

ST. NORBERT

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FERVENT DISCIPLES

**December 26, 2021
Merry Christmas!**

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY MASSES: 9:00AM; 11:30AM

Spanish @ 1:30PM; Youth Mass @ 6:00PM

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7:30AM; **SATURDAY** 7:30AM

RECONCILIATION: SUNDAYS 9:45AM–10:30AM;

or by **APPOINTMENT**, call 610.644.1655

ADORATION: THURSDAYS 7:00PM–8:00PM

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MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL.STNORBERT.ORG

CLERGY

REV. STEVEN J. ALBERO, O.PRAEM., PASTOR

REV. JAMES C. RODIA, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON HANK FILA

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON STEVE MARTINO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIRED)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

It wasn't at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary's angelic annunciation; Joseph's strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph's annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn't totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy. Today's feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of "the Word made flesh" becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation.

December 26, 2021



DID YOU NOT KNOW?

A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The words astounded, astonished, and great anxiety are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be "lost" for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

The Holy Family

OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

After three days Jesus' parents found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26, 2021

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

Sunday, December 26

9:00AM † **Arlene Martino**

11:30AM † **Felice DiFrancesco**

1:30PM † **Pastor's Intentions**

6:00PM † **Serafina Galenta**

Monday, December 27

7:30 AM † **Marie Bicidi**

Tuesday, December 28

7:30 AM † **In Memory of Bernadetta Broska**

Wednesday, December 29

7:30 AM † **Fernando Enriquez**

Thursday, December 30

7:30 AM † **Elizabeth Nolen**

Friday, December 31
~ **New Year's Eve** ~

7:30 AM † **Mildred and John Finley**

5:30 PM **Serafia Galinte**
Vigil

Saturday, January 1, 2022
~ **Happy New Year** ~

10:00 AM † **Peggy Fragassi**

No 5pm Mass

Sunday, January 2, 2022

9:00AM † **Alice Barr**

11:30AM † **Edward Francis Sweeney**

1:30PM † **Pastor's Intentions**

6:00PM † **Francis Albero**



SAINT 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.

PRAYERS †

PRAY FOR HEALING:

Maria Morales, Ed Rofi, Peter Lim, Mary Ann Gallagher, J. D. Sobota, Patricia Uberti, Pat Masapollo, Irene West, Sr., Sarah Frack, Carlos and Valentina Estevez, Patricia Boyce, Juan Guerra, Carmen Sotorrio, Naomi Grace Rouse, Bob Cook, Bartolome Reotita Aquí Sr., Bill and Theresa Sherwin, Jack Kahn, Lily Walker, Louis Chila, Eileen Horan, Tom Piplett, Kristin B. Norman Bogos, John Sutton, Ruth Miller, Matthew Rice, Frank Taggart, Lisa Holmes

REST IN PEACE: Karl Klingelhoefter, Jr., Mary Grant

FOR OUR TROOPS:

Pvt. Matthew Cress, USA; Pvt. Jessica Flowers USA; Pvt. Michael Flowers, USA; Capt. Rob Kersey, USN; Lt. Col. James Merenda, USAF; Lt. Nicholas Prestipino, USA; Sgt. R. J. Paski, USA; Sgt. Matthew Paski, USAF; Maj. Brian Wallin, DO, USA; 2nd Lt. Robert Farber, USA; 2nd Lt. Robert Dietrich III, USA; 2nd Lt. Joseph R. Ellis, USMC, Pvt. Robert J. Strawley, USA, L.Cpl Dylan Unterkoefer, USMC

Our Faith

FAMILY LIFE

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the "en-flesh-ment" of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.



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During the Christmas season, our **Outreach Ministries** could use your help. Whatever you can do is so appreciated by those who benefit from your kindness and generosity. Thank you for your continued support!

Letter from the Pastor

Merry Christmas, Friends!

Today's Gospel is the only story depicting Jesus as an adolescent in the four Gospels. It serves two purposes. Theologically, Jesus testifies to his divine sonship by referring to God as his Father, which is the first time in the Gospel that Jesus makes this claim. Secondly, it offers a glimpse into family life experienced by Mary, Joseph, and Jesus and helps ground the theological claims of Jesus within the context of human living. Jesus always was both fully human and fully divine.

The setting of this story that of Family members (both local plus extended) having just celebrated the Passover in a very crowded Jerusalem. On the way home, they realize that Jesus is missing. He has remained behind in Jerusalem without his parents' knowledge. It was presumed that Jesus was somewhere among the extended family members. Only a day later do they discover that he has vanished.

The search for the lost Jesus went on for three days in a still very crowded Jerusalem. The level of panic on the part of the family can only be imagined. Eventually, the lost Jesus is found in the Jerusalem temple, situated in the middle of teachers listening to and questioning them. This scene, of course, would be amazing, but that is not the emotion expressed by Mary and Joseph. On the contrary, they are astonished that this 12-year-old would put his parents through such an ordeal.

Once the relief of finding the child subsides, his mother lets him know how irresponsible he has been. Jesus responds on a different level, offering a theological answer to a domestic family situation. Why were his parents concerned? Do they not know who he is and what he must be about? The answer is no. Jesus is the Son of God, and obedience to his Father supersedes obedience to his parents. On a human level, however, his parents win the day. Jesus finds himself back with his family, headed for Nazareth. There he will continue to grow into adulthood.

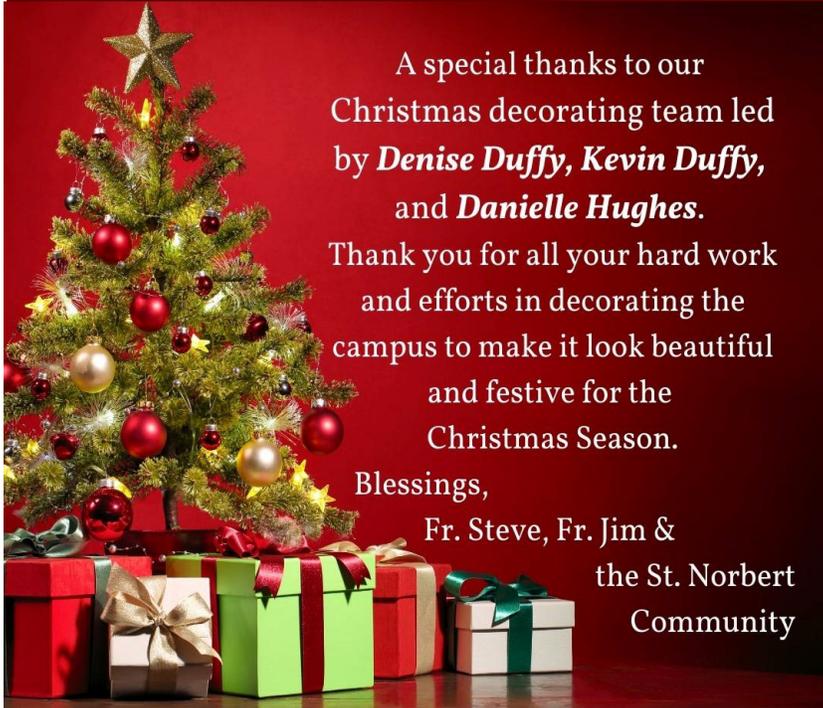


God's single desire is to share life with us forever. Holiness is our response to God's love, which brings us into perfect unity with God and one another—now and always. God's love extends through all generations, with enduring mercy for humanity's sinfulness. Our human understanding is limited; therefore, we heed the divine wisdom that comes to us through the Scriptures, the Church, and the Holy Spirit in daily life.

None of God's children is perfect—including parents. Yet, when we respect and care for one another, we practice the virtues that form lives of holiness. This is because we are God's children, one family (a community) dwelling together in the light of Christ. God's grace will guide us in the virtues mentioned by St. Paul in today's second reading. Above all, we forgive one another. Jesus forgave those who persecuted him. He calls us to bring his light into the world as people of mercy, peace, and hope. Every act of love, forgiveness, and obedience resounds with gratitude for the gifts that God has given us. Let's recognize that holiness is the essence of who we are, created by God to live life more abundantly. Each day take time to thank God for the gift of life and the chance to reunite with Him.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve

News & Events...



A special thanks to our Christmas decorating team led by *Denise Duffy, Kevin Duffy, and Danielle Hughes.*

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts in decorating the campus to make it look beautiful and festive for the Christmas Season.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve, Fr. Jim &
the St. Norbert Community



OUR LADY OF FATIMA
FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Please Come and join our Mother Mary and us.

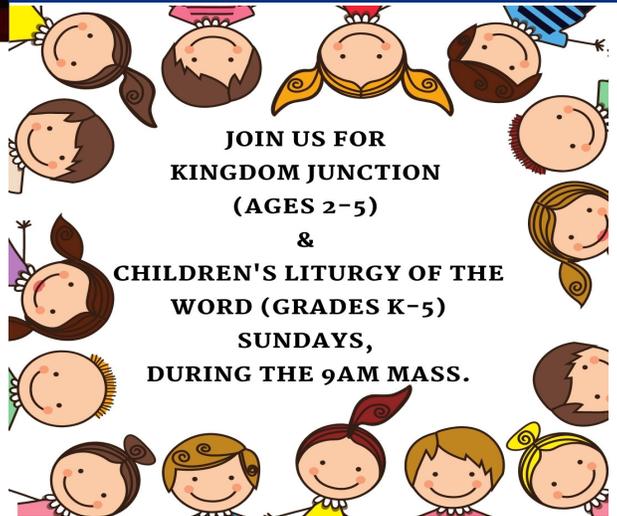
Saturday, January 1, 2021
after the 10:00 am Mass

Volunteers Needed!

St Francis Inn is a Franciscan Eucharistic community that serves the poor and homeless of Philadelphia . We serve on the 2nd Saturday of each month .

The Volunteer list opens on the 1st of each month that we serve . Our next visits are on Saturday January 8th , and Saturday February 12th .

Please contact Cal Fastuca at cal.fastuca@me.com to confirm your spot .



JOIN US FOR
KINGDOM JUNCTION
(AGES 2-5)
&
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (GRADES K-5)
SUNDAYS,
DURING THE 9AM MASS.



A great book can change your life!

One important way we grow in our faith is through reading and learning.

We have recently updated our parish book store shelf in the Narthex. These books were carefully chosen and represent various themes and aspects of our faith. The books are all very good and several are great!

Try one today!

News & Events...

Christmas Flower offering in honor of

JAMES AND ROSE DALY
BERNADETTA BROSKA
NICK & LUCY DILISI
RALPH & CONCETTA LUCITA
JOSEPH & CONCETTA DILISI
ARCHANGELO & ANNA
ERVOLINO
DIANA A. CHIACCHIERE
CHIACCHIERE FAMILY
ALOSI FAMILY
MARY DIPIETRO
ANGIE DIFABIO
CARMELIA DIFABIO
TONY NOTARO
DONZANTI FAMILY
HENRY A. REUTTER, JR.

STANLEY & STELLA BAYSTER
ALBERT BAYSTER
REGINA PALEVICZ
ALBERT BAYSTER
JACK & COTTI ONUSKO
ROBERT MILLER
GIUSEPPE CECCO
ANNA CECCO
EDWIN WIDMANN
LORETTA WIDMANN
PINCAR FAMILY
LEPOLLA FAMILY
GENE CEPPELLI
SALLY MASTROG
FRANK MASTROG
VOLPI FAMILLY
MARCOZZI FAMILY

CARMEN DIMARIO
ROBERT DIMARIO
MARIE DELUCCA
GEORGE FRANCHELLA
ELIZABETH "BETTY" HOGAN
JANET & COLLEEN HOGAN
KRISTIN QUIGLEY
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
MINNICH & HARGADON
FAMILIES
MARYANN H. WHALEN
HENRY F. WHALEN
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
MULLER & SAVOY FAMILIES

ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID

THANK YOU for the outpouring of love in support of The Giving Tree this year!

Each gift is given with such care and generosity! Each agency which received the gifts has expressed their amazement as the gifts arrived at their facility!

There were many big bright eyes and smiles from ear to ear as face masks stretched over the grins! For each toothbrush to each bicycle donated; we extended sincere gratitude for all you do every year to make people know they are cared for and loved! Your goodwill and generosity flows from Paoli to Coatesville; to West Chester to Phoenixville and to Philadelphia! What a lasting effect on some many individuals who received your gifts.

Each year brings its own graces and surprises. This year, during CaFFe, a gentleman



stops in at the school building and asks where he can place the gift he wishes to donate. Jeanne Finkelstein directs him to The Giving Tree in the Narthex. As they walk to the church, the gentleman relays he is Jewish and his wife is Catholic but neither of them are parishioners. Wanting to give a gift somewhere this year, they searched online for a place to donate and found St. Norbert's Giving Tree Online program. What a surprise for sure! But the spirit of Giving is strong just as each of you give without holding back every year! This spirit lives in each of us as we remember and celebrate the greatest gift given to each one of us; God's own son, Jesus.



A Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you!

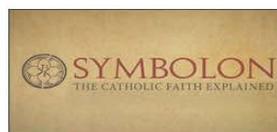
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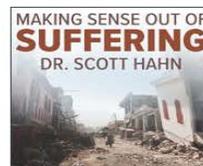
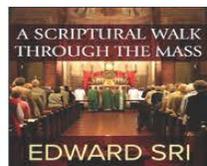
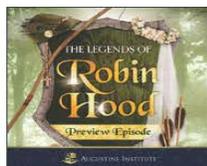
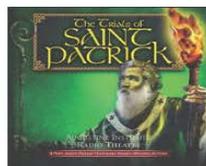
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COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME: St. Norbert Church

BULLETIN # 911110

BULLETIN FOR WEEK OF: December 26 2021

NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED: 6+ info sheet

QUANTITY FOR WEEK 500

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: **Please deliver to the CHURCH Building**

Contact Ann Simpson at
1-610-644-1655 ext 147 or
asimpson@parish.stnorbert.org