

SixtyPlus

Newsletter



Joy
TO THE
World

News For Those Sixty And Over,
Caregivers, And The Saint George Parish Community

NOV/DEC 2020

The Hope and Consolation of Christmas

by Fr. Brian Vossler, Pastor



In the second chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read how Joseph and a very pregnant Mary travelled 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to give

birth to their son in the midst of a stable. Following this birth, the Holy Family fled from Bethlehem to Egypt to avoid Herod's wrath (Matthew 2:13-15). After Herod's death, Joseph, Mary and Jesus settled in the poor little town of Nazareth (Matthew 2:24). It's obvious as we look to the circumstances surrounding the birth of our Savior, that hardship accompanied His entrance into our world.

We find ourselves two millennia later faced with a different kind of hardship. The year of 2020 will always be remembered as the year of the global COVID pandemic. Many restrictions have been imposed upon us. Life as we formerly knew it has been altered. How do we make sense of all this? Where do we find hope?

Looking to the example of the Holy Family, I believe we can find answers. First and foremost, in the midst of their challenges, God was always with them. For them, this was true in a most unique way with God's son, Jesus Christ born unto them. With His birth, their lives were changed forever in a most positive and life-giving way.

The miracle of the Incarnation stretches throughout the centuries. Rather than seeing this miracle as an isolated historical event, we would do well to apply its meaning to our everyday lives. We are invited to give re-birth to Christ in our thoughts, words and actions by allowing His grace to gain victory over whatever obstacle that may stand in our way. Yes, even over the fear of COVID 19. We still act prudently following all of the necessary safety protocols, but we do not

allow ourselves to be overcome by fear and worry. Christ came into this world to set our hearts free.

As we are about to celebrate this Christmas event, may you and your family have a most remarkable experience of knowing the depths of God's love for you. Know that God has submitted Himself to us in a most vulnerable way, by being one of us in all ways except sin, to live in a world with all of the many challenges that life can throw at us. And even after He endured all that life threw at Him, through his cross, He has transformed our lives to live with Him forever.

SPECIAL MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS!

December 9: The Light is On: An Evening of Reconciliation: 5-7pm Saint George Church

December 8: Immaculate Conception Mass times: 6:45am, 12:10pm and 7:00pm

December 24*: Christmas Eve Masses:
4:30pm (Church)
4:30pm (Gym),
7:00pm and 10:00pm

December 25:** Christmas Day Masses:
7:30am and 9:30am

December 31: 5:30pm Vigil Mass

January 1: 7:30am and 9:30am Mass

***PLEASE NOTE:** We are distributing tickets for all Christmas Eve Masses. This is in order to control, to the best of our ability the, capacity of the Church/Gym during this time of COVID-19. Please email Gretchen Kerr at gkerr@stgeorgeerie.org to reserve tickets or call 814-864-0622 and we can send them out to you.

The 4:30pm Mass will be livestreamed on the St. George Church YouTube channel on the internet. <https://www.youtube.com> and search for St. George Church, Erie, PA.

****Christmas Day masses do not require tickets.**

Remembering those whom we recognized on All Souls Day on November 1, 2020.

(The dates for All Souls Day run from November 2, 2019 to November 1, 2020.)



Jerome V. Heim
Betty M. Hart
Linda Olso
William Hilbert, Sr.
Mary Gail Van Damia
Settimio Guerriero
John E. Considine
June Rodriguez
Paul F. Yoculan
Bonnie Lee Tullio
Mary E. Baker
Mary Ann Toohey
Donald Hess
Dr. Edward Bojarek
John Carone
Joan H. Pietras
Paul Thompson

Virginia M. Bagnoni
Mildred C. Considine
Florence Wander
Raymond J. Martin
Aloysious J. Obmann
Roger P. Eck
Ruth Louise Walker
Judith R. Hart
Margaret L. Watson
Mary Joy Steger
Joseph Martone
Richard R. Ranus
Anna M. Kalach
Walter B. Bagnoni
Mark DePoty
Helen F. Bell
Linda Williams
Genevieve L. Cocco

Mary Ann McDonald
James Martin Yadeski
William J. Benoit
Mary M. Fitzgerald
Raymond J. Fitzgerald
Joseph J. Desser
Mary Alice McAndrew
William Nichols
George Boxer
Thomas P. Corapi
Joann T. Palumbo Jackson
Elma A. Papucci
Jamie Alan Sansone
Joseph M. Monocello
Mitchell P. Oblinski
Margaret Sertz
Anna Ciotti
Marvin Richard Hannold

“The world forces upon us many things to cripple us: fear, loneliness, isolation. But the Lord continues to reach out to us, asking us to place our burdens on Him. And His voice still sounds in our modern age.”

by Fr. Joseph Petrone



In the third chapter of Acts of the Apostles, we see Saints Peter and John walking to the Temple to pray. On their way through the “Beautiful Gate”, they encounter a man who was crippled from birth;

his family would lay him at the gate every day to beg for money. It is Peter who speaks first: “Look at us,” he says. I imagine the excitement must have been building for the man at this point. Used to being stepped over and ignored, these two men not only expect him to look at them, but they are also gazing back at him! Surely this means a donation is coming!

Peter, though, probably catches him off guard with what he says next: “Gold and silver I have not...” The poor man probably was caught off guard. Looks, though providing a nice human connection, do not satisfy hunger. But Peter continues. “What I have, I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!”

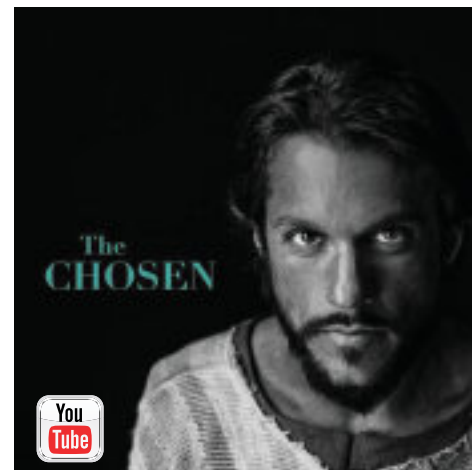
I am sure the man was stunned. “If I could walk, I would have done it years ago! I wouldn’t be forced to beg, to humiliate myself so I could have something to eat!”

But Peter didn’t simply command and walk away. He grabbed the man by the hand, and helped him to his feet. And the man stood! Not only that, he walked; he leapt with joy! He followed Peter and John into the Temple, praising God all the way. And people began to see what was happening. Here was a man they passed over every day on the way to pray visibly healed; truly a miracle has happened! One man’s miracle was a witness to the power of God for the entire city. They were filled with “wonder and amazement”.

I particularly love this passage because it is the first recording of a personal encounter with Jesus after His Ascension. We see the apostles—the first Pope himself!—followed the same pattern that Jesus did: heal first, allow that encounter with the divine, prove that what we say is true. The rules will come later. And we know the rules will come, Peter wrote two letters encouraging his community to live properly in the Lord.

Recently in the Church, I think we have been trying to do this in the wrong order. We expect everybody to follow all the rules first, then worry about encountering the Lord later. Not only would this be foreign to the early Church, it is not even how it was done in the Old Testament! Think about the Exodus: first, God called the Hebrews out of Egypt, stayed with them as they journeyed, and defended them from Pharaoh at the Sea, and only then did God give the commandments.

We need a renewed focus on encountering God. One way we can do this is by re-reading the Gospels. We even have the option of watching them on TV: *The Chosen* is a series that portrays the life of Jesus as accurately as any has before. Although they take



artistic liberty with backstories, and occasionally condense events or put them in a different order, they remain true to the spirit of the Gospel, and they are independently funded and free from the biases of Hollywood. I encourage you to watch them: they are available free on Youtube: simply search “The Chosen Episode 1” to get started. The early saints were formed at the feet of Jesus, allowing themselves to encounter Him—the saints throughout the history of the Church continued this trend.

The world forces upon us many things to cripple us: fear, loneliness, isolation. But the Lord continues to reach out to us, asking us to place our burdens on Him. And His voice still sounds in our modern age, just as it did through Peter: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!”

YOUR HEALTH



The Holidays are upon us. Traveling to visit or gathering with loved ones is often a long-standing tradition and part of what makes the holidays so special. This year, it looks much different, but that doesn't mean we have to sacrifice traditions completely or that the Holiday season can not be enjoyable.

To reduce Holiday stress, consider:

- Take time to reflect on the reason for the season start planning early and get organized
- Stay physically active
- Avoid overeating or over drinking alcoholic beverages
- Let go of unrealistic goals
- When it comes to gathering, keep in mind a couple things as you plan for the holidays:

Use technology instead of in person gatherings:

- If you choose to gather in person, keep your numbers small
- Avoid travel and take notice of states that have quarantine rules as you may have to quarantine upon arrival there and when you return home for 14 days
- Be vigilant with the same safety precautions we have been taking for quite some time - wear your face mask, wash your hands, and social distance.
- Choose to make this Holiday season a safe one – that is the best gift we can give one another!

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Millcreek Community Hospital 5515
Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509
Call: (814) 864-4031

YOUR MONEY

Saving for Christmas made easy at Marquette Savings Bank!

In these unprecedented times, it seems like it's getting harder and harder to save for your holiday fun. Make it easier on yourself for next year with a Christmas Club savings accounts at Marquette Savings Bank!

Christmas Club accounts allow you to save for that Santa spending all year-round- AND earn interest! The minimum opening deposit is just \$5.00 and YOU choose how you like to save with no minimum monthly deposit required and no service fees! You can even set up automatic deposits through any other Marquette Savings bank accounts, so even making the deposits are as easy as pumpkin pie! Earn interest instead of being charged interest on your holiday shopping and say goodbye to those post-holiday worries about unpaid bills. Open your Christmas Club savings account online today at MarquetteSavings.bank/Christmas-Club or visit any Marquette office.

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THE HOMETOWN BANK



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