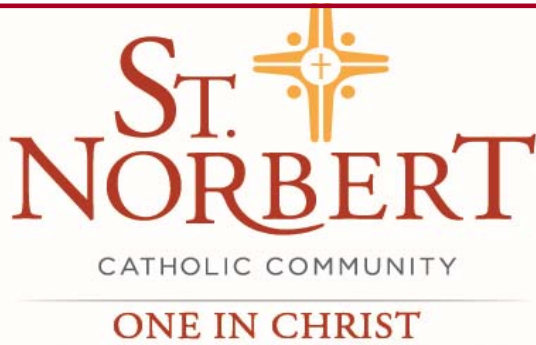


Merry Christmas



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: 5:30 PM

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

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

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: **Thursday**
8:30 AM—8 PM; **Saturday** 4-5 PM

CLERGY

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

REV. CARL W. BRASCHOS, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRED)

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

WAITING IN THE DARK

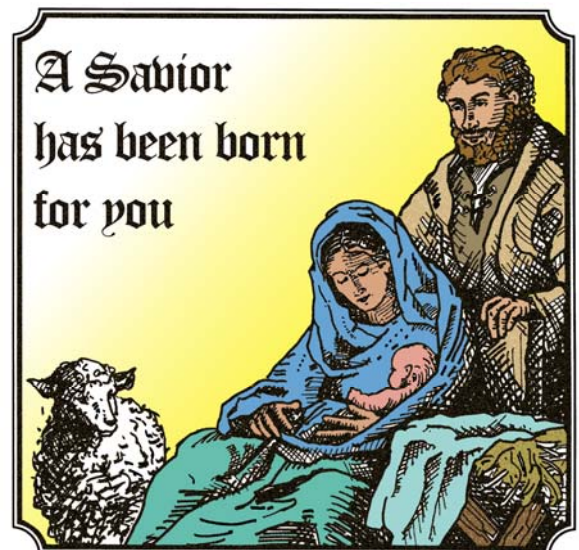
Isaiah writes powerfully of the darkness and the gloom, the burden and the sacrifices that the Jews have been living with for years and years. Their waiting, their misery is deep and prolonged. Yet they continue to wait. In Paul's letter to Titus, the Christian community is also waiting, not for the birth of the Savior, but for the return of that Savior. Paul reminds us of the "blessed hope" that sustains our wait. In Luke we hear the familiar story of Mary and Joseph, the pregnancy and birth, the baby, the Son. This is the one for whom all have been waiting. His coming, long awaited, much anticipated, is real. The only reaction we are told about is that of the shepherds, and they are afraid. But they are reassured with the same words spoken to Mary by the angel who announced that she would give birth to a son, "Do not be afraid."

FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPLATION

But how could we not be afraid? A young mother giving birth in a stable. Shepherds seeing angels. We do not need to be afraid because these stories are so familiar. Most of us could tell them almost word for word from memory. They are like the stories our children insist we read to them night after night long after they know every word by heart. They are familiar not just because we hear them repeated every year at Christmas but because they are the stories of our daily preparations, our lifelong waiting, our fear, exhaustion, misery, and our hope and joy. Their very familiarity means we don't have to wonder what the outcome will be. We already know. We know that despite the mean circumstances into which Mary's Son was born, her Son transforms the darkness into light. Her Son brings rejoicing. Her Son brings peace. We know that, despite our exhaustion and our fear, peace awaits us, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

*The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not
overcome it. — John 1:5*

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Vigil 4,6,8,11 PM
7:30 All Masses
9:00 for parishioners
11:30 both living
1:30 PM and deceased

Monday, December 26

No 6:30 AM Mass
8:00 †Peter Nowakowski

Tuesday, December 27

6:30 Living and deceased
members of the Maxwell
Family
8:00 †Paul Young

Wednesday, December 28

6:30 End to abortion
8:00 †John Bravacos

Thursday, December 29

6:30 Living and deceased
members of the
Yuengling Family
8:00 †Fernando Enriquez

Friday, December 30

6:30 †Karl Hardrick
8:00 †Jenna Demar

Saturday, December 31

8:00 †Marguerite Stone

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Vigil †Samuel Wallwork
7:30 Members of the Parish
9:00 Deceased members of
Pollack and Grant
Families
11:30 †Dominic Coyle
1:30 PM Spanish Mass
6 PM †Joan Anthony

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

LIBERATING JOY!

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this:

"Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace."

At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will



certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives." The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being. © catholicsteward.com



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Donated in loving memory of

Edward Joseph Cabral, Ida & Dominic Giovannini, Joseph & Joey Guest, Frank Boyle Vincenzo & Antoinetta Volpi William & Woolsey Families Deceased members O'Brien & Hogan Families, Colleen & Janet Hogan, Kristin Quigley, Chick McDonnell, Jeanne & Alan Petty, Domenic & Rose DiFilippo and George & Florence Caldwell, Joseph & Florence Boschi, Fred & Ann Di Monte, Michelle Di Monte, Dr. Diane Di Monte

PRAYERS & READINGS

PRAY FOR HEALING:

Corinne Kerrigan, William A. Ross, Anne Sullivan, Steve Siple, Kathleen Paleudis, Patty Kundert, Joe Monte, Brad Moser, Carole Mahon, Carol Vanchina, Matthew Rice, Debra Ulicny, Joe Mensick, Greg Kleckner, Maria Palfy, Pasquale Marino, Ryan Schlecht, Julian D'Orazio, William Denney, Elena Prota, Maria Morales, Michael Fullam, Arlene Martino, Kitty McQuaid, Aaron Gelstine, Timothy Shannon, Courtney Patterson, Mary Corcoran, Gwen Murphy, William Wilbur, Tim Dippel, Alice Bowman, Dorothy Wilson, Ed Rofi, Guillermo Ramirez Maldonado, Rudy Spina, Karen Hastings, Edward McCarthy, Charlie Keller, Helen Gelstine, Nancy Lowe, Steph Walsh-Beilman, Peter Lim, Peg & Ed Welsh, Ann Sassaman, Marsha Bielman, Narciso Jasso, Clare Rossmel, Diana Reyes, Frank Henriquez, Phyllis McCullough

REST IN PEACE: Maria de la Luz Tellez Martínez, Umberto Degli Esposti

PRAYERS FOR OUR TROOPS:

Pvt. **Matthew Cress**, USA; Pvt. **Michael Flowers**, USA; Lt. Cmdr. **Rob Kersey**, USN; Capt. **Dan Kohli**, USMC; 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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Pastor's Pulpit



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS . . .

TIMELESS JOURNEY

From the stable in Bethlehem to the valley of Premontre to the Firehouse in Paoli, this is indeed a special time for all Christians, Norbertines and parishioners of Saint Norbert.

Added together we are looking at approximately 2,975 years of Christian service as Catholics. The Church celebrates two thousand and sixteen years of Christian history. The Norbertine Community celebrates close to 900 years since our founding in Premontre, France. We as a parish celebrate 60 years, starting in 1956. The first Mass offered as St. Norbert parish was celebrated by Fr. Robert Hyde, O.Praem., in the old firehouse in Paoli.

We gather together this Christmas giving thanks to God for the salvation we have been given through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We come together at the manger in Bethlehem giving thanks to Mary and Joseph knowing well the difficulties they had and what they faced as the baby Jesus grew into our Savior.

We also give thanks for all the wonderful St. Norbert parishioners who over the years — and today — have graciously blessed our parish with their generous hearts while building up our community of Fervent Disciples.



Above: Crypt where Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Holy Land.
 Right Bottom: St. Norbert's at Christmas.
 Right Middle: Statue of our patron from St. Norbert College, WI.
 Top Right: Mass in the old Paoli Firehouse the first St. Norbert church.

Pope Francis has called us to be a field hospital and we are living it here at St. Norbert: "The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! **You** have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about every-

thing else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds. ... And **you** have to start from the ground up."

The "you" Pope Francis is talking about is you and me.

On the next few pages, you will see how we are living out our vision as a parish "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."

As you look at the small sample of the vibrant and dynamic life of St. Norbert, **I want to make a request of you: I'd like you to think about making one New Year's resolution that will impact not only your spiritual life, but our Parish as well.** I'd like you to pray and discern how the Lord is calling you

to become more involved at St. Norbert. It may be by praying for our parish, using your talents in many ways in our school, CaFFE religious education, liturgy, outreach, service, or adult formation through our over 50 ministries.

We look at the parish 60 years later and give thanks to God for the blessings and challenges that have been given to us during that time. May we continue to be open to the graces God will send our way in the years to come.

May God guide and direct us into the future as we daily Encounter Jesus on our journey to heaven.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gratefully,
Father Mike

CALLING ALL TEENS . . .

JUST FOR YOU

"I wish I would have known about this retreat before!" — Caroline
 "I was hesitant about going at first, but am so glad I went. I won't miss it next year!" — Zach



Join other high schoolers for our annual **Xanten Retreat** on **Jan 20-22**. Xanten is where our patron St. Norbert had a profound encounter with Jesus and changed his life. This year's Xanten theme is "Into Narnia" and

promises to be a retreat experience like none other. Xanten XIII will be held at Daylesford Abbey. **REGISTRATION ONLINE:** <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=2734a5>
CONTACT: Clare Kane at 610-644-1670 ext. 127 or ckane@stnorbert.org

CONFIRMATION MARCH 18 . . . SIGN UP NOW!

Confirmation will be celebrated on **Saturday March 18, 2017** at **10 AM**. There will be a Confirmation Parent Gathering on **Thursday January 5** from **7-8:30 PM** in the School Dining Hall. All those receiving the Sacrament must register (Continued on Page 6)



Our Parish in Action As a community of Fervent Disciples we are blessed with a dynamic and vibrant parish. We have over 50 ministries and these pages show a small snap shot of St. Norbert life throughout the 2015/2016 year. If you would like to find out more about our parish please contact our volunteer coordinator **Ed Grady** at 610.644.1655 ext. 115

COMMUNITY



◆ Over 3,000 came to our 3rd annual **AbbeyFest** Faith, Music, & Family Festival headlined by **Sidewalk Prophets** (1), at Daylesford Abbey. Check out TheAbbeyFest.com



◆ A snowstorm didn't discourage our participants at the annual January **March for Life** in Washington, DC, with over 1/2 million standing for life (2).

◆ Eagles, birdies and funds were scored at the **2nd Annual Golf & Tennis Outing** (3).



◆ The laughs kept coming all night at the **Knights of Columbus Comedy Night** with Joe Conklin (4).

◆ A ghoulish atmosphere at the annual Parish **Trunk or Treat** party (5).



◆ Our active **50+ Group** arranges outings, activities, pilgrimages and tour of including the NYC 9/11 Museum.

◆ Our **CYO Varsity Soccer team won the Region 17 Championship** in 2-1 sudden death over Pope John Paul II Regional School (7) and basketball and field hockey teams excelled once again on the courts and playing fields.



WORSHIP



◆ **Our 2nd Annual Corpus Christi Procession** from Daylesford Abbey to St. Norbert's brought neighbors and honking horns from passers-by (1).



◆ **First Communions** are always a wonderful time of the year as our children receive their second Sacrament of Initiation (2).

◆ **Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival** in December includes Mass, procession, celebration, and luncheon (3).



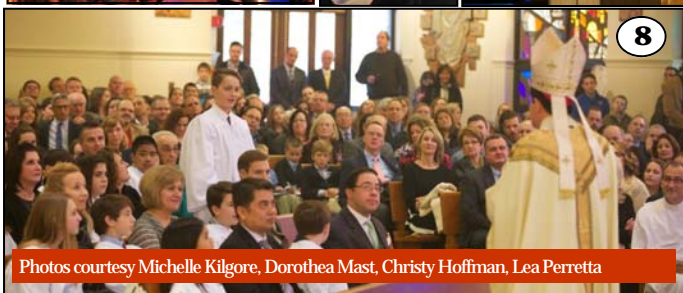
◆ A Lenten tradition of **Youth Group Living Stations** continues (4).



◆ **Fr. Mike** celebrated his 45 years as a Priest. Congrats and Thank God you are our Pastor! (5).

◆ The May Procession and Crowning of Our Lady by both the School and our CaFFE (Catholic Family Formation & Evangelization) is a wonderful spring celebration (6).

◆ **AbbeyFest** Mass and outdoor candlelight Adoration with teens, young adults, singles, families and religious (7).



◆ Over **100 students were Confirmed** by Bishop John McIntyre (8).

FORMATION



◆ **Fr. Carl** celebrating Mass at Mt. Tabor while on Holy Land Pilgrimage (1).

◆ **Joseph Abraham** provided a stirring account of his journey of faith at our monthly "Witness Sunday" (2). See StNorbert.org



◆ **Jason Evert** engaged and challenged over 400 parents and teens at two memorable talks: **Parenting for Purity** and **"Love or Lust?"** for teens (3).

◆ **Rose Greskoff** of our school was one of two Catholic school teachers recognized in Chester County for her ability to bring the language and magic of math to life for her students (4).



◆ Over 40 teens attended the **Stuebenville Youth Conference**, with one saying, *"I went to confession and found an incredible burden lifted from my heart"* (5).

◆ **Our School** was one of only 50 private schools in the USA to receive the prestigious **Blue Ribbon** for overall academic excellence in 2015 from the US Dept of Education (6).

◆ **Quick Journey Through the Bible** (7).

◆ Our new **Family Life/ CaFFE** (Catholic Family Formation & Evangelization) engaging kids, parents and families (8).



SERVICE & OUTREACH



◆ The School's **Nickels to Knockout Cancer** collected over \$1,400 (1).



◆ Over **800 food bags** and **\$5,000 in gift cards** for turkeys are annually donated to **St. Gabe's Food Cupboard** (2) along with weekly food and non-perishables.

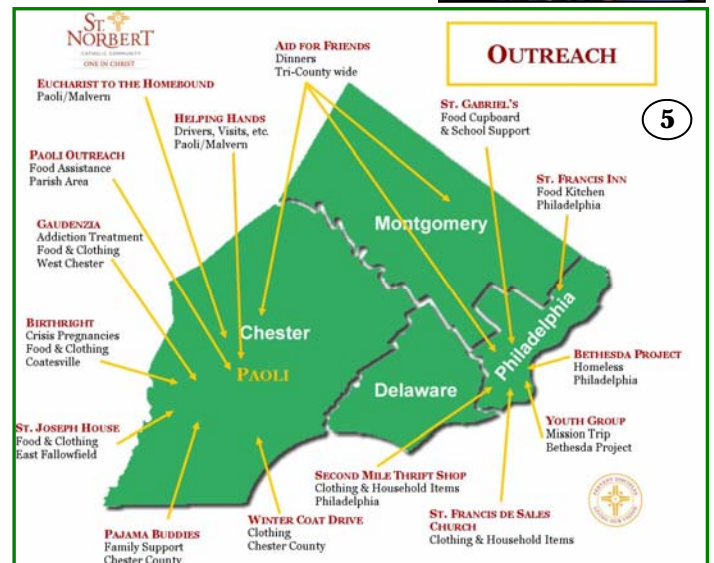


◆ Over \$10,000 in medicines were collected and delivered as part of our week-long **Haiti Medical Mission** in February 2016 (3).

◆ Diapers and maternity clothes are collected to help **Birthright** moms facing unplanned pregnancies (4).



◆ Our Outreach supports over 15 organizations and numerous individuals in our area with food, household goods, and visits (5).



online (**no later than December 16**) at: <http://parish.stnorbort.org/formation-evangelization/caffe-religious-education/caffe-forms>



GET ON THE BUS . . .

MARCH FOR LIFE

Once again, our Respect Life Ministry will sponsor the annual March for Life bus trip on **Jan 27**. Last year, in spite of an impending blizzard, hundreds of thousands descended on Washington, DC in support of all lives matter. For more information and to sign up for a spot on the bus, visit the table in the Narthex the weekends of Dec 17/18 and Jan 7/8.

SAVE THE DATE . . .

RECOGNIZING SERVICE

The annual Ministry **Appreciation Breakfast** will be held on **Saturday January 14** at **8:30 AM**. Come join us for Mass at 8 AM followed by a delicious breakfast. All are invited in appreciation to 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.stnorbort.org/pdf/Ministry-Broch-11-14.pdf>



50+ SENIOR TOPICS PRESENTS...

TWO DYNAMIC SPEAKERS

"SOLVING LIFE'S PROBLEMS WITH CATHOLICISM" featuring **Charles DeFeo, OP**, on Sunday, **Jan 15** at **3 PM** in the St. Norbert Dining Hall. Mr. DeFeo is a member of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic and the author of the book *Walk By Faith To Live Joyfully*. He is a Catholic blogger at <https://walkbyfaithtolive.com/>



"ALZHEIMER'S AND NURSING HOMES" features **George Sillup, PhD, MS**, on Sunday, **Feb 19** at **3 PM** in the St. Norbert Din-



CELEBRATE 2017

Luncheon with 50+ GROUP Jan 24 at 11:30 AM at San Nicola Restaurant, Paoli.
CONTACT: Nina Galacher at ngallacher9@aol.com or 484.318.1107



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

Mondays: Becoming Catholic RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 7 PM. **CONTACT:** Lorrie Grady at 610.644.4999 or lhg905@verizon.net or Hank Fila at 610.513.9768 or hankfila@gmail.com or Joseph Abraham at 610.420.3251 or abrajos@hotmail.com

Tuesdays: Dawn Seekers Bible Study, 8:30 –10 AM, Parish Office Dining Room; **Walking With Purpose**, 9-11 AM, Starts Oct 4, School Dining Room, **CONTACT:** Lisa McGowan at mcgowanlh@gmail.com

Young Adults Faith Sharing, Parish Office Lower Level, 7:30-9 PM, **CONTACT:** Joseph Abraham at 610.420.3251 or abrajos@hotmail.com

Wednesdays: 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. **NOTE:** No January **Christian Practice of Yoga**

Saturdays: Reconciliation 4-5 PM or by appointment; **Adoration** 4-5 PM

UPCOMING:

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec 24 Saturday, **Christmas Eve** Vigil Masses: **4 PM** Children's Liturgy; **6, 8 & 11 PM** **NOTE:** No morning Masses on Christmas Eve

Dec 25 Sunday, **Christmas Day**: **7:30, 9, 11:30 AM; ALSO 1:30 PM** Spanish Mass **NOTE:** No 6 PM Youth Mass

Dec 31 Saturday, **Solemnity of Mother of God**: Vigil **5:30 PM**

Jan 1 Sunday, **7:30, 9, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM** Spanish Mass and **6 PM** Youth Mass

Plan plenty of time to get a seat

Dec 26 Parish Office **CLOSED**

Dec 26-Jan 2 School Office **CLOSED**

Jan 5 Confirmation Parents Meeting, **7-8:30 PM** School Dining Hall

Jan 6 Festival of Praise, **7:30 PM** Oratory

Jan 19 School Winter Band Concert, **7-8 PM**

Jan 7 & 8 Clothing & Food Collection, Narthex & Gym

Jan 8 Gethsemani 12 Steps Spirituality Night, **7:30-8:30 PM**, Oratory. **CONTACT:** Martin K 610.291.1140

Jan 12 Prayer & Healing, **7:30 PM**, Church

Jan 19 Gethsemani Addictions Prayer Night, **7-8 PM**, Oratory. **CONTACT:** Mark Christmyer at 610.644.1655 ext 131 or mchristmyer@stnorbort.org

Jan 24 Celebrate 2017 Luncheon, **50+ Group**, San Nicola Restaurant, **11:30 AM**, Contact: Nina Galacher at ngallacher9@aol.com or 484.318.1107

Visit StNorbert.org Calendar

ing Hall. Dr. Sillup is the Chairman of Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing and Fellow in the Pedro Arupe Center for Business Ethics and the Institute of Catholic Bioethics at St. Joseph's University. **CONTACT:** Questions and RSVP Kevin Horan 610.296.4687. This is a free educational seminar and light refreshments

VISIT STNORBORT.ORG