



DECEMBER 23, 2018



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MICAH. 5: 1-4a. From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.
PSALM 80. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
HEBREWS. 10:5-10. We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all.
LUKE. 1: 39-45. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 23, 2018	
OFFERTORY	\$3,907.30
ONLINE GIVING	\$100.00
CHRISTMAS 2018	\$211.00
CHRISTMAS 2017	\$12,099.00
SALARY/DUES	\$175.00
FLOWERS	\$7.00
SECOND COLLECTION	\$185.30

WEEKLY ENVELOPE STATISTICS:

\$1.00-\$5.00-75
\$6.00-\$10.00-42
\$11.00-\$20.00- 64
\$21.00-\$30.00-36
OVER-12



WEEKLY DUES STATISTICS:

ABOVE \$5.00-1
\$5.00-32
BELOW \$5.00-2

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED-229 FROM 627 MAILINGS

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED-35 FROM 627 MAILINGS



INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES

- SAT. 4:00 P.M. Christmas Novena Intentions
- SUN. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
- SUN. 10:30 A.M. Thomas Walsh (The Family)
- DAILY MASS IS HELD IN THE CHURCH**
- SUN. 4:00 P.M. ADVENT HOLY HOUR BEGINS
- SUN. 5:00 P.M. ADVENT HOLY HOUR CONCLUDES WITH BENEDICTION
- CHRISTMAS EVE**
- MON. 4:00 P.M. Anna Gellak (Carole & Ken Steinke)
- MON. 9:00 P.M. Christmas Novena Intentions
- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**
- TUES. 10:30 A.M. People of the Parish
- WED. 8:00 A.M. NO LITURGY THIS MORNING
- THU. 8:00 A.M. Deceased of the Petorak Family (The Family)
- St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*
- FRI. 8:00 A.M. Mary Tochelli (Walter & Marie Mills)
- The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*
- SAT. 4:00 P.M. Alan & Paul Morcom (The Family)
- SUN. 8:00 A.M. Christmas Novena Intentions
- SUN. 10:30 A.M. People of the Parish



WORD OF LIFE: "To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others." ~ Pope Saint John Paul II, February 13, 1982
Homily © 1982 Liberia Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: The new 2019 Mass Book is now open to schedule your masses.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION, 2018: This is our Second biggest collection of the year. Please be generous to the Parish.

THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE & DECEMBER 25TH, CHRISTMAS DAY. THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

ADVENT HOLY HOUR :

This week will be the last of 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 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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO BE PICKED UP IN THE SACRISTY.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE SUCCESS:

Once again Our annual Christmas Cookie Sale was a success! We were able to raise **\$1,645.00** for our Parish. There is no way this could have been accomplished without the help of so many. Our bakers are phenomenal! You always come through for us Our volunteers are fabulous!! You give up so much precious time to help us. It is amazing to see how efficiently these women weigh, plate and wrap cookies, then clean up as if no one was there. It really is a joint effort to make this sale so successful. Thank you all for your support in baking, assembling the plates and purchasing the cookies.
The Christmas Cookie Sale Committee



MEMORIES AND DREAMS:

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected. Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.



WORLD YOUTH DAY, 2019

World Youth Day will be held in Panama City, Panama from **January 22-27, 2019**. World Youth Day is an Initiative from St. John Paul II to gather Young Catholics of the world every two to three years in a celebration of faith and culture. The World Youth Day events gather millions, including Pope Francis, young Catholics, clergy, and religious brothers and sisters. The Diocese of Scranton is sponsoring two separate pilgrimage packages for young adults ages 18-35. If you, or a young adult you may know are interested in learning more about the World Youth Day Pilgrimage, contact Shannon Kowalski, Coordinator for Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 570-207-2213 x 1155 or email Shannon-Kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON COUNSELING:

The Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable environment where your privacy is always respected. Counseling is about self-discovery and can be used for personal growth or when distressing conditions exist and you need a bit of extra support. Help is available. Anyone who struggles with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, life transitions, or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome. Catholic Social Services accepts Medicaid plans and some insurance plans. Counseling is made affordable for everyone. For more information or to make an appointment, call 570-207-2283.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS AND CELEBRATION JUNE 30,

2019: His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2019 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 30. The event includes a 2:30 P.M. Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made through Annette at the parish Office before April 2.

PRINCE OF PEACE MARDI GRAS:

Saturday, March 2nd 2019 at 6:00 P.M.
At arcaro & Genell Banquet Room
Main Street, Old Forge. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and includes: Hors D'Oeuvres and a full course dinner with one choice of Roast Beef, Veal Marsala, Baked Haddock Italian Style or chicken Francaise. Beer, Wine and Soda included. accepting reservations for tables 8 or 10. Seating is limited to 130-Reserve your seats early. Payment and menu choice is due with reservation. All reservations close February 20, 2019. For reservations call Francis 570-451-0112. Entertainment by Frankie Gervasi of "The Poets".



VNA Hospice, 301 Delaware Avenue, Olyphant provides a variety of ongoing Grief Support Groups to fit your unique needs. Coming together in a group of like-minded individuals can often provide the support and understanding we could all benefit from as we grieve. Please consider which group or groups are right for you!

Third Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M.-Traditional Bereavement Support Group

Each Monday from 1:00-3:00 P.M.-Knit/Crochet Group

Each Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 P.M.-Sleeping Bag Project & Fisherman Knot Rosary making

Each Tuesday from 6:15-7:30 P.M.-Finding Balance Yoga (\$10 per class).

All events are held at the VNA Office Building at 301 Delaware Avenue, Olyphant Parking lot in the back of the building off Church St. and enter through the rear door.

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. Next week-end we will conclude our adopt-a-baby program. We are planning a "Baby Shower" for our local crisis center (St. Joseph's Center in Scranton). We will be collecting disposable diapers, formula, layette items. Please bring your gift to church next week-end and place in the baskets in the back of the church.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT QUEEN OF ANGELS,

JEESUP: We are looking for volunteers and substitutes for our Adoration Chapel on Saturdays. If you are able to help please call Diane Trently at 570-876-1233.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24/25
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
E. MINISTER
LECTOR
ACOLYTES

MON. 4:00 P.M.
 Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
 Mr. Joseph Smith (Chalice)
 Mr. Joseph Esgro (Host)
 Mrs. Judy Hine (Host)
 Mrs. Mary Fran Smith
 Ryder Clark
 Tommy Johnson

MON. 9:00 P.M.
 Mr. Charles Barlow (Host)
 Mrs. Janice Joyce

TUE. 10:30 A.M.
 Mrs. Marie Spataro (Host)
 Mr. Tony Spataro (Host)
 Mrs. Suzanne Serniak
 Antonio Spataro
 Giovanni Spataro
 Dominico Spataro

DECEMBER 29/30
THE HOLY FAMILY
E. MINISTER
LECTOR
ACOLYTES

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
 Mrs. Diane Mosley (Chalice)
 Mr. Ted Prusinski (Chalice)
 Mrs. Ann M. Prusinski (Host)
 Miss Annette O'Bell (Host)
 Mrs. Carrie Grant

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
 Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
 Mr. Greg Selvenis (Chalice)
 Mr. Tony Spataro (Host)
 Mrs. Ann Selvenis (Host)
 Mrs. JoAnn Massino
 Olivia Cunningham
 Jessie Cunningham

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
 Mr. Jamie Owen (Chalice)
 Mr. Charles Barlow (Chalice)
 Mr. Vince Bullet (Host)
 Mrs. Ann M. Kitchura (Host)
 Mrs. Kylene Owen
 Noah Shaffer
 Emma Shaffer

PRESENTERS OF GIFTS

DECEMBER 24/25
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

MON. 4:00 P.M.
OPEN

MON. 9:00 P.M.
OPEN

TUES. 10:30 A.M.
OPEN

DECEMBER 29/30
THE HOLY FAMILY

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
Morcom Fam.

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
OPEN

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
OPEN

FAILED MARRIAGES AND HEALING:

When marriages fail, Catholics may be unclear about their relationship to the Church. "I am civilly divorced and not sure whether I can continue to receive the Eucharist or be a part of the parish Community." "I am not sure about the status of my marriage." "It would be helpful to talk to someone who could explain it to me."



"My spouse and I would like to explore having our marriage blessed by the Church." "I don't know what an annulment really is and why I would want one. Also, I've heard their expensive." Do any of these voices sound like you or someone like you or someone you know? In the Diocese of Scranton, the Annulment Process is now more "user friendly" than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee. Please contact the Diocesan Tribunal Office (570-207-2246) to begin a conversation. It is possible to get clear answers to the answers to these questions and to renew your connection to the Church.

A SURPRISE GIFT:

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).



On this Sunday just before Christmas we listen to the Gospel of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Mary show us that being comes before doing, and to leave the doing to God in order to be truly as God wants us. Mary is receptive, but not passive. Because, on the physical level, she receives the power of the Holy Spirit and then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who forms within her. Thus, on the spiritual level, she accepts the grace and corresponds to it with faith. As Mary was greeted by Elizabeth as "blessed among women: so too we have always been "blessed," that is, loved. Regarding this love, regarding this mercy, the divine grace poured into our hearts, one single thing is asked in return: unreserved giving. Not one of us can buy salvation! Salvation is a free gift of the Lord, a free gift of God that comes within us and dwells in us. As we have received freely, so we are called to give freely; imitating Mary, who, immediately upon receiving the Angel's announcement, went to share the gift of her fruitfulness with her relative Elizabeth. In visiting her, the Virgin Mary brought not only material help but she also brought Jesus, who was already alive in her womb. ~Pope Francis

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Mary Curatola. 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.*



LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas,
 Love all lovely, love divine;
 Love was born at Christmas,
 Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
 Love incarnate, love divine;
 Worship we our Jesus:
 But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
 Love shall be yours and love be mine,
 Love to God and to all men
 Love for plea and gift and sign.



POST-ABORTION HEALING: RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard week-ends for healing after abortion are offered throughout the year in locations across the United States and Canada, with additional sites around the world. We also offer a 15-week support group model for Rachel's Vineyard. Rachel's Vineyard is a ministry of Priests for Life. The program is an opportunity to examine a person's abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted him/her in the past, present, and helps acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion. Because of the emotional numbness and secrecy that often surrounds an abortion experience, conflicting emotions both during and after the event may remain unresolved. These buried feelings can surface later and may be symptoms of post abortion trauma. Married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children, as well as persons who have been involved in the abortion industry have come to Rachel's Vineyard in search of peace and inner healing. The week-end is a lot of work but yields a fruitful harvest for all who are willing to labor there. The support program, Project Rachel is active within the diocese.

PLEASE SEE THE SPECIAL ATTACHMENT IN THE BULLETIN FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE.