

Welcome

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

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

December 22, 2024
Fourth 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
victimsassistance@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 or by calling 800-276-1562.

<p>Saturday, December 21 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p>Vigil to the Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Marge Romano Mass Intention: In Memory of my husband Leo Drosdak</p>
<p>Sunday, December 22 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John XXIII and St. Richard Parishes Mass Intention: Stanley and Helen Dombrowski</p>
<p>Monday, December 23 8:00AM Mass: SJ</p>	<p>Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Michelle Walser</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 24 3:00PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM Mass: SJ 8:00PM Mass: SR 12:00AM Mass: SR</p>	<p>Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve) Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 25 10:00AM Mass: SJ</p>	<p>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials</p>
<p>Thursday, December 26 8:00AM Mass: SR</p>	<p>St. Stephen, The First Martyr Mass Intention: Eternal Remembrance Society</p>
<p>Friday, December 27 <i>No Mass at either church</i></p>	<p>St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</p>
<p>Saturday, December 28 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR</p>	<p>Vigil to The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Mass Intention: Sister Josita Karnish Mass Intention: Yanacek and Harvan Families</p>
<p>Sunday, December 29 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR</p>	<p>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Mass Intention: Casimira Pokola Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes</p>

TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, the prophet Micah foretells that the one who is to rule over Israel shall come forth from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. In the second reading, the author writes that Christ came to do God’s will and by that will we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. In the Gospel, Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth and at the sound of Mary’s voice, the infant in Elizabeth’s womb leaped for joy. As our celebration of Christmas draws near, we prepare for the coming of Christ by rejoicing with Mary and her cousin Elizabeth as they witness to the mysterious fulfillment of those divine promises in their lives.

TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52

<p>St. John XXIII</p> <p>The Order of Mass can be found starting on page 140 in the Journeysongs Hymnal.</p> <p>The Latin Chant Mass can be found on the following pages: Kyrie – 168 / Sanctus – 170 / Memorial Acclamation – 171 / Amen – 172 / Agnus Dei – 174</p> <p>The prelude is Pastoral Symphony from Messiah by George Friedrich Handel (1685-1759) The postlude is Postlude on O Come, O Come Emmanuel by Robert Powell (b.1932)</p>
--

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...

James Boner

Julia Boyle

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII

Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Anne Valentini

Crucifix Candle

In Memory of Frank and Julia Kane

St. Richard

Sanctuary Lamp

Special Intention for Al and Family

Blessed Virgin Mary

In Memory of my niece Jary Jean Soltis

St. Joseph

Special Intention

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

Sunday, December 29 – No Youth Formation

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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

Grades 5-8; Sunday, January 5th at 9:00AM
Grades 1-4; Sunday, January 12th at 9:30AM

*All classes are held in Parish Hall unless noted.

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 Parish Utilities.

Upcoming collections are...

12/25 ~ Christmas

12/29 ~ Parish Utilities

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week	
Sunday	6:00PM Children's Christmas Pageant at St. Richard – all are welcome to attend & watch this yearly tradition
Tuesday	Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00PM at SJ – 5:00PM at SJ – 8:00PM at SR – 12:00AM Midnight at SR
Wednesday	Christmas Day Mass: 10:00AM at SJ <i>(Please note: both Parish Offices closed from 12/24 through 1/6/2025)</i>
Thursday	8:00AM Mass at St. Richard / No St. John XXIII Parish Choir rehearsal today
Upcoming Events	
December 29	7:00PM Men's Group in the St. Richard Meeting Room
December 31	New Year's Eve Mass: 4:00PM at St. John XXIII
January 1	New Year's Day Mass: 9:00AM at St. Richard
January 6	9:00AM both Parish Offices reopen <i>(Please note: revised Office Hour days and schedule for St. Richard)</i>
January 12	Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass

A WORD OF WELCOME

We welcome Mark O'Hearn who will be the guest organist of the 3:30PM Saturday Mass at St. John XXIII this weekend.

A WORD OF THANKS

We thank everyone who made our Christmas Candy Sale this past weekend such a success. We also thank everyone who helped with our big band concert last Sunday, as well as our Advent Adoration and Confession. Many people were involved in all these events, and we offer each of you our sincere thanks! Thank you to the ladies who cleaned the church on Monday.

ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK RECIPE DEADLINE

The deadline for recipes for our parish cookbook is being extended until January 31st. God bless and have a wonderful Christmas and don't forget to submit your recipes!

GIVING TREE

Thank you for all the gifts left at the Giving Tree in our Parish Hall. Catholic Charities plans to collect everything on Monday January 6th, so you can still donate until January 5th. These items will be used to replenish Catholic Charities inventory of supplies to give to families in need throughout the year, not just at Christmastime.

THANK YOU TO MELISSA & THE PARISH YOUTH

Our parish youth made home-made Christmas cards for all our homebound and nursing home parishioners. These were included along with the SVdP Christmas gift bags.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS AND CALENDARS

This is your last chance to get Christmas Wafers! They are \$4 per packet and are available in the Vestibule/Family Room.

2024 DEADLINE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING

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

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 call the Parish Office if you can help.

THE ST. JOHN XXIII CAFE IS OPEN TODAY

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

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.

SEASON GREETINGS

On behalf of Fr. Finlan, Deacon Ed, Deacon John and all the staff from St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes, we would like to wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

NEXT ROUND OF DECEMBER LOTTERY WINNERS

12/9 #355, No Winner, \$25

12/10 #717, Patty Weber \$25

12/11 #903, No Winner, \$25

12/12 #141, No Winner, \$25

12/13 #867, Brett T. Bitsko \$25

12/14 #686, No Winner, \$50

12/15 #875, Shirley Stankavage, \$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.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year in the Universal Church, a prayerful celebration that will begin in the Diocese of Allentown with a special Mass at 4:15PM on Saturday, December 28th, at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown. Attending the opening Mass is a way for the faithful of the Diocese to join in solidarity with Catholics around the world: Masses to inaugurate the Jubilee Year will be celebrated on the same weekend in every Cathedral across the globe.

ST. RICHARD PARISH OFFICE REMINDER

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

It seems like the winter season is making its way. 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

The Mass Book is open. Intentions accepted using 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 Mass stipend/Candle fee.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The sacrament will be administered following all Masses this weekend at both churches. Please be seated in the front pews immediately after Mass.

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 from Fundr Comm 12/22 OR 12/29
THANK YOU church decorating 12/22 OR 12/29

BWAC ?

