

## MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

## WELCOME TO ST. MAX PARISH!

Welcome to the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish community! If you would like to register in the parish, please pick up a packet in the gathering space and return the registration form. Once registered, you will receive our monthly newsletter and emails. Please know our staff and parish leaders are here to be of service to you. Additional information about our parish can be found on our website, [www.saint-max.org](http://www.saint-max.org).

**Sunday, December 24**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM † Toma Binh & † Mattha Diem  
10:00 AM People of the parish and † Dr. Willis Hodges

*No noon Mass*

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

3:00 PM † Scaduto Family

*in church*

3:00 PM † Cecilia Feltz

*in gym*

5:30 PM † Beverly Listermann

MIDNIGHT\* † Leo Lamping and † Anna Corkhill

**Monday, December 25**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

10:00 AM\* † Mary Harshbarger and † Gene Thames

NOON\* † Ed Doherty

**Tuesday, December 26**

**SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

8:30 AM † Maria Sang Nguyen and † Arthur H. Wesselman

7:00 PM *Mass at St. John, West Chester*

**Wednesday, December 27**

**SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST**

8:30 AM † Maximo & † Amparo Tagle & † Julie Falcon

**Thursday, December 28**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**

8:30 AM † Peter Deibig

**Friday, December 29**

**THE FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

8:30 AM † Gloria Shaw

**Saturday, December 30**

**THE SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

8:30 AM † Paul Reichardt

4:30 PM † Ken & † Carol Cook

**Sunday, December 31**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

8:00 AM † Vincent Bao Nguyen and † Maria Chi Dang

10:00 AM People of the parish and † Sergio Moreto

NOON † Robert Trischler

† Deceased \* Incense Used

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16  
Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3  
Psalm 105  
Hebrews 11:8; 11-12, 17-19  
Luke 2:22-40

**DEVOTIONS** *(all in chapel)*

**Perpetual Adoration** - Our chapel is open continuously

**Exposition** - The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on Thursdays after Mass, a Holy Hour begins at 7:00 PM

**Rosary** - One half hour before all Masses

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** - After all Masses

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Your healing prayers are requested for Earl Abeln, Art Arand, Mike Andary, Grace Basta, Lisa Bingaman, Bob Bruns, Brian Bruns, Kristine Bruns, Jennifer Calangi, Maya Collins, Michael Coon, Marian Conrad, Annette Curtin, Dr. Michael Cushing, Angelique Debets, Henry DeNicola, Ashley Douglas, Steve Dragon, Jack Easter, Bill Ebben, Alicia Hollenkamp-Adkins, Gaye Hollenkamp Eubanks, Levi Gasner, Nadine Gennaro, Mary Ferraro, Robert Ferraro, Jack Finke, Timmy Fischer, Mary Fritz, Clyde Garrison, Karen Gross, Richard Gross, Sol Gross, James Gunselman, Gail Hamilton, Gary Hampton, Judy Harrod, Russell Harrod, John Hendy Jr., Al Higgins, Jill Holt, Geraldine Hughes, Maureen Imfeld, Jennifer Klenke, Don Klinkhammer, Hank Kluznick, Joey Lakeberg, Michael Lancaster, Paul Levasseur, Barb Listermann, Tom Lutz, Ron Lynch, Joe Marksteiner, Char McCarthy, Andrew Meister, Jacob Meister, Beryl Michael, Judy Michael, Sheila Miesse, Daniel R. Miller, James Moores, Jon Moran, Trevor Vincent Munafo, Bill Murphy, Gene Neltner, Robert Niznansky, Victor Nguyen, Fr. John Porter, Stephanie Pulling, Annie Prather, Agnes Rahman, Kristof Rattermann, Quintin Richardson, Evelyn Robinson, Joseph Romer, Margot Roth, James Santos, Kerry Santos, Dory Schade, Rose Mary Schaefer, James Schaeper, Cindy Schneeman, Julie Schrock, Kathleen Seda, Barbara Smith, Eric Stearman, Debbie Stoeckel, Kendall Stump, Richard Sunnenberg, Ernestine Tomblin, Tari Torbeck, Kenneth Trimbach, George Vesper, Gloria Vesper, Stanley Wadella, Vito Weeda, Charlie Wiedenmann, Christine Zampese, and Annemarie Cannon Zawada.

*Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to You in this time of illness. We place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servants to health again.*

*In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

**PRAYERS FOR THE MILITARY**

Please pray for Scott Archuleta, Daniel Armstrong, Patrick Black, Ben Brink, Nicholas Calangi, Rich Borromeo, Dylan Hays, Philip DeNicola, Donald Gilbert, David Giuliano, Joseph Hamann, Michael Hazlebeck, Katherine Holthaus, Derrick Kamphaus, Stephen Kelczewski, Matthew Koop, Jon Laurin, Derek Morris, Michael Nelson, Ryan Nikzad, Don Mollis, Jr., Daniel Moore, Chad Richman, Christopher Richman, Kevin Stetson and Cedric Whitlock.

*Almighty God, we stand before You in supplication, asking Your divine mercy and protection to envelop with Your invincible armor our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families.*

**HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED AND NURSING HOMES**

To make arrangements to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Penance and/or visits to the hospitalized or seriously ill parishioners, please call Holly Moran, 777-4322, ext. 116. Please note that if you are in the hospital, privacy regulations prohibit hospital personnel from contacting your parish. Therefore, you or your family members should let us know directly by calling the parish office.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay,  
that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming.”*  
– The Roman Missal, Collect for December 24, the Morning Mass

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

If you are reading this **before 3:00 PM** on Sunday, December 24, may these last hours of the Advent season be a quiet time of special blessings for you and your family. If you are reading this **after 3:00 PM** on Sunday, December 24, a blessed Christmastide to you and to your family!

Since this is the bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, let’s reflect briefly on the readings for this final Sunday and final day of Advent!

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.* With these words, our Blessed Mother places her total trust in God. Aren’t we called to do the same? Mary’s response to God is the same response we too should offer to the Lord. But do we really understand that this took much more trust in the Lord than we might imagine? Mary agreed to motherhood as an unmarried woman – this would have been seen as sinfully aberrant at the time, so much so Mary could have been stoned and killed for fornication or adultery. Are we willing to trust so much in the Lord that it could potentially lead to our death?

There are similarities between the Lord’s work in Mary and His work in all of us. Jesus lives within each of us spiritually. Jesus lived in Mary spiritually as well as physically in her womb. Jesus was made physically visible to the world through Mary, but He should also be made visible to the world through us as well. Who we are and how we relate to and treat each other is a sign to the world of who Jesus is and who we should be as His followers. Are we, through our words and actions, showing the world what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus? Is there a better time than this to do so? The late great entertainer and comedian, Bob Hope (1903-2003), who spent many Christmases away from home performing for the military serving overseas, once said, “My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

Even though most have probably already made Christmas plans, like last year, we are encouraging the following:

- If possible, come to Christmas Mass at midnight or on Christmas morning. Our Christmas Eve Masses are very full – inside and outside! If we can continue to “spread the crowd” out better among all our Christmas Mass times, it will certainly be a better Christmas experience here for everyone! Thanks to all who have already made these efforts in the past – it shows and is appreciated!
- For those who must come to the 3:00 PM Masses (in the church and gym) on Christmas Eve, let’s “fill the gym first” and “park closest to the gym first” even if coming to the Mass in church. This allows guests, visitors and latecomers the opportunity to park closer and get into the building more easily for worship. Let’s make “room in the inn” for those who do not join us weekly so that their experience may be so good that they may choose to come back more frequently.
- And on Christmas (indeed year-round!), “one family, one car.” Fewer cars in our parking lot at any time is certainly a good thing!

Our Eucharistic Holy Hour this week is a Holy Hour for Life and falls on the Feast of the Holy Innocents – the real first martyrs of our Church. Certainly abortion remains the most tragic and horrific respect life issue we need to fight – the right to life is the most basic and the first among all others rights. The Holy Innocents also remind us that other respect life issues are important, too. Babies should always be born and never be aborted! When babies are born, we need to do all we can to form a world where families can raise their children in safety and security. That is why health care, poverty, immigration and abuse (among many, many others) are also important respect life issues. Join us this Thursday for our Holy Hour for Life as we pray that the dignity and sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death be preserved and respected.

That’s it for now – God bless one and all!

*Fr. Geoff*

## WORSHIP &amp; SACRAMENTS

## AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH



Among the many aspects of Advent liturgies (purple, the wreath, light, etc.), perhaps the most important is a focus on the Word. We prepare eagerly to hear, during the Mass of Christmas Day, the beginning of the gospel according to John: “In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh...” One of the greatest achievements of the Second Vatican Council’s liturgical reform – and one of the hallmarks of the new translation of the *Roman Missal* - was its decree that “the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that a richer share in God’s word” may take place at Mass. (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, #51) During Advent, we are called to celebrate this Word, the Christ, who dwells in our hearts. Take time to prepare for Mass by reading the scriptures and reflecting upon their meaning in your life. At Mass, truly be open to the Word that is proclaimed – a Word that is living and effective, truly Christ speaking to His Church!

Communal Celebration of the

## Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, December 30, 2017 – 4:30 PM Mass

At times of sickness and declining health, the Church offers the beautiful sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to her members. Post-Vatican II theology stresses strongly that this sacrament is a sacrament of the living, i.e. it *should never be delayed* until death is possibly imminent as was the common practice for many centuries.

Who may be sacramentally anointed? Church law is very specific so that this sacrament is celebrated appropriately and not indiscriminately. The following may request to be anointed:

*Those suffering from a serious illness (either physical or emotional)*

*Those who are elderly and have become notably weakened due to their age*

*Those hospitalized due to illness or have upcoming surgery*



**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:** *For those who wish to be anointed, please arrive by 4:15 PM and get a nametag in the gathering space. Greeters will then escort you to your seats in the front middle pews of church.*

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a sign of the Lord’s care and the Church’s concern for her sick or weakened members. It reaffirms the human dignity of all people and is not only a sign of life in the Church but also the continuation of the healing ministry of Christ Jesus Himself.

We will normally celebrate the Anointing of the Sick communally at the 4:30 PM Mass whenever there is a fifth Saturday. Upon request, we can also celebrate the sacrament during any weekday Mass and anytime outside of Mass including in homes, hospitals, and other health care or retirement facilities.

### Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ with St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Christmas Eve, December 24  
3:00 PM Mass  
5:30 PM Mass  
11:30 PM Lessons & Carols  
12:00 Midnight Mass\*

Christmas Day, December 25  
*No 8:00 AM Mass*  
10:00 AM Mass\*  
12:00 noon Mass\*  
*\*Incense used*

### The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**New Year’s Eve, December 31**  
Midnight holy hour

**New Year’s Day, January 1**  
*No 8:00 AM Mass*  
10:00 AM Mass  
12:00 noon Mass



# Save the Dates



**Family Promise Ministry  
at  
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church**

to host homeless  
families in 2018

**January 28 - February 3  
April 1 - April 7  
July 1 - July 7  
October 28 - November 3**

During each of these four weeks, local families experiencing homelessness will reside at St. Max for temporary shelter as they work to find permanent housing. Dozens of volunteers are needed to make sure these families feel at home. To learn how you can support this ministry, visit [saint-max.org/familypromise](http://saint-max.org/familypromise) or email [familypromise@saint-max.org](mailto:familypromise@saint-max.org).



## OUTREACH

**SURVIVING DIVORCE**

Surviving Divorce is a twelve-week program featuring thirty-minute DVD sessions each week. Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore hope, and begin authentic healing. Developed and hosted by Rose Sweet, Surviving Divorce features experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Ph.D., Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Fr. Steve Porter, S.T.L., Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., and Christopher West. It also includes personal testimonies of Catholic men and women who have experienced the breakdown of their families. They courageously share their stories with heart, humor, and wisdom. As they witness to their pain and the healing power of Christ in their lives, participants will laugh, cry, and identify with their journeys from heartache to healing. This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM. The next session begins January 24, 2018. Please RSVP by January 19 to Chuck Michael, (513) 608-7112, [SurvivingDivorce@saint-max.org](mailto:SurvivingDivorce@saint-max.org). Find out more about the program at [www.CatholicsDivorce.com](http://www.CatholicsDivorce.com).

**ARE YOU EXPERIENCING THE CHRISTMAS BLUES?**

Are you having a blue Christmas? Do you need someone to listen to you in a non-judgemental way? Someone to pray with you during this holiday season? Consider having a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are members of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish who have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free. To learn how to connect with a Stephen Minister, call the parish office at 513-77-4322 ext.218 or email at [StephenMinistry@saint-max.org](mailto:StephenMinistry@saint-max.org). Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

*"Love one another, as I have loved you"* John 13:34

**PROJECT RACHEL: A POST-ABORTION HEALING MINISTRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The Office for Respect Life Ministries is offering a day of reflection for all those who have been affected by abortion. This includes fathers, siblings, aunts/uncles, friends. The day is January 27, 2018 in the Cincinnati area from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be a healing service, with an opportunity to participate in Reconciliation following witness and prayer. We invite you to: "Look into your heart, listen to the voice of God. Help yourself by accepting His love and forgiveness." For more information or registration call the Office for Respect Life Ministries at 937-222-0227, or the Project Rachel Helpline for information at (513)784-0531. You can register at: [www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/project-rachel)

## EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS

**MIGHTY MAX**

It's time to register for our Mighty Max Early Childhood weekday program! New child registrations for our "winter session" for all classes are being accepted now. The winter session will run the weeks of January 8 to March 16. Cost is \$50.00.

Class options include Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Come join the fun!

Check out the Mighty Max page on the parish website for forms and program information. Contact Charlotte Flanagan in the office with any questions, 513-777-4322 ext. 129, or [cflanagan@saint-max.org](mailto:cflanagan@saint-max.org).

**NURSERY NEWS**

The nursery will reopen Sunday, January 7 for the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses. Thank you for understanding.

# Faith. Food. Fitness.

## St. Max Women's Wellness Retreat

Looking for a fresh start to the New Year?  
Join us to learn some simple techniques to  
improve your mind, body and spirit today  
and every day throughout 2018!

January 6  
9:15 - 11:45 AM  
Gym

### *Experience...*

- Prayer with movement that will help you understand how easy it is to increase your conversations with God when you become more physically active.
- The delicious simplicity of seasonal, whole food, plant-based meal preparation while gathering new recipes that you and your entire family will enjoy. You will also learn about pro-inflammatory foods and the differences between food allergies, sensitivities and intolerances.
- A quiet moment with God to reflect upon the ways you can improve your daily health routines.
- Fellowship with women interested in overall wellness.



Please wear comfortable exercise clothes and bring an exercise/yoga mat (a few extra mats will be available).

**Registration is appreciated: [www.saint-max.org/wellnessretreat](http://www.saint-max.org/wellnessretreat)**  
**Free childcare is available with online preregistration**  
**Questions? Email Nancy Cushing, [wellness@saint-max.org](mailto:wellness@saint-max.org)**



## EVANGELIZATION &amp; CATECHESIS

## GOSPEL FOR ALL AGES

Luke 1:26-38

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found ONLY in Luke's gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus.

One of the challenges of faith is to recognize God's plan for us and to remain open to God's will and God's actions in our world. Filled with God's grace, Mary models for us the kind of faith that is needed to cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Like Mary, we are given the awesome opportunity to cooperate in God's saving plan. On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working in our lives.

**Family Time**

Gather together your family and talk about what you have been doing as a family to prepare for Christmas. How have these preparations helped you to better celebrate the central mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation? Our gospel today talks about how Mary was prepared for her role in Christ's birth. Read today's gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Consider the question: What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life? Conclude in prayer together that God's grace will enable your family to be more faithful and obedient to God. Pray together the Magnificat.

**Early Childhood News**

We are OFF for three weeks! Classes begin again on January 7, 2018. We hope that you enjoyed listening to your children sing after Masses on December 10. Please provide us with any feedback you have about the event being held in the gym. Stay tuned...we are already planning for our spring singing event to be held on April 22, 2018 in the church before Mass.

**RFY Grades 1-8 News**

We are OFF for three weeks! Classes begin again on January 7 & 8, 2018. Looking ahead...all fifth graders (classroom and home study) will be taking the ACRE Assessment on January 14 & 15 during our regular RFY session times. You should have received an email from Mary Lou with online resources to look over for review. All fifth grade **home study** families will also be receiving a signup genius link. Please sign up for the session that is most convenient for you!

*We are blessed to see the joyful faces of your children in our hallways every week! We are blessed to know YOU and for your continued support and encouragement! We pray that you will enjoy a peace-filled Christmas and that the light of Jesus' presence will fill your hearts this season and always. God bless!*

*~ Charlotte, Debi, Denise, Mary Lou, and Robin.*

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

High school youth group does not meet this Sunday or next Sunday. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We will meet again on January 7.

**STEUBENVILLE**

St. Max High School Youth Group is planning to attend the Steubenville Conference this coming summer July 13-15. Archbishop Schnurr from Cincinnati will be the main celebrant! Please sign up and send in your deposit by January 7. Check the parish website for flyer and forms.

**WE ARE CREATING A VISION!**

We are creating a vision for adult catechesis here at St. Max and we are inviting you to discern becoming a member of this ministry. We will meet monthly and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in creating this vision. Our next meeting will be January 13, 2018 at 7:00 AM at St. Max. We will meet monthly, usually on the second Saturday of the month. Please email us your input or questions [mdoughman@saint-max.org](mailto:mdoughman@saint-max.org)

**RETROUVAILLE-A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES**

The next program is the weekend of January 12-14, 2018.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic sponsored, confidential program open to all faiths. It offers a chance to rediscover yourself, and your spouse. It is for couples that have experienced a breakdown in communication, become unloving and uncaring, thinking of separation or divorce, or who are separated.

For further information please visit the website at: [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org)



## EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

### WEST CHESTER CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

**January 4th - Adoration & Applebee's:** Join us for an hour of adoration and prayer (holy hour) at St. Max in the chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM. Afterwards we'll meet outside the chapel (door to the right, as you face the altar) to drive to Applebee's at Union Center for some food & socializing – *1st Thursday of each month*

**January 27<sup>th</sup> - Cincinnati Cyclones Game:** Join us as the Cincinnati Cyclones take on the Fort Wayne Komets. The Cyclones will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the classic hockey movie, *Mighty Ducks*, during the game. Tickets are \$15 each. Money is due to Lisa Krass by January 17 to reserve your spot. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the St. John pavilion parking lot to carpool down.



## PARISH LIFE

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*Due to early print deadlines, the financial summary will be updated on December 31.*

### Parish Office Hours Christmas & New Year's

Friday, December 22 – close at noon through  
New Year's Day  
Tuesday, January 2 – reopen 9-5

### ST. MAX FESTIVAL

As you and your families are gathering for various Christmas activities, the St. Max festival committee is starting to lay the foundation for next year's festival, June 8th, 9th and 10th.

That foundation starts with you as a possible committee member. This year, due to increased turnover, we are in need of many people to give of their time. Don't fear, you will not go it alone. We will have you paired with a current member through the process.

We ask you to give this major fundraiser prayerful consideration. We will be having a general information meeting on January 10th at 7:00 PM to answer any questions you may have. Questions? Contact Bill Harkins, 513-777-8508 or email [festival@saint-max.org](mailto:festival@saint-max.org).

This is the parish's largest fund raiser. Last year we raised \$120,000, so come and have some fun and get involved with a good cause.

### YOUNG AT HEART

**Friday, January 5** - 5:00 PM - pizza at Uno's

**Monday, January 8** - 7:00 PM - meeting - entertainment by Unamused Kraken

**Saturday, January 20**- 6:00 PM– dinner at Dingle House

Young at Heart is a social group for parishioners ages 50 and over. Anyone is welcome, single or couples, widow or widower. Contact Leo Gray, 513-779-3251 or [youngatheart@saint-max.org](mailto:youngatheart@saint-max.org) if you are interested in attending a meeting or joining.



### SUPPORT ST. MAX WHEN YOU SHOP!

Help St. Max when you shop at Kroger. It's so easy! Login to [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) and sign up for a rewards card. Already have a card? Make St. Max your charity of choice. Proceeds received by the parish pay for childcare provided at no charge for parish events.

When you shop on Amazon, login at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and make Saint Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church in Liberty Township OH your preferred charity.

**Remember, always start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Questions? Contact the parish office, and THANK YOU for your support

### NEW ENVELOPE!

Beginning in January, you will no longer find a *Drive Down the Debt* envelope in your packet or on Faith Direct because it is anticipated the debt will be retired by the end of the January!!! In its place you will find a *Raise the Roof* envelope in your packet and on Faith Direct. The money donated to *Raise the Roof* will be set aside for the anticipated replacement of the church roof sometime within the next five years. The best guesstimate of a replacement roof at this time, and depending upon materials used, is four to six hundred thousand dollars, so we are going to begin saving now. THANK YOU for your help!





## EVENTS OF THE PARISH

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017**

8:00 AM	Church	Mass
10:00 AM	Church	Mass
3:00 PM	Church, Gym	Christmas Eve Mass
5:30 PM	Church	Christmas Eve Mass
11:30 PM	Church	Lessons & Carols
MIDNIGHT	Church	Christmas Eve Mass

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

10:00 AM	Church, Gym	Mass-Nativity of the Lord
12:00 PM	Church, Gym	Mass-Nativity of the Lord

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

9:30 AM	Youth Rm	Faith Lessons for Women
7:00 PM	Rm 6	Light Weigh

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

9:00 AM	Chapel	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9:15 AM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
5:00 PM	Gym	Basketball Practices St. Max Boosters
6:00 PM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
7:00 PM	Youth Rm	RCIA Candidates Meeting
7:00 PM	Chapel	Holy Hour/Vespers
7:00 PM	Rm 6	Prayer Shawl

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017**

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

10:00 AM	Gym	Faith Lessons for Moms Playgroup
4:45 PM	Church	Schreck-Patag Rehearsal
5:00 PM	Gym	Basketball Practices St. Max Boosters
6:00 PM	Church	Matchett-Louder Wedding Rehearsal

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017**

9:15 AM	Gym	Fitness Rosary
9:15 AM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
9:30 AM	Rm 4	St. Benedict Bible Study
1:00 PM	Church	Matchett-Louder Wedding
3:00 PM	Church	Sacrament of Penance
6:30 PM	Church	Schreck/Patag Wedding
7:30 PM	Gym	Schreck/Patag Reception

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017**

12:00 PM	Lg Conf Rm	Include Me Mass
11:00 PM	Chapel	Holy Hour

# One Step Closer...

## Epiphany - January 6 & 7, 2018

...to abundant life  
 ...to complete joy  
 ...to free donuts

Like the wise men of old, each of us is seeking something more. Just like them, our answer is **Jesus Christ**. Whether this is your first time at St. Max or your "first time in a long time," take one step closer. Join us on January 6 & 7 for Mass and an Epiphany-themed donut trail. Start the new year off right, come learn some easy, practical ways to take one step closer to Christ. **Jesus offers us more.**



**Pastor**

Fr. Geoffrey D. Drew, Ext.102

[gdrew@saint-max.org](mailto:gdrew@saint-max.org)

**Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Simon Peter Wankya, Ext.114

[spwankya@saint-max.org](mailto:spwankya@saint-max.org)

**Permanent Deacons**

John Paul Back, 226-3428

[jback@saint-max.org](mailto:jback@saint-max.org)

Mike Hinger, 779-1586

[mhinger@saint-max.org](mailto:mhinger@saint-max.org)

Mike Lippman, 252-4898

[mlippman@saint-max.org](mailto:mlippman@saint-max.org)

**Seminarian Intern**

Nicholas White, Ext. 127

[nwhite@saint-max.org](mailto:nwhite@saint-max.org)

**Pastoral Associates**

Lakmé Kodros, Parish Life & Stewardship

Ext.105, [lkodros@saint-max.org](mailto:lkodros@saint-max.org)

Jeremy Helmes, Worship & Sacraments

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