for instance, will mean something very different to someone who almost drowned as a kid than to someone who feels more at home in water than the fishes.

Since most dreams (though not all) seem to relate to something happening in present time, ask what, if anything, the dream ties into in your life right now. Where have you seen this particular scenario playing itself out lately? What is it trying to tell you? What is its central message? If you dream of flying, falling, conquering foes, being unable to find something, having extraordinary powers, being chased, ask how these may be symbolic of aspects of your life. But check the physical world first, before settling on an interpretation. If you dream your car loses its brakes, check your brakes. If nothing shows up, check where in your life you perhaps feel unable to stop, out of control.

As for the dream material itself, some of it is like junk-mail, only a small percentage being truly useful and worth slogging through. Some of it also comes in such a crazy mambo of images, vignettes, metaphors, and other psychic ephemera, that trying to make any sense of it is like running down the street trying to grab the loose papers of a manuscript the wind has snatched out of your hands.

But don’t necessarily run with the first interpretation that comes to you. Brainstorm all associations you can conjure about the dream images or events, especially the most potent one in the dream. What words, ideas, people, memories and feelings does it remind you of? Then go with the one that elicits the most energy from you, that has the most oomph.

Avoid a dream-dictionary, this-means-that approach to interpretation. Dreams are far too subjective for that. Water, for instance, will mean something very different to someone who almost drowned as a kid than to someone who sent a dream, you’ll write it down upon waking, even if that’s at three a.m. Prompt them with specific questions. Ask for directions. Ask for clues. Ask what your next step should be. Ask for clarification of last night’s dream.

Just get to your dreams before the world does. Write them down before you even get out of bed, because the moment your feet hit the floor, you literally ground yourself, and the lightning energy of dreams disappears into the earth.

Finally, consider conducting a ritual to help concretize a dream, bringing it out of dream-state and into waking life, from the abstract down into your muscles, emotions and physical life. A ritual is an enactment of the dream message, of whatever change the dream is calling for. It’s a way of taking a small step in that direction, making an outward sign of an inward intention. It’s a little rite of passage.

There’s an old tradition in the Christian Church that one hadn’t prayed unless one’s lips had moved. It expresses the psychological truth that something physical has to happen to establish that you mean business, that your devotion to growth is real and not merely a high opinion you have of yourself.

If you dream of the necessity of choosing passion over security, for instance, you might ritually burn a one-dollar bill, while entreating the gods of courage. If a dream points to the need to make a break with tradition, take a stick of wood and break it in two. If your dream shows you flying over obstacles, set up a series of rocks in the backyard, give them the names of your obstacles, and make broad jumps over them.

A ritual can be as simple, too, as putting a flower in a vase, making a circle of stones, burying something that represents an old habit, kneeling down in prayer, washing yourself in the river, anointing yourself with oil, visiting the zoo to spend some time with the animal in your dream, planting something, drumming or singing, feasting or fasting, making a mask, lighting a candle.

"I can light a candle because I need the light," says writer Christina Baldwin, "or because the candle represents the light I need."
Thank You to all who gave so generously to our Giving Tree Project this Advent Season.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated by those who received them and will brighten their celebration of Christmas immensely.

May God be as generous to you as you are to His people.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

As we approach the great Feast of Christmas, we may be wont to spend time and money choosing the perfect gift for that special someone. Do we give that kind of care and attention to the gift we give to God through our parish each Christmas? Or are we more prone to just give whatever change we might find left in our pockets, purses, or couch cushions.

Remember the goodness of the Lord this Christmas, and all that He has done for you. Repay His generosity by remembering the work of your parish church.

We are counting on your support so that we may continue to minister for many years to come. Please be generous and help us make our goal of $15,000.00 for our Christmas collection this year. Thank You.

As you prepare your Christmas Card Lists, don’t forget our Seminarian:

MICHAEL BORIS
St. Mary’s Seminary
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th 2 pm.
St. Andre Bessette Church

The Christmas Wafer (OPLATKI) is an unleavened wafer baked from pure wheat flour and water. They are usually rectangular in shape (though in some areas round wafers are traditional), very thin and identical in composition to the hosts consecrated at Mass. As a reminder of the Body of Christ in the home, the wafers are not consecrated, though they may be blessed as “bread”. They are usually embossed with scenes of the Nativity, the Virgin Mary or other Religious Christmas themes. In Poland and in other parts of central Europe, these wafers are dyed various colors, used as ornaments, or sent to family members who are absent for the holidays.

The breaking of the OPLATKI originated in Poland in the 10th Century and spread throughout Central Europe by the 17th Century. Before partaking of the Christmas eve meal, the family gathers around the Table. The eldest member of the Family (usually Father or Grandfather) holds a large wafer and offers it to the next eldest person, who breaks a piece of the wafer. The wafer is then shared by the eldest member with every person gathered around the table. Then the next eldest begins the ritual again, sharing with everyone at the table. This continues until every member of the family has had the opportunity to share a wafer with every other member gathered for this sacred meal.

The Christmas Wafer symbolizes the unity of the family, which many consider to be the main pillar of society. The Bond of Unity should exist between family members. The Father is seen as the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Church, One Family. The Family is a reflection of the Church—the Body of Christ. In this manner, the wafer also symbolizes forgiveness and reconciliation. During these days of Goodwill and Peace, old grudges are put to rest and forgiveness is offered to all with whom we share our Christmas Wafer.

A packet of 6 wafers is available in the vestibule. The offering requested is $3.00 per packet, or 2 packets for $5.00.

Helpful Information

Join the Parish
Anyone wishing to register for membership in the parish is asked to fill out a registration form and drop it in the collection basket.

Request Prayers
Our INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY provides prayer for anyone in need throughout the parish. Contact MARY ANN MAGDA at 570-820-0525 or make your intention known on our parish website at www.standrebessettewb.com

Remember your Parish
Your parish serves you faithfully throughout your life. Please remember your parish with a memorial gift or a Bequest in your will. Make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS

Anointing of the Sick
The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may take place at any time, but, sadly, too many families wait until the last minute to call the priest to anoint their loved ones. If someone in your family is seriously ill, preparing for surgery, or suffering a prolonged illness, please contact the parish office to arrange a time for Fr. Ken to visit.

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY—or if Fr. Ken is unavailable to visit immediately, we will contact the first available priest to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing with your loved one.

Funeral Preparations
We collaborate with the local funeral directors in arranging the times of the funerals. Please be aware that there is an additional fee for funerals on Saturdays imposed by most cemeteries in the area.

Baptismal Preparations
Parents of newly born infants may call the parish office to arrange a time for the Baptism of their child. Baptisms are celebrated, for the most part, on any Sunday, with the exception of the season of Lent.

Wedding Preparations
Couples contemplating Marriage are asked to contact the parish office at least one year prior to the contemplated date of marriage, before making other plans.
The way in which the church prepares for Christmas compared to the way the rest of the world prepares for Christmas is confusing to many folks—including many in the church. Two examples: the “mood” of Advent is “penitential” and more somber (which surprises folks), and we don’t sing Christmas carols, which baffles people.

These reactions to Advent aren’t surprising, since we do bring our “secular” experience into church with us. If everyone else is singing Christmas carols, why can’t we do it in church? After all, we’re the ones who gave the world the Christmas holiday. However, the result of such expectations is that we frequently come to view Advent as “so many spiritual shopping days before Christmas,” rather than seeing Advent as a time to prepare ourselves for a face-to-face encounter with the God of time and eternity.

The words of a Christmas song go something like this: “Oh, the real meaning of Christmas is the giving of love everyday.” That sounds nice, but it is not the real meaning of Christmas! In the church we prepare for Christmas in a different way, because for the church, Christmas is a holy day, not a holiday. There is a profound difference between the two!

Christmas is a holy day because God became one of us! Christmas is a holy day because God began a journey toward a cross and an empty tomb to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves! Christmas is a holy day because the invisible God of the universe became visible in a way that we could see directly! If Christmas is merely a “holiday,” then it is understandable to see Advent as a time when we try to get into the holiday spirit. However, since Christmas is a holy day, Advent is a time for us to prepare for an encounter with the Holy One.

You might not care too much right now about meeting the Holy One. Right now you might be more interested in singing Christmas carols, or buying Christmas gifts, or baking Christmas cookies — and generally getting into the Christmas spirit. However, before you “tune me out,” let me make a couple of observations: First, the day will come for every one of us when we will meet the Holy One, whether we want to or not. I am not saying that to scare you. It simply is. Secondly, if your life today is in any kind of disarray, an encounter with the Holy One will make a big difference.

Meeting the Holy One face to face goes so far beyond such an experience that we cannot even begin to comprehend it. The prospect can even be frightening, for in the presence of God, you and I look shabby by comparison. Yet, that is what Christmas is about. God came to wrap us in the mantle of God’s holiness so that our lives can take on a new look, a new luster, a new value, a new direction—a new hope.

How can we prepare ourselves for an encounter with the Holy One? Look at John the Baptist. I will grant you that his appearance is not in keeping with Christmas. A camel hair outfit is certainly not as festive as a Santa suit. Nor does his message ring with the “holiday spirit.” However, he does address the matter of preparing to meet the Holy One, for that is what his message of repentance is all about.

In order to comprehend fully what this means, I think we need to examine our traditional notions of what repentance means. The Greek word for “repent” means “to change.” But somewhere along the way we’ve picked up a different notion of repentance. I suspect our understanding of repentance is more associated with “hellfire and brimstone” and is characterized by cartoons with a long-bearded man and his sign which announces the end of the world and calls people to repent, lest they be damned eternally.

It’s no wonder that people get turned off by this matter of “repentance.” That’s heavy stuff. If I had to live under that kind of a cloud, I wouldn’t be too crazy about repentance. No, repentance simply means to change—to turn around and walk in a new direction. In short, to “reverse direction.”

However, because Christmas is a time of tradition, it can be difficult for us to understand Advent as preparing to make changes. But if Christmas is really about an encounter with the Holy One, then Christmas must also be about change—changes in our values and priorities, changes in our attitudes, changes in the way we treat others.

What changes are we supposed to make to prepare ourselves? That is a fair question, but I will answer it with another question: “What are we currently doing in our lives that keeps us from being sensitive to God’s presence in our life and the lives of other people around us?” Let me put it another way: “What are we doing that keeps us at arm’s length from God and from someone else?”

For some of us, it is working too hard. For some of us, it is too much ambition. For some of us, it is too much greed. For some of us, it is working too hard. For some of us, it is too much religion in the form of false piety and arrogant self-righteousness.

The specifics of what God calls each of us to change is different. But they do have something in common: we are called to drop the barriers that we erect in our lives which prevent us from being open and sensitive to the spirit of God! As long as we have erected barriers in our lives against other people, the net result will be a barrier against God!

My friends, if you’re looking for the holiday spirit, you won’t find it here. But if you are looking for an encounter with the Holy One — if you are looking for the presence of the living God who sent his Son to change the hearts and lives of people — then you’ve come to the right place! To paraphrase the message of John the Baptist, “Reverse direction, for the kingdom of God has arrived!”
The Season of ADVENT

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<th>Weekend of December 15-16</th>
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<td>4 pm Vigil Mass</td>
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**CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

**Monday, December 24**
No Morning Mass
Parish Office closes at NOON
4:00 pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
10:30 pm CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT NIGHT

**Tuesday, December 25**
8:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT DAWN
11:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

**December 26-28**
8 am Morning Mass

**Saturday, December 29th**
No Morning Mass
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, December 30th**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, December 31st**
No Morning Mass
Parish Office Closes at Noon
4 pm NEW YEAR VIGIL MASS

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**
9 am NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS

**January 2nd and 3rd**
8 am Mass

**January 4th**
8 am Mass
6 pm Confessions
6:30 pm Sacred Heart Devotions
7:00 pm Mass

**Saturday, January 5th**
No Morning Mass
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, January 6th**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

**January 8—11**
8 am Morning Mass

**Saturday, January 12th**
No Morning Mass
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, January 13th**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

PARISH MINISTRIES

**PARISH COMMITTEES**

- **The Development Committee** will meet on Monday, January 7th at 6:30 pm in the Lower Meeting Room of the Parish Office.

**FAITH SHARING**

- Companions on the Journey with Christ will meet on Sunday, December 16th at 2:00 pm in the home of Elaine Snyder.

- St. Andre’s Faith Seekers with Jackie Barkus will meet at 6 pm on Monday, January 7th in the Fr. Murgas Meeting Room of the Parish Office.

- Disciples of the Spirit of Jesus with Sr. Madonna will meet on Saturday, January 12th at 10:30 am in the Fr. Murgas Meeting Room of the Parish Office. There is still room in this group for anyone who might be interested.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

4 pm Christmas Vigil
10:30 pm Christmas Mass at Night

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

8 am Mass
11:00 AM Christmas Mass at Day PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

**Advent Schedule**

**Sunday, December 16**
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, December 23**
8:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

**CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

**Monday, December 24**
No Morning Mass
Parish Office closes at NOON
4:00 pm CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
10:30 pm CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT NIGHT

**Tuesday, December 25**
8:00 am CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT DAWN
11:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

**December 26-28**
8 am Morning Mass

**Thursday, December 20**
8 am Mass
Noon Exposition
6 pm Vespers

**Friday, December 21**
8 am Morning Mass

**Saturday, December 22**
3:00 pm Confessions
VIGIL: Fourth Sunday of ADVENT

**December 29**
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, December 30**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, December 31**
No Morning Mass
Parish Office Closes at Noon
4 pm NEW YEAR VIGIL MASS

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**
9 am NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS

**January 2nd and 3rd**
8 am Mass

**January 4th**
8 am Mass
6 pm Confessions
6:30 pm Sacred Heart Devotions
7:00 pm Mass

**Saturday, January 5th**
No Morning Mass
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, January 6th**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

**January 8—11**
8 am Morning Mass

**Saturday, January 12th**
No Morning Mass
3:00 pm Confessions
4:00 pm Vigil and 5:30 pm

**Sunday, January 13th**
8:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass
Blessed, Dreamed and Named
MORNING MEDITATION OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
In the Chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae
13 October, 2016

“God Creating”
Michelangelo Buonoratti
Sistine Chapel Ceiling

On the identity card of every Christian, there is the name which God has chosen with the same tenderness of an expectant mother and father who “dream of their baby”. There are three fundamental characteristics of a Christian: they are “blessed because they are chosen, because they are forgiven, and because they journey”. Pope Francis addressed these signs pointing to the Christian identity during his homily for Mass at Santa Marta on Thursday, 13 October.

In the day’s “Collect prayer” during the Mass, Francis said, “we asked the Lord that his grace might ‘go before us and follow after’ in order that we do not tire of going forward on the Christian journey”. Therefore, he explained, “there is need for grace in order not to tire”, because “we cannot do it alone”.

The Pope said it is time to understand what “this journey, this Christian identity” is. He cited the day’s first reading, taken from the letter to the Ephesians (1:1-10), in which Saint Paul the Apostle “explains what the Christian identity is, and first and foremost says: ‘We were blessed’. A Christian is blessed: blessed by the Father, by God”.

Paul divides this theme of blessing into three points, the Holy Father said. The first is: “a Christian is a chosen person; we are chosen. God chose us one by one, not like an oceanic multitude, or a mass of people”. Instead, God “has given us a name; he knows each one of us by name”. Thus, everyone can say: “I am blessed, because I am known by the Father, I was chosen by the Father, I was anticipated by the Father”.

In order to understand this truth, the Pope called to mind the image of “a couple when they are expecting a baby”. The parents ask themselves: “What will she be like? And what will her smile be like? And how will she speak?”. At the same time, however, he said, “I dare say that even we, each one of us, was dreamt of by the Father, just as a father and mother dream of the child they are expecting”, and “this gives you great security”, the Pope said. “The Father wanted you, specifically: you, you. Each one of us”. This awareness is essential. It is the foundation of our relationship with God: we speak of a Father who loves us, who has chosen us, who has given us a name”.

“A Christian is a choice; he or she is a dream of God”, Francis continued. He spoke of the need to feel like part of a community, comparing it to a fan who chooses to be part of a football team. When we think of ourselves as being chosen and dreamt of, the Pope explained, “we feel great consolation in our heart: we are not abandoned, nor are we on the path of life ‘to make do as one can’; we have a name, dreamt of by God”. The first point in the theme of blessing, the Holy Father reiterated, is that “we are chosen”.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes: “the Father has compensated us in the beloved Son. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace”. Expounding on the second point, Pope Francis said: “a Christian is to be a ‘forgiven’ person”. Indeed, a man or woman who does not feel forgiven is not fully Christian, resembling instead “that man who stood before the altar and said: ‘I thank you Lord, because I have no need of forgiveness; I have not sinned like everyone else!’”. However, “only one”, the Pontiff said, “was not forgiven, because he had so much pride he did not make way for forgiveness: the devil”. Instead, all of us “were forgiven with the cost of Christ’s Blood”.

Francis went on to stress the importance of remembering “what was forgiven of me,” bearing in mind “the terrible things you have done, not what your friend or neighbour has done; you!”. Everything is done with the certainty that the Lord “has forgiven these things” which we have done in life. Thus, the Pope said, “I am blessed; I am Christian”, which is “the first point,” he said: that “I am chosen, dreamt of by God, with a name which God has given me; beloved by God”. And the “second point” is that I have been “forgiven by God”.

Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians: “The Father has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his benevolent plan for the fullness of time: leading all things back to Christ, the sole head”. Thus, Francis said, “a Christian is a man or woman who is on a journey towards fullness, towards an encounter with Christ who has redeemed us”. Therefore, “one cannot comprehend an idle Christian”, the Pope continued. “A Christian must always go forward, must progress”. On the other hand, “an idle Christian is that man who, having received a talent and, out of fear for his life, fear of losing it, fear of the master – out of fear or convenience – buried the talent and left it there; and he is relaxed and passes through life without going” forward. This is because “a Christian is a man on a journey, a woman on a journey, who always does good, who seeks to do good, to go forward”.

This “is the Christian identity”, the Pontiff concluded: “blessed, because we are chosen, forgiven, and progressing”. The Pope observed that it is “beautiful to live thus: we are not anonymous, we are not proud to think we have no need of forgiveness; we are not standing idle”. Francis prayed that “the Lord may preserve this grace in us, that the Lord may accompany us with this grace of blessing which he has given us – that is, the blessing of our Christian identity.”
Do You Want to Know More About the Annulment Process?

In the Diocese of Scranton, the annulment process is now more “user friendly” than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee.

Please contact your pastor or the Diocesan Tribunal Office (570-207-2246) to begin a conversation.

It is possible to get clear answers to these questions and to renew your connection with the Church.

Notice Regarding the Sexual Abuse of A Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551 or to Diocesan Officials, including the Vicar General, Msgr. Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G. at 570-207-2269.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

COMPASSIONATE COUNSELING SERVICES

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable environment where your privacy is always respected.

Anyone who struggles with anxiety, grief and loss, depression, life transitions or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome.

CSS accepts Medicare and some other insurance plans.

CALL 570-207-2283

for more information

or to make an appointment

To make a donation to this year’s ANNUAL APPEAL please visit www.AnnualAppeal.org or contact us at 570-207-2250 or send your gift to Development Office, Diocese of Scranton 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503

Parish Goal: $32,000.00
Raised so far: $13,578.00

Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. If you have not yet made a donation to the appeal, you may do so by sending it to the address listed above.

Your donation helps to support many of the ministries of the Diocese, like Catholic Social Services, Parish Life and Ministry Formation, Care and Education of Clergy, Education and training of Seminarians, Catholic Media (CTV) and Catholic Schools.

Members of the Faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON’S VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR FAITH FORMATION — Cycle 1 (2019)

Session dates run from January 20th through February 23rd. Registration is now open and closes January 16, 2019. Visit https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar for more information.

Looking to learn more about your faith or enrich your parish ministry?
The tiny church sanctuary where I spent half my childhood had no opening windows or air conditioning. One blistering summer, I remember watching sweat roll down old men's necks and marveling as women folded bulletins into neat accordian fans to cool their faces. The singing melted into a lethargic murmur, and our pastor pressed his hands at his sides when he spoke to hide the wide, wet circles under his arms.

Then one Sunday, we entered the auditorium to feel a cool, pleasant blast of air and questioning its origins. Later, the pastor publicly thanked an anonymous donor for his gift.

"Who do you think it was?" I asked my mom after service, as church members lingered, laughing, in the benevolent breeze.

She smiled and whispered, "It was your dad."

Although the rest of the world has probably forgotten the mysterious arrival of the ceiling fan, I still feel proud when I recall Dad's donation. He didn't have to contribute millions or make the evening news – his small but meaningful act sank deep into my heart and my memory.

**Stewardship: Why We Should Give**

"We're living in a material world..." pop star Madonna sang in the 80s. Hairstyles, fashions and music trends have changed since then, but unfortunately, her sentiment remains accurate. What's particularly disturbing is that debt problems are starting earlier than ever before. A bankrate.com article reports:

"Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 now boast the second-highest rate of bankruptcy. The average credit card debt for this group increased by 55 percent between 1992 and 2001, with the average young adult household now spending approximately 24 percent of its income on debt payments."

Mounting debt in this country is just one indication that we need a refresher on Jesus' "good and faithful servant" illustration (Matthew 25:14-30) – not just for our own sakes, but for our kids as well. Many of our money problems (and probably lots of non-financial struggles, too) result from our forgetting whose resources we're managing (Psalm 24:1, James 1:17). Time, talents, skills, and health are all tools on loan to us with the expectation that we'll share them, do good with them, and use them to glorify the Master.

**Biblical Basics: How We Should Give**

I wish all of my giving could be glitzy, like donating a kidney or volunteering on Extreme Home Makeover. But more often, my contribution probably pays for the church's copy machine ink or toilet paper. But that's OK. Giving was never intended to be a periodic, only-for-desperate-needs activity. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to tithe (give a tenth of) everything they had. He asked for their firstfruits – the best of their harvest, before they took any for themselves. While tithing isn't a New Testament mandate, it serves as a valuable guideline today, along with these commands and examples:

**Give**

- ...regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- ...secretly (Matthew 6:1-2)
- ...sacrificially (Luke 21:1-4)
- ...based on your earnings (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- ...purposefully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- ...cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- ...with God's priorities in mind (Matthew 6:19-21)
- ...generously, realizing that your giving determines what you receive (Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:6)

God also made some bold promises concerning rewards for His good and faithful servants if they would first trust Him to care for them (Malachi 3:10, Deuteronomy 15:10).

**Modeling the Master**

I heard about the poor widow's offering (Luke 21:1-3) a hundred times growing up, but it was never as real, or visible, as the ceiling fan. According to Deborah Spaid, author of Teaching Your Kids to Care: How to Discover and Develop the Spirit of Charity in Your Children, the most empowering giving experiences for kids involve the tangible. She says simply collecting coins is less satisfying because "it requires too much abstraction for kids to imagine the money turning into biscuits for hungry children."

You know your kids are watching – so start involving them in your benevolence and teaching them to be cheerful givers. Don't know where to begin? Sites like learningtogive.org suggest:

- **Give as a family** by sponsoring a child, supporting missionaries, or responding to a news story. Even if kids aren't giving money, they can write letters or make something for the individual(s) in need. (Be sure to share any pictures, letters or thank you notes you receive with your children.)

- **Let kids cook with you** when you're preparing a meal for a sick friend or cookies for an elderly neighbor.

- **Encourage kids to create artwork** in the form of pictures or cards to brighten a shut-in's day.

- **Help kids choose gently-used items** like toys and clothes that they can pass on.

- **Throw a "charity" birthday party** where guests bring new or gently-used items instead of gifts. Let the birthday boy or girl select an organization to help, and take him or her along when you donate the items.

- **Make or buy kids a bank** with sections for saving, spending, and giving.

**Teach the firstfruits principle** by having kids donate their shiniest coins or the money at the top of the allowance pile. 2

- **Introduce "giving" role models** by reading stories, visiting museums, or otherwise presenting the lives of noted altruists.

- **Ask questions**, such as: How did it feel to give? Do you think you'd like to give again? What did you like about (giving role model)? Do you have any ideas about how we could help so-and-so? Share your "ceiling fan" stories about ways a family member gave generously, or how someone made a difference by helping you.

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## INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 08-09, 2018</th>
<th>06-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Church</td>
<td>Mailed in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>177.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering</td>
<td>4,069.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Days</td>
<td>319.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>306.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Reduction</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Flowers</td>
<td>97.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PARISH COLLECTION</td>
<td>$4,968.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FINANCIAL HEALTH

## FINANCES

## EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 06-12, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service (Principal + Interest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Subsidy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

| Diocesan Collection | $741.35 | 109.00 |
| TOTAL DIOCESAN | $741.35 | $109.00 |

## OTHER INCOME

| Candles | 46.00 |
| Rental of Properties | -0- |
| Perquisites | -0- |
| Transfers | -0- |
| Holy Day | 1,314.98 |
| TOTAL OTHER INCOME | $1,360.98 |
| TOTAL INCOME | $9,134.58 |

## PARISH DEBT SERVICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Loan</th>
<th>Amount Paid</th>
<th>BALANCE Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$412,000.00</td>
<td>$69,639.22</td>
<td>$342,360.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Note: The Parish Debt service has been paid to date. This Account is current.

## DIOCESAN ASSESSMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)</th>
<th>Diocesan Assessment</th>
<th>School Assessment</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior Balance</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>93,788.02</td>
<td>93,788.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assessment</td>
<td>71,471.00</td>
<td>56,659.62</td>
<td>128,130.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Paid</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>913.39</td>
<td>11,913.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE DUE</td>
<td>60,471.00</td>
<td>149,534.25</td>
<td>210,005.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Monthly Assessment Installment for the Diocese is $5,956.00. (That is a little over 1 Weekend’s collection)

The Monthly School Assessment Installment is $4,724.40 (Another weekend’s collection)

To pay off the total current and past Schools Assessment, the monthly installment would be $12,537.30 (3 weekend collections.)

## Mass Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 08-09, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REMINDER: In order for our parish to remain solvent, the average weekly offering per person MUST equal or be greater than $15.00 consistently.

## Votive Offerings

### Bread and Wine

**Intention**: Rev. John J. Piontek  
**Offered by**: Niece

## Sanctuary Candle

**Intention**: Rev. John J. Piontek  
**Offered by**: Niece

Is your gift to the parish each week an honest reflection of God’s goodness to you?

## Your Gift to God

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 8-9, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$76-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$51-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$26-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$21-24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOCAL EVENTS

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA???

JESUS

Bus Trip to SIGHT and SOUND THEATER
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Adults $129  Children (3-11) $91
12:15—2:15 Lunch (on own)
Kitchen Kettle Village
3:00 SHOW
6:00 pm Dinner
Good n’ Plenty Restaurant
(included in price)

To make reservations call
Mary at 570-823-4988

RESERVATIONS CLOSE
March 31, 2019

Just Great Tours
PO Box 2365  Wilkes-Barre, PA
18703
570-829-5756

CHOMAN’S MOBILE CARE

Cemetery Care
His services include steam cleaning of headstone, manicuring the lawn around the stone, mulching, flowering and more! He offers one time, seasonal and monthly packages. He also offers military and veteran discounts.

Automobile Detailing
We love our cars and rely heavily on them. But giving them the care they deserve is no easy task! Even dropping it at the detailing shop can be an obstacle. That’s why we bring the detailing shop to you! We supply the water, power, tools and come right to your home or office! We’ll have your vehicle looking like new with no worry or hassle to you!

Power Washing
Buildings lose their pristine look due to dirt, grime and motor exhaust. These can build up and severely damage your property and destroy its value. We’ll restore your investment and help prevent the mess for coming back as well as increase the curb value of your property overnight. We build our service based on your desire and your budget. We remove mold, graffiti, tar, gum, oil and more. We clean buildings, houses, sidewalks, balconies, porches, rain gutters, decks and patios, windows, parking lots, garages and much more. Commercial and Residential services available.

You can contact Chris at (570) 262-3109, or Book your appointment online at ChomanCares.com or by e-mail at ChomanCares@gmail.com.

ECO-FRIENDLY CARE FOR YOU AND YOUR INVESTMENTS

"Dreams are the touchstones of our characters."
- Henry David Thoreau

Our Annual All Saints Parish Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 16th, from 9:30AM until 12:30 PM, in the Holy Child Faith Formation Center at 119 Willow St., Plymouth.
Purchase a box and fill it with as many cookies as you can. Prices are $5 for a small box and $10 for a large box. It is a great opportunity for you to buy a variety of homemade cookies for the holiday season.

Join Us for Eucharistic Adoration
every Thursday
(Except for Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday)
from Noon to 6 pm.
The Day concludes with Vespers and Benediction at 6 pm.

Well, I’ve decided I do believe in Santa Claus, no matter how preposterous he sounds.

What convinced your A SIMPLE RISK ANALYSIS.
I want presents, lots of presents, why risk not getting them over a matter of belief? Heck, I’ll believe anything for presents, they want.

Calvin and Hobbes
by Bill Watterson

December 16, 2018  THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
### Third Week of Advent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day and Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Offered by</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 17</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO Morning Mass Scheduled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 18</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>George Lindquist</td>
<td>Patricia &amp; Joan Cavanaugh</td>
<td>5:30 pm CHOIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 19</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Thomas G Iskra Sr</td>
<td>Anna Hudock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 20</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Dorothy Jean McGraw</td>
<td>Herbert Fellerman</td>
<td>Noon: Exposition 6 pm Vespers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 21</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Leo Magri</td>
<td>Parish of SAB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 22</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO Morning Mass Scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Advent Weekday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### VIGIL
- **4 pm**
  - George Mushinsky
  - Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Mushinsky
  - 9:30 am Faith Formation

#### VIGIL
- **5:30 pm**
  - Joseph Buczynski
  - Mrs. Mary Buczynski

#### SUNDAY
- **8 am**
  - Parishioners
  - Pastor

#### SUNDAY
- **11 am**
  - Stefen & Margareet Ulichney
  - Family

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 22-23, 2018 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)</th>
<th>December 24-25, 2018 (Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5:30 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 am</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11:00 am</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:00 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:30 pm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:00 am</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11:00 am</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Servers</strong></th>
<th>Ted Harowicz</th>
<th>Manuel Baez</th>
<th>John Benz</th>
<th>Patrice Rembish</th>
<th>Ann Bozinski</th>
<th>Manuel Baez</th>
<th>Aiden Burridge</th>
<th>Mimi Tosh</th>
<th>Sr. Tina Hanrahan</th>
<th>AJ Kondracki</th>
<th>Ann Bozinski</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lector</strong></td>
<td>John Bednarz</td>
<td>Pat Baran</td>
<td>Anna Hudock</td>
<td>Jackie Barkus</td>
<td>Ann Bergold</td>
<td>David Alusick</td>
<td>Jackie Barkus</td>
<td>Pat Baran</td>
<td>Mary Ann Slavinski</td>
<td>Sr. Kate Morris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMOC</strong></td>
<td>Diane Gregor</td>
<td>Mimi Tosh</td>
<td>John Benz</td>
<td>Robert Dunsmuir Sr.</td>
<td>John Bergold</td>
<td>Sr. Tina Hanrahan</td>
<td>AJ Kondracki</td>
<td>Ann Bozinski</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cantor</strong></td>
<td>Carol Zukoski</td>
<td>Joan Cavanaugh</td>
<td>Brian Clarke</td>
<td>Sr. Madonna</td>
<td>Brian Clarke</td>
<td>Sr. Madonna</td>
<td>Geri Ulichney</td>
<td>Matt Kurtz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitality</strong></td>
<td>Mary Ann Amesbury</td>
<td>Jean Koval</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Theresa Choman</td>
<td>Dolores Yesuvida</td>
<td>David Alusick</td>
<td>Dennis Bozinski</td>
<td>Children of our Faith Formation Program</td>
<td>Dolores Yesuvida</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>