

Second Sunday of Advent– December 5, 2021

“John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”. Luke 3:3



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday	Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday –	December 4	4:00 PM	Peter Durand (Genny Embleton)
Sunday –	December 5	9:00 AM	Giuseppe Scarfalloto (The Kilmer Family)
Monday –	December 6	12:00 PM	Intention of Donor
Tuesday –	December 7*	7:00 PM	Intention of Donor
Wednesday –	December 8*	5:00 PM	Intention of Donor
Thursday –	December 9	12:00 PM	Intention of Donor
Friday –	December 10	12:00 PM	Intention of Donor
Saturday –	December 11	4:00 PM	Kathy Bozzo (Mary Ferris)
Sunday –	December 12	9:00 AM	Thomas Walsh (The Gurn Family)

***Immaculate Conception**

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Advent is a time of celebration because the Lord is coming! This passage from Baruch is filled with celebratory language and imagery that fits the occasion. Jesus will bring justice to the world: *For God will show all the earth your splendor. You will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.*

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Scholars believe that this letter was written by Paul from a prison cell. It is also believed that this letter predated the knowledge that Jesus would not be returning physically, as the early church thought, during their lifetime. So, the reference to ‘the day of Christ Jesus’ is assuming that the Church of Philippi would need to hold out until they witnessed Jesus’ return. But one of the messages here remains clear: that through love and service our Christian understanding grows and it becomes easier as a result to do the right thing.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a transition figure, bridging the understanding of God as Lawgiver with the understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s Law. John announces Jesus to the world. Baptism was not something new in the Jewish world. Although it was not called ‘baptism’, it was a ritual part of preparing for the Jewish Sabbath as well as for certain holy days; it signified purification. At the time of Jesus it was also used by certain rabbinical schools to welcome gentiles into Judaism. As such, people responded to John’s baptism with some measure of familiarity. However, symbolically, the baptism that John offered pointed to the washing away of all sin that would, in the person of Jesus, become universally available to all humankind. Pairing up John as a transition figure with ritual purification suggests a change of some sort that is not temporary, but a life change. And so it is.



MEMBERS OF THE HOLY NAME OF MARY PRAYER CHAIN are available to pray for you or your loved ones in need of prayer. Please call Maureen Van Nostrand at: 570-278-4590.

LET US PRAY THIS MONTH:

We remember in prayer those who are ill & pained in body, heart & mind. We pray especially for Betsy Arnold, Richard Arnold, Frank Bayer, Anne Belles, Jerry Blodgett, Ralph Blodgett, Brad Booker, Ellen Booker, Brad Bozzo, Al Breiner, Ellen Burns, Tanya Calafut, Katie Calvin, JoAnne Catlin, Becky Cole, David Conklin Jr., Odessa Cornell, Wilma Daniels, Manny DeBonis, Jeanne Falk, Larry Ferris, Mary Ferris, Harvey Fletcher, Geraldine Flynn, Maria Garvey, Brandy Golden, William Hector, Gerard Heiser, Jane Heiser, Wayne Hibbard, Byron Hilgner, Susan Jennings, Timothy Jones, Deb Kessler, Bill Kozerski, Ken Landes, Nancy Landes, Sue Landes, Josh Landis, Dolores Makowski, Barry Markow, Walter Miller, Alexis Mock, Christian Mondì, Luis Muloski, Jamie Myers, Mike Rayias, Kimberly Richey, Luke Richey, Bob Roccia, Ann Paolucci, Debbie Rossi, Rob Rossi, Jack Rozanski, Lennas Russell, Dorothy Sergent, Caesar Siedlecki, Edith Siedlecki, Kathleen Sitkowski, Delores Slatter, Jerry Stahl, Florence Trowbridge, Ruth Vandermark, Wayne Vandermark, Jesse Wells, Rosemarie Whalen.



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, Nate Seymour, Julie Snyder, Aaron Taylor, Nancy Travis, and Travis Walter.

PARISH FINANCES

11/28/2021

(FY18/19 Budget) \$ (4867.00)

Sunday Collection \$ 2,461.10

Thank you for your generosity & support



Please remember that during these difficult times, Holy Name of Mary is relying on your continued support to meet our financial obligations. Thank you!!

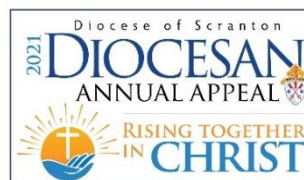
SUPPORT RETIRED CLERGY & SEMINARIANS



"The work we do in prayer and support of one another is the work of discipleship and evangelization. Like our Lord shared in the parable of the sower who went out to sow, seeds are planted and we may not see the results, we may not see the fruit of the work and the support that we give and we offer, but they do bear fruit with the help of the Lord."

— Rev. Gregory A. Reichlen
Assistant Vocation Director
Pastor, Church of Saint John, East Stroudsburg
Native of Susquehanna County

Donate Now: annualappeal.org



Gifts of Any Amount Are Appreciated

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Our Parish goal: **\$16,000**. Percentage of Goal pledged as of 12/2/2021 is 58%.



Sunday, December 5th – 9:00 AM

Isaiah Torres

Sunday, December 12th – 9:00 AM

Lee John Sullivan

Sunday, December 19th – 9:00 AM

Bernadetta & Albert Paolucci

Friday, December 24th – 4:00 PM

Isaiah Torres

Friday, December 24th – 9:00 PM

Lee John Sullivan

Saturday, December 25th – 10:00 AM

Bernadetta & Albert Paolucci

Would you like to become an Altar Server? If so, please contact Pam Tometchko at 570-278-0497 or speak to Fr. Philip directly.

PARISH EVENTS

- December 4 – Christmas Bazaar:**
Parish Center, 9AM – 3PM
- December 5 – Second Collection:**
Retirement Fund for
Religious
- December 19 – Second Collection:**
Missionary Appeal



In an effort to limit gatherings during this continuing time of COVID, we will not be having a Christmas penance service this year. However, Father is available for private confessions between now and Christmas by calling the rectory for an appointment.

*Thank
You*

We have met our 2021 Sponsorship goal of \$25,000! Your generosity and sacrifice will allow us to sustain the financial health of the parish and further propagate our faith. **THANK YOU!!**

We did it! We collected 224 cans of cranberry sauce for the Interfaith Christmas food distribution program, well over our goal of 150. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause. You will have added a special touch to the Christmas dinner of someone in need. God bless you for your generosity!



Little Blue Books and *Word Among Us* daily reflections for Advent and Christmas are available in the back of the church for you to take.



“IT’S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!”

That’s right, it’s time to think about decorating our church for the Christmas season! We will do this immediately after 9:00am Mass on Sunday, 12/19. We should be able to get it done in one fell swoop, but even if we don’t, we have a week to do the “fine-tuning” to make everything look nice. So if you could help with this, we would greatly appreciate it!

The “staging event” will take place on Saturday, 12/18 at 9:00 AM. It involves getting decorations out of the choir loft attic and elsewhere, and setting them up for installation. This is absolutely essential to making the 12/19 decorating session a success, and in minimal time. We could use three or four motivated parishioners (dressed in “grunge” attire) to get this done, it should only take an hour or two, your help would be greatly appreciated for both events.

Please contact John at (570) 278-7140 to indicate your availability, it’s really nice to know ahead of time what kind of man/woman/child power we can expect. Thanks, and have a blessed Advent!

HELP WANTED: CHRISTMAS DAY MUSICAL TALENT



As we have been doing for the last several years, we are in search of an accompanist who could play at the 10:00am Mass this Christmas Day. If you have someone in your family who might be visiting over the Holidays and who might be interested in this, please contact John at (570) 278-7140 for details. Thanks! :)



CHRISTMAS SEASON **MASS SCHEDULE**

Friday, December 24th

The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Masses will be celebrated at
4:00PM and 9:00PM

Saturday, December 25th

The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM

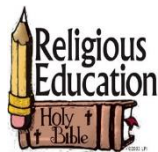
****PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no 4:00PM
Mass on Saturday, December 25th.

Friday, December 31st

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass will be celebrated at 5:00PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Classes are being held in person in the Parish Center beginning at 10:00 AM, since Sunday Mass will remain at 9:00 AM. As per Bishop Bambera, **masks are required to be worn by all vaccinated and unvaccinated children and adults.** Families previously registered last year should have received a registration form in the mail. Please fill out this form and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you are new to the parish and would like to register your child, forms will be available at the rectory. You may register for classes at any time.

December 5th – NO CLASSES

December 12th – Regular Classes

December 19th – Regular Classes

December 24th – Christmas Eve; Family Mass 4PM

December 26th – NO CLASSES; Merry Christmas!!

JESSE TREE/TOY DRIVE

Throughout his ministry on earth, Jesus taught us that love and kindness that comes from the heart are great gifts for the receiver, and even greater gifts for the giver. As parishioners of Holy Name of Mary, our faith encourages us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by sharing those blessings we have received with the poor and less fortunate in our community. We are given just such an opportunity by helping and participating in the Jesse Tree and Kiwanis Toy Drive service projects.

JESSE TREE – The Jesse Tree is located on the front altar of the church and contains 26 tags that identify a needy child. Each tag contains the age and gender of a child and the toy or gift they would like to receive for Christmas. The items on the tag can be purchased (\$20 - \$35 range) and then brought back to church and put under the Jesse Tree. **TOYS/GIFTS SHOULD NOT BE WRAPPED AND THE TAG SHOULD BE SECURELY ATTACHED TO THE ITEM OR THE BAG/BOX IT IS PLACED IN. THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021.** All of the gifts will be taken to Interfaith for distribution to families and children.

KIWANIS TOY DRIVE – The Kiwanis Club of Montrose Area has conducted an annual Toy Drive for the past 44 years. Our goal is to collect new toys and cash donations in order to provide each child with 2 or 3 new toys. Cash or check donations can be given to Ed DeWitt or mailed to him at P.O. Box 345, Montrose, PA, 18801. Checks should be made out to Montrose Kiwanis Club. Also, they may be left with Father Philip or Parish Secretary, Pam Tometchko, in the rectory. In addition, new toys can be purchased and placed under the Jesse Tree or dropped off at Kost Tire on Grow Avenue in Montrose. All toys and cash donations will be given to Interfaith's Christmas Bureau for distribution to needy children in our communities.

Last year, 1035 children received Christmas presents because of the love and generosity shared by the many generous and faithful people throughout Susquehanna County.

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2021

Holy Name of Mary Church

Fran Calafut, DRE



Thoughtful Moments

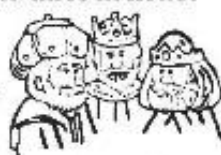
Immaculate Conception

On December 8th, we celebrate the conception of Mary in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. This is the patronal feast of the United States. In addition to attending Mass (it's a Holy Day of Obligation), pray a joyful Rosary to celebrate.

The Magi's Gifts

To help combat consumerism at Christmas, some families limit the number of gifts to three in honor of the gifts of the Magi.

Consider giving children one gift that is their heart's desire, a piece of clothing that is not just sensible, and one gift that will help them grow (a book or sports accessory, for example).



"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength" (Isaiah 40:28-29).



Is Heaven worth the wait?

To many children, a day off from school or a family vacation is like heaven in itself. Sacrificing and doing penance to work toward Heaven after death is too abstract a concept to motivate them toward holiness. Yet, the season of Advent is designed to turn our eyes to Heaven so we can be ready when Jesus comes to bring us there. So how can we help youngsters understand how great Heaven really is?

All good things start there. *"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above"* (James 1:17). If all good things on Earth come from Heaven, imagine how great it is at the source.

Our life in Heaven will be more wonderful than the most wonderful experience on Earth.

The company is best there. When we get there, we will have joyful reunions with beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who have died before us.

We get to mingle with the saints and angels.

Best of all, we get to be with Jesus and His Father forever.

The one who loves us best is there. As much as earthly parents love their children, it's nothing compared to the love God has for each of us. He is the perfect parent – our true Father – and He is waiting for us in Heaven.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the Savior who comes on Christmas. It is a reminder that there is a greater purpose to our lives. So, the Church encourages us to make our hearts

Why do Catholics celebrate Advent?

ready during Advent.

We know that Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet Him next.



Make your family Christmas sparkle with Jesus

What mother or father doesn't cherish the sparkle of excitement in a child's eye at Christmas? As Catholic parents, though, we want our children to have real joy, not just the anticipation of receiving gifts or getting out of school. Try these tips to help children turn their eyes to Jesus on this special day:

Focus on Jesus: On Christmas Eve, read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 1:5 – 2:39 or Matthew 1:18 – 2:23. Sing your favorite religious Christmas carols. After attending



Mass on Christmas Day (a Holy Day of Obligation), light a candle and sing, "Happy Birthday" to remember the meaning of the day.

Make it come alive. The true joy of the holiday comes from knowing that God really came. Gather around your family nativity scene and act out the story of Jesus' birth by moving the figures. Imagine what a legion (army) of angels looks like and how the shepherds felt when they saw that God was born. Help children experience the wonder of the miraculous birth.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 2:41-52, Jesus led the way

On December 26th, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family during which we recall when Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple.

The Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. When they started the return trip in their large group, each parent thought Jesus was with the other one and traveled for a day before realizing that He had stayed behind. Upon finding Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

They found Jesus in the Temple talking with the priests who were



amazed by the boy's wisdom and understanding. But to Mary's stunned query about why He remained behind without permission, Jesus' mystifying reply was, "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" The boy returned with his parents to Nazareth where He continued to obey them.

What can a parent do? Explain to children that Jesus himself had a mission He was eager to begin but was obedient to his parents. He wants us all to respect our parents and those in authority over us.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She had St. Juan carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his tilma it retained the

image of the Blessed Mother.

December 13 – St. Lucy (304). Amidst pagan Sicily, St. Lucy vowed to remain chaste for Jesus. A disappointed suitor turned her in for being a Christian and she was executed for her faith.

December 27 – St. John the Apostle (1st Century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



Parent TALK

In early Fall one year, I got laid off and subsequently started my own business. That meant money was super tight. I wasn't sure how we would buy



Christmas gifts for the children, so we turned to St. Nicholas for help.

We learned that St. Nicholas was born in the third century in Asia Minor. His

wealthy parents died while he was a child and he subsequently used his fortune to help the needy. When he became a bishop, he was a vigorous defender of the truth and was persecuted for his faith.

Immediately, we started a family novena to St. Nicholas. During the first week of December, I received a check for unused vacation pay from a former employer – more than enough to buy some gifts and make a nice Christmas dinner. There is no doubt in our minds that St. Nicholas brought our Christmas gifts that year.

Our Mission

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