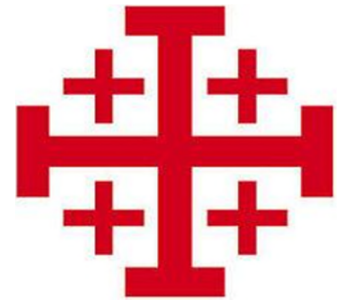


PASTOR'S CORNER



A GIFT FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This coming Saturday, December 24, we begin our celebration of the Christmas Season with the Vigil Mass beginning at 5:30 p.m. Others will gather at midnight or at 8:30 a.m. at St. Mary – Oxford, or 10:30 a.m. on Christmas day, all giving thanks to God for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Hopefully each of you will remember to bring your gift for our seminarians and retired priests in the diocesan Christmas Call to Sharing collection. Other gift giving will take place those two days and throughout the Christmas Season. I would like to request a special gift for some of the children and youth of Holy Name Parish and St. Mary Parish. The gift that I am requesting will not cost you anything financially. It will require only your gift of time. The special gift I am seeking for some of the children and youth of our parish is the gift of prayer. I am sure that all of you are praying for your children, grandchildren, godchildren, nephews, nieces, and others. I am asking you to consider adding to your prayer list the children and youth of our parish who are preparing to receive the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation in 2017.

Fifteen of our high school students are preparing to be confirmed by Bishop Carl Kemme on the weekend of February 11/12 when our bishop comes to Holy Name and St. Mary parishes for his pastoral visit. On Sunday, April 30, our seven second graders at Holy Name Catholic School and our six students in our PSR First Communion class will receive their First Holy Communion. What important days these will be in the lives of our children and young people as well as our parishes! Please assist these children and youth of our parishes by praying that they will be open to receive all the graces our Lord desires for them.

I have included the names of each of these children and youth. Perhaps you might want to save the list so that you can pray for some or all of them by name. Thank you in advance for your prayerful concern for our younger parishioners.

Those who will receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on April 30, 2017, are: Breckin Campbell, Theodore Cantu, Elliott Highland, Isabella Ramirez, Liam Swingle, Michael Toon, Mason Zeigler, Carlos Anguiano, Jillian Priest, Mya Cuevas, Kyra Madrigal-Carrasco, Pedro Anguiano, and Natalie Rae Sanchez.

Our high school youth who will be confirmed on Saturday, February 11, 2017, are: K.C. Crandall, Nikolette Morrissey, Korie Smith, Aaron Walker, Kaylie Aikins, Kenna Biddle, Erin Gaither, Kyl Kuntz, Hayley Maybrier, Sebastien Morrissey, Courtney Priest, Gage Smith, Aideen Tessmer, T.J. Ziegler, and Jacob Berkley.

DECORATING THE CHURCH

You are invited to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season on Friday, December 23, at 6:00 P.M. Bring the family and begin a new Christmas tradition. Pizza, drinks, and Christmas goodies served in the Parish Hall when the decorating is completed.