

DECEMBER 17, 2017

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH. 61: 1-2a, 10-11. As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations.

LUKE. 1: 46-50, 53-54. My soul rejoices in my God.

1 THESSALONIANS. 5: 16-24. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good.

JOHN. 1: 6-8, 19-28. I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 17, 2017

OFFERTORY	\$4,524.00
ON-LINE GIVING	\$44.00
SALARY/DUES	\$334.00
HOLY DAY	\$561.00
FLOWERS	\$117.00
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT	\$439.25
BINGO	\$895.00

WEEKLY ENVELOPE STATISTICS:

\$1.00-\$5.00=84
\$6.00-\$10.00=66
\$11.00-\$20.00=57
\$21.00-\$30.00=43
OVER=22



TOTAL ENVELOPES USED=272
FROM 627 MAILINGS

WEEKLY DUES STATISTICS:

ABOVE \$5.00=4
\$5.00=58
BELOW \$5.00=12

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED=74
FROM 627 MAILINGS



CHILDREN'S GIVING =17
FROM 125 SETS

INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES:

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

SUN. 8:00 A.M. Special Intention of the Franks Family (M/M Andy Franks)

SUN. 10:30 A.M. People of the Parish

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. Anna Lacotta (Arlene Dearie)

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

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

THU. 8:00 A.M. Decd of the Lowe & Kopa Families (Ken & Joan)

St. Peter Canisius

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

SAT. 4:00 P.M. Thomas Walsh (The Family)

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

SUN. 10:30 A.M. Tillie Docalovich (The Family)

SUN. 4:00 P.M. People of the Parish

SUN. 9:00 P.M. Christmas Novena Intentions

WORD OF LIFE: "He *is always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go...Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us." ~USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2017-18 Respect Life Reflection

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Religious give thanks. A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

2017 CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Sun. Dec. 17, 2017 3:00 P.M. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Peckville

Mon. Dec. 18, 2017 6:00 P.M. Queen of Angels, Jessup

Tues. Dec. 19, 2017 6:00 P.M. Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Jermyn

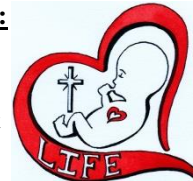
Wed. Dec. 20, 2017 6:00 P.M. Christ the King, Archbald

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION: These envelopes are in your packets. Please be generous so our church looks beautiful for the Christmas Season!



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION:

Your spiritually adopted baby is growing quite beautifully now. His weight is approaching 2 pounds.



Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed!

DECORATING THE CHURCH:

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season on Wednesday, *December 20th after the 8:00 A.M. Mass.* Anyone who can help us will be greatly appreciated!!



THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND.

REJOICE:

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings



not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for Eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES: These are discontinued since not enough of our young children are using them. The envelopes are a great cost to the parish.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA ENVELOPES: These are found in your packets and are for any of your Christmas Intentions. They will be placed on the altar for you intention to be celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE WORD AMONG US ADVENT ISSUE:

These books are FREE and are available on the tables at the entrance 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.

WALL CALENDARS, 2018: Special Thanks to Battenberg Furniture and Funeral Home for sponsoring our Wall Calendars for 2018. They are also available on the tables at the entrance of the Church.

BOLD CHOICES RETREAT:

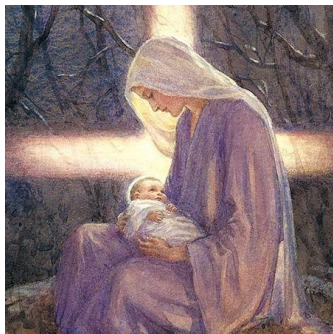
(Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully)

Join us for a young adult (18-35) retreat at Saint Gabriel's Retreat Center, Clarks Summit January 5-6. The 24 hour retreat will include presentations and interactive sessions on prayer, making choices based on faith, finding your passion, the art of discernment, small group discussion & more. Cost is \$65.00. For more information and/or to register, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-207-1452.



A PRAYER FOR ADVENT:

Mother of God, we sing your praises
But we must praise you even more.
Our speech is too feeble
To honor you as we ought,
For no tongue is eloquent enough
To express your excellence.
Mary most powerful, most holy,
And worthy of all love.
You name brings new life,
And the thought of you inspires love
In the hearts of those devoted to you. Amen.



~St. Bernard of Clairvaux

DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE IN LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM, 2018

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January, 2018! The Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Pastoral Council,
- Director of Religious Education and Catechist,
- Liturgical Coordinator,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams,
- And others!

Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, as well as regional workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, Diocesan Certificate candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective parish ministry in their faith communities. The Office for parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry program in the New Year. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials and application submissions. Deadline to apply is Monday, January 15, 2018.

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



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. ***This will be our last Holy Hour for Advent since the Fourth Sunday of Advent is December 24th.***

A VISIT WITH SANTA TODAY!:

The Mayfield Lions Club will conduct its annual "Visit with Santa" on **Sunday, December 17 at the Saint John's Center, 703 Hill Street in Mayfield from 2-3 P.M.** Pizza and refreshments will be served and activities including sing-a-long of traditional Christmas favorites will occur while awaiting Santa's arrival. After Santa reads "a Visit from Saint Nicholas," a complimentary picture will be taken of each child on Santa's lap. As is its tradition, the Lions Club does not charge any fee for participants.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 23/24 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
E. MINISTER
LECTOR
ACOLYTES

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
Mr. Ted Prusinski (Chalice)
Mrs. Ann M. Prusinski (Chalice)
Mrs. Arlene Hemak (Host)
Mr. Michael Serniak (Host)
Mrs. Carrie McMyne

SUN. 8:00 A.M.

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
Mrs. Ann Selvenis (Chalice)
Mr. Greg Selvenis (Host)
Mrs. Suzanne Serniak
Antonio Spataro
Giovanni Spataro
Dominico Spataro
MON. 10:30 A.M.
Mrs. Marie Spataro (Chalice)
Mr. Tony Spataro (Chalice)
Mr. Vince Bullet (Host)
Miss Meghan Facwett &
Miss Mary Golden
Lauren Cunningham
Jessie Cunningham
Olivia Cunningham

DECEMBER 24/25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUN. 4:00 P.M.
Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
Mr. Joseph Smith (Chalice)
Mr. Paul Carachilo (Host)
Mrs. Judy Hine (Host)
Mrs. Mary Fran Smith

SUN. 9:00 P.M.
Mr. Charles Barlow (Chalice)
Mrs. Sue Baka (Chalice)
Mrs. Janice Joyce
Thomas Pidgeon
Michael Pidgeon

PRESENTERS OF GIFTS

DECEMBER 23/24 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
OPEN

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

DEC. 24/25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUN. 4:00 P.M.
OPEN

SUN. 9:00 P.M.
OPEN

MON. 10:30 A.M.
OPEN

DO YOU HAVE A FEW EXTRA HOURS TO SPARE?:

Traditional Home Health and Hospice is currently seeking volunteers to be a part of our team in providing quality care for our hospice patients. Volunteers are an integral part of the Hospice philosophy giving their time and presence to the patients and their families we serve. We offer one-on-one patient time, in-office volunteer time & opportunities for student community service hours. No experience is necessary. The qualities we seek are a ready smile, a willingness to lend a hand and an open ear to listen and learn. Please contact Kathleen Haikes today at 570-207-9286 or 570-955-7553.

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.

BEST OF BRITAIN TOUR: Join Msgr. Patrick Pratico and Father Joseph Verespy June 16-25, 2018 for a nine day tour of England and Scotland including Windsor, Oxford, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff, Stonehenge, & London. The trip includes your roundtrip bus to Newark airport, flights on Virgin Atlantic to and from London and complete tours. This four star tour includes thirteen meals. The price per person is \$3,195.00. Detailed brochures are available from Visitation BVM Parish Office, 1090 Carmalt Street, Dickson City, Pa.18519, or by calling 470-489-2091. Deposits can be made out to Travelworld.

TELESPOND SENIOR SERVICES, Inc. "Senior Companion Program" : Do you know that Telespond offers a no-cost program to help qualified older adults who want to remain independent in their own homes as long as possible? This a FREE Service to residents of Lackawanna County!

- Do you need a friend, someone to talk who really cares?
- Are you homebound or unable to manage completely on your own?
- Would you like us to provide short periods of relief to primary caregivers?

We are there to help you! For more information call Kathy Coyne @ 570-347-7911.

TELESPOND SENIOR SERVICES: Are you 55 years of age or older? Do you reside in Lackawanna County? Do you enjoy spending time with older adults? As a Senior Companion Volunteer you will receive many benefits including: A tax-free stipend, paid Holidays & Vacation Time. For more information, please call Kathy Coyne @ 570-347-7911.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE. THE BREAKAWAY FOR A NINE DAY SCANDANAVIAN BALTIC & ST. PETERSBURG CRUISE:

Join Msgr. Tressler for the Cruise. The trip will depart on Monday, July 2, 2018 and return on July 13. We will fly from Newark international Airport arriving for an overnight stay in Copenhagen prior to our cruise and we will also have a tour of the city. On Wednesday, July 14th we will board the NCL Breakaway for our 9 day cruise. The cruise will have port calls in Berlin (Germany); Tallinn (Estonia); St. Petersburg (Russia) (overnight); Helsinki (Finland); Stockholm (Sweden); Copenhagen (Denmark) and return to Copenhagen for our flight home. The entire trip including hotels, cruise transportation, transfers, and fees is priced at \$3,195.00 per person based on double occupancy with an added special bonuses. For further information or to make your reservation, please contact Mr. John Madden at Travelworld at 570-342-5790.