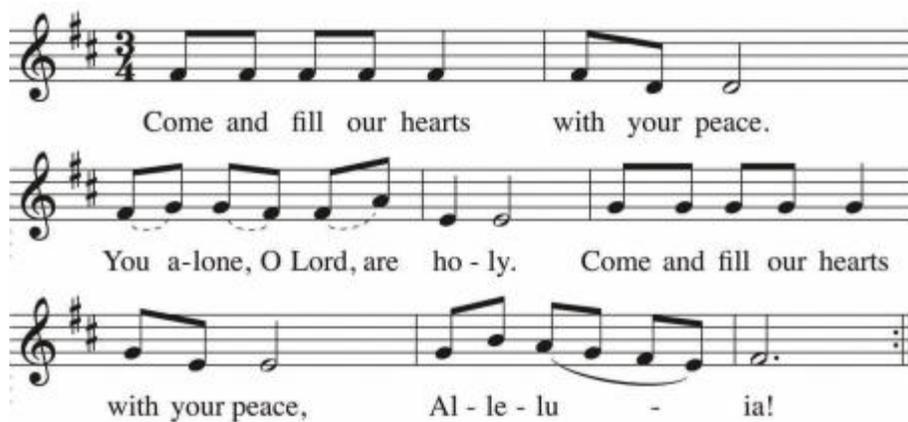


Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering Song



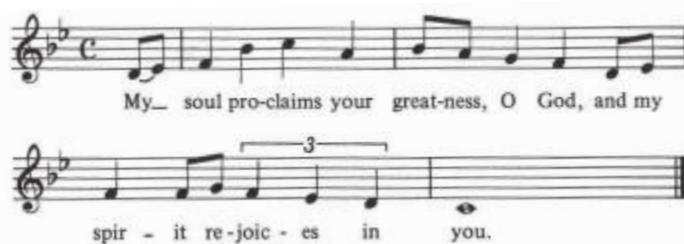
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Come and fill our hearts
with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!

Penitential Act Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11

Response: Canticle of Mary



My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
spir-it re-joic-es in you.

Reading II: 2 Peter 3.8-14

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

December 13, 2020

More "Blah, Blah, Blah" from Msgr. Mark

"No one falls out of a basement window."

That's a line one of my teachers used to quote to us.

What I understood him to mean was, "Yes, it is a terrible shock and a scandal when someone has standards and fails to meet them, but even that is better than not having any standards at all." The only way we can avoid having to admit "I was wrong" is to set the bar so low that no one expects anything of us at all. If you don't stand for anything, you'll never have to say you're sorry.

The news is often filled with the stories of important people behaving badly. The best way to avoid seeing your own name in the headlines is not, I would suggest, by hiding your identity as a Catholic, but to keep yourself grounded by regular self-examination ... giving yourself a good hard look in the mirror. I was taught to do that nightly as a kid but let the practice slide as I grew up. "That's so 'negative,'" I would have told you.

I am once again a true believer of the importance of such self-examinations, so I am always on the prowl for model moral check-ups to hold against myself so I can see where my need to repent and turn. Not that I can lift myself up by my bootstraps, but acknowledging my failures gives God a handle. As we pass the halfway point of Advent today (and begin two weeks where we are offering lots and lots of opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation), here's an example of such an examination to keep with your prayer things:

*Oh, God ... I confess my pride in thinking that others are sinners but I am not ...
I confess my imperfections, my faults, my failings, my bad habits and my wrongdoing ...
I confess to being a jerk while driving (and lots of other times, too) ...
I confess to eating too much, drinking too much, spending too much and wasting too much ...
I confess to giving too little when I have so much more than I need.
I confess to putting so many things in my life ahead of you ...
I confess to not being faithful to prayer and worship, especially on the Lord's Day ...
I confess to losing my temper with children, adults, machines -- and with myself ...
I confess my selfish need to be noticed and admired ...
I confess to being smug and self-righteous.
I confess to being ungracious toward others ...
I confess to being careless and failing to be responsible ...
I confess not forgiving others as I'd want them to forgive me ...
I confess to enjoying comfort and plenty as if I'm entitled to them ...
I confess to lustful glances, unclean thoughts, and impure deeds.
I confess to being unfaithful to promises I've made ...
I confess the grudges and resentments I carry against others ...
I confess my envy and jealousy ...
I confess to language and humor that are rude and vulgar ...
I confess my impatience and insensitivity ...
I confess my dishonesty, my unfairness, my duplicity, my half-truths and my failures to act justly ...
I confess my prejudice and quick judgments ...
I confess my insincerity and hypocrisy ...
And I confess whatever I didn't find on this list but I know is in my heart ...
I confess my sins, both large and small, for each transgresses your great love for me ...
I confess that I'm a sinner, Lord, in need of your mercy.
Grant me that ... and the strength to change. Amen.*

Fr. Mark

Sunday, December 13

No Elementary Formation
7:30am Reconciliations at CR
8:30am Mass +Robert & Mary Jane Balz at CR
10:30am Mass +John Sahr, Jr. at SM
6:00pm High School Virtual Formation

Monday, December 14

St. John of the Cross
5:30pm Mass +Jim Gassner at CR
6:00pm Reconciliations at CR

Tuesday, December 15

12:10pm Mass +Deceased Members of the Seubert Family at CR
5:30pm Rosary and Novena at CR

Wednesday, December 16

12:10pm Mass +Ronald Koltz at CR
3:00pm Reconciliation at SM
6:00pm Middle School Virtual Formation
6:00pm Reconciliation at SM

Thursday, December 17

10:00am Reconciliation at CR
12:10pm Mass: Special Intention for the Safety and Health of all Emergency and Public Officials at CR
3:00pm Reconciliation at CR
6:00pm Reconciliation at CR

Friday, December 18

12:10pm Mass +Deceased Members of the Treptow Family at CR

NOTE: The rosary will be said beginning at 11:35 am before the Daily Masses. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will follow Mass.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 19

10:30am Advent Communal Penance Service at SM
3:00pm Reconciliations at SM
4:00pm Mass +Art and Elroy Staszak at SM

Sunday, December 20

No Elementary or High School Formation
7:30am Reconciliations at CR
8:30am Mass +Ed Blohm at CR
10:30am Mass for the People of the Eastside Parishes at SM

CR - Church of the Resurrection • **SM** - St. Michael Church

*Scripture Readings for this Week
can be found at:
<https://bible.usccb.org>*

Bulletin article submission deadline:

Monday at noon
bulletins@eastsideparishes.org

Church of the Resurrection: 715-845-6715
St. Michael Parish: 715-842-4283
Website: eastsideparishes.org

Readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

It's only with these readings for the 4th Advent Sunday that the lectionary turns away from a focus on the "final" and "middle" comings of the Christ, to look back to the historical birth of Jesus. The first reading reveals God's unconditional attachment to King David, promising to be with him and his dynasty forever. David's line did last four centuries but did run out of gas in the early 6th century BC, leading some to look elsewhere for God's promised everlasting ruler. In a most familiar gospel passage, Luke sees the fulfillment of this long-delayed pledge to David through Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph, of David's house ... and a child who would be Son of God. *How do long-lasting promises keep you going at your tasks? What limited contracts get you worried about the future?*

Between us and our sentimental celebrations of Christmas stand John the Baptist, giving the seasonal warning that there is no honest way to the joy and peace we really seek without internal renewal. It is from that bit of perennial wisdom that the practice of an Advent celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation springs.

But how to help make this happen in the days of COVID-19? Our answer is to have many, many opportunities for you to celebrate the sacrament spread over the next two weeks. Morning, afternoon, and evening, we will be adding seven more opportunities for individual reconciliation as well as one communal opportunity, a brief scripture service and homily followed with the opportunity for confession with many priests on hand on Saturday, December 19, at 11:30 am. Here is the whole list:

Here is the full schedule:

- Saturday the 12th—3:00 pm at St. Michael Parish
- Sunday the 13th—7:30 am at Resurrection
- Monday the 14th—6:00 pm at Resurrection
- Wednesday the 16th—at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish
- Thursday the 17th—at 10:00 am, 3:00 pm, and 6:00 pm at Resurrection Church
- Saturday the 19th—Communal Service, at 10:30 am at St. Michael Parish
- Saturday the 19th—3:00 pm at St. Michael Parish
- Sunday the 20th—7:30 am at Resurrection
- Monday the 21st—6:00 pm at Resurrection
- Tuesday the 22nd—3:00 pm and 6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish

If none of these times works, you can also call Fr. Joe or Fr. Mark at 715-842-4283 for an appointment.

Please remember all of our homebound and hospitalized parishioners from Resurrection and St. Michael Parishes in your prayers this week.

St. Michael Votive Candles burn in memory of:

- Tom Vick
- Bob Wonsil
- Delmar Michlig

For the special intention of:

- The celebration of Connie Michlig's Birthday
 - For good health
- Peace in the Jones family
 - A special favor
 - A special favor
 - A special favor
 - A special favor

Opportunities for Advent Confession

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas under COVID

Who'd have imagined, when all this started back in March, that this is where we would be. Worship is key to a believers' Christmas ... but we also want you all to be safe. Precautions about touch, the wearing of masks, and continued concern over social distancing all remain in place. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on this great Holy Day also still stands. The most important decision about attending Christmas worship is yours to make. But to make "social distanced seats" more available, we are increasing the number of liturgies from five to eight.

- Christmas Eve @ 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm at both Resurrection and St. Michael Churches**
- Christmas Eve @ 6:00 pm at St. Michael Parish**
- Christmas Eve @ 8:00 pm at Resurrection Parish**
- Christmas Morning at 8:30 am at Resurrection Parish and 10:30 am St. Michael.**

Reservations will be a must. Access the website at eastsideparishes.org/east/ or call 715-842-4283 and tell us the time, the place, and how many will be attending. As liturgy times "fill up," we hope you will be flexible enough to attend another liturgy at an available time. This will not be a time just to assume we will have space. We don't want to disappoint anyone. Proper planning can avoid that.

4 Financial Giving December 6, 2020

St. Michael Parish

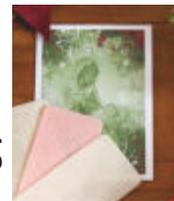
Adult Envelopes/Offertory	\$11,040.00
Electronic Contributions	\$3,303.33
Weekly Total	\$14,343.33
Fiscal Year-to-date Contributions	\$241,751.44

Church of the Resurrection

Adult Envelopes/Offertory	\$12,438.00
Electronic Contributions	\$1,935.00
Weekly Total	\$14,373.00
Fiscal Year-to-date Contributions	\$256,899.81

The Christmas Tradition of Oplatki

Family members of Polish, Slovak and Lithuanian backgrounds observe the custom of the Christmas Oplatki. It is a tender, touching family celebration of love, forgiveness and goodwill. Oplatki wafers are available in the back of both churches. An offering of \$2.00 will help the parishes in providing for this tradition.



"We Believe" Giving December 6, 2020

"We Believe" cash contributions this week	\$4,175.00
"We Believe" electronic contributions this week	\$0.00
"We Believe" weekly total	\$4,175.00

Total "We Believe" pledges (including friends' match)...\$1,281,987.43
(not counting St. Ambrose Financial Services matching interest forgiveness)

Total "We Believe" cash contributions to date \$925,169.37

Beautify our churches while honoring those near and dear to us.

Poinsettias that decorate the churches for Christmas are supported through donations made in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person or family. Contributions can be returned in the flower envelope you received in your envelope packet.



The PCCW and Soup Kitchen Crew will be providing a meal to the Catholic Charities Warming Center every Thursday from December through March. Donations of cookies, bars, sliced bread and buns are requested to be served with the meal. Volunteers are asked to drop off their baked items (in disposable wrap/plates) on Wednesdays between 8:00am-2:00pm in the Church of the Resurrection Francis Hall. If you'd like to assist with cooking, please call Mary Ann at 715-845-3662.



Thank you to these new Annual Appeal respondents!

As of December 8, at St. Michael Parish we have received responses from **153** households and individuals who have together pledged **\$59,275** towards our \$78,565 share of the overall goal. At the Church of the Resurrection **141** people have responded and have pledged **\$58,495** toward the \$75,385 goal there. It's a grand start. We are very grateful for these folks whose response to the Appeal reached us as of December 2:

St. Michael: John and Nancy Jankowski, Jay and Julie Kolbeck, Mike and Julie Kwarcizny, James and Joanne Juedes, Paula Vogt, Henry Brzezinski, Jean Mantz, Frank and Phyllis Radigan, Patrick and Cheryl Kinney, John and Jill Schlueter, and Dan and Margie Southworth.

Church of the Resurrection: Randy Falstad, Linda Myszka, Bruce and Bev Abbott, Jocelyn Abbott, Steve and Ann Robinson, Don and Judy Smith, and Jacqueline Feck.

Parish Advent Stewardship Opportunity

This Advent our parishes will be collecting **NEW** items and non-perishable food to help the less fortunate in our community. In lieu of choosing a tag from the Giving Tree this year, you are asked to please shop from the list below and return the item(s)—unwrapped—to the tables in the churches' gathering areas through December 21. The donated items will be distributed to Catholic Charities Warming Center, The Neighbor's Place, and North Central Health Care.

- Gift certificates for Target, Walmart or Pick 'n Save (\$10-25...please indicate amount on the card)
- 100- to 300-piece jigsaw puzzles
- Word search and crossword puzzle books
- Colored construction paper
- Diapers – sizes 4, 5 and 6
- Paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels)
- Warm winter gloves, mittens, and hats – children and adult sizes
- Socks – children and adult sizes
- Men's undershirts and underwear – sizes medium and larger
- Women's underwear – any size
- New, large backpacks
- Non-perishable food items:
 - Whole-grain cereals, pasta, and rice
 - Canned or boxed meals
 - Hearty soups
 - Canned fruit in natural juices
 - Canned vegetables (low sodium)
 - Pop Tarts
 - Individual-size, boxed cereals



Pat Esselman
Parishioner



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Gospel: John 1.6-8, 19-28

Profession of Faith: Nicene Creed — *see sidebar on front*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts and Altar [sung at recorded liturgy only]

1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, For
2. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall
soon* he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing!
crown you with light; Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
Love be our song and love our prayer And love our end - less
geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
sto - ry. May God fill ev - 'ry day we share And
lives now in - side us for ev - er.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.



Preface Dialogue

Eucharistic Acclamations — *see sidebar*

Song After the Reception of Communion

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he,
blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

MYSTERY OF FAITH

**When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again,
until you come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will
be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

*Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil...
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

**For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are
yours, now and forever.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed
are those called to the supper
of the Lamb.*

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter
under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul
shall be healed.**