

# 4th Sunday of Advent – *December 21, 2025*

*“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.” –Matthew 1:21*



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

**Sun:** Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**Mon:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

**Tue:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

**Wed:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

**Thu:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

**Fri:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

**Sat:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday –</b>	Dec 20	4:00 PM	John McGrath/Healing – Darcey Remetich			
<b>Sunday –</b>	Dec 21	9:00 AM	Glenn Sheffler – Diane Sheffler			
<b>Monday –</b>	Dec 22	12:00 PM	Annie M. Armezzani			
<b>Tuesday –</b>	Dec 23	12:00 PM	Peggy Preno			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>4:00 PM- Vigil</b>	All Holy Name of Mary Parishioners			
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>9:00 PM- Vigil</b>	All Holy Name of Mary Parishioners			
<b>Thursday –</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>9:00 AM- Christmas</b>	All Holy Name of Mary Parishioners			
<b>Friday –</b>	Dec 26	12:00 PM	John White			
<b>Saturday –</b>	Dec 27	4:00 PM	Isabelle Haynes – Frank & Rita DeRiancho			
<b>Sunday –</b>	Dec 28	9:00 AM	Thomas O'Donnell			

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

The line of David is continued with the predicted birth of Ahaz's son, Hezekiah. At the time of Isaiah's prophesy, the northern kingdom and Syria were attacking Judah, and Ahaz was in deep political trouble. Assurance that David's line would continue, despite these troubles, was assuring to the people.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1:1-7

To be the descendent of David meant that Jesus had credibility among the Romans who had been taught by Peter and others who were, perhaps, more conscious of their Jewish roots in the spread of the new Christian faith. It also helps emphasize the human side of Jesus Christ, tying him to the world and not just to the Spirit.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24

This reading underlines the supernatural origin of Christ's birth, unapologetically pointing to the virgin birth. Jesus came from David's line, through Mary (and legally by Joseph) and thus fulfilling the messianic prophesies. But the key is that Jesus is both God and human, setting the stage for the upcoming crucifixion and resurrection that would change the world. It is also important to note Joseph's part in all of this: defying tradition and accepting the message of the Lord.



**MEMBERS OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY PRAYER CHAIN** available to pray for you or your loved ones. Please call Maureen Van Nostrand at: 570-498-0760.

### LET US PRAY THIS MONTH:

We remember in prayer those who are ill & pained in body, heart & mind. We pray especially for Betsy Arnold & family, Eileen Baessler, Anne Belles, Jerry Blodgett, Ralph Blodgett, Brad Booker, Ellen Booker, Brad Bozzo, Al Breiner, Katie Calvin, Doris Carnese, JoAnne Catlin, Becky Cole, Aiden Conklin, James Conklin, Kathleen Conklin, Odessa Cornell, Carmen Cruz, Wilma Daniels, Mary Ann DeWitt, Philip Donahue, Larry Ferris, Mary Ferris, Harvey Fletcher, Geraldine Flynn, Phyllis Fritz, Maria Garvey, Brandy Golden, William Hector, Gerard Heiser, Jane Heiser, Byron Hilgner, Billie Jackson, Kevin Jenner, Susan Jennings, Timothy Jones, Deb Kessler, Bill Kozerski, Ken Landes, Josh Landis, Shawn McGraw, Walter Miller, Alexis Mock, Christian Mondy, Luis Muloski, Denelle Myers, Russel Nowalk, Mike Rayias, Kimberly Richey, Luke Richey, Bob Rocchia, Debbie Rossi, Rob Rossi, Jack Rozanski, Sandra Seeger, Dorothy Sargent, Pauline Sheehan, Kathleen Sitkowski, Delores Slatter, Fran Tometchko, Florence Trowbridge, Rosemarie Whalen, Gerry Washack.



### PARISH FINANCES

**12/14/2025**

(Budget)	\$	(4,867.00)
Sunday Collection	\$	3479.00

*Thank you for your generosity & support!*

**2nd Collection: Church in Latin America**

**January 24-25**



**Sunday, December 21 – 9:00AM**

Bernadetta Paolucci

**Sunday, December 28 – 9:00AM**

Albert Paolucci

**Sunday, January 4 – 9:00AM**

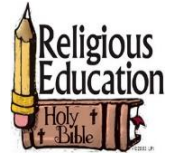
Stanley Grochal

**Sunday, January 11 – 9:00AM**

Bernadetta Paolucci

**Become an Altar Server! Call the Rectory**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Classes began on Sunday, September 21. Classes are held in the Parish Center beginning at 10:00 AM, since Sunday Mass is at 9:00 AM. Families previously registered last year should have received a registration form in the mail. If you are new to the parish and would like to register your child, forms are available at the rectory. Also you can find a registration form on the Holy Name of Mary Church website under the pull down menu under Religious Education.

The following is the schedule for classes for Oct & Nov:

November 9 - Regular Class  
November 16 - Regular Class  
November 23 - Regular Class  
November 30 - NO CLASS...Happy Thanksgiving!  
December 7 - Regular Class  
December 14 - Regular Class  
December 21 - Regular Class  
December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
December 28 - NO CLASS

Thank you to those parents who support their children in their Faith Formation. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Fran Calafut at (570) 396-5879.



### ALTAR FLOWERS



If you would like to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion, please call the rectory.



### \*Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor\*

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement.

If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or at [www.compss.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compss.state.pa.us/cwis) and should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be an Advent Penance Service Dec 14 @ 2:00PM.

## RECEIVING COMMUNION

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.



### Travelers & Vacationers



Please remember that our parish relies on your contributions, even when you are away. Thanks!!



Let us pray for those who proudly serve in the military: Floyd Beamer, Thomas Butler, Daniel Daly, Christopher Jordan, James Kane, Mark Nowalk, Michael Pelicci, David Place, Nate Seymour, Julie Snyder, Nancy Travis, Travis Walter



**NOTE:** *The Catholic Light* is published monthly. It is mailed to more than 37,000 readers. Contributors to the Catholic Ministries Appeal receive the paper at no charge. Individuals may also purchase a subscription for \$10 per year. The paper can also be viewed on this website. If you are interested in subscribing, please mail your payment of \$10.00 to:

*The Catholic Light*  
330 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA, 18503



# 2025 Christmas Season Mass Schedule

*Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
The Feast of the Nativity of  
the Lord*

Vigil Masses will be celebrated at  
4:00PM and 9:00PM  
The Holy Name of Mary Choir will sing at  
the 9:00PM Mass

*Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
The Feast of the Nativity of  
the Lord*

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM



*Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
The Feast of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM



**IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL  
TIME OF THE YEAR!**

When you see or hear these words, you know it's time to think about decorating our church for the Christmas season. **This will take place immediately after 9:00 Mass on Sunday, December 21.** "Many hands make light work", if you can spare a few hours in helping with this endeavor, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact John at (570) 278-7140 with any questions or concerns. Thanks for your interest!



## Annual Women's Ministry Retreat

 **DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**  
*Office for Parish Life*

# *Bold and Beloved*

*Women's Retreat*  
*Inspired by the teaching of St. Hildegard of Bingen*  
*January 30-February 1, 2026*

For more information, call (570) 207-2213 x1100

 Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center  
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Register at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**  
through  
**DECEMBER 5TH!!!**

\*Registration closes January 16, 2026\*

 **Annette Bergeon**  
Keynote Speaker

 **Michael Corsini**  
Worship Leader

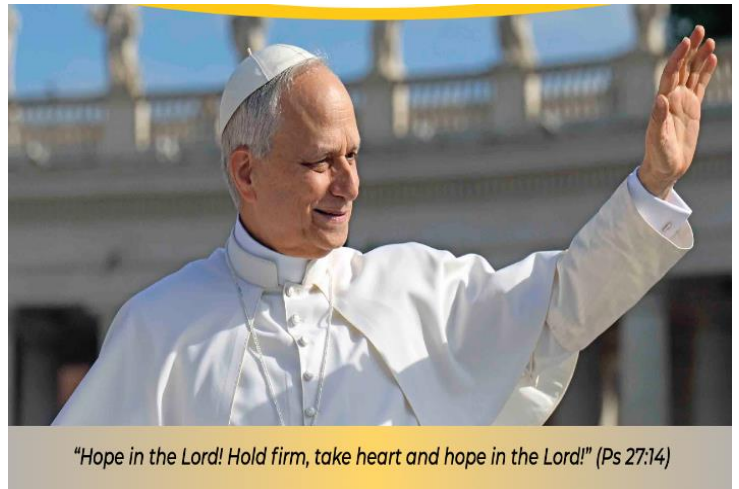
*The Office for Parish Life is hosting it's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Ministry Retreat: Bold and Beloved, the weekend of January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. An Early Bird Special for Registration is available until December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see the bulletin for information and contact the Office for Parish Life with any questions.*



### **The Ministries of the Diocese**

The Diocese offers many giving opportunities that directly benefit those in need and help build up the Kingdom of God. Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (Diocesan Annual Appeal) provide essential funding for five ministries which serve every Catholic parish, school and family and many community individuals and families in 11 counties. Ministries supported by the Appeal include Catholic Social Services and Parish Social Justice Grants, Catholic education in schools and parishes, seminarian education and care of our retired and ill clergy, Parish Life programs and services and Catholic Media and communications. Additional giving opportunities include our Catholic School Tuition Assistance Program, the Vocations Golf Tournament in support of Seminarian Education and Estate Planning to make gifts to the Diocese and to parishes. For more information, call 570-207-2250.

## During Jubilee Celebrations



### **The Holy Father Addresses Young People**

"Dear friends, we are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and fixed, but for an existence that is constantly regenerated in giving, in love. And so we continually aspire to something more that no created reality can give us," he added, "we feel a great and burning thirst, so great that no drink of this world can quench it. Faced with this thirst, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to quench it with ineffective substitutes! Let us listen to it, instead! Let us make it a stool on which we can climb, so that we can look out, like children, on tiptoe, at the window of our encounter with God. We will find ourselves before Him, who awaits us, or rather, who knocks gently on the window of our soul (cf. Rev 3:20). And it is beautiful, even at 20 years of age, to open our hearts wide to Him, to allow Him to enter, and then to venture forth with Him, toward the eternal spaces of infinity."



