

Christ Lord

THE

CHRISTMAS

Blessings



Art by Gerard van Honthorst (1622)
Design & Layout ©Diocesan

Pastor's Corner

Well Happy 4th Sunday of Advent but more importantly Merry Christmas!!! I pray you, your family and friends have a Blessed, joy filled, peaceful Christmas Season.

Today's Gospel highlights the co-star in the history of Salvation, (Jesus being the star) the Blessed Mother, our human ideal, the perfect human being. A reason for Mary's perfection was her unencumbered, total "yes" to God's will for her life. She had the same freedom to do her own thing as do each and everyone one of us, temptations that plague us plagued her as well. Mary did not have an easy life. Yes, she was full of grace but not free of trials, rough times and pain. God is our Heavenly Father, He loves us always. Our Blessed Mother knew this and it made all the difference in her life.

Jesus became her Son. As songs remind us—she looked upon the face of God whenever she gazed at her child. Mary had so much in her life that pointed to God. God is likewise constantly calling us and beckoning us in so many ways daily !

As we celebrate this Christmas may we feel the presence and peace of God on Christmas and forever after! Merry Christmas!!

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

Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

Offertory Collection 12/17/17	\$10,518.67
Attendance:	1,111
Offertory	\$6,806.00
Non-Envelope Offertory	\$2,441.67
On-Line Giving:	\$1,271.00
Total Offertory	\$10,518.67

Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas Break and will reopen on Tuesday January 2, 2018.



From Father Mike, Deacons Jim and Mark and the Parish Staff and Volunteers, Have a Blessed Merry Christmas!!!!!!!

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: 12/25</u>	
12:00am	Merry Christmas
8:00am	Merry Christmas
10:00am	Merry Christmas
<u>Tuesday: 12/26</u>	
8:30am	Adeline Zammit
<u>Wednesday: 12/27</u>	
8:30am	Vocations
<u>Thursday: 12/28</u>	
8:30am	Rose Curiale
<u>Friday: 12/29</u>	
8:30am	Jerome DeRise
<u>Saturday: 12/30</u>	
Vigil	
4:00pm	Helen Zawrotuk
<u>Sunday: 12/31</u>	
8:00am	Parishioners
10:00am	Eleanor & Leo Roth and Mary Pennington
1:00pm	Helen Zawrotuk



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**

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



Readings for the

Week of December 25, 2017

Monday	The Nativity of the Lord Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Tuesday	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Friday	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord / Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

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.

Florida March for Life

Respect Life
Respect 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.



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.

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 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.



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 Christmas Party was well attended . Thank you to all who came Michael C., Christina and friend Victoria, Jaide, Vivian, Vincent , Michael L., Dominik, Geoffrey, Jade, Cierra. Shawn, Wayne, Giada, Zelinda and Mikayla. We would like to WELCOME Erin our Youth Group.

Thank you to the Core team (Tom, Cathi and Judy) and our Young adult leader Zach and parent Barbara who helped me set up and cleaned up.

To all the parents who brought food, thank you very much. We had fun playing games (Left/Right game-winner Michael L. and Musical Chairs – winner Erin). We also exchanged gifts , sang some Christmas songs and danced. Thank you again to all our youth.

Youth News



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: Please mark your calendar

- ◆ January 14, Sunday Movie Night at Hollywood 18 – Star Wars – Time to be announced
- ◆ January 21, Sunday 11:00am- Free Throw Contest by KOC and 2:30 Assisted Living Visitation
- ◆ February 3/4 , Souper Bowl Collection after each mass to benefit out St Vincent de Paul Society

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

Youth Ministry office: (727) 869-3130 ext. 1309.

Thank you and God bless. Lorraine Parsons

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.

Bishop Larkin Catholic School Open House **Sunday, January 28, 2018** **1 to 3pm**



Come see what our excellent school has to offer!
Classes for Pre-K3, VPK, K to 8

Bishop Larkin Catholic School
8408 Monarch Drive
Port Richey FL 34668
www.bishoplarkin.org
727-862-6981

St. James the Apostle Catholic Church

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

Email: office@stjamesportrichey.org • Web: 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