

Welcome

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

Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor

Deacon Edward J. Girard

December 21, 2025

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, Tuesday & Wednesday
9:00AM-2:00PM

Parish Staff

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@allentowndiocese.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

Saturday, December 20 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Joseph and Lawrence Petrole Mass Intention: Michael Tini
Sunday, December 21 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Russell Triano Mass Intention: John and Pamela McTiernan
Monday, December 22 7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>)	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. John and St. Richard Parishes
Tuesday, December 23 7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>) 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: David Sweeney
Wednesday, December 24 3:00PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM Mass: SJ 8:00PM Mass: SR 12:00AM Mass: SR	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
Thursday, December 25 10:00AM Mass: SJ	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Mass Intention: Christmas Memorials
Friday, December 26 <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i>	St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Saturday, December 27 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Mass Intention: Lillian Sedar Mass Intention: Edward J. Lucyk
Sunday, December 28 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Mass Intention: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Arner Sr. Mass Intention: Stephen McCarthy

TODAY'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, Ahaz is given a sign despite his refusal to ask for one: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son. In the beginning of the Epistle to the Romans, Paul describes Jesus as a descendent of David. The Gospel tells of Joseph's dream, in which Mary's miraculous conception is explained and he is told to name her Son Jesus. The coming of Jesus Christ is the sign of our salvation. He is "God with us" and has invited us to turn our lives over to him. Are we ready to accept this sign? Will we, like Joseph, put aside our fears and enter into a completely new reality, a new way of life?

TODAY'S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 28: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21/3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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 Prelude on Veni Emmanuel by Marilyn Biery (b.1959) The postlude is Fantasy on Veni Emmanuel by Marilyn Biery (b.1959)
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PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

Please remember in your prayers...

Alonzo Borja, Marlene Fatula, Roy Paisley, Marie Kalpinsky, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Kathy Sanchez, Quinn Derlunas, Sue Mannello, Dr. Walter Setlock, Christine Lawrence, Sean McGeehan, / Magnolia Pavlovich, Regina Zoba, Jeff Zoba, Joan Manos, Kiersten Guers, Fred Holman, Jane Grier, Ron Kelly, Eileen Wolfinger, Romaine Karnish / David Rickert, Andrew Eremus, George Koval, Marci Bonner, Mary Sloboda, Jack Praskac

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

Robert Popik

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory of Jean Hunsinger

Crucifix Candle

In Memory of Carmela Gentile

St. Richard Sanctuary Lamp

My Mother Mary Schodowski

Blessed Virgin Mary

Special Intention

Sacred Heart

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sniscak

St. Richard

Special Intentions of the Paul Babinsky Family

YOUTH FORMATION

Children's bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule

St. John XXIII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

*All students will meet in the upstairs classrooms
after the 8:30AM Mass until 11:00AM*

Sunday, December 21 – 5:00PM Children's Christmas
Nativity Pageant in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall

Sunday, December 28 – No Youth Formation

Sunday, January 4 – Kids Small Groups Grades 3-6

*We wish all our parish youth and their families
a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.*

St. Richard RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

CCD/PREP CLASSES:

Grades 5-8; Sunday, December 21st at 9:00AM

Grades 1-8; Sunday, December 28th No Classes

Christmas Break

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

Any questions, please contact
Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0433

SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS

Cub Scouts

Meetings held every Sunday from 4:00PM until 6:00PM
in the St. Richard Parish Hall

ADULT FORMATION

Bible Study: Wednesday evenings from 4:00PM – 6:00PM in the St. Richard Cry Room. This is an open invitation to all from both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), formerly called "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)," is the process through which one becomes a full member of the Roman Catholic Church. Full membership in the Catholic Church involves a whole formation process, which includes the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist. For those who are already baptized and want to be received into the Catholic Church, please contact either Parish Office.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is the diocesan collection for Parish Utilities.

Upcoming collections are...

12/25 ~ Christmas 12/28 ~ Stained-Glass Window Renovation: SR / Parish Cemeteries: SJ

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week

Sunday	5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – everyone is invited to this event
Monday	Christmas decorating at St. John XXIII Church – if you want to help, please arrive by 11:00AM
Wednesday	Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00PM at SJ – 5:00PM at SJ – 8:00PM at SR – 12:00AM Midnight at SR
Thursday	Christmas Day Mass: 10:00AM at SJ St. John XXIII Parish Choir Rehearsal cancelled today and next week – rehearsals resume on January 8th

Upcoming Events

December 28	Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass
January 5	9:00AM both Parish Offices reopen 6:30PM St. John XXIII Fundraising Meeting in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall

WELCOME MARK O'HEARN AS GUEST ORGANIST

We extend our thanks to Mark O'Hearn for being guest organist at the 3:30PM Mass this weekend. Mark is the Director of Music at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Orefield.

CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE CONTINUES TODAY

Because of last weekend's inclement weather, the candy sale will continue after Mass in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall. This candy makes great Christmas gifts!

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS TODAY

Everyone is invited to attend the Nativity Pageant at 5:00PM on Sunday in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall. It only lasts about a half hour and is such a lovely way to celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas cookies and refreshments will be served.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOAGIE FUNDRAISER

The Pieracini hoagie sale ends today. They can be purchased before and after Masses in the St. John XXIII Family Room.

JANUARY LOTTERY CALENDARS ON SALE NOW

They are only \$5 each and make great stocking stuffers. They can be purchased before or after Mass in the St. John XXIII Family Room.

GIVING TREES AT BOTH PARISHES

Thank you for all the unwrapped gifts, gift cards, and monetary donations left at the Giving Tree for both Birthright and Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities plans to collect everything on Monday, December 22nd, and Birthright will be sent directly to the Birthright Office in Frackville.

2025 DEADLINE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING

To receive accurate credit for 2025, please return your 2025 Collection Envelopes by Wednesday, December 31st.

2026 MASS INTENTIONS AT ST. JOHN XXIII

There is a limit of two Masses (one weekday, one weekend), one Sanctuary Lamp, and one Crucifix Candle. All requests must include the 2026 updated form along with a \$10 stipend per request. Forms are in the Parish Office and the Parish Hall. Requests must be made in person. Questions may be directed to Lisa in the Parish Office.

ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IS CLOSED THIS WEEKEND

Our parish café is closed today in preparation for the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday evening as well as our overflow seating for Christmas Eve. The café will reopen next weekend. We thank all the wonderful people who have been bringing in cakes and cookies to share!

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!

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parish Offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th until Monday, January 5th for the Christmas, and New Year Holidays.

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

In case of snow or ice, **both** St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes **will follow** Mahanoy Area School District. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be NO weekday Mass.

REMINDER

Bulletin announcements including flyers must be emailed or called in no later than Tuesday at noon to the Parish Office.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to the "Warm Their Hearts" coat drive. Donations are being distributed to local schools and shelters.

WINTER LOTTERY CALENDARS AT ST. RICHARD

The lottery calendar for only January 2026 is \$5.00. Please return the ticket either in the collection or the "Fundraising" box on the rectory porch. January tickets must be returned by December 31st.

Next Round December Lottery Winners

12/7 #126, Fr. Bob George, \$25
12/8 #527, Rose Mary Demko, \$25
12/9 #345, No Winner, \$25
12/10 #942, Jeff & Regina Zoba, \$25
12/11 #505, No Winner, 25
12/12 #690, No Winner, \$25
12/13 #536, Tracy Fenton, \$50

2026 MASS INTENTION BOOK AT ST. RICHARD

All requests will only be accepted through the 2026 Revised Mass Intention Form (found in church or online), along with the \$10 per Mass/Candle stipend and may be placed in the collection or dropped at the office. To try and accommodate the intentions (*which also includes reserved dates*), there is a limit of three Masses. Please also consider having a weekday Mass or remembrance through the many Devotional Candles (including the Sanctuary Lamp) or the Eternal Remembrance Society.

COMMUNION

Communion will be brought to the front pews of St. Richard and the handicap pews in the back of St. John XXIII Church.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

We need three people to present the offertory gifts at each weekend Mass; children are welcome to participate. The individual or family (the Mass donor) who requested the Mass intention obviously takes precedence, but often they are not available for the offertory procession. This is when we offer the honor of taking up the gifts to any parishioner present at Mass. If there is a date that you know you want to take up the gifts during the offertory procession, please call Joan Marie Roth at 570-599-9809 and leave your name, phone number, and the date of the Mass you request.

MORE ATTEMPTS AT FRAUD

Over the past few weeks, someone has been impersonating Fr. Finlan and sending text messages and emails to parishioners from fake accounts pretending to be Fr. Finlan. None of these messages are legitimate. Fr. Finlan will never text or email requests for help or money or gift cards. If you do receive one of these fraudulent messages, just delete it and do not reply, but please let your respective Parish Office know.

BOYER’S KEY TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to participate in this ongoing fundraiser. Just have the cashier scan the key tag at checkout. Key fobs are located at both entrances.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

Many thanks to those who have already made a commitment to the *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal*. The participation of all our parish families makes it possible to serve those in need. Remember that every gift counts. Please make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org.

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