

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

Rememóring

Dec. 2 - 8

Monday

8:00am (SJ)

✠ **Debra Ramirez**

Walter & Zulma Marcial

TUESDAY

12:00pm (SP)

✠ **Edward Petry**

Wife, Annette

WEDNESDAY

12:00 pm (SP)

✠ **Deceased Members of
the Priests' Purgatorial
Society**

THURSDAY

8:00am (SJ)

✠ **Debbie Cook**

Carol & Pat Cordova

FRIDAY

**1st Friday Communion
Service Sacred Heart
Novena 12:00pm**

SATURDAY

**11:30(SP) 1st Saturday
Rosary**

**12:00 Noon Communion
Service**

4:00pm (SJ)

✠ **Patrick & Jenny Lapriore**
The Family

5:30pm (SP)

✠ **James O'Donnell**
Aedeen & Bill Hansen

SUNDAY

8:30am (SJ)

✠ **For the People of St.
Joseph's Parish**

11:00 (SP)

✠ **Joseph Umberto**
Wife, Catherine



Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt 24:37-44

God Is Near

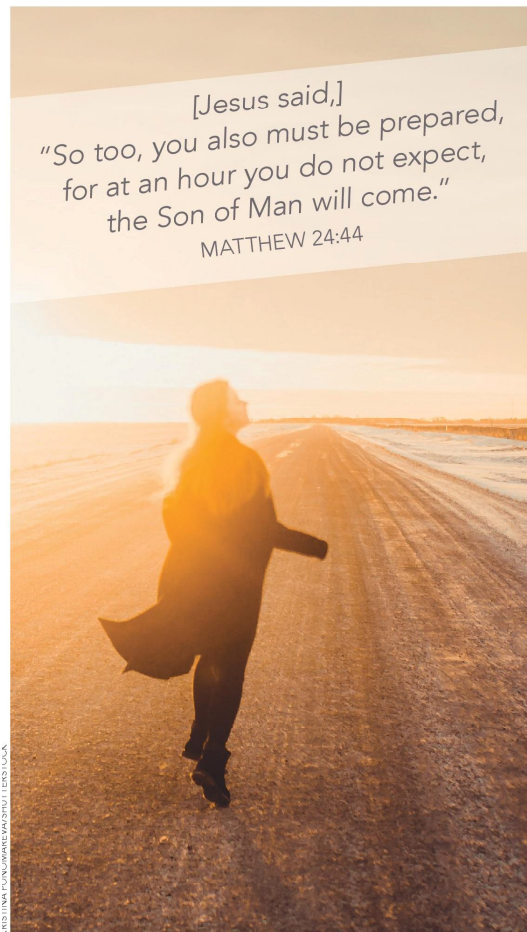
Be prepared! But for what? Since we're entering the season of Advent, we might think that we're called to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent is certainly the time to prepare for Christmas, but it's much more than that, for God comes into our lives in many different ways, even today. We see evidence of that when, working together, we rebuild not only cities, as Isaiah describes in the first reading, but relationships in families, parishes, and countries.

Remarkable changes take place in our lives when, as Paul bids us, we "throw off the works of darkness," works of rivalry and jealousy (Romans 13:12). God comes to us every day with the power we need to improve ourselves and our world. God often comes quietly in ways so ordinary we might miss them. That is the point of Jesus' insistence to "stay awake" and "be prepared" (Matthew 24:42, 44).

God certainly came long ago as a human being. That was a one-time-only event. We believe that God will come again at the end. That, too, will happen only once. But God comes more often than this. God comes every day to help us be our better selves. This is what the Advent readings tell us.

What can we do? How are we to prepare for God's coming? Today's readings tell us. We must work for the peace that Isaiah describes; we must throw off the works of darkness, as Paul instructs; and we must do as Jesus tells us: stay awake and be prepared.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



FOR Reflection

- ★ Where do you see people's goodness that tells us God is near?
- ★ What can you do to make that goodness present to others?



Editor's note: Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA, is pleased to join you at Mass over the next three liturgical years, beginning with today's reflection. A sister of St. Agnes, Sr. Dianne earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Saint Louis University, and honorary degrees and accolades from many organizations. She is professor of biblical studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

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.

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.**

K OF C FAMILY & FRIENDS DINNER

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

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

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.



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.

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.

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.

RUNNERS NEEDED

Runners needed for the annual KRIS KRINGLE 5K race and Fun Walk on Saturday, December 7th at Matamoras Airport Park. Start time is 9am. Registration is \$20.00 if post-marked on or before December 1st (\$25 day of race: time: 7:30-8-45) First 125 to register will receive a great knitted hat! This event is sponsored by The Knights of Columbus Council #13935 to benefit the Children's Disabilities Development Center and other local charities. For complete details call or e-mail Chris Brighton (Chairman) at 914-443-3571, by e-mail ibright2@optonline.net or Bill Gaa at 570-445-9551, e-mail wdg2001@gmail.com

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.

FIRST 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



The Sanctuary Candle
burns
In Memory of
**Joseph & Grayce
Ricciardi**
By
The Bensley Family

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.

Weekly Offering

November 24, 2019

\$ TBA

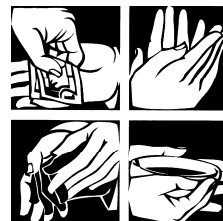
(Bulletin deadline 11/22)

Thank you for your generosity!

Last Year

November 25, 2018

\$ 3061.00



"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.

SAINT PATRICK'S KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS GROUP

If you would like to find out more about our Group, please call the Parish Office 570-296-7451. We meet Wednesday's in the Church Hall from 2-4. Beginners welcome!

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. Muchas Gracias!

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.

SAINT PATRICK'S VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 15- 5-9 Buffet Dinner, dessert and music to be enjoyed by all. All Volunteers are welcome. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. All volunteers are welcome. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec. 7-8

Saturday 5:30pm

Lector Cheryl McCarthy

Communion Ministers

Altar Servers

Jason Lecina, Sophia Mullen

Sunday 7:15am No Mass

Lector

Communion Ministers

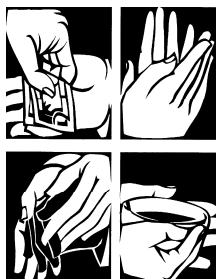
Altar Servers

Sunday 11:00am

Lector Joe Casmus

Communion Ministers

Altar Servers Nicholas Dinos, Riley Mapes



Weekly Collection

November 24, 2019

TBA

This time last year
\$3,485.00

Weekly Mortgage Offertory

November 24, 2019

TBA

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

Goal for the Year \$100,000

You may have the Sanctuary Candle burn in memory of a loved one. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements

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.

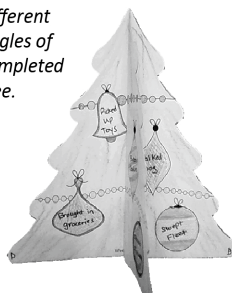
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Directions

- [1] Color the tree green, write your good deeds on the ornaments and color them in.
- [2] Cut out and fold at right angle to stand up by itself.
- [3] Each week of Advent complete the tree and repeat steps 1-2.
- [4] After you have 4 weeks of trees colored, filled in and cut out, attach **week 1** to **week 2** by matching the corner letters and gluing or taping halves together up to the fold line. Do the same for **week 3** and **week 4**, which will then attach to **week 1** and **2** to complete.



Different angles of completed tree.

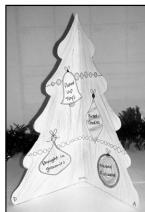


All of God's children are blessed with a variety of time, talents and treasures. This Advent, make a "gift to others" of your abilities, then write what you do on the ornaments on your "Share Me" tree.

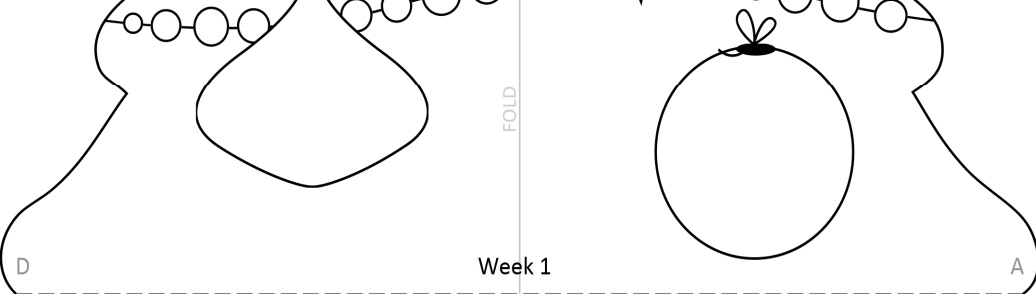
There will be a tree for each week of Advent, and the 4 stand alone pieces will be joined together into a 3-D tree; just in time for Christmas!

Your finished tree is a wonderful gift to baby Jesus on Christmas! (Jesus loves when we help everyone around us.)

Color tree and fill in good deeds, then color ornaments and cut out.



Weeks 1 & 2 together.



Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 2
Advent Weekday
Is 4:2-6
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

DECEMBER 3
St. Francis Xavier,
Priest
Is 11:1-10
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

DECEMBER 4
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6-10a
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

DECEMBER 5
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

DECEMBER 6
Advent Weekday
Is 29:17-24
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

DECEMBER 8
Second Sunday
of Advent
Is 11:1-10
Rom 15:4-9
Mt 3:1-12

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 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)