

LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN.

It has been a hectic and emotional time for us all. The pressure of national elections and the various intrusion of the Covid pandemic into every facet of our daily lives has tested our patience and fortitude. We are in the need for the sense of purpose and community provided by the holiday of Thanksgiving and the Holy Day of Christmas. The Incarnation of Christ reminds us that Our Lord has and continues to share our challenges through His presence and Grace.

There are some timely aspects of parish life I would like to share with you:

SPIRIT WEAR of St. John Fisher Parish is open for shopping. This is a virtual store. You can purchase tee shirts, hoodies, fleece jackets, winter hats and covid face masks online for a limited time. Actual samples will be at the parish office for your inspection. Either go to our parish website at stjohnfisherchurch.org for a link to bandesportswear.com. Select the St. John Fisher page to choose the garments and sizes for order. This sale is open online from November 16 to November 30. You would pay by credit card. All purchases will be delivered to the St. John Fisher Parish Office for pick up before Christmas. You will be contacted when the orders are delivered to the parish office. These are great SPIRIT WEAR gifts for family and friends for Christmas. In addition, we have for purchase both magnets with SJF and clear stickers with the SJF Logo. These items can be purchased now at the parish office. A self-service display is set up in the foyer of the Parish Center. The cost of each item is \$5 (cash only).

Our **ADVENT GIVING TREES** will be set up in the Church Hall and Parish Center beginning November 14. Tags with gift suggestions should be taken and later attached to the gift. The tags will be available until November 29. Returns need to be made to the Parish Center by Sunday, December 6. Wrapping of gifts is not required but appreciated. Tables will be set up in the Parish Center for the gift drop off. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, December 8 at 10 AM for the bagging and delivery of the presents to our beneficiaries including Parkview at Naaman's Creek Senior Residence in Boothwyn, Lutheran Knolls Senior Residence in Boothwyn, Mother's Home in Darby, Bernardine Center in Chester, Emmaus Home in Aston, and St. Katherine Drexel Parish Outreach in Chester. Your generous donations delight many recipients who appreciate your thoughtfulness and sacrifice to make their Christmas so special.

CHRISTMAS MASSES will be celebrated in these days of Covid. Because of the typical overflow crowd at the 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass and the need for social distancing, two 4 PM Masses will be celebrated concurrently. Dividing our attendance in two will help for a safe celebration of the Incarnation of Our Lord. Masses at 4 PM will be celebrated in Church and the Parish Center. Mass in Church will be livestreamed for the homebound. Mass in the Parish Center will have overflow seating in the chapel similar to the arrangements during the church renovation period last year. Social distancing will be imperative for all, with our normal arrangements for pew spacing, hand sanitizers and temperature checks available. DO NOT attend Mass if feeling sick, feverish or having had recent contact with a person positive with Covid Virus. Masks are required for all persons.

Music with cantors, but not choirs, will be assisting our celebration of Mass.
Both Church and Parish Center will be decorated for Christmas Masses.
On Christmas Day, if overflow is needed for proper social distancing, the parish center will have TV monitors, and Extraordinary Ministers will provide Holy Communion for the faithful.
The Mass schedule will be Christmas Eve at 4 PM in Church and Parish Center, 6:30 PM in Church; Christmas Day in Church at 8, 9:30 and 11:30 AM with overflow in the Parish Center. We will celebrate the Feast of Our Saviour's Birth in safety, joy and faith. AMEN!