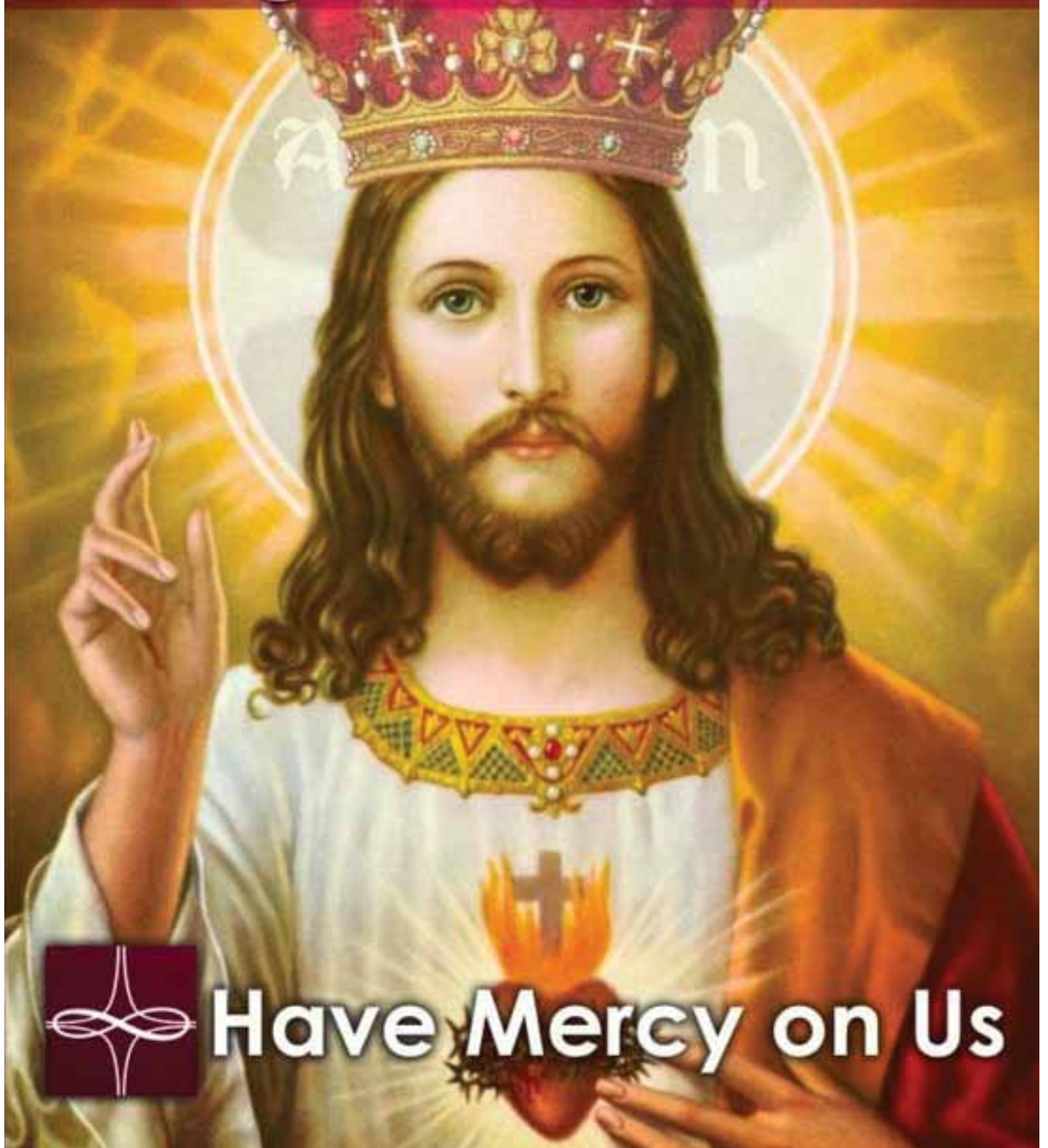


November 25th, 2018

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Have Mercy on Us

From the Pastor's Desk



This Sunday we celebrate the *Solemnity of Christ the King* which signals the end of the Church's liturgical calendar. However, more than the liturgical calendar significance, I think it is good to know the background of how this celebration was introduced in the universal Catholic Church. It was Pope Pius XI in his encyclical **Quas Primas** (*In the First*) that instituted this celebration in 1925 in response to the rise of secularism and totalitarianism in Europe in the aftermath of World War I. He intended to reaffirm, to refocus faith and respect in the kingship of Jesus.

On the importance of the public world recognizing the kingly authority of Jesus, Pope Pius XI wrote:

"When once men recognize, both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace and harmony. Our Lord's regal office invests the human authority of princes and rulers with a religious significance; it ennobles the citizen's duty of obedience.

If princes and magistrates duly elected are filled with the persuasion that they rule, not by their own right, but by the mandate and in the place of the Divine King, they will exercise their authority piously and wisely, and they will make laws and administer them, having in view the common good and also the human dignity of their subjects. The result will be a stable peace and tranquility, for there will be no longer any cause of discontent.

Men will see in their king or in their rulers men like themselves, perhaps unworthy or open to criticism, but they will not on that account refuse obedience if they see reflected in them the authority of Christ God and Man. Peace and harmony, too, will result; for with the spread and the universal extent of the kingdom of Christ men will become more and more conscious of the link that binds them together, and thus many conflicts will be either prevented entirely or at least their bitterness will be diminished."

Let us pray that those who are bestowed with power and authority to be leaders may follow and see the example of *Christ the King* who ruled, not to be served, but to serve the good of all people. And we as the faithful, gain the strength and courage from the celebration of this feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies.

In recognition to the *Solemnity of Christ the King*, today we will be doing the blessing of the Children's Liturgy Room at the church basement where children ages 2 to 6 years old can have a conducive place to do the Liturgy of the Word appropriate for their ages and appreciate it through the help of their facilitator. And also to grow in the knowledge of Jesus through His Word.



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If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.

Calendar of Events

November 24th	Baptism "Theys" — 5:15 P.M.
November 25th	No Religious Education Classes; No Choir Practice; 11:00 A.M. Mass
November 27th	RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
November 28th	First Reconciliation Workshop—6:30 - 8:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall (children & parents must attend)
December 1st	Baptism "Harding" — 5:15 P.M.
December 2nd	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Security Guard is Christina Kapinskis Teen Ministry—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
December 3rd	Christian Mothers' Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room
December 4th	RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
December 7th	First Friday; Parish Office Closed—Feast of the Immaculate Conception Observed; 7:00 P.M.—Mass
December 8th	9:00 A.M. Mass—Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Holy day of obligation
December 8th/9th	Donut Social—Immediately following all masses - Fellowship Hall
December 9th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Security Guard - Christina Kapinskis; 11:00 A.M. Mass—6th Grade Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass



Christmas Basket Raffle Ticket stubs and money may be put in the envelope and placed in the collection basket, mailed in, dropped off at the Administrative Center, or given to any Christian Mother. Tickets are only \$1.00/each. This is the main fundraiser for the Christian Mothers and your support is greatly appreciated! *Deadline to receive ticket stubs and money is Thursday, December 6th.*



Mass Intention Requests are now being accepted for the year 2019. What a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. Mass requests will be taken at the Administrative Office during normal office hours. *Please note that if a mass is requested and a Communion Service needs to be scheduled, Father Ron will take the mass intention with him.*



Choir practice will resume Sunday, December 2nd. Choir Practice is held in the Conference Room on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. *New members are invited to join in and prepare to sing for the Christmas Season.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be a *First Reconciliation Workshop* on Wednesday, November 28th, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. **Parents and children are required to attend this workshop.** Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!



The teens would like to thank everyone who purchased pies for the holiday. Your support of this fundraiser and the youth of our parish is greatly appreciated.



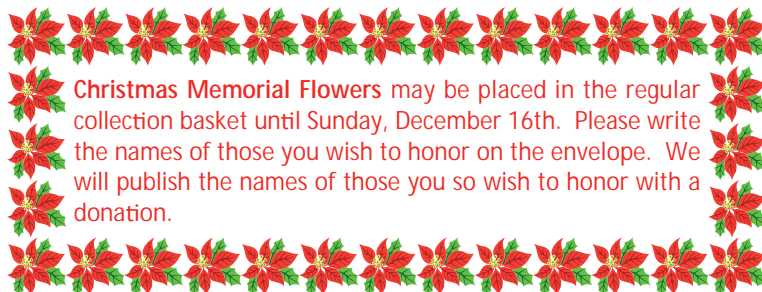
To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The final class for this year will be held on Thursday, December 13th. To register for this class, please call Mark and Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.



Thank you to all who have returned their baby bottles or made monetary donations. Please remember to return your bottle (or envelope marked "Baby Bottle Blessings") today. If you forgot your bottle or would like to make a monetary donation this week, you may drop it off at the parish office. Your generosity and support is truly appreciated. May God Bless you as you have blessed those who will be served because of your generosity.

St. Mary Cemetery

Winter has arrived early. With it comes the snow, ice, freezing rain and frigid temperatures. The road in the cemetery is narrow and attempting to plow and maintain this road in the winter is just about impossible. For your safety, the cemetery will be closed when these conditions exist. Thank you!



Christmas Memorial Flowers may be placed in the regular collection basket until Sunday, December 16th. Please write the names of those you wish to honor on the envelope. We will publish the names of those you so wish to honor with a donation.

The **Christian Mothers** are beautifying our St. Mary's Prayer Garden with new landscaping and a sign. Parishioners and members of the community can be a part of this project! They will be replacing the rosary steps with beautiful granite stones and building a new brick walkway. At this time, you may order a Hail Mary stone for \$300.00 or a brick for the walkway to be engraved to honor or memorialize a loved one or recognize a group for \$150.00. Some examples could be "In Memory of Ray Ravotti by His Children", "In Honor of All Christian Mothers" or "Presented by St. Mary's 2018 Teen Ministry". Order forms may be found at all of the church entrances, the Administrative Office and on the home page of our parish website: www.stmaryfreeport.com. If you would like additional information, please call Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352.

Eucharistic Ministers

Commissioning Sunday for our new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and a Special Blessing for our existing ministers will be held at all of the masses the weekend of December 1st and 2nd.

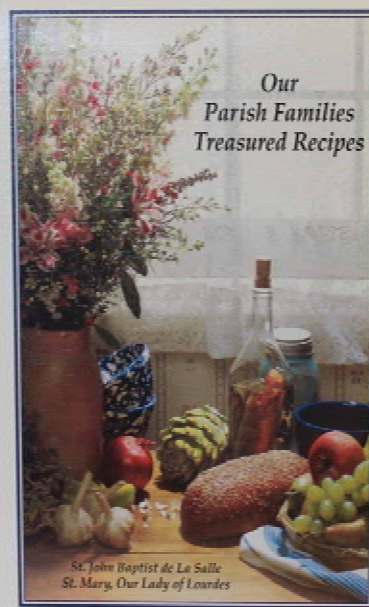


Annual "Blessing Bag" Campaign

St. Mary, Mother of God Parish is requesting you and your family be a "Blessing" to those in need by filling a grocery bag with non-perishable food items...and returning your filled bag to the church by Sunday, December 9th. Filled grocery bags will be taken to the Freeport Food Bank in time for their holiday distribution. *We ask that you do not take a bag if you do not want to participate in this campaign.* Thank you for sharing your blessings with others.

Parishioners, family members, and friends from St. John Baptist de La Salle & St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes have compiled 500 of their treasured recipes in one new cookbook! Recipes all together in a beautiful three ring binder. Appetizers & Beverages, Soups & Salads, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Breads & Rolls, Desserts, Cookies & Candy, and This & That. Also, loads of tips, tricks, and hints. Now you will have a chance to know how delicious they are when you purchase one of these cookbooks. With Christmas coming soon, this is the perfect gift. There is definitely something for everyone in this cookbook! Office Days/Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. ➡➡➡➡

Our New Parish Cookbook! It's here!!
Clip the order form at right and return with your order!



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Number of Books

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"Enjoy 2019" coupon books are available from the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill through December 29th for \$30.00. Call 724-836-0406, Ext. 6646, or 412-343-1382.

Parish Mission

Christ, The Light in the Darkness - Everyone is invited to attend a Parish Mission this year which will be held on December 17th, 18th & 19th. Monsignor John Cippel, a native of Ford City, will present an Advent themed mission entitled, *"Christ, The Light Shining in the Darkness"*. His message is intended to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

- *Monday, December 17th at 10:00 A.M.—St. Lawrence Church and 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Christ, Prince of Peace Church*
- *Tuesday, December 18th at 10:00 A.M. at St. Lawrence Church and 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Prince of Peace Church*
- *Wednesday, December 19th at 10:00 A.M. at St. Lawrence Church & 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Prince of Peace Church*

Each day Monsignor will focus on a different reflection of the Advent season and each session will be approximately one hour long. No reservations are required and everyone is invited to attend.



St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning, will

hold its annual **Holly Berry Fair** on **Saturday, December 1st**, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., in St. Mary Parish Hall. Holly Berry favorites will include a theme basket raffle with over 80 baskets; Breakfast with Santa at 10:00 A.M. (please pre-register by November 27th); sale of fresh Christmas greens and used Christmas items; bake sale and homemade soup sale; knit and crochet gifts; lunch menu; Ham & Turkey Bingo from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. and Stuffed Chicken Breast sit-down or take-out dinner from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. Prices are: \$10.00/Adult and \$5.00/Child (Please preorder by November 27th). Information/pre-order dinner forms, visit: www.stmarykittanning.org or call 724-548-7649. All are welcome!



Attacking from every angle.

The American Cancer Society needs volunteers.

One of the biggest roadblocks to cancer treatment can be transportation. The best medical treatment can't work if a patient can't get to it.

That's why the American Cancer Society **Road to Recovery** program provides patients with free rides to treatment. The key to this is having local volunteers who can offer these patients rides who have no means of transportation, or are unable to drive themselves to treatment. Our need is great in the Armstrong county area. Can you help?

The American Cancer Society provides a simple screening process and a complete training program that is required to assure good working knowledge of the job, as well as safety.

As many of us have had family members, friends, or neighbors touched by cancer, this volunteer program could be a great personal ministry, as a way to honor those you know who have battled this disease.

If interested in volunteering, please call Teresa Segelson, 412.919.1100, ext. 1108 or contact the American Cancer Society office, at cancer.org/drive or call the toll-free number 1-800-227-2345.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND, 2018

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Fred Walker; Zach Showers Lauren & Leah Clark	Stella Aul, Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Tim Fogarty	Jim Talotta Diana Talotta	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Samuel & Jacob Kristine David Kristine Ali & Ben Brestensky	Carol Carson Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek	Lisa Boylan	Diane Grant Janis Harbison	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Celeste Beacom Jacob & Erin Schaeffer Victor & Olivia Svitek	Lisa Isenberg Debbie Baustert Melissa Schaeffer	Marushka Steele	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

SATURDAY: November 24th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Joseph Klaput, Jr. & Sr. (Family)

SUNDAY: November 25th
8:30 A.M. ✦ Carol Stewart (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: November 26
8:00 A.M. ✦ Sharon Glath (Family)

TUESDAY: November 27th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Rose Pesci (Estate)

WEDNESDAY: November 28th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Walter Sliviak (Grant Family)


THURSDAY: November 29th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Martin Hoffman (The Lesko Family)

FRIDAY: November 30th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Jim Ebig (Patty Hughes & Family)


MASSES FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY: December 1st
4:00 P.M. ✦ Bina Noble (Family)


SUNDAY: December 2nd
8:30 A.M. ✦ Barbara Sliviak
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
JOHNE E. GAILLOT
By
*Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski;
Children & Grandchildren*




In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of
LORNA LOMACK
By
Ken Peth




Collections

*Due to the early deadline for the submission of the
November 25th bulletin, the weekly contribution
report for November 18th was not available. This
information will be published in next Sunday's
bulletin.*

THANK YOU!



Online Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. *When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.*



Saturday, December 1st, 2018
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