

# DECEMBER 25, 2017

## Scripture Reflection

A wedding couple chose Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world," as their Gospel. Why? Because they give a light to others in their daily work, and their marriage will shine the light of Christ, too. As individuals and as a couple, they testify to the Light that no darkness can overcome, Jesus Christ, whose coming we celebrate today. Our world needs that light.

A few years ago, Mass was celebrated in an Iraqi church that had been devastated by ISIS troops. Light! Pope Francis signed a joint declaration with Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, pledging to improve relations between Catholics and Lutherans. Light! Six-year-old Alex wrote President Obama, asking the president to bring a Syrian refugee boy to his home: "We will give him a home and he will be our brother." Light! The border between the U.S. and Mexico was opened for three minutes so families could reunite for a short time. Light!

Luke's baby of Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, is first presented in John's Gospel as the eternal Word of creation, as light shining in the darkness, as the Father's only Son, and finally, as the Word become flesh who dwelled among us, true God and true man. Give yourself time over these days to *ponder* (a good Christmas word) not only the babe in the crèche but also the profound mystery of the Word of God in whom and through whom all things were made.

We testify to the light of Christ whenever we give flesh to his light. The Word becomes flesh in us. It need not be something big. Nothing is small in the service of God. Our work, our family life, the way we treat one another, the respect we show those with whom we disagree, a smile, a hug, or a handshake---all make clear that God dwells among us. People see God present in our midst. How beautiful are the feet of those who live God's good news. Merry Christmas!

### ● Where do you see the light of Christ this Christmas?

Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2017, pg. 26. Living the Word, Dianne Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2011, pgs. 26-27.

## Calendars of Prizes 2018 Are Here!

Calendars of Prizes 2018 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. These make great Christmas gifts that last all year!

## Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, or financial advisor, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

## Christmas Creche

Take time and kneel before the nativity scene in the Cathedral. Reflect on the miracle of the new born infant who is the Eternal Word of God. See Mary's loving watch over her baby. Notice Joseph's protective presence. See how the shepherds focus on the Christ Child. And observe the precious gifts the Three Wise Men present to the Child. Reflect and pray on the wonder of Christmas.

## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

*Our Bishop, priests and staff are most appreciative of your cards, gifts, baked goods, fruits and assortments. Your taking the time to be especially kind is affirmative to our ministry here at Cathedral Parish. Your generosity to us has added to the delight of the holy season. Thank you for taking the time to remember.*

## Liturgical Ministers, Parish Council, Finance Council and Catechists

You are invited to come to the Main Sacristy after Mass to receive a Christmas gift in the name of the Parish. Thank you for all you do in service to the Cathedral Parish. Your time and talent are acknowledged and appreciated.

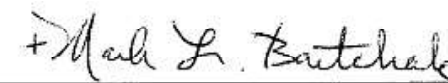
# THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

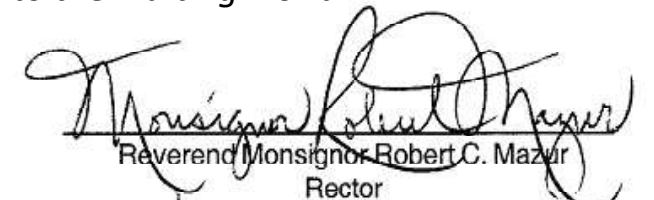


# CHRISTMAS

*God of love, Father of all,  
the darkness that covered the earth  
has given way to the bright dawn of  
your Word made flesh.*

*Make us people of this light.  
Make us faithful to your Word,  
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.*

  
Most Reverend Mark L. Barchak  
Bishop

  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur  
Rector

  
Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel  
Parochial Vicar

**\*\*\*\*\*CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS\*\*\*\*\***

Joseph & Sophie Adamczyk, Ed & Mary Yetsko/  
 Clair & Barbara Duffy, Paul & Joanna Tetanich  
 James J. Adams  
 Lucy and Joe Alianiello, Rose Riccio, Chris  
 Jacobs/Anna Reed, Mary Ann Bankston  
 Ball Family and Miller Family  
 Ball Family Deceased  
 Bartchak and Beck Families  
 Anthony and Christine Bartkowiak  
 John Bauer  
 John and Marian Beck, Joseph & Frances  
 Pagliaro/Rose Kravetz  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walt Beckel, Sr., Naomi Long/  
 Carol Taylor  
 Derek Behe  
 Jack & Kitty Bell, Msgr. Paul Panza, Steve Hiner  
 Lisa A. Belsey Pufka  
 Bender Family, Marie, John & Toni  
 Elizabeth "Betty" Berge  
 William and Eleanor Bettwy/  
 Daniel and Anna Gioiosa  
 Walter Bohn, Bennie & Aggie DeNicola  
 Thomas and Imelda Bover  
 Mildred & Jeff Boyle  
 Brandt and Wolf Families  
 Robert and Ethel Brandt, Robert Vaughn, Sr./  
 George Jodon, Jr.  
 Bussman & Carroll Families  
 John & Barbara Byers, Gene & Patty Datrix  
 Members of the Caldwell and Hoefler Families  
 Cathedral Children: Sara Glass Knopp, Ella Rose  
 Heverly/Mara and Max Kirkpatrick, Fiona  
 McConnell/Elle and John McGregor,  
 Benjamin, Lyzee and Zoe Wilson, Elijah  
 Weaver, Joseph & Christopher Ball  
 Cathedral Deceased Choir Members  
 Cathedral Christian Mothers Living & Deceased  
 Timothy Chirdon  
 Rita Chverchko, Jennie Beasom  
 William and Marian Clemens  
 Bill Conrad, Frank and Freda Potopa  
 Vincent and Patrick Consalvo  
 Dick Cowan, Rick Cowan, Karen Cowan Dougherty  
 Deacon William Cronin, Laura Cronin, Jeffrey  
 Cronin/Angela Cronin Chadwick, Chalmers  
 Helble  
 Cuomo Brothers, Mom & Dad, Bill & Peg  
 Andrew 'Milt' Cupples  
 Dambeck and Moyer Families  
 Larry Damiano  
 Max Christian DeHaas & Family  
 Ben Delozier  
 Marge Dennis Family Members, Mom, Dad,  
 Fred & Mike  
 Barbara Dively

Hannah Dively  
 Betty and Regis Dixon, John & Rose Moryken/  
 Julia Jurkiewicz, Patricia Buchanan  
 June Dodson, Donald Dodson, Dick Taylor/  
 Jim Stohr  
 Deceased members of both Dan &  
 Joan Donnelly's Families  
 Kathleen Duffy  
 Deceased Members of the Farrell Families  
 Mark Farrell, Terrance Shea and George Glashauser  
 Carl Fischer, Steve & Carolyn Bem  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fleck  
 John and Mildred Flick, David and Brandon Flick  
 Catherine Beech Frederick, Walt Beech Families  
 Max Friedenberger  
 Joseph H. Gallagher  
 Mandy Gallagher  
 Stella Gallagher, Jim Moschella  
 Paul and Rosemary Gebhardt  
 Rachel Gingrich  
 Daniel and Anna Gioiosa, Luigi and Maria Martino/  
 Chris Amerine  
 Nancy Gority Family  
 Francis A. Goss, Brothers & Parents  
 Deceased Members of the Goss Family  
 Robert A. Grove  
 Deceased of the Hallinan and Davidson Families  
 Howard, David, Howie, Justin Hardin,  
 Anna & Cecil Gority  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Heitsenrether, Larry Miller  
 LeRoy and Irmira Helfrich, Helfrich/Dishart Family  
 Josephine Hicks  
 Hollingshead, Shaffer, Pennabaker, Robbins Families  
 Clemmie Hunter, Susan and Tom Scherzinger/  
 Fred and Catherine Hunter, Arthur and Ruth Boyles/  
 Charles and Gertrude Chirdon  
 Sarah Long Irvin, Jerry Feagley  
 Edgar L. Johnston, Edgar A. Johnston/  
 Diane M. Johnston  
 Jones, Makdad Families, Douglas Egan &  
 Sarah Kimmel  
 Robert M. Jones, M. Virginia Jones  
 Ruth Jones  
 Lily and John Jorkasky, Daniel Hiles  
 Joyce and Plummer Families  
 Peggy and Bernie Joyce, Glenn and Vivian Bistline/  
 Deceased Members of Joyce-Hallinan Families/  
 Bernie McLucas, Jim Davidson  
 Mary Kathryn Kantoski, Deceased members of the  
 Kantoski and Hayford families  
 John and Susan Kilcoyne, James Patrick Kilcoyne  
 Thomas P. and Mary Martha Kilcoyne/  
 John Francis Kilcoyne, William and Lee Scholz/  
 Billy Scholz, Margaret Flood, James Patrick Ryan/  
 Clem and Betsy Meehan, Alice McConesty  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kimmel

Kirkpatrick and Bearer Families  
 Matthew and Madeline Kirsch/  
 Clair and Mary Lockard  
 Mike Kling, Kitty Sullivan, Seidel-Weaver Families  
 John and Victoria Koeck, Melissa Hofer, Brock Hofer  
 Paul Koegler  
 Randy and Jean Koury Family  
 Theresa Kuny, Barbara Jane Weidley  
 David Kutch Family  
 Herb Kutruff, Pat, Shirley and Richard Kutruff,  
 G. W. Longwill, Dorothy Longwill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jay Labriola  
 Robert & Gertrude Lambert  
 Anthony and Helen Lavelle, Audrey Krause  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee  
 Jack Leiden  
 Deceased of Liberto and Kapfhammer Families  
 Valentine and Maude Lilly  
 Brian and Shawn Lucas  
 Paul and Dora Luke, Clyde and Mary Myers/  
 Pat and Ella Marlett, Stella Faust  
 Mary Ann Lumadue  
 Deceased of Alfred Lysinger Family/  
 David Lysinger  
 Deceased of Lytle, Lynam Morning Families  
 Louis Mangiacarne, Carole Boal  
 Alice and Sam Marino, John and Florence Bender/  
 Audrey Krause, Delozier & Bender Families/  
 William Sculley  
 Deceased of the Martynuska & Soyka Families  
 Edward & Deborah Matosziuk  
 Walter Mazur  
 McCloskey and DeCarlo Family  
 McCloskey and Flanagan Families  
 Bernie McLucas, Edith and Bernard McLucas/  
 Mary Lou Oswald, Jim Davidson  
 Maurice McNulty Family and Cyril Kibler Family  
 Samuel and Carole Mento, Hy and Jennie Adelman/  
 Francesco and Vincenza Mento, Helen Faretta/  
 Joseph and Virginia White, Tom Capruscio/  
 Barb Peters, James and Josephine Filoromo/  
 Laura Schultz  
 Anna M. Mercer, Joseph Mercer  
 David Millward and Son, Joshua  
 Misitano/Moloney Families  
 Moloney-Vogel Deceased, Benedict Kedzuf  
 Richard & Rebecca Moran  
 Kimberly Kokolis Moran, Benamati &  
 Kokolis Families  
 Moore & Kwole Family Members  
 Moyer, Lesko, Clay, Lidwell, and Pilarz Families  
 Murawsky and Pipta Families  
 Mr. and Mrs. John A. Murphy  
 John J. Nagle, Jean Hair, Marion Nagle, John Nagle  
 Charles and Catherine Ann Nelson  
 Pellegrino, Civiello & Wife Families

Fred and Linda Petrumak  
 Plutko, Bettwy, Brennan and Lytle Families  
 M/M George Porta, M/M William McCloskey  
 Stephen Pyo  
 Don and Pat Rabine  
 M/M Walter Rapsky, M/M John McGraw  
 Michael Ratzesberger, Chris Gschwendtner/  
 Derek Behe  
 Shane and Kelly Reese  
 Charles and Robuck Families  
 Kathy Rossbach, M/M Rossbach, W. E. Rossbach  
 & Bruce Rossbach  
 Danyll Rougeux, Frank and Helen Radwanski/  
 Grace Rougeux, Ed and Isabelle Rougeux  
 Deacon John E. Rys  
 The Sanker & Diethrich Family  
 Deceased of the Schnaubelt Family/  
 Deceased of the Brennan Family  
 Mary E. Scott  
 Kay Seidel Lint: Wm. & Catherine Seidel;  
 John & Orveta Behe & Derek Behe  
 Sheehan and Murphy Family  
 David and Patricia Shellenberger, Charles &  
 Mildred Brady  
 Deceased Members of the E. T. Smith Family  
 Robert Smithmyer Family  
 Dolores Snyder  
 Grandparents of Soyka's, Kawtoski's, Martynuska's  
 Creppage Family  
 Attilio Stefanon  
 Joseph H. and David J. Stephens  
 Anna, James, Maragaret Stoner, Anna Wyland,  
 Teresa Harket  
 Mary Storey  
 Deceased Members of Strobert Family  
 Earl and Virginia Strohm, Walter and Lois Sanker/  
 Phillip and Susan Altiero, David Sanker  
 Marian and Thomas Swires, John and Louise Ford  
 Deceased Members of the David E. and  
 Jeanne H. Thompson Families  
 Joe Tomlinson  
 Trexler- Strate Families  
 Annika Rose Steinbeiser  
 Joe & Marian Steinbeiser, Rick Scott  
 Don and Jean Truby, Chuck & Marian Roberts,  
 Deceased of Clapper, Kolbensschlag and Truby  
 Families, Annie Glover  
 M. Genevieve Wagner and William J. Wagner  
 Deceased Members of Benjamin Weaver Family  
 Patty Wiedemer  
 Leo B. Winkler, Joseph and Mary Prendergast,  
 Joseph & Kathy Prendergast  
 Deceased of Winkler/Prendergast Family  
 Maureen Ann Wolf  
 Wood, Wachter and Beegle Families  
 Deceased Members of the Yeager Family  
 Dorothy Young  
 Katy Young, Lee Young, Bill and Marian Clemens