

Welcome to the Parishes of St. Joseph and St. Patrick

Remembering
Dec. 9-15

Monday

8:00am (SJ)

Debra Ramirez

Walter & Zulma Marcial

Tuesday

12:00pm (SP)

Joanne Petrocchi

Mark & Tammy Zaleski

Wednesday

12:00 pm (SP)

John Leisenheimer

Stuart & Donna
Rivera & Family

Thursday

8:00am (SJ)

Debbie Cook

Carol & Pat Cordova

6:30pm (SP) Our Lady of
Guadalupe Mass
Deacon Cliff

Friday

No Mass

Saturday

4:00pm (SJ)

Patrick & Jenny Lapriore

The Family

5:30pm (SP)

Scott Maisco

Ray & Carol Proulx

Sunday

8:30am (SJ)

For the People of St.
Joseph's Parish

11:00 (SP)

Una Coyne

Husband, Peter

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 11:1-10

Rom 15:4-9

Mt 3:1-12

Creating God's Peaceable Kingdom

At times, God's presence among us is so unspectacular that we need someone else to point it out, someone with a loud voice. That seems to have been the role of John the Baptist. His lifestyle and his message certainly caught everyone's attention. But when he caught their attention, he directed it away from himself to the kingdom of heaven.

He called it a kingdom because that was the government those of his time knew. (Jesus, too, often spoke of his kingdom.) However, the kingdom John referred to is not one of military power and privilege but a "peaceable kingdom," where animals that are normally feared as predators live with each other in peace. A beautiful picture, but is it a possibility or just fantasy? The people believed that some day one would be born who would rule this way, thus enabling them to become a genuine peaceable kingdom. This

kingdom would not be made of animals, but of women and men of different races, cultures, and beliefs; women and men who would recognize each other's God-given uniqueness and would create genuine unity from this diversity.

John the Baptist declared that this kingdom "is at hand." Is it? Do we strive to live peacefully with the great diversity of people of our world? Or are we smug as we proclaim: "We have Abraham as our father" (Matthew 3:9), so we are right and you are wrong. The people of John's time should have known better. We should, too. John cries out to them—and to us: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ How open are you to people of different faiths, races, or nations?
- ★ What can you do to make real the peaceable kingdom of heaven?

[John the Baptist said,] "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." MATTHEW 3:3



PHOTO BY RAWPIXEL.COM FROM PEXELS

Welcome

Our entire Parish Families welcome all of you who have come to worship with us today. We encourage you to participate fully in the spiritual, ministerial and social life of our parish community.

Sacrament of Baptism

All parents are required to attend a pre-baptismal instruction. Please contact your Parish Office to make arrangements for this opportunity for spiritual renewal

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples contemplating marriage should notify your Parish Office at least six months before the date of their intended marriage.

Sacrament of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Sick is for the comfort and strength of the ill. It is not just intended for those in immediate danger of death. It is a help and comfort to the living. If a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized, please contact your Parish Office.

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES

St. Vincent dePaul 12-11 @ 7:00pm

St. Patrick's 12-16 @ 7:00pm

St. John Neumann 12-22 @ 2:00pm

St. Ann 12:22 @ 4pm

THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2019 Annual Appeal is underway. "Serving in faith with Hope and Gratitude. Gifts made to the 2018 Appeal touched thousands of lives. 4,143 Families served in Catholic Social Services Food & Clothing Pantries, 12 Seminarians receiving tuition & living expenses, 16,555 nights of shelter & support, 104 Retired & ill Priests received care, 44 parishes using Social Justice Grants to serve countless, 15,000 Children in Religious Education \$4,5000 in Catholic Schools and 118 parishes receiving support in all aspects of Parish Life, **SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS. SUPPORT THE APPEAL.**

BON SECOURS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

in many areas of the hospital. If you would like to join a special group of people, with a special gift to give please contact Amy Moore, Volunteer Manager at 845-858-7162 or email Amy_moore@bshsi.org

DEANERY CHOIR "A CHRISTMAS CONCERT"

Sunday, December 15th at 2:00pm at St. John Neumann Church, Lord's Valley, PA. Family Christmas Party, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will follow. No admission charge or tickets required. All are Welcome.

WARMING STATION NEEDS YOUR

HELP! The Tri-State Warming Station is open for its fourth season serving the homeless in our midst. Every night until Spring, the warming station will provide shelter for those without it, along with hot meals and hot showers. The need is real-we welcome as many as 20 guests each night- and it takes a lot of volunteer energy to make this work. Some of your fellow parishioners are already helping out, and you can too. Volunteers to cook and deliver dinner or to stay overnight to help watch over the guests are especially needed. Financial support is welcome, too. To get involved, or for more information, contact Kevin (from St. Joseph's) at kevinwalter@earthlink.net or (570) 296-6902.

K OF C FAMILY & FRIENDS DINNER

There will be no Dinner in the month of December...Dinners will resume in January 2020.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Sponsored by United Way. If you need help with food, paying bills, health care, employment, housing etc. Pike County dial directly 855-567-5341.

ADVENT IS HERE!

Advent, the time of preparation for the Feast of the Nativity begins on Sunday, December 1st. What will you do to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas? Join the parish adult formation team as we explore "The Eucharist in Scripture", an enlightening discussion, based on the writing of Dr. Scott Hahn, to unlock the meaning of the Holy Eucharist as revealed in the Bible. Set aside an hour or two in this busy season to enrich your mind and soul. On Tuesday evenings, December 10, and December 17 at St. Patrick's Church Hall at 7:00pm. On Sunday afternoons, December 8th, and December 15th at St. Joseph's multi-purpose room, 1:00pm. All are welcome: please plan to join us. For further information call St. Patrick's office at 570 296-7451 or St. Joseph's office at 570-491-2618.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

This number is for a death or Anointing of the Sick only for St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Parishes (570) 591-1405 please leave your name, phone number and a brief message. Any messages or questions left at this number pertaining to regular Office business will not be answered.

TRI-STATE CHORALE AT SAINT PATRICK'S DECEMBER 19

The Tri-State Chorale will return to St. Patrick's Church with "A Tradition of Carols" on Thursday December 19th at 7:00PM. All are welcome to this free holiday concert. You will enjoy performances by 3 different choirs: The Tri-State Chorale, Delaware Valley High School Chamber Choir and the Shohola Elementary School Chamber Choir. You will also be invited to sing along with some traditional carols accompanied by the brass quintet, Brass Reflections and our organist, Rich Gherardi. There will be a "free will" donation jar available and a basket set out for donations of non-perishable food items for the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec. 7-8

Saturday 4:00pm
Lector Diana Sierra
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Servers Ella Carroll Lukas Schutz
Sunday 8:30am
Lector Kathleen Warne
Eucharistic Minister
Altar Server Robert McMullen Draven Nitecki
Milford Senior Care 12/1 Jack Reilly 12/8 Debbie Roa

BROTHER JUNIPER



ADVENT GIVING TREE

The "Advent Giving Tree" is in our Vestibule along with a Bassinet. The tree is decorated with ornaments made by our CCD Children. Please take an ornament, purchase the item written on the back, and return your donation to the Bassinet. Your donated gift will be given to the Tri-State Pregnancy Center for distribution to needy families... Thank you for your generosity!

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Again this year the Poinsettia's that will be placed in the Sanctuary will be available for memorialization. The cost will be \$15.00 per plant. Special RED envelopes are at all entrances to the Church. Please fill out the front of the envelope (please print clearly) and enclose your payment. You may drop the envelopes into the collection basket or at the Parish Office. Deadline for your response is 12/17. A list of the memorialized will appear in the December 29th bulletin.

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath was given by Jane Drake In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Lapriore & Drake Families

The Advent Wreath Candles were given by Michele & Neal Bensley In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Ricciardi & Bensley Families

ST. JOSEPH'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may call Karen Sweeney @570-491-2228 or Tom Hogan @ 570-296-6224. If you wish you may also send the name via email to either Karen at sweeneyfive2002@yahoo.com or Tom Hogan at tchogan@ptd.net.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF MATAMORAS & MILFORD

will be at the front entrance to the Church selling their Annual Lottery Calendar Booklets for 2020. Cost is \$20.00 per booklet. These numbered booklets are good for the whole year and you win \$\$ according to the daily lottery number. This is a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer! Stop by their table before or after Mass!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Our Annual Appeal goal is **\$40,000.00**. to date , **\$34,377.00**. **86%** of our appeal goal has been achieved due to your kindness and generosity. To those of you who have pleased, THANK-YOU! Those of you who have not pledged, please consider. This helps support Catholic, Social Services, Clergy formation, Parish Life and Ministry just to name a few.

COFFEE SOCIAL

Our next Coffee Social will be held Sunday, December 22nd. A variety of foods will be available including "no sugar added" foods! All are welcome!

Anyone wishing to donate baked goods call Lee Kenney at 570-491-2620.

The Sanctuary Candle
burns

In Memory of

**Joseph & Grayce
Ricciardi**

By

The Bensley Family

Weekly Offering

November 24, 2019

\$ TBA

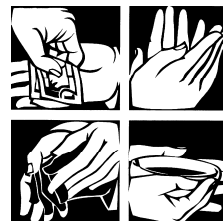
(Bulletin deadline 11/22)

Last Year

November 25, 2018

\$ 3061.00

Thank you for your generosity!



"We, the parish of St. Joseph's, in union with our Holy Father, our bishop, and our pastor, seek to grow in holiness as a welcoming and caring family reaching out to all. As a faith-filled community celebrating the Eucharist, we strive to enrich our spiritual lives by cultivating a deeper relationship with Christ through the sacraments. We are united in faith and find unity in diversity as we pray for the grace to use our gifts and talents to promote the knowledge of God's love."

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Our Annual Appeal goal is \$35,000.00. to date , \$23,751.00, 67% of our appeal has been achieved due to your kindness and generosity. To those of you who have pleased, THANK-YOU! Those of you who have not pledged, please consider. This helps support Catholic, Social Services, Clergy formation, Parish Life and Ministry just to name a few.

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone who wishes to have prayers said for themselves or another may send via e-mail the name to Tom Hogan at thogan@ptd.net. Or 570 296-6224.

TEPEYAC FIESTA FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Our Lady's Fiesta committee is making plans for our annual Fiesta for The virgin of Guadalupe's feast day on December 12th. We hope to have music, (Spanish style), prayers in Spanish/English, a beautiful Mass celebration, and a reception following the 6:30 evening Mass. Volunteers are needed! We will need greeters, donations of finger foods, helpers to serve food and coffee. If you have ideas, if you can help in any way, large or small, please join us. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or by calling the Parish Office at 5760-296-741, e-mail us at patssec@ptd.net, or call Annette Petry at 845-283-7228 or Maureen Burns at 570-441-7122.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

The Angel Tree has been placed in the Narthex. Don't forget to pick up an ornament to purchase a Christmas present for that individual. The gifts are due back on Sunday December 15th with the tag securely attached. Thank you for your generosity.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

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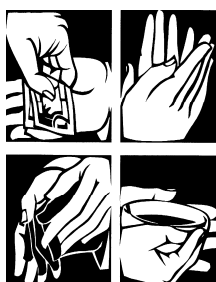
SAINT PATRICK'S KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS GROUP

If you would like to find out more about this group, please call the Parish Office at 570 296-7451. We meet Wednesday's from 2-4 in the church Hall. Beginners Welcome!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec. 14-15

Saturday 5:30pm
Lector Joe Dooley
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Brooke Nielsen, Nicole Traxler
Sunday 7:15am No Mass
Lector
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers
Sunday 11:00am
Lector Diane Dennis
Communion Ministers
Altar Servers Lelaina, Julianna & Amelia Hooper



Weekly Collection
November 24, 2019 TBA
December 2, 2019 TBA

This time last year
\$3,485.00

Weekly Mortgage Offertory
November 24, 2019
December 2, 2019
TBA

Year to Date July' 19- Current
\$18,290.00

Goal for the Year \$100,000

The Sanctuary Candle
burns in memory of
Deacon Cliff
requested by
The Parishioner's of
St. Patrick's

St. Patrick's Parish is the presence of the Catholic Church in a diverse and vibrant area of northeastern Pennsylvania. As disciples, we dedicate ourselves to hearing, learning and sharing the good news of God's Word as we reverently celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to know, love and serve God. We strive to promote a culture of love and respect for all human life and for the beautiful world in which we live. We welcome all people to participate in the spiritual and social life of our parish family.

Calendar

Daily Prayer

It seems like a contradiction, but it becomes easy to stay focused during Advent. There are many distractions at this time of the year, we seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of parties and social events. But, the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time to reflect this week on how much God promises us.

Each morning, while we are first coming to consciousness, we can focus for just a few moments, to name a desire, to name an emptiness or feeling of anxiety or worry. It is into places just such as these that our Lord came to be with us. So, this week, we can begin to invite our Lord to be Incarnate in our lives, in the places we need him the most.

Our goal this week is to let ourselves feel like those to whom the promises of our God are made. We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Savior. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord." And, who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 10	DECEMBER 11	DECEMBER 12	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 15
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Our Lady of Guadalupe	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	Third Sunday of Advent
Gn 3:9-15, 20	Is 40:1-11	Is 40:25-31	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;	Is 48:17-19	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Is 35:1-6a, 10
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Mt 18:12-14	Mt 11:28-30	12:1-6a, 10ab	Mt 11:16-19	Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Jas 5:7-10
Lk 1:26-38			Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47			Mt 11:2-11

Dear Padre,

An intellectual friend told me that she loves the great dogmas of Advent. I smiled and agreed, but I don't have the faintest idea what she meant!

Dogma refers to Church teachings defined by an ecumenical council, including the pope, or by the pope alone acting as head of the Church. The magisterium, the Church's teaching authority, tells us these must-be-believed truths have been divinely revealed to us. During Advent, we celebrate two dogmas: the immaculate conception of Mary, which we honor tomorrow,

and the Incarnation, which includes the birth of Christ that we prepare for now.

Both dogmas speak of God's extraordinary connection with humanity. God specially gifted Mary because of her role in becoming the Mother of God. Mary, from the instant of her conception, was free from original sin. Her closeness to Jesus was established from the earliest moments of her existence.

The dogma of the Incarnation is defined simply by St. John. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). During the year, we first celebrate the Incarnation on March 25, at the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Scripture and Tradition hold that Jesus was conceived in

Mary's womb when she accepted God's will by answering yes to the angel's announcement that she would bear the "Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the result of that Incarnation, Jesus' birth.

Dogmas can sometimes seem disconnected from our lives. The customs of Advent put an everyday face on the book definitions and remind us that God lives in our midst.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

It is the mystery of Christ's flesh: one doesn't understand love for thy neighbor, one doesn't understand love for thy brother if one doesn't understand this mystery of Incarnation. I love my brother because he too is Christ, is Christlike, is the flesh of Christ.

VISIT TO PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION, JULY 28, 2014

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the wounds of his people."

As we let these deep realities of our daily, busy lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, which we can say in the smallest moments of our busiest days. "Come, Lord." "Come and save me." "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life." "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving. Each night we might pray: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? (Ps. 27)

"Creighton University's Online Ministries web site: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>