

Chapel



Monday, December 23

8:00am - Joseph & Rose Hokes - Pat Hokes

Thursday, December 26

8:00am - Marquerite Mole - Family

Friday, December 27

8:00am - All Souls Day List

Church

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30pm - All Parishioners

10:00pm - All Parishioners

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am - All Parishioners

11:00am - All Parishioners

Holy Family

Saturday, December 28

3:30pm - 4:00pm - Confessions

4:30pm - Tasha Dore - Judy McCally

Sunday, December 29

8:30am - Living and Deceased members of the Knights of Columbus

11:00am - Troy DiFranco - Bonnie Scallon

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 23rd through Friday, January 3rd for the Christmas Holiday.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:

During these weeks of preparation for Christmas, think about family members, friends, neighbors, etc. that you can invite to our Christmas liturgy celebrations. Extend to them a warm welcome to join you and our parish community at Mass.

CHRISTMAS MEAL PRAYER:

Blessed are you Lord God,
 who has come to dwell with us.
 Hear the prayers of your family
 gathered on this Christmas day.
 Bless us, this food and our time together.
 Strengthened by this food and love
 may we strive for what is holy
 and grow in charity
 through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

WELCOME! If you are interested in joining the parish please contact us. You can call the parish office at 440-926-2364 or go to our web site at www.olppgraston.org. Registration forms are on our website and by the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There will be a Welcome Weekend on January 25/26.

OPLATKI: Christmas wafers are available in the Gathering Area (on the counter by the St. Joseph's room). The cost is \$3.00 per packet.

Pray for the Sick: Pray for the Sick: *David Blackburn, Herb Kuepfer, Jose' Magiste, Sandy Vasbinder, Leon Denomme, Pam Jenkins, Jim Hempfling, David Myers, Kathy Borowy, Shirley Livchak, Jerry & Lee Severns, Tami Lynsky, Bille Updegrove, Robert Falatic, Al Machovina, Jim & Pat Wracker, Cathy Buckland, Don Gates, Ken Schroeder, Shayne Reisinger, Dennis Frabotta, Michelle Terrel, Bill Hempel, Julie Thompson, Lori Hartnetg, Shirley Bergstrom, Richard Dojcak, Carol Cordy, Mitchell Ferut, Patty Cote, Kevin Cote, Kali Palco and Stacie Foor.*

Please call the Parish Office 440-926-2364, or email us at info@olppgraston.org to have a name of a friend or relative included in this list.



PASTORS CORNER: “Do you know more about the faith than you did a year ago? How much have you learned about the spiritual life over the past twelve months? Most people are not called to a formal study of the faith, but we are all called to learn a little more each week, month and year. For years I have been encouraging people to read five pages of a great spiritual book each day. It is amazing how much we learn and grow over the course of a year and astounding what we learn over a decade if we read just five pages a day.” This excerpt from *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly (p.115) is a good challenge as we draw close the end of the year. How has your relationship with God grown over the past year? What can you do to help your relationship to continue to grow or to reverse the separation that may have taken place over the year due to inactivity? This week we celebrate our belief that God has come to dwell with us, Emmanuel. We do not have a God that is distant from us but who has come to share our human nature and continues to dwell with us. As we celebrate Christmas this week spend some quiet time after the festivities to ask yourself if your relationship with God is stronger than ever. And ask yourself what you need to do to maintain a relationship with the One who brings life and meaning to our daily existence and everlasting life.

Copies of Matthew Kelly’s *Rediscover the Saints* are available in the Gathering Area. Please take a copy and share a copy with a friend, co-worker or neighbor.

Fr John

SUNDAY GOSPEL: *Matthew 1:18-24* Matthew’s primary focus rests not on Mary, however, but on the child she carries and his true origin. Twice we are told that Mary’s son has been conceived “through the Holy Spirit.” Matthew thus presents Jesus, even in his conception, as coming from and so bearing within himself the powerful presence and action of God, or “Holy Spirit.” In this way Matthew suggests another fulfillment of prophecy that Isaiah could not have imagined. Jesus will indeed be “God with us”; in him, divine power will speak and act to establish God’s final reign.

- Sourcebook 2020 (Liturgical Training Publications)

ADULT CONFIRMATION: For those adults who have never been confirmed there will be a preparation program beginning Thursday, January 16th at 7:00pm in the parish hall and will meet the third Thursday of February and March (3 sessions). Confirmation will be Monday, April 27th at 7:00pm with Bishop Perez.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285 we read: “For by the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.” It is as if something is missing. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes one’s baptism. If you would like more information please contact Fr. John. Also if you would like to help with the preparation program please contact Fr. John.

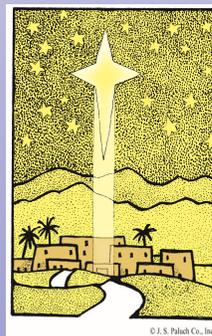
CHRISTMAS PRAYER REQUESTS: This weekend when you enter the church you will be given a paper ornament in which to write out your prayer request for Christmas. These requests will then be used to decorate a Christmas tree in the church and these requests will be included in the petitions at all the Masses during the

Christmas Season. You are also encouraged to include the Christmas prayer requests in your personal prayer at home and with your family during the Christmas Season.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT: Decorating for Christmas will take place today, Sunday, December 22nd after the 11:00am Mass. Anyone able to help with decorating is welcome.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES NEEDED to carry the infant Jesus in the opening procession at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please call the parish office or sign up in the St. Joseph room.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Are needed for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses, Tuesday, December 31st at 4:30pm and Wednesday, January 1st at 9:00am. Sign-up sheets are available in the St. Joseph’s room.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30pm

(4:00 pm Children’s Choir Program)

10:00pm

(Choral presentation begins at 9:30pm)

Wednesday, December 25th

8:30am and 11:00am

Thank you for your generous support of our Parish, and your help with the needs of the community through your ongoing participation in our various ministries.

Due to the holidays, the next collection information will be in the January 12th bulletin.

REGISTRATION REMINDER!!! We welcome our community to register for Night to Shine Prom being held February 7th at Our Lady Queen of Peace. Night to Shine is a worldwide VIP Prom event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and is open to individuals with physical or developmental disabilities ages 14 and up. Visit the parish website for more details or to register your guest. Registration deadline is 12/31/19. Maximum Guests is 75.

JOYFUL DISCIPLES: Shortly in the mail you will receive a Summary Report detailing the results of our Increased Offertory Program. Several weeks ago we began this program. We are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of many, many parishioners. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this very important program. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing missions of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

ONLINE GIVING: You now have the option to use Online Giving for contributions to the church. The application provides you a convenient option that you may access at any time from your desktop or Smartphone. Your gift will be transferred from your preferred method of payment directly to the church. No more running around the morning of Mass looking for your checkbook or cash. And if you cannot make it to church your gift will still be received.

If you would like to setup Online Giving, you can go to our website: <https://olqpgrafton.org/e-giving> or call the parish office.

MEN'S FAITH SHARING: The next gathering for the Men's Faith sharing will be this Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00pm in the parish hall. These gatherings are spent reflecting on scripture and how we experience God's presence in our daily lives. All men are welcome to join in.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return is an important aspect of stewardship. Stewards strive to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION: In the Gospel this week, Mary and Joseph learn that Mary is pregnant before they are married. Joseph dreams of an angel who assures him that the Holy Spirit has given Mary their son, who will grow to do great things. Joseph is consoled and prepares to marry Mary. Question of the Week: When has God helped you make a choice when you needed help? Family Prayer: God, you help us make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to follow your guidance. Amen.

YEAR END GIVING: In this season of giving, consider using appreciated stock to make a year-end gift to help our parish, aid Catholic Charities in serving the needs of the poor, support men preparing for the priesthood, or provide tuition assistance for Catholic school students. By transferring stock directly to our parish or the Catholic Community Foundation, you may be able to avoid capital gains taxes. You can also use stock to create a Donor Advised Fund, Charitable Gift Annuity or Permanent Named Fund.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES: Worldwide Marriage Encounter invites you to give your spouse the gifts time and love by attending the next get-away Weekend held on Feb. 14-16, 2020 at Hampton Inn, Grove City, PA. The Weekend includes all meals, including a romantic Saturday dinner, and ends with a special Mass on Sunday afternoon. Application fee is \$75 and financial help is available. It's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! Here's a quote from a recent couple: "Our Marriage Encounter Weekend was, without qualification, the most fantastic and moving experience of our lives". Follow in the footsteps of more than 2 million couples around the world and find out for yourselves. For more info call 330-305-9963 or visit www.WWME.org.

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This Week in the Parish:

Sunday, December 22

- 8:30am - Blood Drive (Parish Hall)
- 9:30am - GLFF (Parish Hall)
- 12:00pm - Christmas Wrapping (Parish Hall)
- 12:00pm - Church Decorating (Church)
- 6:00pm - Men's Faith Sharing (Parish Hall Rm. 1)

Monday, December 23

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24

Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed

Friday, December 27

Office Closed

1:30pm - Keystone Pointe

Saturday, December 28

Office Closed



SCRIPTURE STUDY: On Thursday January 9th we will continue our inspiring study of "PETER", with Session Six (6) from the FORMED LECTIO series (no computer is required). Meet with us at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall room 2. This study will cover "In the shadow of the Galilean", "Peter's Rising Leadership" on page 107 of the study guide. Study guides will be provided and are available in the Parish Office or can be downloaded from Formed. All are invited, and you do not need a computer to participate. If anyone has questions please contact Rick Gallaher at (440) 458-6335 for comments or assistance.

SHARING CHRISTMAS: St. Vincent De Paul Church in Elyria is hosting a Christmas Day dinner and fellowship from 12:00pm - 3:00pm at the church. If you require home delivery contact Donna at 440-731-3106. On Christmas day call 440-324-4212 ext. 138 for last minute home delivery. Leave your name and number so we can verify delivery. If you wish to help serve the dinner, contact Sharon at 440-933-8014.

Sharing Christmas is a non-profit, Christian organizations

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."
— Matthew 1:23

PARISH INFORMATION

- † **Weddings:** Couples need to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date.
- † **Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated at a mutually convenient time. Please call the office to make arrangements.
- † **Ministry to the Sick:** Please notify the office for visits to parishioners in the hospital.
- † **New parishioners:** Are asked to register as soon as possible at the Parish Office or by phone.
- † **Inquiry Classes in the Catholic Religion:** Persons interested in becoming Catholic are asked to contact the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA.

CALENDAR CLUB: Introducing the Calendar Club! A monthly raffle drawing throughout 2020, limited to the first 100 people who sign up. Donation for the entire year total \$120 and must be paid current to win the monthly drawing. We will be in the Gathering Area after Mass selling tickets. For more details email OLOPCalendarClub@gmail.com. All proceeds will benefit the mortgage reduction fund.



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: The Christmas Eve Family Mass begins at 4:00 p.m. on December 24, 2019 with a reenactment of the "Story of Christmas". Students in Grades 1-8 are needed to portray the characters in the "Story of Christmas" at this Mass. The characters will not have to memorize any lines, but will walk through the church while the Narrator speaks and the children's choir and congregation sing Christmas carols all telling the story of Christmas. If you are interested in having your child be a **featured actor on Christmas Eve**, please see Rob Keshock by the music area after Mass to sign up.



Father John and the parish staff would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.