

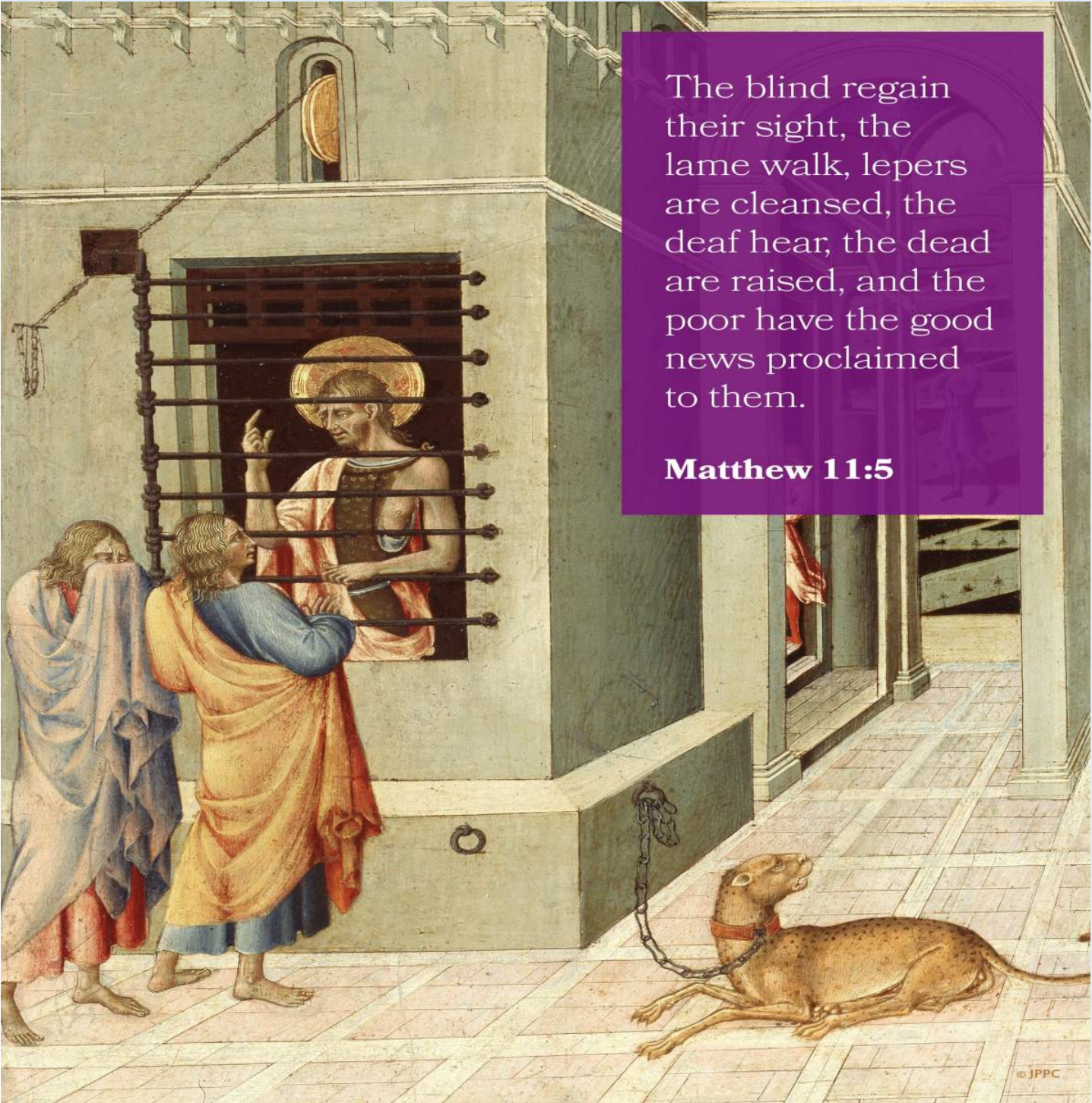
Saint Joseph Parish
Lucinda, PA

Saint Michael Parish
Fryburg, PA

Saint Mary Parish
Crown, PA

Saint Ann Church
Marienville, PA

Mailing Address: 84 Rectory Lane, PO Box 9, Lucinda, PA 16235
Phone: 814-226-7288 **watch4deercatholic.church**



The blind regain
their sight, the
lame walk, lepers
are cleansed, the
deaf hear, the dead
are raised, and the
poor have the good
news proclaimed
to them.

Matthew 11:5

Liturgy Schedule December 20th - December 21st

4:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church

Lector: Sheri Spence

Euch Min: Dana Baker

Altar Server: None

Ushers: Dana Baker, Jim Harvey, Ed Carroll, Jerry Lutz

Rosary: Monica Lehnortt

6:00 p.m. St. Mary Church

Lector: Bill Wolbert

Euch Min: None

Altar Server: Ashton Bogel

8:00 a.m. St. Mary Church

Lector: Keith Martz

Euch Min: Andy Gilmore

Altar Server: Cash Gilmore

9:30 a.m. St. Joseph Church

Lector: Heather Reisinger

Euch Min: Darlene & Gib Wolbert

Altar Server: Olivia Schmader

Ushers: Gib Wolbert, George Carroll, Pete Judy, Dale Gatesman

11:00 a.m. St. Michael Church

Lector: Amy Colvin

Euch Min: Mark Beichner

Altar Server: Max Sporer

Ushers: Tom Cyphert, John Griebel

Rosary: Marie Fletcher

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

St. Joseph: George & Lisa Carroll

St. Michael: Susan & Terry Moore

St. Mary: Shawn & Tami Kline

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNING IN MEMORY OF:

St. Michael: Strickenberger & Nale Families by Tim, Kate & Family

St Joseph: Kathy Lutz by Linda & Tim McCloskey

St Mary: Lynnette McHugh by Jim

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20th – December 21st

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



++Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before each
weekday Mass at 7:30 a.m.++

Monday, December 15

8:30 a.m. (St Mary) The Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. (St Michael) Mike Siegel by Tom & Elaine Fesenmyer

Wednesday, December 17

8:30 a.m. (St Joseph) Roy Wolbert by Peg & Family

Thursday, December 18

8:30 a.m. (St Michael) William, Agnes, John & Jenny Kaye by The Family

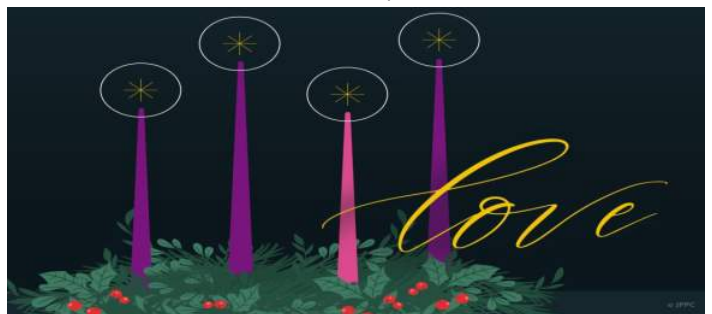
6:00 p.m. (St Ann) Marie Baxter by Chuck Baxter

Friday, December 19

8:30 a.m. (St Joseph) Tony Hockman by Julianne Hockman

8:30 a.m. (St Mary) George Karg Sr by The Karg Family

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 20

4:00 p.m. (St Joseph) Delmar Lauer Sr by Estelle Lauer

6:00 p.m. (St Mary) All Deceased Fathers

Sunday, December 21

8:00 a.m. (St Mary) Floyd & Justine Becker by George & Barb Becker

9:30 a.m. (St Joseph) Parish Family

10:30 a.m. (St Michael) Rosary

11:00 a.m. (St Michael) Ralph & Marian Lander by Lisa & George Carroll

A Word from Father Brandon

The figure of John the Baptist connects the core, central, weeks of the miniscule Season of Advent. We saw him embark on the scene last week, as the radical revolutionary of the coming Messiah! John, in all his outcasted-ness and strange appearance was the freest man of his age - utterly disinterested in any norm or expectation of the age, and only concerned with leaning into the mystical intimacy he had been called to in the desert. This weekend, that smelly disheveled outcast of the religious rigidity and roman etiquette of his day finds himself enslaved by its walls and chains. Clearly disturbed and unsettled with a darkness darker than the darkest of nights in the desert which was his sanctuary, he sends his disciples to ask our Lord, "*Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?*" Understandably, the whole of his life, to his mind, was not to lead him to that cell, but to the palaces of paradise ushered in by the Messiah — or at least anything other than this cage to which he had been confined.

There is a gentle and subtle beauty by which our Lord and our Father work in our lives. From the moment The Trinity decided to send Jesus to earth to save humanity — however that happened! — they desired John; they, not through need but simple desire, chose to allow John to be the one to inaugurate the ministry of the Messiah. It's not today's Gospel, but in the scene of the Baptism of Jesus, you can almost see the delight of the Father of his little boy John doing his Baptism for His Son — John's God — and just so happy that John was able to share in that magnanimous moment of history! Did God need John to go out into the desert to live as he did? Absolutely not! Did God need a prophet to 'make straight the path' for the coming of Jesus? Nah, not really. Did God require His Son to be Baptized by John? I mean, anyone could have done it if He wanted it done... John was completely *unnecessary* yet utterly *necessary*! His necessity rested in that God delighted in John, that John was willed by the heart of God and desired to play this awesome role in the plan of our salvation. John's unnecessariness is what makes his radical faith and freedom and outcast-ness all the more beautiful!

We are now, liturgically, half-way through the Advent Season with this Sunday. The Rose color is supposed to remind us to be a little joyful or think of things with a tinge more exuberance if we are finding ourselves exhausted from our Advent prayer or, perhaps more relevant to the world we live in, the chaotic world around us! So, take a moment this Sunday to reflect upon your unnecessary-ness yet your utter necessary-ness in the heart, mind, and delight of your Father in Heaven! We are like John the Baptist! We are a little off or different in the eyes of the world, but that's ok — it's beautiful! We are created to be free and we seek it without compromise or regrets! This doesn't extinguish the sorrow and weightiness of the cross laid upon us — in fact, it may most likely intensify it! But, in the end, that is ok. You are and I are wonderfully made — delights of the Trinity and our existence brings the widest smile to the face of our Father. We may be in the desert or cell, free or imprisoned, on fire with faith or like chilled soot. Regardless, you are His, and He longs to delight in you as He invites you to participate in His divine life. So take a pause to experience the rose-like joy of this Sunday and ponder the Baptist: how he was desired from the moment of the inauguration of the plan of salvation and the Trinity delighted in watching John's role in that play out! You are I have little roles to play out, too, and our Father loves that! Sit with that this half-way point of Advent and allow John's holy example to continue to compel you into the desert to find your freedom and the love of your life: our God!

Love,

Fr Brandon



JOY

This Sunday is often called gaudette Sunday. Gaudette is derived from the Latin word "gaudete," which means "rejoice." Today we reflect on the joy the shepherds felt at the birth of Jesus. "Many people think that being happy and being joyful are the same thing, but there is a difference. We experience a sense of happiness when our circumstances are pleasant and we're relatively free from troubles. The problem, however, is that this kind of happiness is fleeting and superficial. When circumstances change—as they inevitably do—then this kind of happiness evaporates...Such happiness for which our souls ache is one undisturbed by success or failure, one that dwells deep within us and gives us inward contentment even in despairing circumstances; it needs no outward stimulus."

Billy Graham

ST. MARY JANUARY 2026 LOTTERY TICKETS This is an important fund raiser for our parish.

We prayerfully ask that you buy or sell the tickets that are provided to you. Additional tickets are available at the back of the church.

THESE MAKE WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Please place your sold tickets, along with payment, in the designated basket provided at the back of the church by December 30, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Milly Cussins @ 814-927-6980

St Hubert Knights of Columbus #10341 News: Family of the Month is the Rodney Hartle Family and the 50/50 winner is Kerry Wolbert. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 pm in Stutz Hall. There will be a member breakfast on Saturday, December 20th at 8 am in Stutz Hall.



Practice for the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary Church will be held Monday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome!!! The choir is more than a musical group - it is a community of fellowship and worship! Come make a joyful noise with us!!!



Spiral Pinwheels Quilt Class will be Tuesday evenings in January 2026 at St. Joseph Social Hall. Classes are from 6pm-8:30pm and will be held on January 6, 13, 20 & 27. This is a confident Beginner quilt. If you are interested in attending, please call Teresa Carroll at 814-226-4227 to register. Class is limited to 10 people.



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8 AM - 12 PM

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Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments- Bullying is defined as any unwanted aggressive behavior by another youth or group of youths that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. 20% of youth ages 12-18 experience bullying. When adults respond quickly to bullying behavior, they send the message that bullying is not acceptable. There are ways parents can make a positive difference. Parents can educate themselves on the signs that a child is being bullied or is a bully. Parents should keep the lines of communication open with their child and model for their child how to treat others. Encourage your child to be inclusive by welcoming others to join their activities and groups. For more information on how to prevent bullying in your community visit www.stopbullying.org

December 14, 2025

North Clarion/Marienville Food Pantry: They are located at Marienville Community Methodist Church, 201 N. Forest Street, Marienville, PA 16239. They are always accepting canned and boxed items, as well as monetary donations. For more information, contact 814-927-8517. Items need for December 2025 are: canned yams; boxed potatoes; jello or pudding; egg noodles; canned beef stew; muffin or quick bread mixes; cake mixes; soft soap; liquid laundry soap; spray spic and span. Distribution dates are: Tuesday, December 23, 2025. **"Volunteers Needed"**

St Michael Christmas decorating

Decorating will be a week early this year. Tree set up is Friday December 12 @ 10:00 am. We need help carrying trees up from the basement, assembling and fluffing the trees. This doesn't take much time if we have lots of help. Decorating the trees will be after Mass on December 14. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided. The manger will be set up on Sunday December 21st after Mass. Poinsettias arrive December 23rd @ 10:00 am. Please come and lend a hand to make our church beautiful for Christmas. ALL ARE WELCOME! Thank you! Kate Nale

Monday Night Bible Study - THE CHOSEN Season 5

Monday Night Bible Study will be starting Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7 PM in St. Joe's Hall. We will continue watching THE CHOSEN Season 5 and then look at the scriptures related to that episode and faith sharing. The Chosen is a multi season series about the life of Jesus and his followers. No preparation necessary. All are welcome! Bring your Bibles! Contact Patti Bauer at 814-744-8076 to register.

SECOND COLLECTION



December 1, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year has passed, and we are again approaching the annual collection for our Retired Religious to be held in parishes on December 13th and 14th. This event has significant benefits for the retired Sisters in our diocese, as well as the over 20,000 retired religious throughout the country.

The **Retirement Fund for Religious** offers financial support for those Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests who worked for years for little or no stipends. Last year, the people in our diocese contributed \$138,840.00 to help defray the costs of medication, nursing care, medical equipment, transportation, physical and occupational therapy and other necessary needs. Your generous gift provides help for their ongoing health care supporting them as they age safely, with dignity, and comfort.

Senior Religious are our treasure in the Church. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, religious education programs, hospitals, social service agencies and countless other ministries throughout our diocese; many still serve those in need today. Those who are no longer able to actively minister continue to support all that is being done through their ministry of prayer. They also remember the generous people who assist them through the aging process.

Some of you may not presently know consecrated men and women, but they have affected your lives through their ministry to your parents and grandparents and through the many organizations now in place due to their foresight and generosity. Ministries started by Sisters have had a tremendous influence in this diocese, and they stand as a legacy to those generous women who dedicated their lives in service to the reign of God and continue to find ways to minister to others. I join you in praising God for their faithful and generous service to the Church in the past and in the days and years to come.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life and for God's blessing on all our women and men religious. Know you remain in their prayers. Please join me in supporting this year's **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie



Scan to give



St. Joseph School Christmas concert will be on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 PM in the parish hall

Any items for the bulletin need to be emailed to the Parish Office 2 weeks prior to the week you wish to have it appear in the bulletin. Bulletin announcements are on a First Come, First Serve Basis and must have proper grammar and spelling.

Email to: secrtary@stjosephlucinda.com

IT'S HERE!



Online & Text Giving are now available for all three partnered parishes!

Go to our website: watch4deercatholic.church

Click on “**Ways to Give**” and then click on “**Online Giving.**”

Click on the parish name you want to donate to or use your parish name and text to the number provided to retrieve the donation form. You can set up an account and reoccurring donations. Please notify the parish office if you elect to give online and no longer need envelopes.

THANK YOU for your generosity to our parishes!

2025 CSA

St Joseph Assessment to the Diocese: \$33,150.00

Total Pledged: \$42,760.00

Paid as of 12/3/25: \$40,105.00

Still Owed: \$2,655.00

St Michael Assessment to the Diocese: \$36,896.00

Total Pledged: \$45,992.00

Paid as of 12/3/25: \$42,667.00

Still Owed: \$3,325.00

St Mary Assessment to the Diocese: \$26,184.00

Total Pledged: \$27,745.00

Paid as of 12/3/25: \$26,560.00

Still Owed: \$1,185.00

We would like to **Thank You** for your CSA 2025 pledges and would like to remind you that CSA pledges should be paid in full by the end of the year.



November Weekly Offerings

St Joseph — \$15,070.00

St Michael — \$17,010.00

St Mary — \$13,564.00



Join us this Christmas

December 24th, 2025

4:00 pm: St Joseph

4:00 pm: St Michael

7:00 pm: St Mary

December 25, 2025

Midnight St Michael

9:00 am St Mary

We are still in need of Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers for the following Christmas Masses: St Joseph—4:00 pm; St Michael --4:00 pm; St Mary—7:00 pm; St Michael — Midnight Mass; St Mary—9:00 am

Please call the office if you would like to volunteer for any of these ministries for the Christmas Masses.

**Parish Office will be closed
from December 24, 2025
through January 4, 2026.**



Advent 2025
Confessions

Confessions
Saturdays 3pm (St Joseph) 5pm (St Mary)

Wednesday Dec 17 @7pm (St Mary)
Tuesday Dec 23 @10am
(St Michael & St Mary)



2026 Mass Intentions

Masses are now being scheduled for the first 6 months of 2026 ——— **January 1 to June 30, 2026.**

Parishioners are limited to **Two Weekend** mass intentions throughout the year. Weekday masses are available to accommodate additional mass intentions. These are on a first come, first serve basis.

Please call the Parish Office to schedule.

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