

Dear Saint William Parishioners,

As the angels heralded the coming of Christ we greet each other this day with the joy and blessings of Christmas and peace. Today we celebrate the great feast of Christmas – a child is born to us who is Christ the Lord!

Our parish continues to grow and prosper as we fulfill our commitment to become a vibrant community of faith. All of our ministries to God's people continue to thrive and, through our outreach and service, we remain a shining light in our community. For these rich blessings, we are very grateful to our loving God.

This past year has provided us the opportunity to welcome new families and faces to our parish, and sadly we have said good-bye to some familiar and longtime members. During this holiday season, as we rejoice in all of our wonderful achievements, let us keep in prayer our many loved ones who have embraced eternal life.

As we look towards 2020, our hope and wish is that our parish will continue to be a beacon of light and joy as we journey to the Kingdom of God. During this Christmas season, may God's love and presence continue to shine brightly as we listen and live the spirit of God's goodness each and every day.

May the Song of the Angels this Christmas fill your hearts with peace, hope and love and may the coming New Year be one of great blessings and joy.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from  
All of Us at Saint William Parish!**

Rev. Michael D. Balash  
Robert Mintus – Tina McCue – Patricia Maciejewski  
Carol Timko – Therese Tuttle – Dan Robinson – Ross Lenhart



**New Year's Tuesday Dec. 31 / Wednesday Jan. 1**  
**Mary, The Holy Mother of God ~ The First Mass of 2020**

~Tuesday Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve: 5:00 p.m.  
~Wednesday Jan. 1 – New Year's Day: 10:00 a.m.

Note: New Year's Day is a holy day of obligation

**2019 Church Contributions:**

Please note Sunday December 29, 2019 is the last day to make a contribution to the church for the 2019 tax year. All contributions made after December 29 will be credited to the 2020 tax year.



**Make It Easy!**

**myEoffering On-Line Giving**

Sign up for myEoffering today and simplify your weekly contribution. Electronic giving is safe, secure and easy! Information can be found on the parish website: [www.stwilliamchampion.org](http://www.stwilliamchampion.org). Follow the easy sign-up registration and instruction steps to establish your account. Questions??? Call the Parish Office.



**They're Back!!!!  
OUR "FABULOUS  
FISH DINNERS"**

**Fridays: February 21 ~ April 3**



**Have you signed up for Our Parish APP?**

Don't miss out on news, updates, reminders and weather cancelations! This easy and convenient APP keeps you in touch and up-to-date on parish happenings, events and news! Text APP to 88202 to download myParish APP and select our parish. Visit the parish website for easy instructions or call the Parish Office.



**Parish Appreciation Event ~ "St. William Derby Night At the Races"**

**Saturday ~ February 1, 2020 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

For all adult parishioners who have volunteered their time and efforts during the past year. More details forthcoming!



# My First Christmas in Heaven

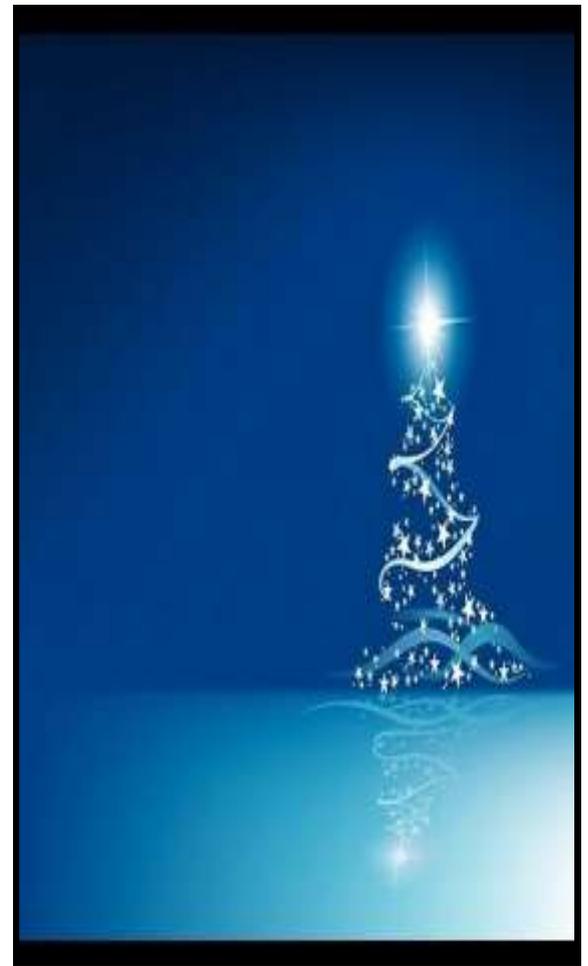
*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below.  
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.  
The sight is spectacular! Please wipe away that tear,  
for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,  
but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.  
I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me, I see the pain in your heart,  
but I'm not so far away, we really aren't apart.  
So be happy for me beloved ones, you know I hold you dear,  
and be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I sent you each a special gift from my heavenly home above,  
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.  
After all, "love" is a gift, more precious than pure gold.  
It was always the most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,  
for I can't count the blessing or love He has for each of you.  
So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.  
Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*



## We Remember Our Parishioners and Relatives

*Michael Sawayda*

*Alfred Carrino*

*Francis Harris*

*Charles Weeks*

*Helen Spano*

*Laura Cligrow*

*Joseph Gruber*

*Rose Watson*

*Robert Dugic*

*Susan Timko*

*Ruth Burggraf*

*Richard Hudak*

*Noah Schroder*

*Willis Amolsch Jr.*

*Leonard Sikes*

*Dolores Loftus*

*Elizabeth Hemberger*

*Phyllis Baker*

*Merwin Lewis*

*Harold Freer*

*Robert Hart*

*Annabelle Miller*

*Mitchell Pealer*

*Richard Babnik*

*Denise Tombor-Fox*

*Thomas Chura*

*Dulia Maciejewski*

*Tod Pealer*

*Alfred Masciangelo, Jr.*

*Vera Kosnac*

*Beulah Szczurek*

*William Griffin*

*Ann Sekerak*

*Robert Cherry*

*Charlene Boucher*

*Frank Fiest*

*Brent Wilcox*

*George Schuster*

*Judy Wolfe*

*Keith Brody*

*Thomas Whyte*

Saint William Parish ~ Christmas 2019

## “THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS” ...REIMAGINED

A popular myth about the lyrics to “The Twelve Days of Christmas” are that they are coded references to Christianity. Legend has it that the song was written to help Christians learn and pass on the tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution. Under this theory, the various gifts break down as follows:

**1 Partridge in a Pear Tree** = Jesus Christ, the Son of God

**2 Turtle Doves** = The Old and New Testaments

**3 French Hens** = Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues

**4 Calling Birds** = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists



**5 Golden Rings** = The first five books of the Old Testament, called the Torah or "Pentateuch," which tells the history of humankind's fall from grace.

**6 Geese A-Laying** = the six days of creation

**7 Swans A-Swimming** = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the seven sacraments

**8 Maids A-Milking** = the eight beatitudes



**9 Ladies Dancing** = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

**10 Lords A-Leaping** = the ten commandments

**11 Pipers Piping** = the eleven faithful apostles

**12 Drummers Drumming** = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed



The “**true love**” mentioned in the song doesn’t refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The “**me**” who receives the presents refers to every baptized person.

The truth of the matter is that the Twelve Days of Christmas is a much-loved secular song that celebrates the Christmas season with images of gifts and dancing and music. In recent years, however, the song has been “re-engineered” to assign religious meaning to the overwhelming amount of gifts given and received during those twelve days between the birth of Christ (December 25) and Epiphany (January 6.) This reinterpretation is attributed to Father Hal Stockert in 1995.

By the way, if you are planning on using this song as your shopping list, plan on spending \$38,993.59 in 2019 funds. This is an increase of about \$4000 over 2018. One swan alone will cost you \$1,875 and a gold ring is \$750.



### ***St. William Banquet Facility***

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