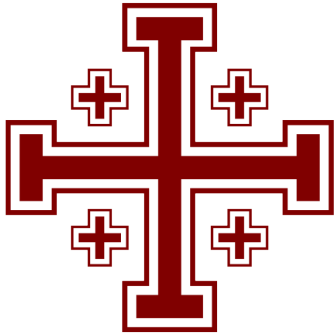


PASTOR'S CORNER

THANKS BE TO GOD AND TO YOU



It was only fifteen days ago that we began our joyous celebration of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), with the Vigil Mass. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, the manifestation of Jesus to the World. Our loving and merciful God is the first one to thank for our beautiful Christmas liturgies. Thank you Father for sending your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, so that we might have an opportunity for eternal life.

After him there are many others who contributed in a number of ways. My sincere thanks to so many wonderful stewards who gave of their time and talent so that our liturgies and environment were truly a gift of thankfulness to our newborn Savior.

Thank you to Paula Crow who ordered the beautiful poinsettias for Holy Name that continue to add great beauty to our church. My sincere thanks to the following parishioners who turned out to assist in the decorating, on Friday evening, December 23: Kristi and Pat Biddle; Wyatt Biddle; Tabitha, James, Amelia, and Annabel Hogan; Shirley Walker; Gretchen and Aaron Walker; Mike and Norma Ciskowski; Rendi Hoffman, and Paula Crow. Your help was invaluable in the effort that resulted.

Special thanks to Kaye Dee Potucek for the beautiful poinsettias and other flowers and greenery for our little country church of St. Mary in Oxford, and all of those who assisted her. Thank you to the many music ministers who rose to the occasion and provided our beautiful Christmas music. My first thanks go Matthew Porter for his key board accompaniment of his sister Kristin who sang at the 5:30 PM vigil Mass. That was by far our largest of the four Christmas celebrations at our two parishes. Thank you to our adult choir under the direction of Paul Banks for their music at the Midnight Mass. A number of weeks of practice went into the singing for that time honored traditional Midnight Mass. Thank you to Riley Floyd who accompanied the choir on the organ. I appreciate him be able to fill in for our regular choir organist, Trina Kuntz, who spent Christmas out of town with her family. However, she was back for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God and this weekend for the Epiphany. St. Mary Parish in Oxford dusted off their electronic keyboard and Ryan Sutton returned home to accompany a small choir formed for that Christmas Mass at Dawn at 8:30 AM. Thanks as well to Jim Potucek for accompanying with the guitar as well as to Mason, Caleb, and Emmaline Ouellette for providing piano pieces. Finally my thanks goes to the Palsmeier family for their musical talent at the Mass During the Day at 10:30 AM. Rick played the guitar, Levi the violin, and Judy the organ. They all accompanied our cantor, Shirley Walker.

PASTOR'S CORNER

My sincere thanks to all of the other Mass ministers including our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, our altar servers, our seminarian Chauncey Toon, lectors, ushers, and gift bearers, as well as our sacristans who prepared and cleaned up after the liturgies.

Thanks to parish secretary Gretchen Walker for the preparation of the Mass programs.

Thank you to all who were very generous with their donations to the "Christmas Call to Sharing: A gift of gratitude to support retired priests and the education of seminarians." As of January 1, 2017 Holy Name parishioners have donated \$6,676.00 and St. Mary parishioners have donated \$915.00. If you haven't given it is not too late. Thank you for your generosity. While I am offering thanks, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the many parishioners who offered personal Christmas gifts to me in the forms of cards and greetings, baked goods, and gifts of many varieties. You are truly two very generous parish communities. May the Year of the Lord – 2017 be a most blessed one for each and every one of you.