The very attractive 2023 Religious Art Catholic Family Calendar has been made available to us thanks to the generosity of Robert M. Jones, Jr. and the Jones Foundation. The blessing included in the First Reading is very familiar. “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.” In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing. It was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. Very importantly it begins with “The Lord bless you.” All blessings come from God. Blessings do not always mean happiness or security or prosperity. To be “kept” by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed “keep” us even in His care. We must keep all these things in our heart as Mary did in her amazement.

God knows what blessings we need. The key to us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/11/29)

**Stewardship Reflections**

**ECHOES OF A POLISH CHRISTMAS**

All Saints Parish in Boswell will host their annual singing on Polish Christmas Carols known as Koliindy) on Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 P.M. in Boswell (325 Quemahoning Street). Following the singing of the hymns by the parish’s Polish choir, there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as well as refreshments. Polish Christmas customs are very rich, whether you are Polish or not, come and experience these time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ.

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES GREAT NEIL WALKER**

Pittsburgh Pirates great Neil Walker will be visiting Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg on Saturday, February 4, 2023, from Noon until 2:00 P.M. He will be giving a talk about his Catholic Faith and will be available to meet and greet. There is no registration or tickets to be purchased. No cost to attend, though donations will be accepted to support Holy Name School. All are welcome to attend.

**Praise and Worship and Healing Mass**

Come and join us on First Friday, January 6, 2023 at Saint Aloysius Church, 7811-119th Street, Cresson, for Praise and Worship at 6:00 PM with Deacon Rick Golden and Healing Mass with Father Julio Rivero TOR at 7:00 PM.

**Readings for the week of January 1, 2023**

**Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/1:15-21

**Monday:** 1 Th 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:Jn 8:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:11-12 or Lk: 3:23-28 or Lk: 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

**Religious Education PK-8**

Beginning after Christmas break we will be admitting and dismissing all students from the lower alley door. Drop offs can still be done in our upper lot on 14th Street if the lot is clear and not icy, but drop offs can still be done in our upper lot on 14th Street if the lot is clear and not icy, but the lot on 14th Street is not available. Students will exit thru the alley door.

Snow cancellations will be sent to you thru emails from the teachers on Flocknotes.com.

**Thank you!**

Liturical celebrations require a good bit of preparation: maintenance staff and volunteers clean and decorate; musicians, cantors, and the choir rehearse; liturgical ministers prayerfully assist; and ministers of hospitality and ushers help people feel welcome.

Gratitude is extended to those who are helping us celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and the Christmas season.

**Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish is at 11:30 A.M.**

**Church Cleaning**

The cleaning crew will be meeting Wednesday, January 11th at 9:00 AM. They normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month. If there is a funeral, they will meet on Thursday.
We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph at the moment they see the child in the manger. They open their hearts and share what they’ve experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, “When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.”

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, “Mangia? Mangia?” I didn’t speak Italian and thought, “Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity scene?” My friend said, “Mangia means eat. They’re hungry.” That’s when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn’t cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That’s the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too.

— Father John Muir

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

“My Jesus, my love, my all, gladly would I endure hunger, thirst, heat, and cold to remain always with you in the Blessed Sacrament.”

Msgr. Carson has a list of homebound parishioners he normally visits during the first week of the month with Holy Communion. If you would like to be added to the list, please call rectory. The parishioner is called in advance of the visit to arrange an appropriate time, generally on the first Thursday or Friday of the month.

We have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Wednesday, January 4, from after the noon Mass until the end of 7:00 P.M. Confessions. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the cross-aisle. It is essential that there is someone in the cathedral during the whole time of adoration.