

Mass Intentions This Week**Saturday, December 21, 2019**

4:00 PM †Kathleen Price-Misplons Family

Sunday, December 22, 2019

10:00 AM Saint Patrick Parishioners (Pro populo)

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4:00 PM Vigil Mass - The Steggeman Family-Misplons Family

11:00 PM Night Mass-The Dunn Family-Misplons Family

Wednesday, December 25, 2019**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—Christmas Day**

10:00 AM Father Shawn Landenwitch-Dottie & Dick

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 PM †Barbara Daly-Josfina Smith

Sunday, December 29, 2019

10:00 AM Saint Patrick Parishioners (Pro populo)

Upcoming Dates:

Jan 5, 2020 6:00 PM Epiphany w/youth, follow with Cookies in back of Church

Jan 12, 2020 Makley Hall-ACRE Test-Grades 5-9-12

Parish Offering—not available*Our Gifts To God—many contribute generously. We all need to share the burden of parish support. May God bless your sacrifice for Him!***Weekend Mass Attendance—not available**

WANT TO BE CATHOLIC : If you are an adult (over the age of 7) and are already baptized in another Christian tradition the process for “Full Communion” with the Catholic Church is as simple as contacting the Office for an appointment with the Fr. Shawn Landenwitch. In the event you are not Baptized, the process for becoming Catholic is called the RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults that requires a more in-depth preparation and period of study. For further information please contact Ms. Ashley Roberts at the office.

A Holy Hour will give you more strength during life and more consolation at the hour of your death and eternity. (St Alphonsus Ligouri)

Fourth Week of Advent

Pour forth Thy power, O Lord, and come: Assist us by that mighty power, so that by Thy grace and merciful kindness we may swiftly receive the salvation that our sins impede: Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Dear Parishioners:

This Christmas is a perfect time to reflect on how truly rich we are. We have a God who not only created us and provides for our needs daily, but actually entered human history to save us from sin and death. Our Lord reveals to us a friendship that is worth more than anything this world can offer. When we open the doors of our hearts to Jesus Christ, we find a friendship that satisfies the deepest longing of our hearts.

Amidst all the busyness of the Christmas season, I encourage you to spend a significant amount of time in Eucharistic Adoration. Come to Him who came to us 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, and who waits for us daily in the tabernacle. Adore Him, as the angels did at Bethlehem! As Saint John Paul II encouraged us, open wide the doors to Christ!

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

Father Shawn Landenwitch

FREEDOM TO MARRY: An annulment is more accurately described as a “Declaration of the Freedom to Marry.” If you are a Catholic or are planning to marry a Catholic and you have been previously married and divorced we would like to assist you in the healing that is necessary in order to move forward with your life. Part of this healing is the effort to obtain an “annulment” or a “Declaration of Nullity” that then provides you with the freedom to marry in the Catholic Church. We want to help, it doesn't cost anything so, please contact the Office to set an appointment with Fr Shawn Landenwitch.

MASS INTENTIONS: Please, fill out the form below and drop in the collection basket or mail to the office. There is a \$5 stipend for each Mass requested. **PLEASE, PRINT!**
Intention: _____
Offered by: _____
Date requested: _____
Mass requested: _____
We will make every attempt to get them on the date you request, however, funerals, prior requests and other events may prevent this, a specified date needs a 3 week notice to meet publication deadlines.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READING:

Mon., Dec 23: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab,8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66
 Tues., Dec 24: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29 Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:1-25
 Wed., Dec 25: (night) 14: Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3,11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
 Wed., Dec 25: (dawn) 15: Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6,, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20
 Thurs., Dec 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4,6, 8ab,16bc-17 Mt 10:17-22
 Fri., Dec 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:1a,2-8
 Sat., Dec 28: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5,7c-8 Mt 2:13-18



Sir 3:2-6,12-14
 Ps 128:1-5
 Col 3:12-21
 Mt 2:13-15

Rosary will be recited: Sat at 3:30 pm & Sun before the Mass.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parish Prayer Line: Tammy Bauer, 937.441.0645

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: If you are a registered parishioner who is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (592.9455)

Hours: 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Tuesday & Thursday;
 5:00-7:00 pm, Wednesday. Dates:
 Money Spent: Clients: **Closed week of 23 December**
THANK YOU!

ANGEL OF GOD, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide, Amen.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disembowelled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith.

The "**true love**" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

The **partridge in a pear tree** is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem:

"Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

- 2 **Turtle Doves** = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 **French Hens** = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 **Calling Birds** = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 **Golden Rings** = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 **Geese A-laying** = the six days of creation
- 7 **Swans A-swimming** = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 **Maids A-milking** = the eight beatitudes
- 9 **Ladies Dancing** = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 **Lords A-leaping** = the ten commandments
- 11 **Pipers Piping** = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 **Drummers Drumming** = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

--Fr. Hal Stockert, Fishne