

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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JESUS



“Behold, you will conceive in your
womb and bear a son, and you
shall name him Jesus.”

LUKE 1:31

Mass Intentions

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>INTENTION</u>
Monday, December 21	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	Moderno Rossi, by Sandy Repak
Tuesday, December 22	8:30 AM	St. Martha	Stephanie Dluzeski, by John & Mary Everett
Wednesday, December 23	8:30 AM	St. Adalbert	NO MASS
Thursday, December 24	2:00 PM	St. Martha	For all Parishioners
	2:00 PM	St. Mary	For All Parishioners
	4:00 PM	St. Adalbert	For All Parishioners
	9:00 PM	St. Mary	For All Parishioners
Friday, December 25	10:00 AM	St. Mary	For All Parishioners
Saturday, December 26	4:15 PM	St. Mary	Victoria Kalie, by Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, December 27	8:00 AM	St. Adalbert	Joseph Dekutoski, by Joann Dekutoski
	9:45 AM	St. Martha	Regina & Cleo Angeli, by Raymond & Corrine Barchik

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: At St. Martha every Tuesday after the 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass until 9:00 p.m. Assigned Eucharistic adorers and substitutes are needed for all hours. Please contact Rebecca at 570-256-7329 to sign up for a specific hour or to be a substitute. **HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS** on **December 15th**, 9 - 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to participate in this prayer ministry for the sanctity of priests and for an increase of holy vocations.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP: Meetings are held the First Monday of each month unless noted. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 4th**, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. Please submit names of those suffering from serious illness who are homebound, in hospitals or in nursing homes to Gloria Handzelek 570-542-5694, Ann McElligott 570-864-2331 or Mary Lou Zaleski 570-736-6336. All members of Holy Spirit Parish are encouraged to pray for those whose names are on our Prayer List, to pray for Pope Francis and the healing of Holy Mother Church, and to attend our prayer meetings. The Scribe is Barbara Yacoboski 570-542-7447 and the Prayer Group Leader is Paulette Monchak 570-542-7242. Social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

CANDLES/FLOWER REMEMBRANCE

St. Adalbert Sanctuary Candle: In Loving Memory of Pauline Mascelli & Joann Turco, by Joe, Diane & Family
St. Adalbert Sanctuary Candle: In Loving Memory of John Krupinski, by Wife, Norma
St. Adalbert Candle for Mary: In Loving Memory of Theo Raber, by Steph Stogoski
St. Adalbert Candle for Joseph: In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Sokolnicki, by Family
St. Adalbert Tabernacle Candle: In Loving Memory of Edmund Elczyna, by Family
St. Martha Flowers: In Loving Memory of Stephanie Dluzeski, by John & Mary Everett

HOLY SPIRIT OFFERTORY— December 6, 29, 2020 \$ 2,978.00

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their offertory weekly/monthly.

HAPPENINGS

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, There are 400 Lottery Calendars remaining to sell. Please consider purchasing another calendar for yourself or to give as a gift. Each calendar is \$20.00 and good for 4 months, beginning January 2021.

CHRISTMAS Masses at Holy Spirit Parish: Due to COVID-19 and the limited seating in our worship sites, we will be adding a 2:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Mass schedule— December 24th: 2:00 PM-St. Mary; **2:00 PM**-St. Martha; (Please call Sharon Telesky to make reservations for this Mass at 570-864-8614) 4:00 PM-St. Adalbert; 9:00 PM-St. Mary— December 25th: 10:00 AM-St. Mary. **Attendance at the Christmas Masses will be by RESERVATION ONLY.**

OPLATKI: Many homes celebrate the tradition of the Christmas Wafer Meal. On Christmas Eve the family joins in a supper of special foods with the highlight of the meal being the breaking and distribution of the wafer bread to each other. It is a sign of love and friendship that is especially appropriate at Christmas time. The offering is \$2.00 per envelope. Oplatki can be purchased in the Church or at the rectory.

SMMA SCHOLARSHIP: The SMMA 2020 "Memorial Scholarship Award" is available for eligible St. Martha students. Our Scholarship Selection Committee will accept applications (available in the Sacristy) from current year eligible students until January 31, 2021. The Committee will decide the winner(s) before our February meeting. The decision of the Committee is final. The scholarship checks for \$500.00 will be awarded no later than the graduation of the student(s). If you have any questions please see any member of the Selection Committee. Thank you to everyone who supports our SMMA fundraisers. Without your help we couldn't help these deserving young people of our Parish. If you would like to donate money to increase the scholarships, please see President Jim Howanitz.

2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES & calendars are available in all 3 Worship Sites. If you see envelopes for someone you know can not make it to church, please be kind and deliver them for us. Please contact the parish office if there are any problems. We would like to thank The Mayo & George Strish Funeral Homes for donating the 2021 calendars.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: Thank you so much to all of you who have been faithfully drop-ping off, sending in, and making sure that your contributions have reached our parish. Your dedication to financially supporting your parish is truly inspiring and a true blessing. As Christmas approaches, we prayerfully ask that you keep up the good work and do your best to get us your Christmas contribution. You can drop off your envelopes at Mass in the baskets, or mailed to the Parish Office. Once again, thank you for all that you do and for your support of our parish!

Every donation counts!! If you have not yet pledged, please... Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal! (28000.00) OUR PARISH IS AT \$10,755.00 (\$17,245.00) We are grateful to the 91 parishioners who supported the 2020 Annual Appeal to date. If you have not yet given your support, please: 1) Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card. 2) Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or give online at DioceseofScranton.org. **Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.**

WEEKEND MASSES: There are **Sunday** Masses available for 2021. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one on the weekend, (even if you already scheduled masses for 2020) please call the Parish Office. These masses will be on a first come first serve basis. Thank you!



FIRST READING

"When your times comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)



PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)



SECOND READING

According to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God. (Rom 16:25b-26a)



GOSPEL

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)

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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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