



# Pastor's Corner

I pray all are well, I also pray that by the this time your Christmas shopping is at least half way taken care of. If not, there is still time “BUT,” ‘Joy and peace’ starts to fly out the window and gets replaced by ‘anxiety and stress.’ Over and over again we are called to be ready. These little preparations remind us of the larger preparations we need to be sure are secure! I’m referring to our entry into eternity! Again, we know when Christmas is coming—not so ‘our Eternity!’ When it happens, it happens—game over, ready or not.

The people in today’s Gospel, due to St. John the Baptist, were made very aware of the Messiah’s arrival. They were able to prepare, no doubt some did, some didn’t.

As we approach Christmas, as we get so ready for something that will be over on the 26th, may we take this season to resolve to lighten our lives. Get it done (whatever “it” is for you!) Let it go, forgive, solidify your relationship with God. You may have plenty of time to get this done but, to use one of my favorite phrases “You don’t know that!” 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 (not a holiday Day of obligation for 2018)	Monday, January 1st, 2017	8:30am Daily Mass

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

## Advent Penitential Services

St. Thomas Aquinas	Tues., Dec. 19,	3pm and 7:00pm
St. Vincent de Paul	Thurs Dec. 21,	4pm and 7:00pm

### Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

Offertory Collection 12/03/17	<b>\$14,988.11</b>
Attendance:	1,209
Offertory	\$10,560.00
Non-Envelope Offertory	\$2,781.11
On-Line Giving:	\$1,647.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$14,988.11</b>
Debt Reduction:	\$3,371.50

### Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

Offertory Collection 12/10/17	<b>\$10,379.10</b>
Attendance:	1,108
Offertory	\$6,624.00
Non-Envelope Offertory	\$2,064.10
On-Line Giving	\$1,691.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$10,379.10</b>
Immaculate Conception:	\$2,473.10

## 2018 Envelopes

The 2018 Envelopes will be available for pick up December 30th and 31st **AFTER** all the Masses in the East Wing. Please do not come in before Mass or into the office as the envelopes will not be accessible to office staff. We thank you in advanced for your patience and cooperation with the distribution process. We will also have them the weekend January 6th and 7th. These worked out to the only weekends were are able to distribute them again thank you for your patience and cooperation.

# Liturgy & Worship

## Mass Intentions

<u>Monday: 12/18</u> 8:30am	<b>Pacita Claudio</b>
<u>Tuesday: 12/19</u> 8:30am	<b>Elizabeth Smith</b>
<u>Wednesday: 12/20</u> 8:30am	<b>Vocations</b>
<u>Thursday: 12/21</u> 8:30am	<b>Pelligrini and Casses families</b>
<u>Friday: 12/22</u> 8:30am	<b>Raymond and Pauline Cormier</b>
<u>Saturday: 12/23</u> Vigil 4:00pm	<b>William Rodenbaugh</b>
<u>Sunday: 12/24</u> 8:00am	<b>Roth and DuBrino Families</b>
10:00am	<b>Klaproth and Wysocki Families</b>

## Readings for the Week of December 18, 2017

<b>Monday</b>	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b> Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45
<b>Friday</b>	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</b> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

## 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

### 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: Eileen Durkin

We remember in our prayers those who have died: George Gross and Janet Hunsinger.

Respect Life  
Respect Life

## 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).



### 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.

### WINTER CONCERT SERIES at SAINT MARY'S BEGINS!

Sunday, January 7, 3:00 p.m. "An Epiphany Choir Festival" Four choirs, including an English Hand bell Ensemble, come together to celebrate the conclusion of the Christmas season with choral, organ and hand bell music, as well as some traditional carol singing! Free admission, though a free-will offering will be taken to defray costs. Family-friendly, this one-hour concert is the first in the 2018 WINTER CONCERT SERIES, now in its 8th year at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Grace Church, 515 4th Street South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701. For more information, please call 727-896-2191 ext. 208 or go to [www.stmaryolg.org](http://www.stmaryolg.org).



### 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!

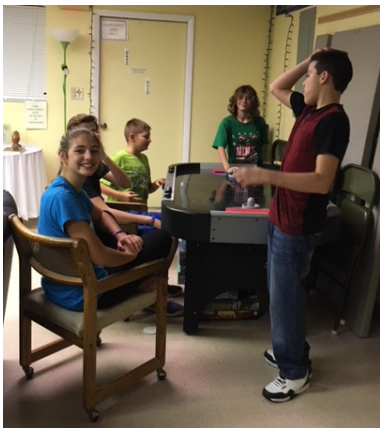
Three dynamic, internationally-known speakers will be in the area for a one-day event specifically designed for men of all ages.

Read more at this link: <http://www.dosp.org/save-the-date-for-thecatholic-mens-conference/>.

What's Ahead

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

## Youth Night was held last December 2 at the Youth Room.



Thank you to all who came: Vivian and Vincent, Xavier, Shawn and Cierra, Welcome to our group, Victoria and Vanessa. Welcome, welcome, welcome!! Thank you Mr. Tom for coming as well and assisting me that night. I know this month is busy for a lot of youth and families, recitals, show practice, Christmas shopping, parties, etc. so I really appreciate all those who came.

We had a great time discussing future events and activities and had fun playing. We all prayed for those who have cancer and difficulties in life at this time of the year and took time to reflect how blessed we are that God is always with us no matter what. What a joy to have these young ones share and pray for those who are close to them and who need special prayers for healing.

Also a great idea from Vivian, who suggested having a living nativity for next year. We also discovered a lot of hidden talents! Victoria surprised us with her incredible voice!! What a gift that God gave her. Thank you all for a wonderful night.



### *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**



## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: Please mark your calendar**

- ◆ January 14, Sunday Movie Night at Hollywood 18 – Movie title and name TBA
- ◆ February 3/4, Souper Bowl Collection after each mass

Please stop by the youth table to sign up and check out what is happening. If you have any questions, ideas, suggestions please contact me.

Best way is cell / text: (727) 967-3768. You can also email me at [youth.group@stjamesportrichey.org](mailto:youth.group@stjamesportrichey.org)  
 Youth Ministry office: (727) 869-3130 ext. 1309.

Thank you and God bless. Lorraine Parsons

Youth News

**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.



### “WHAT IS Pack a Sack?”

St. Vincent de Paul has been involved in Pack a Sack for 6 years now. We help children vulnerable to economic challenges. There are 70 children in 2 schools who receive a sack on Friday, delivered by volunteers. These children have little or no food over the weekend. The program provides 10 items: proteins, milk, juice etc. The cost of each Sack is about \$5.00; the cost for the year exceeds \$10,000. We received a “Mini Grant” from the Arch Diocese of St. Petersburg. This mini Grant comes to us with your generous donations to the Rice Bowl sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your continued support of St. Vincent de Paul. This is just one way in which we help the community. Please



watch bulletin for times when pack a sack is looking for items, especially juices and individual peanut butter. We have been fortunate this year to have the middle school students from Bishop Larkin to help bag the items on Thursdays so we can then deliver them Friday.



### A Special Thank You:

The trustees of Terri's Tears wish to thank you the St. James Knights of Columbus and our parishioners for their support at the November 19th Coffee and Donut social following the morning Masses. The winner of the Raffle Basket was Nora Gainey. Again, our heartfelt thanks.

## 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