

**December 24 & 25, 2017
Merry Christmas**

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; **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)

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 PHONE 610.644.1655
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SCHOOL 6 GREENLAWN ROAD, PAOLI, PA 19301
 PHONE: 610.644.1670
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 MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel in today's first reading is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given--so different from what we ever could have imagined.



Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the Christkind in Austria and Belgium, El Niño Jesús in Colombia, and Le Petit Jesus in France, where he shares his duties with Père Noël. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but Jezisek, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**



Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

— Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Company

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Sunday, December 24

7:30 AM 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

Monday, December 25

7:30 All Masses for Living
9:00 & Deceased Members of the
11:30 Parish
1:30 PM

Tuesday, December 26

6:30 **NO 6:30 Mass**
8:00 †Dorothy McNeila

Wednesday, December 27

6:30 †James Cleary, Jr.
8:00 †Peggy Welsh

Thursday, December 28

6:30 †Suzanne DeMarco
8:00 †Parents of Lillian Young

Friday, December 29

6:30 †Jim & Betty Nolan
8:00 †Barb Heath

Saturday, December 30

8:00 †Joseph Kelly

Sunday, December 31

Vigil †Brian Zwaan
7:30 Parishioners
9:00 †Paul Cerevy, Jr.
11:30 Autumn Hill
1:30 PM †Margaret Welsh
6 PM †Kitty McQuaid

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY
THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day
10 AM ONLY

**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

Better Time?

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." With those words our Blessed Mother Mary places her total trust in God. We are called to do the same, and this final Sunday of Lent is the time for us to do that, if we have not previously. Mary's response to God is the same response we need to offer the Lord. It is most appropriate that we hear this message at this time and on this day.

This took much more trust in the Lord than we might imagine. Mary agreed to receive a pregnancy that would be seen as suspect in a culture which had a potential death penalty for adultery. Spiritually speaking, there are similarities between the Lord's work in Mary and His work in all of us. Jesus lives within each of us spiritually. He lived in Mary not only spiritually but also physically.

Jesus was made visible to the world through Mary physically, but He should be made visible to the world through us as well. Who we



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 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, Dan Petreua

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



are and how we relate to and treat others is a sign to the world of Who Jesus is and what a Christian is

and should be. Are we showing the world what it means to be His disciple? Is there a better time than this to do so?

The entertainer and comedian Bob Hope once said, "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

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**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Donated in loving memory of**

Mr. Edward Joseph Cabral
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Giovannini

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] **During the Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Tl 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Tl 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14] **Tuesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22 **Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18 **Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35 **Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40 **Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Pastor's Pulpit

YOUR GENEROSITY PROVIDES . . .

CHRISTMAS HOPE

This year, my Christmas message to you is a little different. First, I want to wish you all a blessed, holy and Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year. But more importantly, I want to share with you two stories about the generosity of this parish that humbles me greatly and testifies to God's work in our parish.

Marsha and Manny Menendez work unsung, tirelessly and behind the scenes on our Christmas Giving Tree. They, and the many who help on this effort, are all humble parishioners who really disdain the spotlight so the following stories are from and about those you have helped make this a Merry and hopefully glorious Christmas.

From Marsha:

"This is our first year going to the Gaudenzia facility, New Image in Philadelphia.

Gaudenzia corporate reached out to St. Norbert to see if there was any possibility we could do anything for 19 children who live with their moms at this facility. On delivery day, I was warmly greeted by one of the staff persons. Immediately, she gave me a big hug. She held my hand as if not to let go till we reached the program director's office. The office was full of excitement as 4 other staff women expectantly were waiting our arrival. The hugs continued, and I felt as if I had 5 new best friends. Shouts of excitement went up as we reached the car to unload your gifts to them. 'Wow, so much! No one has ever come here before with anything for our women and children. We will have some very surprised and happy moms and children this Christmas. I can't wait to see their faces.' While it is explained that the gifts are from each of you, Manny and I are the ones who get to feel their love, hugs and joy. There is much to be thankful for on all sides of this experience. SO..... Thank you St. Norbert's! Thank



Manny Menendez (left) helps load your Giving Tree presents into the Gaudenzia West Chester truck.

you!"
Marsha's second testimony:

"Each year the last family to receive their Giving Tree gifts is The Kurtz Family. The Kurtzes, who raised their own children, were called to start St. Joseph's House where they have adopted numerous children; rescued orphans; aided widows, single mothers and mothers contemplating abortions; provided housing, food and financial assistance to families; established St. Philomena Academy school; started the House of Refuge for emergency long-term shelter for moms and children; and much more (see sjhouse.org).

Over the years, Manny and I have enjoyed these yearly meetings. Occasionally, we drive the gifts out to them in Coatesville, but most years they pick them up at our house as it works into their activities. This year, they were dropping off a friend of the family at the Philly airport. It was convenient for Shaina Kurtz to stop by our house on the way home. Just 30 minutes before Shaina was to arrive, a St. Norbert parishioner called to see if she could drop off a gift. The gift had to

be ordered online and was delayed in delivery. The gift was one for the Kurtz family! Just 20 minutes before Shaina arrived, it was safely tucked in to the appropriate gift bag. As I did so I thought- wow, that really is the last gift of Christmas. But then a thought came to my mind that Jesus is truly the last gift of Christmas. In reality, He is the First Gift, always was and always will be. Merry Christmas!"

Well over 1,300 Christmas gifts and gift cards were generously donated by you this Christmas helping over 230 families.

May God continue to bless all of you and our parish. May this Christmas bring you even closer to Jesus Our Lord and Savior. And may we continue to be "Fervent Disciples who listen attentively for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and who lovingly embrace Jesus, present in the poor, the alienated and spiritually hungry" all year long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Father Mike



RESPOND

Deepening Discipleship

Recognize
Engage
Share
Purpose
Others
Notice
Do
Deepening Discipleship

A TASTE OF HOPE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem which means "house of bread." As Pope Francis said, "...he seems to tell us that he is born as *bread for us*; he enters our life to give us his life; he comes into our world to give us his love. ...There is a straight line between the manger and the cross where Jesus will become *bread that is broken*." As Fervent Disciples, we go deeper in our encounter with Jesus every Sunday in the Eucharist. This Christmas, let us trust Jesus even more, deepen our relationship with him and RESPOND to his call to discipleship in our parish. — Fr. Mike

COMMUNITY

WORSHIP



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OUR PARISH IN ACTION

As a community of Fervent Disciples we are blessed with over 50 dynamic and vibrant ministries. These pages show a snapshot of our parish life in the 2016-17 year. Want to become more involved? **CONTACT:** Ed Grady at 610.644.1655 ext 115

◆ Over 4,000 attended our 4th annual **AbbeyFest** Faith, Music & Family day-long festival (1), held at Daylesford Abbey. Mandisa from American Idol fame headlined with Matt Maher. Plan now to attend next Sept. More info at TheAbbeyFest.com

◆ Over 1/2 million marchers were joined by our St. Norbert contingent (2) of all ages for the annual January **March for Life** in Washington, DC.

◆ Our **CYO varsity Soccer** team (3) won another regional Championship in 2016

◆ **50+ Group Lenten Day of Service** (4) preparing Easter packages for our troops.

◆ 2017 **St. Norbert Picnic** (5) brings out all ages for a summer kick-off around Memorial Day & St. Norbert's Feast Day.

◆ **Theology on Tap** (6) hosted by our **St. Norbert's Young Adults group** is always a hit on consecutive week nights in June. Fr. Matt Guckin engages the audience.



1

◆ **Prayer Walk: Growing in Our Relationship With God Through Prayer** led by **Spiritual Director Heather Makowicz** is a new offering to provide more meaning, purpose and intentionality in a relationship with Jesus. St. Norbert Young Adults gathered at Daylesford Abbey for morning reflection (1).

◆ It was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop during candlelight **Adoration** at the 2016 September **AbbeyFest** (2).

◆ **The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Patroness of the Americas, is always a festive occasion in early December starting with a Bilingual Mass at 11:30 AM, a procession to Parish Activity Center and then dancers in 2016, excellent food, and fun for all (3).

◆ **Living Stations of the Cross** (4) is a Lenten highlight from our Youth Group.

◆ Over 100 youth received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, completing their initiation into the church begun with **Baptism** and the **Holy Eucharist** (5).

◆ **Mother Mary** was crowned Queen of May by an 8th Grader from our school and also at Mary's Grotto on Rt. 252 by our CaFFE children (6).



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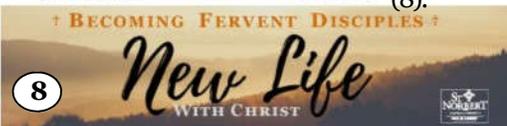


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FORMATION



◆ The summer 2016 **Youth Group Mission trip** to Chattanooga was a combination of working on school renovations (1), climbing in the Blue Ridge mountains (2) and participating at a weekend retreat.

◆ **Small Faith Sharing Groups** (3) meet weekly to discuss the upcoming Sunday Gospels and deepen their discipleship together.

◆ **Kingdom Junction** (4) is our exciting new ministry for 1-5 year-olds who draw, color, play and experience Bible stories while their parents attend the Sunday 9 AM Mass.

◆ Dawn Seekers weekly Bible Study meeting for over 10 years (5).

◆ Each year, our **RCIA candidates** seeking to join our Church are welcomed at the Cathedral by Archbishop Chaput (6).

◆ Our **School Broadcast Club** (7) features a weekly student-created news program along with YouTube videos. See more at School.stnorbert.org

◆ **New Life with Jesus** was one of our new themes to help parishioners become even more Fervent Disciples (8).

SERVICE



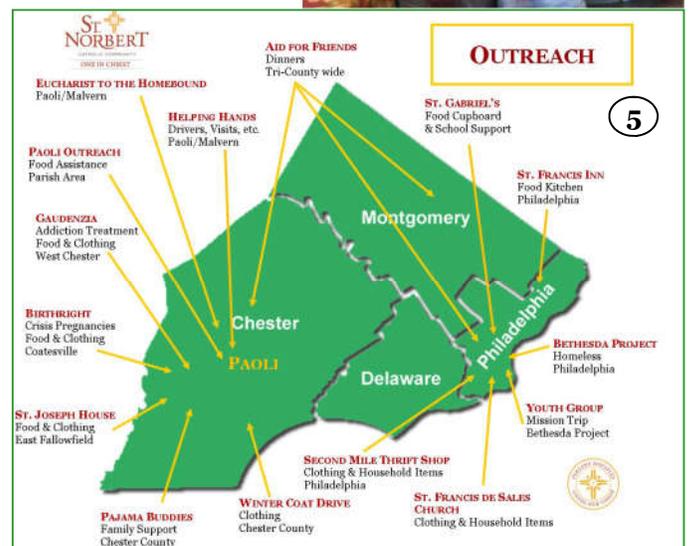
◆ Over \$10,000 in medicines and medical supplies was raised to treat over 800 patients on our last **Medical Mission** trip to Haiti. Learn more on Dec 16-17 at our Haiti Weekend (1).

◆ Our School children raised over \$1,770 for **Nickels to Knock Out Cancer** (2).

◆ **Easter Baskets** (3) along with meals were delivered to Bethesda Project Houses in 2016.

◆ Over 1,000 families had a nice **2016 Thanksgiving** at St. Gabe's in Grays Ferry Philly (4).

◆ Our **Outreach** efforts support over 15 organizations in the Philly area throughout the year (5).



News & Events

MARCH FOR LIFE . . . ON THE BUS



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 jf.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. **REGISTER:** Visit the table in the Narthex the weekends of Jan 6-7 and 13-14. To sign up for a spot on the bus, go to:

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

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>

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=face60>

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>

RESTARTING IN THE NEW YEAR

JUST FOR MEN

That Man Is You (TMIY) starts up again on **Thursday, Jan 18** from **6-7:30 AM** in the school cafeteria. 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. This session stands on its own so check out videos and sign up now at

<http://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/>

REGISTER for this **FREE** program online at



https://ww2.paradisusdei.org/index.php/about/location_detail/107196

CONTACT: Tom Cancelmo at 610.254.7437 or tcancelmo@btcmarting.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, stadterpm@yahoo.com or 610.710.6117



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

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 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: _____ (\$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.