poverty, a radical knowledge that all things come from God. Where material poverty can wound the human spirit, spiritual poverty cultivates boundless joy. John the Baptist provides a startling model for us. In all sincerity, he admits that he is not worthy to touch Jesus' sandals. John says this not to charm the crowds by being coy and self-deprecating. No, John embraces the truth that God is the source of all goodness. We are utterly dependent on God for all good things. We cannot do anything to earn God's favor; God simply provides for us because we need God. This is massively good news! No one could possibly care for us like God does. At our very best, we merely reflect God's brightness into the world. God's brilliant joy is exactly what we are called to. As Saint Paul says, "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it."

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Sunday, December 17

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

Monday, December 18

6:30 †Leon Plocha 8:00 †Bunky Mullray

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 †Charles Puzo 8:00 †Peggy Welsh

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 †James Cleary 8:00 †Thomas DiFronzo

Thursday, December 21

6:30 †Mary Dano 8:00 †Paul Young

Friday, December 22

6:30 †John & Mildred Finley

8:00 †Edith Mills

Saturday, December 23

8:00 †Mary J. Morelli

Sunday, December 24

Vigil †George Heim 7:30 Members of the Parish 9:00 Members of the Parish 11:30 Members of the Parish

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4, 6, 8, Living & Deceased & 11 PM Parishioners

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Monday, Dec 18, 7 PM Multiple Priests for Confession St. Norbert Church



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_

Commitment

A key facet of stewardship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally wit-



ness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by

the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Jesus can meet our every need.
Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him.
We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.
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"It is impossible to meditate with devotion upon the mysteries of the Rosary and live in a state of sin."

— St. John Vianney Sermon on the Feast of the Rosary



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 Rossmeisl, 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, Margaret Maguire, William Denney

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; Lt. Col. James Merenda, USAF; Sgt. R. J. Paski, USA; Sgt. Matthew Paski, USAF; CPT Brian Wallin, DO, USA



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

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

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

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

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

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;

Lk 1:57-66 **Sunday**: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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Pastor's Pulpit



OVERCOMING INERTIA . . .

WHEN HOPE WANES

Pope Francis recently offered a "beautiful prayer" for moments when hope is waning. In speaking on the theme of "enemies of hope," he said,

"Having an empty soul is the worst obstacle to hope. It is a danger from which no one can say they are exempt; because to be tempted against hope can happen even along the journey of Christian life. ...

"When this happens, the Christian knows that that condition must be fought against, never accepted with inertia. God created us for joy and happiness and not to wallow in melancholic thoughts.

"This is why it is important to safeguard one's heart, defending ourselves from sad temptations that surely do not come from God. And whereas our strength appears weak and the battle against anxiety is particularly arduous, we can always turn to Jesus' name. We can repeat that simple prayer, traces of which we also find in the Gospels and that has become the foundation of so many Christian spiritual traditions: A lovely prayer, 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner!'

"This is a prayer of hope because I turn to Him, He who can open the doors wide and resolve the problem and have me look to the horizon, the horizon of hope."

I suggest that this
"Jesus Prayer" help in
the preparation of our reception of the mercy of God
at our Christmas Parish
Reconciliation Service
this Monday night, Dec 18
at 7 PM in our Church. We
will have several of our
Norbertine Fathers available for our great Sacrament
of Confession.



As Fr. James Martin says, "Confession is not so much about how bad you are but about how good God is."

Adds Fr. Anthony Gerber, "The priest is like a physician: when you go to the doctor, you tell him what has been hurting you and with more or less detail so that he knows how best to heal you. And remember: he has seen many patients with the same symptoms. Trust him, listen to his counsel and you'll get better soon!"

Likewise, come and avail yourself of this wonderful Sacrament tomorrow night.

Also in the vein of hope, we give thanks to God for the wonderful response of so many of you this Advent who have generously responded to our **Christmas "Giving Tree."** You are certainly giving hope to many at this time of year who may easily become hopeless. We are blessed as a parish by the blessing that we receive from those who have accepted our charity.

Finally, this weekend you will also hear about the wonderful, hopeful work that our Parish does in our **Medical Mission Trip** to Haiti. Again, the Lord blesses us and



graces us to reach out to not only those close at hand who are in need through our many Outreach efforts, but also individuals who live in one of the poorest countries in the world. We will hear about this work from individuals who have traveled there and

their experience. You will hear how you can help directly to provide hope to many who have little no hope.

May your journey this Advent be a Blessed one.

– Father Mike

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RESPOND Deepening Discipleship NORBERT CATHOLIC SOMMUNITY ONE IN CHRIST

TESTIFYING TO THE LIGHT

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist came "to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light" (John 1:6-8,19-28). Cardinal Jean Danielou writes, "To shake the world out of this indifference we need prophets, that is to say, people whose souls are captured by the divine vision of things and who can shake the mass of people out of their inertia, and be, in truth, 'witnesses." As we move into the final week of Advent, think about how you can witness to the light as a Fervent Disciple. — Fr. Mike

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News & Events

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH . . .

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

The Advent Reconciliation Service will be Monday, **Dec 18** at **7 PM** in the Church. The service will begin with prayer, followed by the opportunity for individual confessions. Tell your friends and family; this is a wonderful opportunity to experience God's mercy as we prepare for Christmas.





MARCH FOR LIFE . . .

GET ON THE BUS

Once again, our Respect Life Ministry will sponsor the annual March for Life bus trip on **Jan 19** to Washington, DC, in support of all lives matter. **CONTACT:** Joe Maxwell of the Respect for Life Ministry at 610.955. 5701 or if.maxwell@verizon.net **COST:** Seat reservation \$10/person for parishioners. **RSVP:** Send checks to Joe at 2310 Pine View Drive, Malvern, PA 19355. **TRANSPORTATION:** Bus leaves St. Norbert at 8:45 AM and returns at 7:15 PM. Also visit the table in the Narthex the weekends of Jan 6-7 and 13-14. **REGISTER:** To sign up for a spot on the bus, go to:

https://www.kofcpaoli.org/respect-for-life/

FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS VISIT

STNORBERT.ORG

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

NOTE: Bishop McIntyre will be joining us for the 6 PM Christmas Eve Mass

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

SAVE THE DATE...

SERVICE APPRECIATION

The annual Ministry **Appreciation Breakfast** will be held on **Saturday January 13** at **8:30 AM**. Come join us for Mass at 8 AM followed by a delicious breakfast. All are invited in appreciation of the members of our 50 ministries for their service and to anyone interested in becoming more involved. To find out more about all the Ministries here at St. Norbert parish go to our website: http://parish.stnorbert.org/pdf/Ministry-Broch-11-14.pdf

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

THE TREASURE OF GAUDETE SUNDAY

Gaudete Sunday signals the half way point through Advent — like Lent — a period originally set aside as a fast of 40 days in preparation for Christ's birth on Christmas. Advent was shortened in the ninth century to four weeks. On this Sunday, the violet of the priest's Advent robes gives way to the rose of joy on the way to the bright white of Jesus' birth on Christmas and Redemption. Pope Francis in his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily called this the "Sunday of Joy" and that instead of fretting about "…all they still haven't done" to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you. …it hurts to see Christians with a bitter face, restless with bitterness because they are not at peace…"and no one has ever seen a saint with "a sad face." Gaudete comes from the Latin word "Rejoice" which also happens to be the first words in to-



day's Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord." It is also the title of a Medieval hymn "Gaudete: Rejoice rejoice! Christ has born (out) of the Virgin Mary – rejoice!" which was recorded and became a hit acapella song by Steeleye Span in 1972 (pictured above). You can view it and the English translation of the lyrics at **StNorbert.org** or view on YouTube at:

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=EDc2FD-vv8M

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Around Our Parish

Last Sunday's 11:30 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day Mass was standing room only and continued in our gym with great food, fellowship and fun (1). A Family Rosary group (2), drawing families from area parishes, has been meeting and praying around Marian feasts for several years. Recently, they gathered for a Bilingual Rosary, meal and fellowship with our St. Norbert Spanish community. Parishioner Ron Pollack (in the Phila Warriors jacket with son Brian to his left) was recently featured in a Philly Inquirer article about his work with his father who founded modern sports statistical reporting (3). Ron was at his dad's side as they recorded Wilt Chamberlain's 100 point game in 1962. Go to StNorbert.org News for a link to the article. Over 250 Grand VIPs came to our school for a short prayer service, visits to





for everyone.



classrooms, a talent assembly and refreshments (4-5). Always a treat





THIS 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

For the fourth time, we will sponsor a volunteer medical mission team of 11 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.

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH... JUST 4 U TEENS

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=faee60

FOLLOW

cst=faee60
MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT: 7th & 8th graders: A special "IGNITE" overnight retreat will be held for you Feb 9-11.
CONTACT: Clare Kane at 610.644.1670 ext 127 or ckane@parish.stnorbert.org or

REGISTER: https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=6a7259





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RESTARTING IN THE NEW YEAR JUST FOR MEN

Each week since September, 60+ men have been gathering for That Man Is You (TMIY). This effort is an honest look at the pressures and temptations facing men today in our modern culture. TMIY seeks to transform men who will be capable of transforming homes and society. The next session through Lent will be starting shortly so make your plans to attend.

WHAT IS IT: Check out videos at http://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/
REGISTER for this FREE program online at https://www2.paradisusdei.org/index.php/about/
location_detail/107196

CONTACT: Tom Cancelmo at 610.254.7437 or teancelmo@btcmarketing.com for more information

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, <u>stadterpm@yahoo.com</u> or 610.710.6117

TURKEYS AND FIXINGS FOR ST. GABE'S ...

OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

Once again, the your generosity was overwhelming for our sister parish St. Gabe's in Grays Ferry, as over **1,000 food bags, 400 gift cards** for turkey purchases and **40 frozen turkeys** were distributed. "Every year, I'm amazed at how this parish responds both with the food donations and the funds raised at



our recent St. Gabe's Wine Tasting benefit," said Ed

ACME.

Grady. "We also greatly appreciate our partners at Paoli **ACME** who are so very gracious and helpful in assembling food

bags and donating food not only to this effort, but throughout the year. Finally, we are always looking for volunteer drivers and helpers in assembling food parcels every week. Think about helping out," added Ed. **Con-TACT:** Ed Grady, Parish Volunteer & Activities Coordinator, egrady@parish.stnorbert.org or 610.644.1655

CONGRATULATIONS to our Scholars:

Sacred Heart Academy: High Honor: Sophia Bramley; Highest Honors: Emily Hart, Bailey Cavallaro and Elizabeth Baggini



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKLY:

Sundays: EDGE 10:05-11:15 AM Youth Group Room; Youth Group following 6 PM Mass; Dads Basketball, 7-9 PM, Gym Tuesdays: Dawn Seekers Bible Study, 8:30 –10 am, Parish Office Dining Room; Walking With Purpose 9-11 AM. CONTACT: Lisa McGowan at mcgowanlh@gmail.com; Young Adults Faith Sharing, Parish Office Lower Level, 7:30-9 PM, CONTACT: Hank Fila at 610.513.9768 or hankfila@gmail.com Wednesdays: Christian Practice of Yoga 10:30-11:30 AM Parish Office Lower Level; JCREW Youth Group, 7-9 PM, Youth Group Room Thursdays: Adoration 8:30 AM—8 PM, Oratory with Reconciliation 7—8 PM; Legion of Mary, 9-10:30 AM, Sacristy Meeting Room. Saturdays: Adoration 4-5 PM; Reconciliation 4-5 PM or by appointment

UPCOMING:

Dec 21 That Man Is You! 6-7:30 AM, School Dining Room.

CONTACT: Tom Cancelmo at tcancelmo@btcmarketing.com

Dec 22-Jan 2 School Christmas Holiday

Jan 5 Festival of Praise, 7:30 PM, Oratory

Jan 6-7 Outreach Food & Clothing Collection, All Day, Narthex (food) & Parish Activity Center (clothing/house items)

Jan 11 Prayer & Healing Night, 7:30 PM, Church.

CONTACT: Pete Radice at prfr@comcast.net

Jan 13 Ministry Appreciation Breakfast, 7:30-8:30 PM, Fr.

Burke Center

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! **DEAD-LINE** is **Jan 15**. Drop off or mail the registration form below along with payment to the Parish Office. **CONTACT:** Nancy Stemper at

<u>nancystemper@comcast.net</u> or Nina Gallacher at ngallacher9@aol.com

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

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