

**St. John the Baptist Parish—Weekly Activities**  
**Sunday December 31, 2017**

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” -  
Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It’s amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone – maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

**Readings for January 7, 2018**

**First Reading** : Isaiah 60.1-6

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Psalm** : 72

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Second Reading** : Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6

Now the mystery has been revealed: now the Gentiles have become fellow heirs of the promise.

**Gospel** : Matthew 2.1-12

We have come from the East to pay homage to the king.

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Eucharistic Adoration—Monday 9.30am—Tuesday, 8.45am.

“In adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mary says to us:  
Look at my Son Jesus, keep your gaze fixed on Him,  
listen to Him, speak with Him. He is gazing at you with  
love. Do not be afraid: He will teach you to follow Him  
and to bear witness to Him in all you do. . .”

Pope Francis, interview with Fr. A Spasado, s.j. Aug.  
2013



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**New Year’s Eve Mass**

**11:30pm—12:30am**

Pray the old year out—asking forgiveness for sin of 2017 and  
thanking God for His many blessings.

Pray the New Year in—by adoring Him at Holy Mass and  
asking His blessing on the New Year 2018.

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“Please remember to pick up  
your 2018 offertory envelopes at  
the back of the church. Did you  
know that you have the option of  
pre-authorizing your  
offerings? To set up your gift,  
please contact the parish office

for a form to be completed and submitted together with a  
“void” cheque. Take advantage of the convenience of  
automatic withdrawals while saving paper and parish  
resources! Whether you choose to give with an envelope or  
pre-authorized debits,

THANK YOU for supporting our parish.”

**8am Mass**

**10am Mass**

**2pm Holy Family Prayer Service**

**5pm Mass**

**11:30pm 1st Mass of the New Year**

**Monday, January 1, 2018**

New Years Day—Holy Day of Obligation

World Day of Peace, Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**10am Mass**

**11:30pm—12:30pm New Year’s Eve Mass**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

**8:35 - Rosary before 9am Mass**

† John D’Amore by Wilma & Dante Capaldi

† Angiolina Palumbo by Angela D’Amore & Family

† Bernadette Murphy by Simon & Yvon Girard

7pm Confirmation Meeting—Fr. Ware Room

7pm CWL Executive Meeting—Fr. Martin Room

**Wednesday, January 3, 2018**

**8:35am Rosary before 9am Mass**

† Floyd (Sam) Meloche by Debbie & Bill Meloche

† Howard Pillon by Mary Jane Murphy

† Amedina Simone by Nicodema Bresolin

9:30 Book Study—Fr. Ware Room

7pm Baptismal Preparation—Fr. Martin room

1pm—Legionari Della Sacra Famiglia: TBA

**Thursday, January 4, 2018**

**8:35am Rosary before 9am Mass**

† Barb Maryville (Birthday) by Bob Mayville

† John Girard by Simon & Yvon Girard

† Mabel Huntley by Pat & Marilyn

10am Social Justice Committee Meeting—Fr. Ware Room

**7pm Mass**

† Lucille Berthiaume by Margaret & Mike Regnier

† Rosalina DiBartolomeo by Mary & Vince Muoio

† Mario Rosso by Lea & Mario DeThomasis

Living Robin Heaton-Locken by Pat Bratt

7:30pm Bible Study Fr. Ware room

7pm Rosary Cenacle - Please call for location 519 713 9586

**Friday, January 5, 2018**

**8:35am Rosary before 9am Mass**

† Goldie Jenner by the Jenner Family

† Severino DiPierdomenico by Dan DeAngelis

Living Melissa Thornton

3pm Divine Mercy Hour—Church

4:30-6:30pm K of C Fish Fry

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**

**8:35am Rosary before 9am Mass**

† Lucille Malenfant by Debbie & Bill Meloche

† Shirley Bondy (Saskatchewan) by Catherine & Leonard Bondy

† Giovanni Conte and Family by Virginia & Joe Capaldi

**4-4:45pm—Reconciliation**

**5pm—Mass**

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**8am Mass**

**10am Mass**

11am St. Vincent de Paul Meeting—Fr. Ware Room



St. John  
the  
Baptist Parish  
2018  
50/50  
Lottery Tickets  
are still available

*St. John the Baptist Parish Lottery*  
225 BROCK ST., AMHERSTBURG, ONTARIO, N5V 2H3

**CLUB 500** **50/50 DRAW**

SINCE 1993 Celebrating 25 Years

<p>Ten Prizes</p> <p>1x \$500</p> <p>1x \$200</p> <p>3x \$100</p> <p>5x \$50</p> <p>Four times 2018 License #M791294</p>	<p>Tickets Sponsored by</p> <p>Vitella Plumbing Inc.</p> <p>Frank Vitella</p> <p>Participate in every draw through your Annual Membership of \$20.00 per ticket</p> <p>Four (4) Draw Dates 28 Jan. 2018, 29 April 2018 29 July 2018 &amp; 28 Oct. 2018</p> <p>Each draw is held at St. John the Baptist Church. Each ticket is eligible for each and every prize every time.</p> <p>2018 Ticket # — of 500</p>
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of only 500 being sold at \$20 each. If we sell all, the Parish can make \$5,000 and the buyers will have a chance to win \$5,000 with the 40 draws throughout the year. The first 10 draws are on January 28, 2018. You can purchase your lucky ticket or buy an extra at the rectory office during business hours or call Larry Allen 519 736 +731.

On Sunday, December 31st, join us at 2:00 pm (time change due to New Years Mass at 5:00 today) in the church for a "Holy Family Prayer and Rosary Sunday" Celebration.

This will be the third of four services through the Knight's of Columbus to pray to the Holy Family for the intention of strengthening Catholic families and their prayer lives. In union with the Family Prayer we will also include a Rosary to Mary with special intercessions for the World. Bring an open heart, a rosary and a friend, and together with the Holy Spirit we can lead families to become homes of communion, prayer and of love. If you have any questions contact Deacon Len.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



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## BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

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This year would you like to try to improve your whole health in a unique way? Improve your prayer life. Besides improving your relationship with God, prayer contributes to your whole health. Praying slows the body and quiets the mind. Praying cleanses the mind and helps us to relax. And a relaxed mind contributes to good mental and physical health. There is documented scientific evidence that prayer has a positive impact on our physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health. It is a proven fact that praying people live longer, healthier lives.

Repetitious prayer and meditation calm the nervous system reducing body tension and replacing negative thoughts and feelings with a sense of peace and joy. Our breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, and metabolism all slow down as adrenalin and cortisol levels stabilize. Endorphins increase, making us feel good, lessening our awareness of pain and giving us a sense of inner peace.

In addition to the above chemical changes, prayer alters our brain waves. Regular prayer has a lingering effect on our brains. Over time, regular praying enhances our memory and brain function, reducing our risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Negative thoughts and feelings that often lead to pessimism, anxiety, and depression are converted to a more positive mood and attitude through regular prayer. Regular prayer helps us to focus beyond ourselves and our problems, to feel more love and compassion for others, and to grow in our relationship with God. The impact of pain and suffering is reduced through frequent prayer. Praying everyday preserves our brain health.

Prayer is an important resource for coping with pain and illness, and in supporting the best possible whole health despite chronic health issues, life threatening disease, or just living in an aging body.

Prayer is a very powerful way for us to approach the challenges, inevitabilities, realities, and ambiguities of life. We can lift up our minds and hearts to God in prayer, anytime, anywhere. We can praise Him, thank Him, seek His forgiveness, ask for His help, or just be with Him. God is always available and eagerly waiting for us to share our concerns with Him. Just knowing God is present with us, gives us strength and confidence to wrestle with our many complex problems. Prayer helps us to turn inward to sort out our thoughts and feelings and decide how to deal with our particular issues. What a blessing it is, to be able to discuss our mess with the almighty God himself. In this kind of prayer, we slow down to consider all our options and listen for our Father's gentle guidance.

When we feel stressed and overwhelmed we can unwind, unload, and turn our burdens over to Him. He is ready and waiting for us to admit we need His help. He forgives our sin. He is our creator, our companion, and our biggest fan. He loves us so much. He would do anything for us, even die for us. How great is that? 'Praise God! Blessed be His Holy Name!' Let's all resolve to spend more time with Him in prayer.

Rose

