

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Our Lady of Fatima Parish*  
134 South Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701  
Telephone(570)823-4168  
Fax(570)822-3477  
E-Mail: OLFSTMARYS@AOL.COM  
Internet Home Page—  
www.OLFSTMARYS.weconnect.com  
**JANUARY 23, 2022**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**



## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Joseph D. Verespy  
**Assistant Pastors:** Rev. Fidel Ticona  
Rev. Mark J. DeCelles  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Msgr. Thomas V. Banick  
**Deacon:** Deacon Joseph Sudano  
**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Rita D. Bevan (Ext. 105)  
**Office Manager/Secretary:**  
Ms. Martha S. Callahan (Ext. 103)  
**Human Services/Social Concerns:** Mrs. Terri Nowak  
**Ministry Scheduler:** Miss Amanda Curcio (Ext. 106)

## WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST

### SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:00PM  
Sunday 10:00AM  
12:10PM  
7:00PM

### WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday through Friday  
12:10PM  
St. Therese Chapel



**HOLY DAY EUCHARIST**  
AS ANNOUNCED

## WE CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS

### PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.  
For Confessions in Spanish, please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

### BAPTISM

Please contact the Church office when your child is born.

### MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should notify the parish priest at least one year prior to the date on which they wish to marry.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the rectory anytime for visitation of the sick at home or in the hospital/health care facility.

### SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/(CCD)

Our program serves children grades PrK to Confirmation Preparation.

### BEQUESTS TO YOUR PARISH

Please remember St. Mary's Church with memorial gifts and in your will

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00PM to 4:30PM  
Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM  
Friday 8:30AM to 2:00PM

### PARISH REGISTRATION

We always welcome new members to our Parish Community. To join the parish or to give notice of change of address/telephone, please call 570-823-4168.

Siempre damos la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros a nuestra parroquia Community. To unirse a la parroquia o para dar aviso de cambio de dirección / teléfono, por favor llame al 570- 823 - 4168.

Nous sommes toujours heureux d'accueillir de nouveaux membres de notre communauté paroissiale. Inscrivez\*vous à la paroisse ou de donner un avis de changement d'adresse/téléphone, veuillez composer le 570-823-4168.

Chúng tôi hoan nghênh thành viên mới vào cộng đồng giáo xứ của chúng tôi. Để tham gia các giáo xứ, xin vui lòng gọi 570-823-4168 cho một cuộc phỏng vấn với các Pastor.

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**JANUARY 23, 2022**

### THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

NEHEMIAH 8:2-4a, 5-6,8-10  
I CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:13  
LUKE 4:21-30



### NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 6:1-2a, 3-8  
I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11  
LUKE 5:1-11

### **WELLSPRING OF LOVE,**

*(second reading)*

**FATHOMLESS SEA OF KINDNESS  
AND GRACE.**

**MAKE US HEIRS OF YOUR PEACE.**

*(gospel reading)*

**KINDLE IN US  
THE BRIGHT FLAME  
OF YOUR LOVE.**

**STRENGTHEN US WHO  
CONFESS YOUR TRUTH.**

*(responsorial psalm)*

**UNITE US TO YOURSELF**

**AND ONE ANOTHER**

**IN FIRM AND UNBREAKABLE  
BONDS OF PEACE**

*(first reading)*

**MAY WE BE ONE  
IN THE ETERNAL FEAST  
OF YOUR JOY.**

**THERE TO GLORIFY YOU, OUR GOD,  
IN YOUR EVERLASTING KINGDOM.**

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

*January 23, 2022—3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.*

*As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.*

*Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainty of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away.*

**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - FORMERLY KNOWN AS CANDLEMAS DAY, WILL BE CELEBRATED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, AT 12:10PM MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH. CANDLES WILL BE BLESSED AT THIS MASS AND AVAILABLE FOR PARISHIONERS TO BUY (\$2.00 PER BOX), FOR HOME USE. THE BLESSED CANDLES WILL BE USED FOR THE BLESSING OF THROATS ON WEDNESDAY, THE MEMORIAL OF ST. BLAISE.**

### POOR BOXES IN THE VESTIBULE

Our deepest thanks to all who give to the poor via our parish poor boxes. God bless you for your Christian generosity.





## Sacrificial Giving

**WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**  
**God's Plan For Giving**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS**

The weekly collection will be listed in next  
Sunday's Bulletin.

### RECEIVED FROM OUR ENVELOPE COMPANY

#### Why Your Church Envelopes are LATE!

Dear Valued Customer,

We were notified of a postal issue yesterday by our transportation provider that multiple mail hubs would not accept four pallets of mail that we provide proper USPS clearing paperwork.

We immediately sought explanation of the rejections and after much back and forth this was escalated to our Vice President of Postal Affairs & Customer Service. She in turn escalated this to the USPS Vice President of the East Coast who acknowledged that the postal hubs were incorrect in not accepting the mail and instructed them to accept our mail.

Unfortunately this has caused a delay in delivery, the post office will be expediting this mail and treating it as first class even though it is non-profit mail.

We apologize if you experience any delays due to this postal issue.

Client Relations Manager  
Cathedral Corporation

### 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please make your requests by filling out this form below and returning it. Thank you.

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop this Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

On December 21, 2021, Pope Francis appointed the Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan.



As Bishop-elect Walsh prepares for his Episcopal Ordination and Installation as Bishop of Gaylord on March 4, 2022, parishioners and friends of the Bishop-elect are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving and Sending Forth in gratitude for his ministry of service to the People of God in the Church of Scranton. The Mass will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 12:10 p.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral. It will also be televised live on Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

### PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington

### MISSION STATEMENT

*WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR\*FOLD MISSION:*

- *TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;*
- *TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;*
- *TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;*
- *TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Plant Your Works in the Word

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## **Masses For The Week**

### **MONDAY— JANUARY 24 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Susanna Chokola*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Zita Cavanaugh*

### **TUESDAY— 25 (CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Joan Marie Robbins*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Julie Radzville*

### **WEDNESDAY— 26 (WEEKDAY)**

#### **ST. TIMOTHY/ST. TITUS**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Barbara Lee Skrepenak*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Jacqueline Peknic-Burns*

### **THURSDAY— 27 (ST. ANGELA MERCI)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Mary Drank*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Miguel Angel Veneros Avedano*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Benjamin Dalessandro*

### **FRIDAY— 28 (ST. THOMAS AQUINAS)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Charles Rider*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Agnes Hummel*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Kim Dante-Skiro*

### **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY— JANUARY 29**

St. Mary's 4:00PM *Vigil Mass*  
St. Nicholas 5:00PM *Gertrude Mulhern Fealy*

### **SUNDAY— JANUARY 30**

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Living and Deceased  
Members of the Parish*  
St. Mary's 10:00AM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Thonwald "Bud" Holmgen*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 12:15PM *Merced Tlaeca Gudelia Sosa  
and Feltz Ponce*  
St. Mary's 7:00PM *Mass*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.  
For Confessions in Spanish,  
please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

### **REST IN PEACE**

This past week our Parish Community celebrated one funeral

### **John H. Farrell**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.  
Please remember him and all the faithful departed in your prayers.

### **ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

Review your quarterly statement. Make sure all of your requested activity has been applied to your account. If you received a fee for DORMANCY, please make a \$5.00 deposit to re-activate your account. This is a membership requirement—to make one transaction per year.



Please check the Diocesan  
Website to take a survey  
concerning the Synod.  
Your input is very important.  
[Dioceseofscranton.org](http://Dioceseofscranton.org)

**MEMORIAL OF ST. BLAISE WITH  
BLESSING OF THROATS**



On THURSDAY, February 3, we will celebrate the Memorial of St. Blaise as a sacramental sign of the Lord's healing. The words of the blessing used on this day are as follows: *"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil..."* We all pray for relief and protection from physical troubles and ailments of the throat (e.g. hoarseness, choking, colds, cancer). We ask protection from these as well: unkind speech, choking curses and gagging lies. As we receive the blessing of St. Blaise on Thursday, let us ask, through his intercession, for deliverance from both physical and spiritual evils of the throat and tongue. **Throats will be blessed in St. Mary's Church during the 12:10PM Mass.**

*Thank You* 

*Thank you for a wonderful Christmas Collection that totaled to date \$18,307.*



GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU —  
BUT PROBABLY NOT  
ON YOUR CELL PHONE—  
PLEASE TURN OFF  
YOUR CELL PHONE DURING MASS.  
*R U texting in Church?  
Please put the phone down!*

**I NEED A SPONSOR CARD !**

To serve as a sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage, a person needs a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her Pastor testifying to the fact that the person is a practicing Catholic. Active membership is determined by: regular attendance at Mass, registration at the parish for at least six months, use of your parish envelopes (only accurate way to know your attendance) and participation in parish activities. Certificates cannot be issued unless you are previously registered with the Parish.

**PRO LIFE—BABY SHOWER—**

*The St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society's Annual Pro-Life Center Baby Shower for 2022 is being changed to a DIAPER DRIVE. The Center currently has enough clothing on hand, but is experiencing an increase in requests for diapers, receiving blankets and baby wipes. When you are shopping, please consider purchasing any of these items, bring them to church and place them in the Sanctuary in front of the Baptismal Font the weekends of January 29/30, and February 5/6. As you place your gifts, please pause and think of the family that you will be helping. All items will be put to very good use by the local Pro-Life Office.*





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