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Helen Marx
James Cawley

Please.....help us pass the word

St. Catherine's is live-streaming Daily (now at 8am) [except Thursdays] & Sunday Mass (Saturday 5pm). They can be seen on our parish website:

www.northpoconocatholic.com and
our Facebook page.

Mass may be viewed later on YouTube
Search North Pocono Catholic Media

Reservations for Weekend Masses may be made by registering online or by contacting Mary no later than 7pm the evening before. This helps the volunteers to prepare for the next day's liturgies.

Please make others aware of this, so they are able to join us spiritually or in person.

If you need to reach Father Simon, please call the parish office.

If you have a question for the office, please feel free to contact Mary at 570-842-4381 or text to 570-840-6468

Stay tuned for any new updates from the parish and diocese.

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Phone: 570-842-4561 Fax: 570-842-6648
www.northpoconocatholic.com

A Roman Catholic Parish Community Serving the People of North Pocono in the Diocese of Scranton

DECEMBER 6, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
DECEMBER 7—13, 2020

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 - 8AM

STELLA JANKOWSKI (Arthur & Charlene Fick)

~~~~~

**7PM—VIGIL MASS\***

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

●

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 \***

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**8AM**

ROBERT MOTTER (His Family)

**5:30PM**

JAMES HUFF, SR. (Jack Kelly)

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

JAMES P. MOORE (His Wife & Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
JAMES PATRICK COLFORD
(Steven & Jennifer McGee)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12—5PM

JOSEPH R. NOTO (Barbara, Cappy & JoAnn)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13—9AM
FOR THE PEOPLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13—11:30AM
ROBERT GRIM (Dick & Susie LaFave)

Reservations required for all Holy Day Masses

If you haven't been sure about attending Mass due to COVID-19, maybe attending one of the smaller Holy Day Masses may help put your mind at ease and give you a chance to see what we're doing to keep everyone as safe as we can.

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 85:9-10-11-12-13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

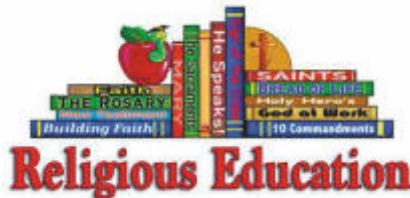
SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



TODAY—Sunday, December 6

**Grades 1—5 (L-Z) will meet in Kelly Hall
10—11am**

**Grades 6,7,8 (L-Z) will meet in Kelly Hall
7—8pm
~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

Sunday, December 13

**Grades 1—5 (A-K) will meet in Kelly Hall
10—11am**

**Grades 6,7,8 (A-K) will meet in Kelly Hall
7—8pm
~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

Sunday, December 20

**Christmas Break begins
Classes resume January 3, 2021**



Flowers
for the Blessed Mother
are Offered in Memory of
Charles Sexton
Requested By
Mary Jane Sexton

Just a reminder.....

Poinsettias and some other
Christmas flower sponsorships
are still available. Contact
Mary at 570-842-4381 or
570-840-6468



REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

Daily Advent Reflections by
parishioners of Saint Catherine's
can be found on our parish
website....
www.northpoconocatholic.com
Or on YouTube:
[northpoconocatholicmedia](https://www.youtube.com/northpoconocatholicmedia)

During this Christmas season, it's a good time to ponder our many blessings and how we can share them to benefit others, including the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Community.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED??

- ♦ *Creating a special fund in honor of or in memory of a loved one? What is/was special to this person? Did they enjoy teaching or working with children? Was creating a beautiful garden something they treasured? Was music a passion of theirs? All of these areas of support at St. Catherine's, and other things of importance, can benefit from your generosity.*
- ♦ *Including St. Catherine of Siena in your will? Designating your bequest to an area of importance to you such as Youth Ministry; Religious Education; Vacation Bible School; etc.*
- ♦ *Donating appreciated securities to offset capital gains tax ?*
- ♦ *Establishing an annuity or trust fund and naming St. Catherine of Siena as beneficiary?*

These are just a few examples of how you can make a meaningful gift that can have a lasting impact and show gratitude for the many blessings in your life. If any of these opportunities, or others, interest you, please see Father Simon.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) will be available in the Main Church at regular Mass times and in the Treasure Chest on the front porch of the Rectory. An offering of \$2.00 may be placed in the Lock Box next to the front door of the Rectory.



COVID SAFETY UPDATE

We have installed an Air Scrubber System in the Main Church, Chapel and the Halls downstairs to help with ventilation through the use of ionization and UV light technology.

IMPORTANT NOTICES REGARDING MASS

Cold & Flu Season

If you are not feeling well (coughing, sneezing, etc.), out of an abundance of caution and care for fellow parishioners, please remain at home.

- **RESERVATIONS ARE STILL REQUIRED FOR ALL WEEKEND MASSES**
- If you choose to remain in your vehicle, you can listen to any live-streamed Mass on station 102.7FM (Cath Net Radio Chatter with the Angels & Saints) on your radio .
- We thank everyone for their patience in making reservations for Mass
- **IF YOU REQUIRE GLUTEN FREE HOST, PLEASE NOTIFY THE GREETER AS YOU ARRIVE FOR MASS**

Knights of Columbus Fundraiser
Orders due by Wednesday, December 9th
For Pick-Up
Wednesday, December 16th or
Thursday, December 17th

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Youth Ministry December Schedule

Virtual Youth Group Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 8th 7PM

Christmas Movie Monday

Virtual Watch Party "Elf"

Monday, Dec. 14th 7PM

Virtual Christmas Party

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd 7PM

Crazy Christmas outfit contest

& games with prizes!

Christmas Movie Monday Virtual Watch Party

Monday, Dec. 28th 7PM

All 6-12th grade students welcome!

Parents: Email Katie at
youthministry@northpoconocatholic.com for the links

Join Remind for updates right to your phone!

Txt @STCYG to the number 81010

Confessions For Christmas
Confessions will take place in the
Chapel on

Thursday, December 10 &

Thursday, December 17

from 6:30—7:30pm and on

Saturdays from 3:30—4:15pm



The Grief Support Group
Wednesday at 12:00pm

We are now back to meeting
in the Carriage House. We ask that all wear a
mask. All are welcome to attend.

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,
you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain

Keeping your faith firm.

You, our loving Mother, know what we need,

and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,

We may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows, to lead us through the Cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR RECEIVING SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



PARISH OFFICE

Since the Parish Office is operating remotely.....

- If you need to:
 - ⇒ Schedule a Baptism
 - ⇒ Purchase a Mass Card
 - ⇒ Change your address or phone number
 - ⇒ Register for Mass
 - ⇒ Make a general inquiry

Contact Mary
570-842-4381 or 570-840-6468

WEEKLY COLLECTION November 23, 2020

Weekly Offering \$ 4,353.00
 Dues \$ 624.00
 Care/Education of Priests \$ 40.00
 Special Collections \$ 90.00

Thank you so much for your inspiring generosity.

Diocesan Annual Appeal Update

Parish Goal \$63,000.00
 Pledges to Date \$44,225.00

Please prayerfully consider making your pledge if you have not already done so.

Thank you!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Wednesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
 Friday: St. Damasus I, Pope
 Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

PREPARE
 THE WAY OF
 THE LORD!

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

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