

DECEMBER 16, 2018

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ZEPHANIAH. 3: 14-18a. Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

ISAIAH. 12:6. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

PHILIPPIANS. 4: 4-7. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

LUKE. Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 16, 2018	
OFFERTORY	\$3,331.50
ON-LINE GIVING	\$0.00
SALARY/DUES	\$385.00
FLOWERS	\$48.00
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT	\$457.75
BINGO	\$1,911.00

WEEKLY ENVELOPE STATISTICS:

\$1.00-\$5.00-100
\$6.00-\$10.00-44
\$11.00-\$20.00-48
\$21.00-\$30.00- 34
OVER-15



TOTAL ENVELOPES USED=241 FROM 627 MAILINGS

WEEKLY DUES STATISTICS:

ABOVE \$5.00-2
\$5.00-69
BELOW \$5.00-8

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED-79 FROM 627 MAILINGS



Mass Schedule

INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES:

SAT. 4:00 P.M. John, Catherine, Ronald & Rosemarie Mark. (Jerry & Diane Mark & Fam.)

SUN. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

SUN. 10:30A.M. Joe Maddage (Amelia Ealo)

SUN. 4 00 P.M. ADVENT HOLY HOUR BEGINS

SUN. 5:00 P.M. ADVENT HOLY HOUR CONCLUDES WITH BENEDICTION

DAILY MASS IS HELD IN THE CHURCH

MON. 8:00 A.M. Special Intention of the Franks Family (Andy & Margaret Franks)

TUE. 8:00 A.M. Christmas Novena Intentions

WED. 8:00 A.M. Florence Mills (Walter & Marie Mills)

THU. 8:00 A.M. Louis O'Bell (Annette O'Bell)

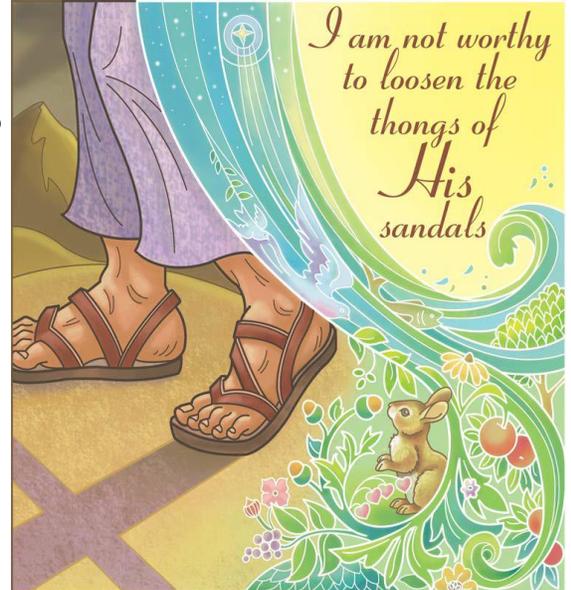
FRI. 8:00 A.M. Christmas Novena Intentions

St. Peter Canisius

SAT. 4:00 P.M. Christmas Novena Intentions

SUN. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

SUN. 10:30 A.M. Thomas Walsh (Family)



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WORD OF LIFE: "In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, not known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples." ~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

FOOD PANTRY: A new location for bread Basket of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been established at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Center, 425 Church Street, Archbald. This site serves those residing in the following zip code areas: 18403, 18433, 18411. The food Pantry is opened every Tuesday from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon.



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

Religious give thanks. "This money is pure gift," writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters." Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA INTENTIONS: These envelopes are in your packets and can be used to pray for living or deceased members of your family. The envelopes are placed on the Altar for your intentions to be celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

SANCTUARY CANDLE & ALTAR BREAD/WINE DONATION: Given in loving memory of Louis & Lucy O'Bell by Annette. Thank You!!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF : Edna Zenty, a parishioner who died and was buried this past week. *Eternal Rest Grant unto her O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*



THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21ST.



REJOICE! Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday"

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work. Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgement Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy. This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A GODPARENT FOR A SPONSOR FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION?

First-You must be registered in a Catholic Church for at least 6 months. This means that you have filled out a registration form, receive envelopes, and your name is on a file in the Parish Office.

Second- You must be a practicing Catholic. This means you have a regular attendance at our parish Church. If you attend another church, you must contact THAT church for the proper documents.

Third-We ask all our own parishioners who are looking for sponsors for either Baptism or Confirmation that they choose people who are fulfilling their obligation and going to church on Sunday. Also, we ask that they are practicing the values of the Catholic Faith. Thank You!!

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE WORD AMONG US:

These books are available at the entrances of the Church. Please feel free to take one. These booklets contain daily meditations for each day of the Advent Season and are based on the Daily Readings.

ADVENT HOLY HOUR :

Now in the Advent Season, we will once again continue our long-standing tradition of having Holy hour beginning at 4:00 P.M. and concluding with benediction at 5:00 P.M. Please join us and spend an hour with the Lord.



WALL CALENDARS, 2019: Special Thanks to Battenberg Furniture Store and Funeral Home for sponsoring our Wall Calendars for 2019. They are available on the tables at the entrance of the Church.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS AVAILABLE: These are now available on the back tables at the entrance of the Church. The donation is \$3.00.

WOMEN'S GUILD NURSING HOME VISIT: Six members of the Women's Guild visited residents of the Carbondale Nursing Home on 12/4/18, delivering Christmas prayers, greeting cards, and playing bingo with those who were able. The men and women enjoyed the time we spent with them as well as a delicious dessert and expressed gratitude to all of the Parish.



VISIT WITH SANTA: Mayfield Lions Club members will present their yearly "Visit with Santa" on **Sunday, December 16, beginning at 2 P.M. at St. John's Center in Mayfield.** Pizza and refreshments will be served and activities including a sing-a-long will be offered while awaiting Santa's arrival. After Santa reads "A Visit from St. Nicholas", a complimentary photo will be taken of each child on Santa's lap.



SUPPORT GROUP AT CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

At Catholic Social Services in Scranton, we are offering a support group for people who are feeling alone or struggling to find companionship in their lives. Loneliness has become a debilitating concern for many adults leading to increased feelings of isolation, limited community involvement and lowered life expectancy. This group offers the opportunity to meet new people and make connections with others who are struggling to find friendship and companionship in a safe environment. The group is open to anyone who find him or herself alone and wants to meet like-minded people who can share their experiences of seeking others to share their time with. The group is offered on Monday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M. at the 516 Fig Street office. For more information you can contact Peg Mahoney, LPC/Supervising Counselor: 570-207-2283/ x 2130 or Amanda Lara or Brittany Harris/Counseling Interns at 570-207-2283 x 2129

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION:

You're in the homestretch with your spiritually adopted baby. He is completely formed, and has been since 8 weeks. All he is doing now is gaining weight-and making his mother uncomfortable with his size. But she's not worried now. In a short time, her baby will be born. She has planned to bring her baby home or to a place her baby for adoption. Either way, she knows she can receive the assistance she needs from the Catholic Church and from the crisis pregnancy centers. Your baby's mother appreciates the prayers have given her grace to seek the help she needs.



DEANERY ADVENT CONFESSIONS:

Sunday, December 16th 2:00 P.M. Sacred Heart of Jesus-Peckville
Monday, December 17th 6:00 P.M.-Queen of Angels-Jessup
Tuesday, December 18th 6:00 P.M.-Sacred Hearts-Jermyn
Wednesday, December 19th 6:00 P.M.-Christ the King-Archbald

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE FOR SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY PARISH:

Bishop Bambera thanks all parishioners who have already donated to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. **To date 86 parishioners/families pledged. we have raised \$10,250.00 this year's goal is \$23,000.00. Thank You!**

DID YOU KNOW...



YOU MAY MAKE A GIFT TO YOUR PARISH OR TO THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary of Development, at Jim-Bebla@DioceseofScranton.org or 570-207-2250.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 22/23
THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
E. MINISTER
LECTOR
ACOLYTES

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
Mrs. Julie Rzucidlo (Chalice)
Mrs. Judy Hine (Host)
Mr. Michael Serniak (Host)
Miss Annette O'Bell
Tommy Johnson

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
Mr. Greg Selvenis (Host)
Mrs. Ann Selvenis (Host)
Mrs. JoAnn Massino
Michael Pidgeon
Kathryn Shipshinski

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
Mr. Jamie Owen (Chalice)
Miss Mary Golden (Chalice)
Mrs. Ann M. Kitchura (Host)
Mrs. Kylene Owen
Elizabeth Pittsman
Maggie Pittsman

PRESENTERS OF GIFTS

DECEMBER 22/23
THE FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
OPEN

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
OPEN

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
Walsh Fam.

PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:
You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering
The pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit
By those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters, breathe wisdom into our
prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlighten by truth and enfolded in
your mercy. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and
transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through
Christ, our Lord. Amen. ~ *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

CELL PHONE ETIQUETTE: In keeping with the sacredness of the
Liturgy, please make every effort to **TURN OFF OR SILENCE YOUR
CELL PHONE** during the celebration of the Eucharist. Children should
also be reminded that mass is a special time to listen and pray to God; it is
not a time to be texting others.

WINTER SOLSTICE:

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
at morning in the dark I rise;
and shivering in my nakedness,
by the cold candle, bathe and dress

Close by the jolly fire I sit
to warm my frozen bones a bit;
or with a reindeer sled, explore the colder countries round the door.

When to go out, my nurse doth wrap me in my comforter and cap;
the cold wind burns my face, and blows its frosty pepper up my nose.
Black are my steps on silver sod; thick blows my frosty breath
abroad;
and tree and house, and hill and lake, are frosted like a wedding
cake.

~ *Robert Louis Stevenson*

HAVE YOU MOVED?: Have you changed your address recently? If
so, please contact the Rectory Office @ 570-876-1061 so your
envelopes and other communications will be delivered to you. The
Envelope Company cannot forward them through the postal service.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

The Northeast Pennsylvania
Genealogical Society, Inc. (NEPGS) has
many available resources which can
aid in your genealogical quest. From books, newspapers, magazines,
manuscripts, city records, church records, cemetery records and
family histories, we have a wide range on material on various topics
related to genealogy and local history. We also offer our expertise on
DNA testing and analysis which can complement traditional
research. As NEPGS celebrates our 25th Anniversary Year, we invite
genealogists and family historians from beginner to advanced to visit
and research with us! Hours of operation: Open Thursdays from 10
A.M. TO 7 P.M. Also open 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 A.M.-
2 P.M. We offer additional seasonal hours for your convenience.
When you visit the society, volunteer staff can answer questions
about the use of Digital Collections. For those unable to visit in
person, research services are available at reasonable rates. Please
check out www.nepgs.com for the latest information Find us on
Facebook at www.facebook.com/NEPGS OR CONTACT US AT
570-829-1765.



WHAT SHALL WE DO?

*"Truly I tell you, just as you
did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family,
you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40).*

In today's Gospel, there is a
question posed three times:

"What shall we do?" It is raised by three categories of people: first,
the crowd in general, second, the publicans or tax collectors, and
third some soldiers. They want to know what must be done to
implement the conversion that he is preaching. John's reply to the
question of the crowd is sharing essential goods. He told them to
share basic necessities, and therefore says: "He who has two coats, let
him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do
likewise." Then, he tells the tax collectors to collect no more than the
amount owed. What does this mean? No taking bribes, John the
Baptist is clear. And he tells the soldiers no to extort anything from
anyone and to be content with their wages. There are three answers
for an identical path of repentance, which is manifested in concrete
commitments to justice and solidarity. It is the path that Jesus points
to in all his preaching: the path of diligent love for neighbor. We feel
that this question is ours also. In the words of John, it is necessary to
repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity,
sobriety: these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely
Christian life. ~ *Pope Francis*

