

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Third Sunday of Advent in the Church is traditionally called GAUDETE SUNDAY, which means REJOICE, in anticipation of the upcoming joy of Christmas, and of The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The official color of this Sunday is ROSE. Rose symbolizes joy and hope. It's a glimpse of the joy that Christmas brings. Knowing what GAUDETE SUNDAY means and knowing who Jesus is, we wonder why John the Baptist in today's gospel asks the question: "Are you The One who is to come, or should we wait for another"? Don't we sometimes wait for "another" God when the earth seems to crumble beneath our feet, when sufferings arise and totally absorb us? Don't we sometimes want a God who rewards us and punishes the evildoers? Let's for a moment rephrase John the Baptist's question, that means instead of "Are you The One who is to come, or should we wait for another" with "Are we Jesus's followers or witnesses or should we wait for others"? If we ask and answer this last question sincerely, we might realize that God's love is truly what makes us live, and Christmas expectations will be sincere.

CHURCH DECORATION FOR CHRISTMAS

OLA- Sunday Dec. 21 at 1pm

SML- Sunday Dec. 21 at 11am after the Christmas play

SP- Sunday Dec. 21 after 11am Mass

Many volunteers are needed to help decorate all our churches. If you can, please come on these dates and times

SML ADOPT A FAMILY

We have a family of a dad and four children, eleven to teenagers....I have a few shoppers lined up but if anyone would care to donate to help provide a Christmas for this family just to place an envelope mark Adopt a Family in the collection basket... it would greatly help with gift expense Thank you so much! Mary Lou

OLA ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who took a card from the Advent tree. Wrapped gifts may be returned to the OLA Hall. They will be delivered on December 15. Call Nikki Weisenfluh (570)335-8135 with any questions.

SP ADVENT TREE

Thank you to everyone who took a card from the Advent Tree and all who helped in many other ways. Please return the wrapped gifts to the narthex by December 15.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council and Coordinating Team members met this week to celebrate Advent and continue to develop Action Steps to meet our Pastoral Plan goals. The Word and Worship team is looking to plan a Movie night later this winter. The Community and Service team will continue to run Ministry Spotlights to highlight opportunities to share your time and talents. Please be on the lookout for more information in the new year!

DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE SCHEDULE

St. Mary Nativity BVM – Sunday December 14 at 6pm

St Gregory's Church – Tuesday December 16 at 7pm

The Deanery decided that there will only be 2 penance services during Advent.

ADVENT PREPARATIONS

The parish Christmas' gift to ALL Parishioners is the book from Matthew Kelly, THE SEVEN PILLARS OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY. This is an excellent book for Advent. Please, make sure you take a copy. (Please, please do not bring it back after reading. It's yours to keep or to dispose as you want). We would like to make a suggestion on how to read it as a good preparation for Christmas. The suggestion is as follows: Let's read chapters 4,5, & 6 during the third week of Advent. Of course, you can read straight as it's written, even in one day.

Happy Advent, Happy New Liturgical Year A

CALENDARS & OPLATKI

The 2026 calendars are available at each church. The calendars are compliments of: Young Funeral Home, Clarks Summit, Litwin Funeral Home, Nicholson, and Kukuchka funeral home, Tunkhannock. The Oplatki is available at all churches for a donation of \$3.00.

BE GENEROUS TO YOUR PARISH

Christmas time is the time of giving. Please think also about your Parish and support all its activities by donating this Christmas. Also, if you have missed any Sunday in your church's envelopes, it's a perfect time now to catch up. Your generosity is not forgotten by God.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

December 20 & 21

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson

9:00am (SML) Carmel Williams

11 am (SP) Pat Carpenter

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay

9:00am (SML) Danny Williams

11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Lucy Ziman

9:00am (SML) Jim Soltis

11 am (SP) Mary Ann Mulfino

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) Jace Biglin

11am (SP) Maci Harvatine

Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Dec. 20 – Christmas Program Performance - OLA, 3:30pm

Dec. 21 – Christmas Play Performance – SML, 10:30am

Dec. 24 - Christmas Program Performance – SP, 3:30pm

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

12/20/2025 - OLA Christmas Program. Students arrive by 3:10PM. Performance before mass.

12/21/2025 - Class - Christmas Program Practice

12/24/2025 - Christmas Program at St. Patrick's 3:30

12/28/2025 - Christmas Break - No Class

1/4/2026 - No Class - New Years Break

1/11/2026 - Class

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

Dec. 21 Christmas play performance after Mass. (10:30am)

All are welcome!

Refreshments afterwards in the hall

Dec. 28 No Class Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 24

4 pm Mass: OLA, Dalton

4 pm Mass: SML, Lake Winola.

4 pm Mass: St Patrick church, Nicholson.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25

8 am Mass: OLA, Dalton

9:30 am Mass: SML, Lake Winola

11 am Mass: St Patrick church, Nicholson

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (December 16) Advent Weekday

8:00 am (OLA) Mary Ann Ketchur

By PARSE

Wednesday (December 17) Advent Weekday

8:00 am (SP) Health & Blessings for Julia Kaifer

By Mary Ann Mulfino

Thursday (December 18) Advent Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Lori Pierce

By Timothy Pierce

Saturday (December 20) The Vigil of The Fourth

Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm (OLA) Mary Leiber

By Tom & Debbie Lowrie

Sunday (December 21) The Fourth Sunday of

Advent

9:00 am (SML) Margaret Nauroth

By Prayer Shawl Ministry

11:00 am (SP) Pat & Bill Webster

By Mary Ann Mulfino

The Sanctuary Candle at SML

Burning this week for Raymond Buikus

By Mark & Mary Cooper

The Sanctuary Candle at SP

Burning this week for Veronica Hay

By Mary Ann Mulfino

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 1,363.00 Loose \$ 244.00

OLA Weekly \$ 2,348.00 Loose \$ 61.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,965.00 Loose \$ 149.00

May the Lord reward your generosity. .

SEVEN LOAVES SOUP KITCHEN

51 WARREN ST. TUNKHANNOCK

Volunteers are needed on the 4th Tuesday of every month, beginning in December. We will need 5-7 people to assist with prepping, serving, and cleaning up for the evening meal. Approximately from 3 PM to 6 PM. Sign-up sheets are at each of our churches. Please contact Bill or Shannon Bradican with any questions at 570-840-8663.

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Saint Emilia Bicchieri: one day she came late to Mass after Communion because she was taking care of a sister in religion. She became very upset for missing Communion. God allowed her to receive the Holy Eucharist from an angel.