

DECEMBER 9, 2018

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BARUCH. 5: 1-9. Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God.

PSALM 126. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

PHILIPPIANS. 1: 4-6, 8-11. I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

LUKE. 3: 1-6. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER 9, 2018	
OFFERTORY	\$4,823.12
ONLINE GIVING	\$260.00
SALARY/DUES	\$856.00
FKIERS	\$267.00
SECOND COLLECTION	\$156.95

WEEKLY ENVELOPE STATISTICS

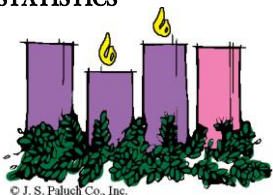
\$1.00-\$5.00- 100
\$6.00-\$10.00- 56
\$11.00-\$20.00-61
\$21.00-\$30.00-48
OVER-22

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED-287
FROM 627 MAILINGS

WEEKLY SALARY/DUES STATISTICS:

ABOVE \$5.00-7
\$5.00-152
BELOW \$5.00-14

TOTAL ENVELOPES USED-173
FROM 627 MAILINGS



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INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES

- SAT. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
- SAT. 4:00 P.M. Edward Kulesza & Zygmunt Wojnowski (The Family)
- SUN. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
- SUN. 10:30 A.M. Joan Chellino (Joan McDermott)
- 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. Philip Tochelli (Walter & Marie Mills)
- TUES. 8:00 A.M. Rose Jennings (Annette O'Bell)
St. Damasus I
- WED. 8:00 A.M. Kevin Walsh (The Family)
Our Lady of Guadalupe
- THU. 8:00 A.M. Anne Dowd-Geoffroy (Carol Duprey)
St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
- FRI. 8:00 A.M. Decd of the Kopa & Lowe Fam. (Ken & Joan)
St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
- SAT. 4:00 P.M. John, Catherine, Ronald & Rosemarie Mark (Jerry & Diane Mark & Fam.)
- SUN. 8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
- SUN. 10:30 A.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



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WORD OF LIFE: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say? Learn ten tips at www.usccb.org/support-her."

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little or no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.



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.

THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

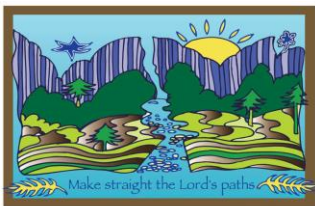
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: The Stewardship Committee will meet on **Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Center.** All are welcome to attend!

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: ALL meetings that were scheduled are postponed until further notice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CHRISTMAS CASH WINNERS. ATTACHED TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN IS A LIST OF THE WINNERS.

AWAITING THE SALVATION

OF OUR GOD: The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters. According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees. It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.



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 BEGINS TODAY:

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 CHRISTMAS PARTY-

The Christmas Party for the Women's Guild is **Wednesday, December 12 at 5:30 P.M. at Pietro's in Jessup.** A buffet supper will be served. Please join us for a casual and relaxing evening. **Reservations close December 5 and must be accompanied by \$30.00 per person, which includes meal, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip, and a \$10 charitable contribution benefitting the Little Sisters of the Poor.** Reservations may be given to Annette @ the Rectory 570-876-1061, Judy Hine (570-876-1649), or Anne Marie Kitchura 570-876-1697.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Theresa Santo, 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 through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



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

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE: Attention Bakers!

Anyone who is baking cookies for our sale is asked to drop off their cookies at the Parish Center on **Thursday, December 13th from 3 P.M. until 6 P.M.** If you are interested in baking and have not been called, please call Mary Fran Smith (570) 876-3565. We welcome your help and talents. If you are interested in purchasing these delicious delicacies you can pre-order them by using the order form or by calling Mary Fran Smith (570) 876-3565 or Dorothy Perry (570) 876-4160. All pre-orders must be in by December 9th and the cookies may be picked up **on Saturday, December 15th @ the Parish Center from 10 A.M. until Noon.** We are still in need of volunteers on **Friday, December 14th from 9 until Noon** to help assemble the plates of cookies. Thank You for all your help and cooperation.



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

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 15/16
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
E. MINISTER
LECTOR
ACOLYTES

SAT. 4:00 P.M.
 Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
 Mr. Joseph Esgro (Chalice)
 Mrs. Arlene Hemak (Host)
 Mr. Vince O'Bell (Host)
 Mrs. Janice Joyce
 Tommy Johnson

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
 Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
 Mrs. JoAnn Massino (Chalice)
 Mrs. Katie Hosie (Host)
 Olivia Cunningham
 Jessie Cunningham

SUN. 10:30 A.M.
 Deacon Pat Massino (Chalice)
 Mr. Charlie Barlow (Chalice)
 Mrs. Sue Baka (Host)
 Mrs. Mary Vadala
 Grace Fawcett
 Bella Martin

PRESENTERS OF GIFTS

DECEMBER 15/16
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

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

SUN. 8:00 A.M.
 OPEN

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

WHEN DO I MEET JESUS?:

*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
 No one comes to the father except
 through me" (John 14:6).*

Life is a journey. It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus. It is for the Christian to continually encounter Jesus, to watch him, to let himself be watched over by Jesus, because Jesus watches over us with love. He loves us so much and he is always watching over us. To encounter Jesus also means allowing oneself to be gazed upon by him. And the most beautiful gift is to meet Jesus. We meet Jesus every day. How? Our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we receive Communion, when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when we are loving--in these things we always meet Jesus. "But, Father," you might say, "you know that this journey is horrible for me, I am such a sinner, I have committed many sins. How can I encounter Jesus?" But remember that the people whom Jesus most sought out were the greatest sinners. And those who believed themselves righteous criticized him for saying: this is no true prophet, look what kind of company he keeps! And Jesus said: I came for those in need of salvation, in need of healing. And along the way Jesus comes, heals us and forgives us--for we are all sinners. ~Pope Francis



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Do you have an hour a week to spare? The Visiting Nurses Association is seeking caring, compassionate, and dynamic individuals to join our volunteer team. The volunteer would share their unique skills and talents to enhance the patient's quality of life. Currently, we are seeking individuals to provide companionship services for our out-patients, caregiver relief and supportive services, and in-office volunteer time. The volunteer visit would be either in the patient's home, in a facility or at the office at 301 Delaware Avenue, Olyphant. If you are considering making a change and adding a rewarding experience to your life, please consider volunteering with us. For more information, please contact Marina Suche Pambianco, VNA Volunteer Coordinator, at mpambianco@vnahospice.org or 570-383-5180.



RESOURCES FOR ATONEMENT AND HEALING:

Resources for ongoing prayer for atonement and healing for victims of sexual abuse in our diocese, including a sample rosary with reflections on the Sorrowful Mysteries, sample intercessions and prayers can be found on the diocesan website. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has also provided a resource which can be found on its website, fdlc.org under 'resources'.

THANK YOU FROM THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:

Please know how much we appreciate your continuous support. Your gifts of food, health care items are vital to our mission of caring for the Elderly. We always thank God for you, but we will hold you close in prayer this month as we pause to prepare for the coming of Our Blessed Lord during this time of Advent. we say an extra Thank you to God for his many blessings and remember each of you in a special way. Please be assured of our prayers and gratitude. May your Christmas and New Year be blessed and filled with many special favors of God's Grace.



ADVENT PRAYER:

In your name, we mark this season:
 As we bring forth light to defy the claims of darkness,
 As we bring forth joy and song to defy the claims of sadness,
 As we bring forth a spirit of generosity to defy the claims of want,
 As we bring forth peace to defy the claims of war.
 That in the darkest, saddest, most wanting, warring corner of the world,
 All may look to Bethlehem
 Where in the humblest of circumstances,
 In a time of repression
 From the person of a poor refugee woman,
 in the filth of a manger,
 In the form of a most vulnerable child,
 You came among us to say, "No, there is a light in this world."
 Let us be this light to others.
 Let us be the fruit of the branch of Jesse's tree.
 Let us be the bearers of the indescribable gift that is your grace.
 And so, defy all false claims on your people and their dignity.
 And so, may you be born anew, into every season
 Into every age,
 Into every land and every human heart.
 Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.



JERMYN CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:

On **Saturday, December 15th**
 "Light up Christmas" at the Artisan Fire Co. from 6-9 P.M. Free Admission. There will be donations & food sales to be donated to the Holiday Light Fund. Music by Dani-elle and a Visit from Santa.

On **Sunday, December 16th @ 3:00 P.M.** there will be a "Christmas Concert" plus a visit from Santa at the Jermyn Community Center, 440 Jefferson Avenue, Jermyn, Pa Catch the Jermyn Christmas Spirit!!

