

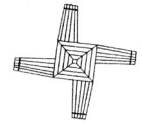


Our Mission:
 "To Know, Live,
 and Share God's
 Love"

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 December 28, 2017



Rector's Corner

On December 21st, I celebrated my forty-fourth year as a priest. I was ordained when I was of the ripe old age of twenty-five. I was incredibly young and naïve; I guess that I thought the Holy Spirit now dwelling within (from my ordination) would make me all knowing and wise. In other words, I thought that I could save the world, starting with my parish at the time. I was wrong! I made plenty of mistakes along the way, but the very worst one was the day I received a telephone call from a parishioner who began the conversation with, "Fr. Bill, my husband just died." I was so shocked that, without thinking, I said, "You're kidding me."

Of course, she responded by stating, "I wouldn't kid you about this." Needless to say, I felt terrible and simply stammered out an apology, but the damage had



been done. I so wanted to be a great priest, but

I nearly destroyed my ministry just as it was beginning. I carried the guilt of "You're kidding me" around for decades. Even today, when I think about it, I cringe. What has kept me going all these years later is the understanding that humanity (of which I am a part) is imperfect. The human condition is such that no one will ever obtain perfection. We all will make mistakes, some big, some small. Even Jesus, being fully human, made mistakes. Certainly in the Gospel of Mark, he talked about the end

(continued on p. 2)

Parish Overview

Ministers of the Congregation
 The People

Facciponti, Nancy Zerbe,
 Christine Konetchy

Rector
 The Rev. William Martin

Sunday Service Hours
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Vestry
 Mary Jo Julian, Jen McTighe
 Steve Mitchell, Jackie
 Ellenberger, Howard Potter,
 Tony Bernardo, Christy

Office Hours
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Monday through Thursday
 Parish Administrator—Trula
 Mosher

Inside this issue:

Happy New Year	2
Annual Reports	2
Sharing Time/Talents	2
January Events	3
Happy Birthday	3
Directory Update	3
Food Bank Thanks	4

(continued from front page)

times as if it would happen in the lifetime of his followers. Yet, we are still here.

What gives me comfort is how close my ordination anniversary is to Christmas. It allows me to see that the Christ Child was born into a world of imperfection: a wooden crib filled with straw, surrounded by smelly animals, a visit by shepherds dressed in dirty clothes. And I realize that it's not perfection that God asks me (and you) to convey to the world, but rather love and joy. These two concepts are what we can give and share, and this is what is truly important.

~ Fr. Bill

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We hope and pray that all of you have had a wonderful Christmas, and that you are looking forward to a New Year filled with hope and promise. It seems that every year we say this, but we mean it from the bottom of our hearts: thank you all for being members of a truly wonderful parish. We sometimes cannot believe how fortunate we are to be a part of St. Brigid's. We don't see ourselves anywhere else.

Love and peace to you,

Fr. Bill and Gail

Annual Reports

Please be aware that the annual meeting—and that means annual reports—is coming up on January 14, 2018 (snow date January 21). Please submit your report to Trula in the church office by January 8.

Sharing Our Time and Talents

The Time and Talent page included in the pledge packet each year invites members of St. Brigid's Church to share in the worship experience in a number of ways. Are you one of the those who said Yes to being a greeter, an usher, or other participant?

In each month's parish newsletter, you will find a schedule of worship participation for the next month or two, and it might have your name on it. If you are scheduled for a Sunday when you know you cannot fulfill your obligation, please find someone with whom you can switch days, and let Trula know as soon as possible. She will make note of the change for that Sunday's bulletin. If you know sufficiently in advance of vacation or other commitments, and can alert Trula before the next newsletter, she will not put you on the schedule during those Sundays. A little advance thought can help keep worship flowing smoothly.

Financial Report Month Ending November 30, 2017

Operating Income	Month	YTD	Budget
Offerings	\$ 6,239	\$ 84,922	\$ 97,750
Other income	466	35,975 * **	9,305
Fund raising (net)	<u>308</u>	<u>2,288</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total Operating In- come	7,013	123,185	111,055
Expenses			
Salaries	5,059	58,523	65,796
Bldg. maintenance	742	9,800	10,500
Diocese payments	1,278	14,058	15,329
Office	378	4,164	4,950
Worship/outreach	706	8,052	4,950
Other		<u>10,484</u>	<u>6,370</u>
Total Operating Ex- penses	8,163	105,081	107,895
Net Income (loss)	<u>\$ (1,150)</u>	<u>\$ 18,104</u>	<u>\$ 3,160</u>

* Includes \$14,100 in donations for electrical work.

** Includes a \$6,711 donation deposited into savings account.

January 1 Tony Suffness
 January 2 Grace Goodin
 Ross Ellis, Jr.
 January 16 Steve Mitchell
 Marlene Mitchell
 January 25 Tony Bernardo
 January 31 Ally Fuller



Directory Update

Davis, Evan & Karina
 2223 Evening Sun Road
 Nazareth, PA 18064
 610-365-2536 (h)
 908-251-2880 (c—Evan)
 732-779-6597 (c—Karina)
 evantimo54@gmail.com
 kmdavis641@gmail.com
 Children: Christopher, Jeana, Brenden

Happy New Year!

January Events

- January 1**
 - Happy New Year!!!
- January 1—2**
 - Church Office Closed
- January 7**
 - Food Bank Sunday
 - Healing Service
- January 8**
 - Annual Reports Due
- January 13**
 - Men's Group 8:30 a.m.
- January 14**
 - Annual Meeting
- January 15**
 - Martin Luther King Birth-
day—Church Office
Closed
- January 18**
 - Newsletter Items Due
- January 21**
 - Annual Meeting
Snow Date



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

January 2018 Schedule of Participants

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Lector	Tony Bernardo	Violet Bertholet	Joan Lyons	Chuck Zerbe
Intercessor	Scott Fuller	Jen McTighe	Phyllis Bock	Nancy Steckel
Chalice	Lori Bernardo Jack Jones	Christy Facciponti Christine Konetchy	Jackie Ellenberger Gail Martin	Scott Fuller Nancy Steckel
Ushers	Noel Lucas Jen McTighe	Nancy Steckel Brian Suwalski	Scott Fuller Chuck Zerbe	Ralph Cianci Juli Greco
Youth Ushers	Nolan Fuller Drew Suwalski	Jack Greco Andrew McTighe	Tony Suffness Evan Suwalski	Joseph Ellis Lindsay Fuller
Crucifer	Nina Facciponti	Ally Fuller	Annie Greco	Toni Facciponti
Acolyte	Andrew McTighe	Ross Ellis	Jack Greco	Alex Gundry
Acolyte-in-Training	Shane Greco	N/A	N/A	Shane Greco
Altar Guild	Violet Bertholet	Nancy Zerbe	Debbie Jones	Georgia Cianci
Greeter	Prudie Potter	Scott Fuller	Jen McTighe	Noel Lucas
Counters	Tony Bernardo Scott Fuller	Jim Baldree Chuck Zerbe	Jack Jones Brian Suwalski	Jackie Ellenberger Steve Mitchell

Food Bank Thanks

Dear Pastor Martin:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Nazareth Area Food Bank, I'd like to thank you for the many generous donations of non-perishable food collected during the autumn months. All food donated is a blessing to our clients, who face a daily struggle to feed their families. We are very grateful for your consideration of those less fortunate in our area.

Our all-volunteer Food Bank relies entirely on the generosity of congregations like yours to assist us in feeding the hundreds of hungry families in our community. The need for our services remains great, and we appreciate your continued support. Please convey our gratitude to your congregation. We consider the gifts from St. Brigid's among the Food Bank's many blessings and we couldn't do it without you!

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Kay Stracko

February 2018 Schedule of Participants

	February 4	February 11	Ash Wednesday	February 18	February 25
Lector	Dan Gundry	Megan Steich	Jackie Ellenberger	Jen McTighe	Mary Jo Julian
Intercessor	Christine Konetchy	Dan Gundry	N/A	Megan Steich	Jackie Ellenberger
Chalice	Joy Smith Megan Steich	Violet Bertholet Scott Fuller	Gail Martin	Lori Bernardo Christine Konetchy	Christy Facciponti Gail Martin
Ushers	Noel Lucas Jen McTighe	Jackie Ellenberger Nancy Steckel	Ralph Cianci	Joy Smith Brian Suwalski	Scott Fuller Chuck Zerbe
Youth Ushers	Freddy Facciponti Nina Facciponti	Alex Gundry Carter Suwalski	N/A	Ally Fuller Lindsay Fuller	Nolan Fuller Drew Suwalski
Crucifer	Evan Suwalski	Ally Fuller	TBD	Andrew McTighe	Evan Suwalski
Acolyte	Drew Suwalski	Gabby Gundry	N/A	Freddy Facciponti	Alex Gundry
	N/A	Shane Greco	N/A	N/A	Shane Greco
Altar Guild	Jackie Ellenberger	Violet Bertholet	Jackie Ellenberger	Georgia Cianci	Jackie Ellenberger
Greeter	Yvonne Gundry	Joy Smith	Nancy Steckel	Debbie Jones	Jack Jones
Counters	Ralph Cianci Jen McTighe	Christy Facciponti Marlene Mitchell	N/A	Christine Konetchy Nancy Zerbe	Tony Bernardo Scott Fuller

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!!! Church Office Closed Happy Birthday!!! Tony Suffness	2 Church Office Closed Happy Birthday!!! Grace Goodin Ross Ellis, Jr.	3	4	5	6
7 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Healing Service Food Bank Sunday	8 Annual Reports Due	9	10	11	12	13 Men's Group 8:30 am
14 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Annual Meeting	15 Martin Luther King Birthday – Church Office Closed	16 Happy Birthday!!! Steve Mitchell Martene Mitchell	17	18 Newsletter Items Due	19	20
21 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Annual Meeting Show Date	22	23	24	25 Happy Birthday!!! Tony Bernardo	26	27
28 Choir Practice 9:00 am Sunday School 9:45 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	29	30	31 Happy Birthday!!! Ally Fuller			