



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018, Weekday**

4:00 p.m. Charlotte Mauro by Chris Derr

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

11:30 a.m. The Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Mary Kate McClelland by family

Dr. Robert Gates by daughter, Laura

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Virginia Mengo by SJF Ladies of Charity

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018, St. Ambrose**

8:00 a.m. Mary and Matt Mickledge by

Edwin and Beverly School

4:00 p.m. Ron Delanko by Edward and Anna Cheppa

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018, Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

4:00 p.m. Larry Reiling by Rick Reiling

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

11:30 a.m. Thomas Bernotas by Hall Family

**Invitation – Jingle, Jingle, Let’s Mingle!**

St. Jude the Apostle Church cordially invites all members of St. John Fisher Parish to their annual Christmas Party, Sun., Dec. 9, 5:00 p.m. Banquets Unlimited, Wilmerding. Enjoy a delicious sit down dinner with your choice of Baked Scrod or Chicken Romano-- \$20.00 per person. Entertainment from the Monroeville Choir following dinner. **Cut-off date for reservations is Monday, December 3.** Please call the rectory for reservations at 412-823-8390. What a great opportunity to meet other members of our new parish family.

**Pre-Baptism Seminar**

The next pre-Baptism Seminar will meet on Monday, December 10, 2018 at St. John Fisher Church at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. The seminar is required for parents anticipating Baptism in the near future. Pre-registration is required by calling the office at St. John Fisher at 412-241-4722. The seminars will be offered quarterly.

<u>Interim Mass Schedule</u>	
<u>Sunday Mass Schedule</u>	
<b>Saint Colman Church (Turtle Creek)</b>	
Saturday Vigil	5:30 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	5:30 p.m.
<b>Saint John Fisher Church (Churchill)</b>	
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	11:30 a.m.
<b>Saint Jude the Apostle Church (Wilmerding)</b>	
Sunday	9:00 a.m.
<u>Weekday Mass/Confession Schedule</u>	
<b>St. Colman Church (Turtle Creek)</b>	
Weekday Masses	Mon. & Tues. at 8:00 a.m.
Confessions	Sat. 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.
<b>Saint John Fisher Church (Churchill)</b>	
Weekday Masses	Wed. – Fri. at 8:00 a.m.
Confessions	Wed – Fri 8:30-9:00 a.m.
<b>St. Jude Apostle Church (Wilmerding)</b>	
No Weekday Masses Scheduled	
Confessions	Monday 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Altar Server Schedule**

**Saturday, December 8, and Sunday, December 9, 2018**

4:00 p.m. Marty Duffus, Rosalie and Gretchen Van Deusen

11:30 a.m. Anna, Elena, and Sarah Penrod

**We Pray for the Dead**

Arthur Marino Jr. was recently buried from our church. Our sympathy to Patty and the family. Ronald Delanko was recently buried from our church. Our sympathy to Betty and the family. May Arthur and Ronald rest in peace.

**Thoughts to Reflect On and Share**

*“The Lord has made many promises to us and has not broken a single one. Can we say the same of the promises we have made to Him? Advent is the perfect time to make amends for all of our broken promises.” You can follow Deacon Herb on Facebook.*

**Christmas Giving Tree 2018**

**Gift requests are due no later than next Sun., Dec. 8/9. It is important that the gift request card be placed on the outside of the package.**

**Christmas Memorial Flower Fund**

**Flower donations are due next Sunday, December 9, 2018.**

**The Light Is On For You**

This annual diocesan event is an opportunity for parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in churches throughout the area on Tuesday, December 11. That evening St. Colman Church will host a Penance Service at 6:30 p.m. for the children in the CCD program. A priest will be available for confessions in the church until 9:00 p.m.

**Faithful Chronicles**  
**By Father Frank D. Almado**

There is the ideal, and then there is the real. We strive to achieve the ideal, but when that is difficult or impossible, we have to settle for the real.

This is true in so many aspects of our life. It is particularly true with regard to our parishes.

The ideal parish in the Catholic Church has one priest who pastors the faithful with the care and devotion of Jesus the Good Shepherd. One priest, one parish. Over time, like the Good Shepherd, the pastor comes to know the members of the church to respond to their particular needs in the ministry. The parish should have enough members to support all essential ministries, but small enough for the priest to know everyone.

That’s the ideal. Reality is different.

Many of you, like me, can remember a time decades ago when the church expanded on the ideal. Because of the burst of priestly ordinations in the 1960s and 1970s, many city parishes had three priests, not one. Newly ordained priests had to wait 15-18 years until they acquired enough seniority to become a pastor. Every parish organization seemed to have its own chaplain. The diocese was able to release priests for missionary work, teaching in seminaries and service in Vatican congregations. Ethnic groups had their own priest, of their own heritage and language.

We thought that pattern would go on forever. Reality set in.

Gradually parishes shrank. In western Pennsylvania the demise of the steel industry in the late 1970s and 1980s caused the loss of 180,000 living wage jobs. Men and women fled to sunnier climates to find work. Our diocese has dropped from a high of almost one million souls in 1960 to less than 650,000 today.

The ranks of the ordained shrank too. Forty years ago there were 525 active priests. In 1990 maybe 275. Today we have under 180.

The diocese responded to these realities with the reorganization of parishes 1989-95, when we went from 333 to 215 parishes. Some parishes had multiple “worship sites.”

But the decline in numbers has continued, for a variety of reasons. “On Mission for the Church Alive” is our determined response to fewer faithful and fewer priests. It affirms the valuable roles of deacons, lay ecclesial ministers and key volunteers in the parish groupings. It places evangelization at the forefront of every parish’s activities.

Priests have to adapt to this new reality. No longer can a priest just walk across the parking lot to say Mass. Today priests drive miles to the various churches in their grouping, and dozens of miles in our more rural counties. New priests have to pick up the peculiarities of the celebration of the Eucharist in each church: how to turn on the lights and turn off the alarm system, where chalices and liturgical books are kept in the sacristies, how to enter and depart, where the ministers stand and sit. Each congregation has to learn the names of their new priests, when they might only see him for Sunday Mass once every four weeks.

For me the hardest reality of our current circumstances is learning names. When I was pastor of one parish with one church, it took me about a year to learn the names of the 300 or so most active parishioners. In subsequent years as I celebrated the sacraments I could build on their foundation and learn the names of more and more families.

But serving multiple churches slows this process down. As I move from church to church and encounter parishioners, I’m constantly asking myself, “Which church does she attend? Which parish is his home?”

It is downright frustrating when I serve alongside wonderful parishioners and don’t know their names. I am sure it is discouraging to longtime parishioners that their priests don’t know who they are, either.

We are far from the ideal in our current situation. We all need heavy doses of patience and charity as priests and people try to do the Lord’s work in our parishes and parish groupings together.

**Offertory Collection for November 18, 2018**

Total Offertory Collection \$ 5,225.75

**Offertory Collection for November 25, 2018**

November Envelopes Mailed	616
Envelopes Used	171
Offertory in Envelopes	\$ 4,052.50
Made Up Envelopes	63
Offertory in Made Up Envelopes	\$ 1,598.50
Teen’s/Children’s Envelopes (given out)	175
Teen’s/Children’s Envelopes (used)	12
Offertory in Teens/Children’s Envelopes	\$ 21.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$ 5,651.00

**Retired Religious \$ 2,480.00**

**Thanksgiving \$ 1,755.00**

**Parish Share 2018**

**Parish Goal: \$74,270.00**

**Received: 94,202.50**

**Over: 19,932.50**

**Thank you!**

**St. John Fisher Charity Fund**

Parishioners are invited to express their sympathy to the family of a deceased person by making a donation to the St. John Fisher Charity Fund in memory of their loved one. This memorial donation is acknowledged to the family, to the donor, and is published in the Sunday bulletin.

**In Memory of Ronald J. Delanko by**

**Jean Hood and Family**

**Carol Huffman and Shirley DeVito**

**Luptak Family**

**The Van Deusen (Malingowski) Family**

**Welcome!**

Please return the following form to the church office by mail or place it in the collection basket on Sunday.

<b>I would like to join St. John Fisher Parish</b>	
<b>Ms/Mrs/Mr/Mr &amp; Mrs:</b>	
_____	
<b>Address:</b> _____	_____
<b>Phone:</b> _____	<b>E-mail:</b> _____