

# Welcome

*to the Parishes of St. John XXIII and St. Richard*

**Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor**  
**Deacon Edward J. Girard**

*December 15, 2024*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*



**Church of St. John XXIII**

307 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

**Phone:** 570-225-7410 ~ **Fax:** 570-668-4406

**Email:** secretary@sj23tamaqua.org

**Website:** www.sj23tamaqua.org

**Facebook:** Parish of St John XXIII Tamaqua

**YouTube:** St John XXIII Catholic Church Tamaqua

**Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday ~ 9:00AM-3:00PM

**Parish Staff**

Dale Bonenberger, Director of Music

Louise Howells, Cemetery Administrator

Lisa Frederick, Office Administrator

Patricia Radocha, Business Manager

Melissa Grimminger, Director of Religious Education



**Church of St. Richard**

799 Barnesville Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214

**Phone:** 570-467-2315 ~ **Fax:** 570-467-2462

**Email:** strichardadmin@ptd.net

**Website:** www.strichard.org

**Facebook:** Church of St Richard

**Office Hours**

Monday & Wednesday ~ 9:00AM-2:00PM

Thursday ~ 9:00AM-12:00PM

**Parish Staff**

Reverend Joseph T. Whalen, Pastor Emeritus

Deacon John A. Setlock, (Retired)

Teri Howerter, Office Administrator

Mary Soberick, Business Manager

Krissy Wonsock, Director of Religious Education

**Catholic Schools**

**St. Jerome Regional School** ~ 50 Meadow Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-668-2757 ~ Grades PreK-8

**Marian Catholic High School** ~ 166 Marian Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-467-3335 ~ Grades 9-12

**St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning** ~ 302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven PA ~ 570-622-4638 ~ Children & Adults

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday afternoon. Parents need to be registered parishioners and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic and obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish.

**Sponsor Eligibility**

Certificates of Eligibility for Baptism and Confirmation require the sponsor to be a registered and active member of the parish, and if married, in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date to begin pre-nuptial instructions before making any arrangements. Please call the parish office for more information and to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

**Parish Prayer List**

To be placed on the Parish Prayer List or to be removed when appropriate, please call either Parish Office and someone will be happy to assist you. Names placed on the Prayer List are automatically removed after three months.

**Diocesan Secretary for Office of Safe Environment**

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS ~ P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105  
610-871-5200 ext. 2204 ~ prusso@allentowndioocese.org

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak ~ 800-791-9209  
victimassistance@allentowndioocese.org

**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service**

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

<p><b>Saturday, December 14</b>                  2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ                  3:30PM Mass: SJ                   5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR                  5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Vigil to the Third Sunday of Advent</b>                   Mass Intention: Paul Gerard Yacabowsky                   Mass Intention: Mr. &amp; Mrs. Michael Sniscak</p>
<p><b>Sunday, December 15</b>                  8:30AM Mass: SJ                   10:30AM Mass: SR                   6:00PM – 8:00PM Advent Confessions: SJ</p>	<p><b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>                  Mass Intention: Russell Triano                   Mass Intention: Brian McCue and Christa Vecchione</p>
<p><b>Monday, December 16</b>  <b>7:00AM Mass: SR</b></p>	<p><b>Advent Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: Catherine Koenig</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, December 17</b>                  8:00AM Mass: SJ                  8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ                  8:30AM – 9:00AM Confessions: SJ</p>	<p><b>Advent Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: Fred and Josephine Andreas</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 18</b>                  8:00AM Mass: SR                   8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SR                  8:30AM – 9:00AM Confessions: SR                  7:00PM – 7:30PM Advent Confessions: SR</p>	<p><b>Advent Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: Steve &amp; Mary Gazdick and                  Edward, Francis, and Robert Krull</p>
<p><b>Thursday, December 19</b>                  8:00AM Mass</p>	<p><b>Advent Weekday</b>                  Mass Intention: My beloved wife Florence Nolan and daughter Jill</p>
<p><b>Friday, December 20</b>  <i>No Mass at either church</i></p>	<p><b>Advent Weekday</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday, December 21</b>                  2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ                  3:30PM Mass: SJ                   5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR                  5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Vigil to the Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                   Mass Intention: Marge Romano                   Mass Intention: In Memory of my husband Leo Drosdak</p>
<p><b>Sunday, December 22</b>                  8:30AM Mass: SJ                   10:30AM Mass: SR</p>	<p><b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                  Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII                  and St. Richard Parishes                   Mass Intention: Stanley and Helen Dombrowski</p>

**TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** In the first reading, Zephaniah foretells the restoration of Jerusalem when the King of Israel, the Lord, will be in their midst. Paul instructs the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always, for the Lord is near. In the Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus by baptizing and preaching the Good News. According to the prophet Zephaniah, the Lord rejoices – yes rejoices – over us in gladness, and Saint Paul says to have no anxiety at all. If we trust in the unconditional love God has for us, our hearts and minds will know the true peace that only he can give.

**TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great Holy One of Israel.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**St. John XXIII**

**The Order of Mass** can be found starting on page 140 in the Journeysongs Hymnal.

**The Latin Chant Mass** can be found on the following pages:

Kyrie – 168 / Sanctus – 170 / Memorial Acclamation – 171 / Amen – 172 / Agnus Dei – 174

The prelude is **Behold a Rose Is Blooming (*Es ist Ein Ros Entsprungen*)** by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

The postlude is **Prepare Thyself Zion - BWV 248** by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

### Please remember in your prayers...

Joseph Izaguirre, Roy Paisley, Valerie Higgins, Marie Kalpinsky, Stanley Kozlowski, Craig Goida, David Rickert, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Ellen Kemmerer, Joe McDonald / Bruce Rang, William Swank, Andrew Eremus, Magnolia Pavlovich, Marlene Labella, MaryAnn Seltzer, Rolanda Moussa, Michael Pogwist, Theresa Klatka / Francis Burke, Jean Hunsinger, Ed Surfied, Monica Surfied, Diane Cavanaugh

### Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them...

Susan Belko

Rosemary Shirvinski

Bill Savage

## DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

### St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Bill Paslawsky

### Crucifix Candle

In Memory of Paul Gerard Yacobowsky

### St. Richard Blessed Virgin Mary

Special Intention

### St. Francis

In Loving Memory of my husband Francis Trackim

### St. Richard

In Memory of Tom Flaherty

## YOUTH FORMATION

### Childrens' bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule

### St. John XXIII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2024-2025

PARENTS AND STUDENTS WILL DISMISS  
TO THE UPSTAIRS CLASSROOMS  
FOLLOWING THE RECESSIONAL HYMN  
8:30AM Mass until 10:45AM

**Sunday, December 15** – Family Mass Day & Youth  
Formation Grades 2-8

**Sunday, December 22** – Youth Formation Grades 2-8  
(Christmas Pageant at St. Richard Church at 6:00PM)

**Sunday, December 29** – No Youth Formation

**GRADE 1 Sacramental Prep begins January 5th!**  
**Registration Forms can be found in the Parish Hall.**  
**Registration Fee = \$30**

### St. Richard RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2024-2025

### CCD/PREP CLASSES:

Grades 1-4; Sunday, December 15th at 9:00AM  
Grades 5-8; Sunday, December 22nd at 9:00AM  
Grades 1-8: Sunday, December 29th ~ No Classes

\*All classes are held in Parish Hall unless noted.

**Annual Children's Christmas Pageant**  
Sunday, December 22nd at 6:00PM  
St. Richard Parish

**SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS**  
**Cub/Boy Scouts** – No updates available.

## ADULT FORMATION

**Advent Jesse Tree Reflections/Adult Small Group:** See description on the flyer for more information.

**Bible Study:** Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM until 8:00PM in St. Richard Parish Hall. All are invited to attend.

**RCIA:** RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If there is an adult who wishes to become Roman Catholic and receive their Sacraments of Initiation, this is the process to make that happen. Adult Christians who have been attending Mass for several years may complete their Catholic initiation through a period of instruction; then Reconciliation, Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and Reception into Full Communion which often occurs during the Vigil of Easter but can also occur at other times of the year. Adults may be Baptized also in an extended process as well. New inquiries are welcome. Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to become Catholic.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is for the Stained-Glass Window Renovation: SR / Parish Cemeteries: SJ

### Upcoming collections are...

12/22 ~ Parish Utilities

12/25 ~ Christmas

12/29 ~ Parish Utilities

## ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week	
Sunday	3:00PM-5:00PM – M&J Big Band Christmas Concert in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall – Tickets \$20 5:00PM-6:00PM – Pizza dinner for concert patrons who are staying for Advent Adoration & Confession 6:00PM-8:00PM – Advent Adoration and Confession with cake and coffee in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall
Monday	No 8:00AM Mass this morning at St. John XXIII, instead Mass will be at 7:00AM at St. Richard 8:30AM Church cleaning at St. John XXIII – come lend a hand and help get the church ready for Christmas
Wednesday	7:00PM – 7:30PM Advent Confessions at St. Richard
Thursday	6:00PM St. John XXIII Parish Choir rehearsal
Saturday	9:00AM-11:00AM St. Vincent de Paul Baby Food Distribution – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – 570-225-8620 10:00AM – Church decorating at St. Richard
Upcoming Events	
December 22	Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass 6:00PM Children's Christmas Pageant at St. Richard – all are welcome to attend & watch this yearly tradition
December 24	Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00PM at <b>SJ</b> – 5:00PM at <b>SJ</b> – 8:00PM at <b>SR</b> – 12:00AM Midnight at <b>SR</b>
December 25	Christmas Day Mass: 10:00AM at <b>SJ</b> ( <i>Please note: both Parish Offices closed from 12/24 through 1/6/2025</i> )
December 26	8:00AM Mass at St. Richard
December 29	7:00PM Men's Group in the St. Richard Meeting Room

### THE BIG WEEKEND IS FINALLY HERE

The olive wood gift sale takes place at both parishes immediately after all weekend Masses in the respective Parish Halls. There is a homemade candy sale after Mass at St. John XXIII also in the Parish Hall. At 3:00PM is the M&J Big Band Christmas Concert in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall (*tickets available at the door*) followed by Advent Adoration and Confession in St. John XXIII Church from 6:00PM-8:00PM.

### BAMBINELLI SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND

The tradition of bringing your baby Jesus figure to church to be blessed in preparation for Christmas will take place next weekend (Dec. 21/22) at all Masses at both parishes.

### GIVING TREE UNDER WINDOW IN PARISH HALL

BIRTHRIGHT accepts gift cards or monetary donations, while Catholic Charities accepts diapers size 3 and up, baby wipes, infant/toddler clothing, bottles, and small infant-safe toys. Gift cards/monetary donations for BIRTHRIGHT can be placed in the offering box or sent to the St. John XXIII Parish Office (make sure it is clearly marked for BIRTHRIGHT). Items for Catholic Charities can be placed under the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall. **Please do not wrap the items.** Thank you for your generosity during this holiday season.

### 2025 MASS BOOK IS OPEN AT ST. JOHN XXIII

Masses and candles can be purchased during regular business hours in the Parish Office. There is a limit of two Masses, one Sanctuary Lamp, and one Crucifix Candle. Questions may be directed to Lisa in the Parish Office.

### 2025 LOTTERY CALENDARS AT ST. JOHN XXIII

Lottery calendars are available for purchase in the Family Room before and after Mass for \$25.

### AVAILABLE AT BOTH PARISHES

The St. Joseph Missals \$5 each, Parish Calendars free, and the Christmas Wafers \$4 per packet are in the Vestibule/Family Room. Please use the appropriate envelopes provided.

### 2024 DEADLINE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING

To receive accurate credit for 2024, please return your 2024 Collection Envelopes by Tuesday, December 31st.

### THE ST. JOHN XXIII CAFE IS OPEN TODAY

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately after Mass.

### DECEMBER LOTTERY WINNERS SO FAR

**12/1** #361, No Winner, \$25  
**12/2** #315, No Winner, \$25  
**12/3** #740, No Winner, \$25  
**12/4** #266, No Winner, \$25  
**12/5** #453, Mary Brassington, \$25  
**12/6** #222, No Winner, \$25  
**12/7** #314, Beth Bialek, \$50  
**12/8** #329, No Winner, \$25

Just a reminder, there are still January lottery calendars for sale until December 30th.

**Boyer's Shopping Spree:** \$10 per ticket. Event details are on the ticket. If you are unable to purchase or sell, please return all the unsold tickets as soon as possible. **Sellers needed** call/text Joann at 570-640-1034. You may also purchase the Spree tickets in the Parish Office during business hours.

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank Basile Italian Restaurant for their donation of pizza for our Annual Children's Christmas party held last Friday! We fed many hungry elves!

### CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT

St. Richard's is hosting the children's pageant this year. It will be held on December 22nd at 6:00PM. If your child(ren) are interested in participating, please contact Krissy Wonsock. This is open to all children in both parishes.

### ST. RICHARD PARISH OFFICE NEWS

Beginning January 6, 2025, the Parish Office business hours will change. The new schedule will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9:00AM-2:00PM.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

As the winter season is just around the corner please read. In case of bad weather of snow or ice, St. Richard will follow Mahanoy Area School District and St. John XXIII will follow Tamaqua Area School District. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be NO weekday Mass.

### 2025 MASS BOOK AT ST. RICHARD UPDATE

The Mass Book is open. Intentions will be accepted through the **current** 2025 Mass Intention Form (found in church or online) and may be mailed, placed in the collection, or dropped at the office. You may also come to the office during business hours, whichever is more convenient. The forms must be fully completed with the enclosed \$10 per Mass stipend/Candle fee.

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### **ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IN THE PARISH HALL**

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately after Mass for coffee, cookies, and fellowship!

### **CLEANING HELPERS NEEDED**

Is there anyone who is willing to donate some time to clean the stairways and hallway by the classrooms on the upper level? The stairways and hallway really should be mopped a few times a year. Please speak to Dale or Lisa in the Parish Office if you would be willing to help clean these two areas.

### **COMMUNION**

Communion will be brought to all those seated in the front pews of St. Richard Church as well as the handicap pews in the back of St. John XXIII Church.

### **PILGRIMAGE FROM PARIS TO LOURDES**

Join Holy Family Parish of Minersville as we participate in our Parish Pilgrimage from Paris to Lourdes, France, April 27 - May 6, 2025. Highlights include Mass every day including the newly reopened Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris, tours of the Louvre, Versailles, and dinner in the Eifel Tower. We will also visit the Mother House of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Lyon and the Papal Palace of Avignon with a wine tasting at the Papal Vineyards of Châteauneuf du Pape. The tour culminates with our visit to the grotto of Lourdes where the Blessed Mother visited St. Bernadette as we celebrate Mass and participate in the Eucharistic and Candle Lit Marian Processions. Please contact Fr. Stokes for more information at Holy Family Parish of Minersville 570-544-4741.

### **THANK YOU**

### **HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

### **BWAC**

