



# Pastor's Corner

I pray these lines find all doing well and fully into the Advent Season as we enter into week two.

We hear today about one character who would in reality prefer to remain nameless and simply blend into the scenery—John the Baptist.

His entire focus was on God alone and what God wanted him to do. John did absolutely nothing to draw attention to himself, but, by his very life people were drawn to him. His message and in fact his very existence was all about pointing to the Messiah and preparing the way for the Lord of all!

As we look back over the last week, what has been our focus? What has been taking up the most time in our mind? An amazing test (for me) is when we wake up in the middle of the night from a “call from nature” or if we just find ourselves waking up in the middle of the night. In a sense, with sleep our minds have been cleared (like an etch a sketch) LOL. When we are awake at that time, what is on our minds? There is your focus! May we take whatever that is and like John the Baptist—Live for God alone. And a little proviso—if God is the center then our sleep is going to be the best!!!

Our lives get very busy and many things, events and people can be our focus. May we take this time to replace that with God. Everything else will fall into place and into its proper order!  
Have a great week!

Love,

*Father Mike*

## December Mass Schedules

Fourth Sunday in Advent	Saturday, December 23rd	4:00pm
	Sunday, December 24th	8:00am and 10:00am Only
Christmas Eve:	Sunday, December 24th	4:00pm
Christmas Day:	Monday, December 25th	12:00am Midnight
		8:00am
		10:00am
Solemnity of Mary	Monday, January 1st, 2017	8:30am Daily Mass
(not a holiday Day of obligation for 2018)		

There will be **NO** Confessions on Saturday December 23, 2017

## Advent Penitential Services

St. Peter the Apostle	Tues., Dec. 12	7pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Thurs. Dec. 14	4pm
St. Thomas Aquinas	Tues., Dec. 19,	3pm and 7:00pm
St. Vincent de Paul	Thurs Dec. 21,	3pm and 7:00pm

### Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

Offertory Collection 11/19/17	<b>\$8,753.91</b>
Attendance:	1,074
Offertory	\$7,112.00
<i>Non-Envelope Offertory</i>	\$1,641.91
Campaign for Human Development	\$1,949.92
<i>Total Offertory</i>	<b>\$8,753.91</b>

### Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

Offertory Collection 11/26/17	<b>\$9,222.98</b>
Attendance:	1,067
Offertory	\$6,384.00
<i>Non-Envelope Offertory</i>	\$1,931.98
On-Line Giving	\$907.00
<i>Total Offertory</i>	<b>\$9,222.98</b>

# Liturgy & Worship

## Mass Intentions

<u>Monday: 12/11</u> 8:30am	<b>Dawn Witt</b>
<u>Tuesday: 12/12</u> 8:30am	<b>Sebastian and Jason Grasso</b>
<u>Wednesday: 12/13</u> 8:30am	<b>Vocations</b>
<u>Thursday: 12/14</u> 8:30am	<b>Ann Voccia</b>
<u>Friday: 12/15</u> 8:30am	<b>Louise Baldwin</b>
<u>Saturday: 12/16</u> Vigil 4:00pm	<b>Mike Tormey</b>
<u>Sunday: 12/17</u> 8:00am	<b>Marion Garofolo</b>
10:00am	<b>Mildred Hanley</b>
1:00pm	<b>Parishioners</b>

## Readings for the Week of December 11, 2017

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Saint Damasus I, Pope</b> Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> Zec 2:14-17, Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</b> Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b> Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
<b>Friday</b>	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
<b>Saturday</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; I Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



## Candles & Flowers

Remember your loved ones or your special intentions. You can do this with candles that burn all week in the Chapel or in the grotto or a monthly candle. You can also request to support the flowers that are on the altar for the week. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested 727-869-3130.

Flowers for this weekend were donated by **Charles McGovern** in memory of **Marion McGovern**.

### Altar Candles



The candle burning on the altar in the Chapel and Church for the month of December is **in memory of Mike Tormey** and were donated by his **wife and children**

### Our Parish Family

We welcome into the parish community all new members and those returning Home to us.

We remember all who are sick at home or in the Hospital.

We remember in our prayers those who have died: Joseph Romano.

### ~Christmas Concert~



Please join us on today at 4:00pm for our annual Christmas Concert. We have very talented parishioners from our music ministry programs working tirelessly to make this a very special event for our St. James family.

Admission is free though we will ask for a donation, after the show, with all proceeds going to replenish the cupboards of St. Vincent de Paul Society for all they provide throughout this holiday season and the entire year.

\*\*This is the FOURTH year that our Lord has blessed us with the abilities to put on this small but very heartfelt production.

There are even some new faces in the choir that will add additional fun and talent to the show!

**A small reception will follow the show!!**

### Project Happiness

The Project Happiness Boxes will be in the annex under the tables starting today December 9th / 10th and the following weekend the 16th / 17th for donations of new or slightly used stuffed animals. This event has been a huge success in helping Boy Scout Troop 86 to provide joy to residents of the Angelus and Bear Creek nursing home as well as helping the local police departments. Please donate stuffed animals and help create those smiles!!



### NATIVITY SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

More than 300 nativity scenes from around the world on display in Plant City. Nativity scenes have been a popular Advent and Christmas decoration for centuries and are cherished by people of all ages. Now, there is an opportunity to see 300 nativity scenes on display in one room.

Saint Clement Catholic Church (1104 North Alexander Street, Plant City) is presenting "Nativities Around the World." These artistic and unique Nativity scenes are from different periods in history and from many different styles. The display will be open on Sundays (except December 24) through January 5, 2018. Group tours can be arranged by contacting Carol Rodriguez, 813-727-5214 or [Crodriguez@stclementpc.org](mailto:Crodriguez@stclementpc.org).

### 50th ANNIVERSARY

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2018 Starting on January 1, 2018 the Diocese of St. Petersburg will begin the celebration of its 50th Anniversary with the theme of gratitude, joy and hope. We are planning various events and providing resources throughout the year, in order to remember the past with gratitude, celebrate the present with joy and look to the future with hope. To help keep parishes, schools and the community informed of our jubilee, the Diocese of St. Petersburg has created a website with information. Please visit [www.DOSP.org/50](http://www.DOSP.org/50) to learn about the events that are being planned and how parishes, schools and the entire community can participate. This website will be continually updated and expanded so please check back often.

**Marriage Struggling?** If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins **February 2, 2018**. For more information, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), or call (813) 816-0711. *Not counseling or group therapy.*

All contacts and names held in strictest confidence



What's Ahead

# S.T.A.T.I.C. CALENDAR

**St. James Teens Active Together In Christ  
Middle and High School Youth Ministry  
Youth Group Christmas**



## **PARTY**

**December 16, 2017 ( Saturday)  
from 7:00pm-9:00pm  
at the East Wing**

*Potluck (please bring your favorite dish to share)  
and a gift (to exchange) \$10 worth*



### *Assisted Living VISITATION*

December 17 (Sunday) at 2:30pm

Instead of playing bean bag we will be having our Christmas Visitation to the residents, meaning we will bring some cookies ( store bought ) and sing and dance with them.

Hopefully Santa can join us again this year



*Followed by our quarterly  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
at **DAIRY QUEEN***



### **Florida March for Life**

The Diocese is sponsoring a day trip to the Florida March for Life in the nation's oldest city, St. Augustine, on Saturday, January 13, 2018. This March is for anyone who believes in the sanctity of human life. \$40.00/adults and \$20.00/ages 13 and younger- includes boxed lunch. Bus departs St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Clearwater and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Seffner. Learn more and register here: <http://www.dosp.org/life/upcoming-events/> Question? Contact Sabrina Schultz at 727-344-1611 or [sab@dosp.org](mailto:sab@dosp.org).

**Baptism:** Congratulations on the upcoming birth of your child! The Baptism of your child provides an opportunity to examine your own Christian Life and spirituality and we want to extend this to your child. Please contact the Parish Office to inquire about the preparation process for the Sacrament of Baptism.




**Marriage:** At least six months preparation needed.



**Renewal/Blessing of Marriage Vows:** Please contact the Parish Office one month before.

**The Sick:** If you know of anyone who is sick, at home or in the hospital, and in need of a visit please contact the parish office.



 **Joining the Parish:** To join the parish we invite you to visit us in the parish office, Monday–Friday. Our hours are 9-12 and 1-4. Stop by and meet us and we will get all the necessary information from you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at 727-869-3130. We look forward to meeting you and saying hello.



### Men's Conference

**SAVE THE DATE:** for the 8th Annual Tampa Bay Men's Conference on February 10, 2018. Whether you are married or single, a retiree or a high school student, a faith warrior or just starting your faith journey – the Tampa Bay Men's Conference is your opportunity to take your spiritual life to the next level!

Three dynamic, internationally-known speakers will be in the area for a one-day event specifically designed for men of all ages. Read more at this link: <http://www.dosp.org/save-the-date-for-thecatholic-mens-conference/>.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Church, 5030 Mariner Blvd Spring Hill, Florida 34609, is hosting a Healing Mass at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 and all are invited.

*"Come and receive tender mercy and healing from Jesus!"* (Father Richard McAlear, OMI)

Questions? Contact: Lois Najuch (352) 688-8132 [lmnshiloh1@gmail.com](mailto:lmnshiloh1@gmail.com)

## St. James the Apostle Catholic Church

8400 Monarch Drive • Port Richey, Florida 34668 • (727) 869-3130 • fax (727) 869-8886

Email: [office@stjamesportrichey.org](mailto:office@stjamesportrichey.org) • Web: [stjamesportrichey.org](http://stjamesportrichey.org)

**Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12noon/1:00-4:00pm**

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Chapel

Morning Prayer weekdays Monday-Friday 8:00am in Chapel

Adoration: 1st and 3rd Friday (3pm) and 2nd and 4th Thursday (7pm)

Masses: Daily: Monday - Friday 8:30am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm/Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am and 1:00pm