

*Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.* (Colossians 3:15a, 16a)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend, we recall the example given by Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their home in Bethlehem. They are the model for ideal family life for us. United in love and care for each other, they faithfully fulfilled the will of the heavenly Father. Let us take their example in this new year, treasuring our lives together and defending the sanctity of life from conception until death.

**I ask you, PLEASE! Do not leave Mass early unless it is an emergency. We should be willing to give the Lord this time each week. The Mass ends after the recessional hymn. Especially at the Saturday evening Mass, a mass exodus right after Holy Communion has been taking place for some time. This is not a reverent way to give thanks to God right after receiving his Body and Blood, and then walking out the door. Please! Let us break this unacceptable custom that has been growing in the past year! It gives scandal to our young people and our visitors.**

Planning ahead, there will be one Mass on New Year's Day at 12:00 noon. Although it is not a holyday of obligation this year, it is still a very good way to begin the New Year of grace, 2018. The parish office will be closed as well on Monday 01 January.

All donations should be submitted and dated by today, December 31st, for tax purposes if you want credit for such gifts.

As we observe this holy season of Christmas, I wish you many graces and blessings from the Lord. May the Lord, with his grace, also change our hearts, that we may be ever more dedicated to him and to our faith!

May God's grace always grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor 

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL:** \$74,133.25 has been paid on our 2017 assessment of \$132,297. We still owe **\$57,905.08.**

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90  
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00



**FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** As you may know, our St. Benedict Mission recently closed. We have two combination freezer/refrigerators (side by sides) for give away to Basilica of Saint John parishioners. Please call the Basilica and ask for Charles Stastny at (515) 244-3101, ext. 205 to set a time to come and take a look. We only ask that you arrange for moving and pickup. First come, first served. Thank you.



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Congratulations to Rodrigo Lopez and Martin Emilio Lopez and their families on the recent celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.



**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** Mary Nguyen, Anh Nguyen, Yambayamba Ferdinand & Kabwe Shabani, Modeste & Tereza Venas & Family, Elenga Ferdinand & Family, Abwe Mfaume & Family, Victoria & Reidun Scarpinato.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE,  
DECEMBER 30 THRU JANUARY 7  
TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT 30</b>	4:00PM	+Carl & Florence Reelitz
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
<b>SUN 31</b>	8:30AM	+Helen Homan
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
<b>MON 01</b>	<u>12:00PM</u>	<i>Happy New Year!</i> +Cathy Nichols
<b>TUE 02</b>	12:00PM	+Clarence Dorsett
<b>WED 03</b>	12:00PM	Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters FEHJ
<b>THU 04</b>	12:00PM	+Cody Henritz
<b>FRI 05</b>	12:00PM	+Elizabeth Brien & James D. Brien, Jr.
<b>SAT 06</b>	9:00AM	+Richard Miller
	4:00PM	+Kathryn Mauro
<b>SUN 07</b>	8:30AM	Intentions of Christian Fernandez
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors

**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:**  
[www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn](http://www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn)  
<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

**CATECHISM CORNER:**

**Last week's question: What are Charisms?**

**ANSWER:** Charisms are special gifts of the Holy Spirit which are bestowed on individuals for the good of others, the needs of the world, and in particular for the building up of the Church. The discernment of charisms is the responsibility of the Magisterium.





*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*  
*December 31, 2017*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**JANUARY 1 THRU JANUARY 7**

MON *Happy New Year!!/Parish Office closed*  
 01 9:00AM NO Adoration  
 7:00PM NO RCIA \*\*

TUE 10:00AM Boy's Youth Choir+++  
 02 1:00PM Youth Choir+++  
 4:30PM NO Columbus Academy Class\*\*  
 7:00PM NO Bible Study\*\*

WED 9:00AM Adoration Begins@  
 03 6:15AM Religious Ed.\*\*

THU 8:00AM Organ Practice+++  
 04 5:45PM Choir room in use+++  
 7:00PM Choir Practice+

FRI 9:00AM Adoration Begins@  
 05 9:00AM NO Columbus Academy Class\*\*

SAT 8:00AM Diocesan Marriage Prep. Workshop+  
 06 8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy##  
 7:00PM Hall in use+

SUN 8:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group%  
 07 10:00AM Confirmation Prep Class+  
 4:30PM School of Mary Parent/Teacher Potluck+  
**5-8pm—Pastor's Open House**

**SIGN INDICATORS**

+++ = Choir Loft; \*\* = School; @ = Chapel; \* = Rectory ; + = Fr. Mulvihill Hall;  
 ## = Church; % = Conference Room; (NH) = (North Hall); (SH) = (South Hall)

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of January 1, 2018:**

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42  
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51  
 Saturday: 1Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**LIFELINES: Resolution for New Year: Jesus was born into a harsh world, where Herod was doing the unthinkable: killing babies. Is there any doubt that our world today needs Jesus to come and dwell among us? As a new year begins, let us resolve to be a more effective and dedicated instrument of Jesus. Let us do more to promote love and peace. Let us do more to help moms turn the unplanned into a loving plan that embraces innocent life. Let us do more to change our culture of death.**



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:** School will resume on Wednesday, January 3.



**ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY:** Next meeting is January 13, hosted by Jeanne Kelley's band #1.



**The Required Confirmation Retreat** for second year Confirmation Students will be the weekend of February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.



**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Dowling Catholic High School-Incoming Freshmen Placement Test:** Dowling Catholic High School will be administering the Incoming Freshman Placement Test on Saturday, January 6, 2018, from 7:45 a.m.–12 Noon. Students interested in enrolling at Dowling Catholic should take the test. The test does not determine admissions, but is used to identify the level of classes that will allow the student to be successful in high school. Parochial school students are automatically registered to take the test. Non-parochial school students should contact the Admissions Office by Tuesday, January 2nd to register for the exam. Students unable to take the exam should contact the Admissions Office to register for the make-up. Dowling Catholic Admissions Office-515-222-1025; [teischeid@dowlingcatholic.org](mailto:teischeid@dowlingcatholic.org)

**CSM Trivia Night Save the Date:** The Center for Social Ministry's annual Trivia Night will be Saturday, February 24, at the Catholic Pastoral Center. The evening will begin at 5:30 with social time, a full dinner, drinks and trivia! Round up a team of 8 family members, friends or fellow parishioners for an evening of food, fun and trivia. For more information visit [www.centerforsocialministry.org](http://www.centerforsocialministry.org) (upcoming events) or contact 515-782-3054 or [centerforsocialministry@gmail.com](mailto:centerforsocialministry@gmail.com).

**Strengthen Your Marriage:** If your marriage is hurting, or if you just want to make a good thing better, check out The Third Option. This is an ongoing support group for couples who are working on a set of tools to help with better understanding, sensitivity and trust. We meet the first and third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Mercy Medical Center's conference rooms in the East Tower.

**Faith Resources:** Are you looking for faith resources as a source of motivation? Inspiration? Check out the St. Joseph Educational Center at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org). There are blogs, books, articles, videos and more at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org).

**Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter:** We need snacks! If your group, company or family is looking to do something good this Advent season, consider something as simple as bringing a few snacks to Catholic Charities' homeless shelter. The shelter, (formerly known as St. Joseph's) is always in need of meal providers, as well as yogurt, string cheese, and protein items for night time snack. If you are interested, contact Ashley Raske, Shelter Coordinator, at 515-282-1235 to schedule a night to provide a meal, donate, or sponsor a meal.

