



Merry Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:14

OLPI

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Christmas – I Am There

(from "The Eternal Year", Karl Rahner, S.J., 1904-84)

Now God says to us
What He has already said to the earth as a whole
Through His grace-filled birth:

I am there. I am with you.
I am your life. I am your time.
I am the gloom of your daily routine. Why will you not hear it?
I weep your tears – pour yours out to me.
I am your joy.

Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living
That is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who have no hope.

I am the blind alley of all your paths,
For when you no longer know how to go any farther,
Then you have reached me,
Though you are not aware of it.

I am in your anxiety, for I have shared it.
I am in the prison of your finiteness,
For my love has made me your prisoner.

I am in your death,
For today I began to die with you, because I was born,
And I have not let myself be spared any real part of this experience.

I am present in your needs;
I have suffered them and they are now transformed.

I am there.
I no longer go away from this world.
Even if you do not see me now, I am there.

My love is unconquerable.

I am there.

It is Christmas.

Light the Candles! They have more right
to exist than all the darkness.

It is Christmas.

Christmas that lasts forever.

**On behalf of Fathers Jim, Lou,
Ward and Matt, we wish to
thank our parishioners for their
faithfulness, generosity and love.**

A Blessed Merry Christmas to All.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Mass Intentions for the Week

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Offered By
Sunday, December 26 The Holy Family	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Living & Deceased of the Brosenitsch & Harvey Families	~
	8:30 AM	St. John	Denny Rodgers	Family
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Violetta Collins	Dave & Linda Michel
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Fred & Wanda Morabito	Al & Joan Depew
Monday, December 27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	No Masses			
Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs				
Wednesday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Priest's Intention	
Thursday, December 30	8:00 AM	St. Mary	Rodney Scott	Ron & Karen Hartman
Friday, December 31 St. Sylvester I, Pope New Year's Eve	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Priest's Intention	
Saturday, January 1 Mary, The Holy Mother of God World Day of Peace New Year's Day	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Otto Conroy	Cal & Marianne Hetrick
	4:00 PM	St. Mary	Chris Blank	Donna Wiefling
	5:30 PM	St. Joseph	Mary Ann Charlton	Friend
Sunday, January 2 The Epiphany of the Lord	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Bill & Anna Cranmer	Marilyn Cranmer
	8:30 AM	St. John	Barbara Geibel	Gary & Yolanda Cypher
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Nick Miller	Mike & Peggy Ortmann
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	John Mamros	Mike & Shelley Giobbi



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Staff

Administrative Office: 315 Stoney Hollow Rd.
Cabot, PA 16023

Office Phone: 724-352-2149 Extensions below

Pastor: Fr. Matthew McClain	Ext. 203
Email: mmclain@diopitt.org	
Senior Parochial Vicars:	
Fr. James Kurtz, OFM, Cap.	Ext. 202
Email: frjim@saintfrancisparish.net	
Emergencies: 412-421-3962	
Fr. Louis Pascazi	Ext. 210
Email: frlou@saintclareparish.com	
Fr. Ward Stakem, OFM, Cap.	Ext. 201
Email: forward@saintfrancisparish.net	
Emergencies: 724-777-9432	
Linda Green- Sacraments, Mass intentions, Human Resources, Parishioner Data	
Email: linda@saintfrancisparish.net	Ext. 220
Jenn Stahoviak- Bulletin & Website Editor	
Email: jenn@saintfrancisparish.net	Ext. 216
Martha Birch - Accounting	724-445-3713 x5
Email: martha@saintfrancisparish.net	
Barb Boltz- Assistant & Facilities Scheduler	Ext. 204
Email: barb@saintfrancisparish.net	
Nicole Karenbauer - Safe Environment	Ext. 205
Email: se@saintfrancisparish.net	
Steven Yealy- Music at St. John site	
Email: steven@saintfrancisparish.net	
Gerard Conroy- Music at St. Joseph site	
Email: gerard@saintfrancisparish.net	
Carol Michel- Music at St. Mary site	
Email: michel317@zoominternet.net	
Debi Gross- Catechetical Administrator	Ext. 206
Email: debi@saintfrancisparish.net	
Laura Eakman- Catechetical Assistant	Ext. 217
Email: laura@saintfrancisparish.net	
Cecilia Love- Faith Formation Secretary	Ext. 207
Email: cecilia@saintfrancisparish.net	
Angela Robb- Adult Faith Formation	Ext. 208
Email: angela@saintfrancisparish.net	
Amy Majersky - St. Joseph Preschool	Ext. 209
Amy Pettinato- St. Mary Preschool	Ext. 221



Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Please note that there will be **no** confession at the regularly scheduled times on Saturday, January 1, 2022.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays,	St. Mary	11am - 12pm
	St. Joseph	12pm - 1pm
	St. John	12pm - 12:30pm

SCHEDULING SACRAMENTS

Baptism - Instruction is required for first time parents. Contact Linda for details and scheduling.
Marriage - Contact Linda for details and scheduling at least 6 months prior.

Visit our Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Website at www.saintfrancisparish.net or Scan the QR code on your device to go directly to the website!





Please remember in your prayers the sick, suffering, and homebound of our parish community, especially those listed below.

- James J. Edwards
- Ken Orloski
- Baby Willow Lydon
- Marta Riordan
- David Villani
- Gary McLafferty
- Tracey Bierhals
- Edwin Hartman
- Shawn Hartman
- Renee Verostek
- Dennis Geary
- Cookie & Tom Miller
- Tommy McClain
- Bernadette Conerty
- Tom Angert Jr.
- Pat Jordan
- Marek Wabiszewski
- Robert Rakarich
- Rose Hinch
- Marge Karenbauer
- Mary Lou Beilstein
- Bernice Durand
- Elaine Lydon
- Marge Steinhiser
- John Lorenz
- Kathy Miller
- Joe Krall
- Lois Davanzati
- Elizabeth Rakarich
- Agnes Widenhofer
- Carol Rowley
- Dan Jonczak Jr.
- Judy Convery
- Mary Carbin
- Jim Edwards
- C.J. Kriley
- Loretta Schnur
- Janet Biscetlia
- Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM, Cap.
- Fr. Gary Stakem, OFM, Cap

Please call the office or email Jenn to add/remove names from the prayer list.

WITH HEARTFELT SYMPATHY

Prayers for comfort and peace to the family & friends of those our parish family has lost.

Thomas Osche

May they rest in the peace and glory of the Risen Christ.



Congratulations to . . .

Josh Reddick & Lauren Wade

Who were united in marriage at St. Francis Parish on December 18, 2021



This week's Sacred Heart candle at St. John is

In Memory of **Fr. Albert Koser**

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you and will a lively sorrow for my sins. I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessings on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Within your heart I place my every care. In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying, Heart of Jesus, help me. Amen.



Office Closed

The Saint Francis Administrative Offices will be closed this week so that our dedicated staff can enjoy time with their families for the holidays. Normal office hours resume on Monday, January 3, 2022. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

There are no Children's Faith Formation classes on December 26th or January 2nd. Have a blessed holiday!

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the kindness and generosity and most of all the support throughout the year to the Society.

Words cannot express how much we appreciate the Food Collections, Poor Box Collections, Bundle Drives, Donation Bins and Monetary Donations. Without the support of so many kind and compassionate folks, we would not be able to continue the Mission of serving those in need. Please continue to keep us in your prayers and know you will be in ours as well.

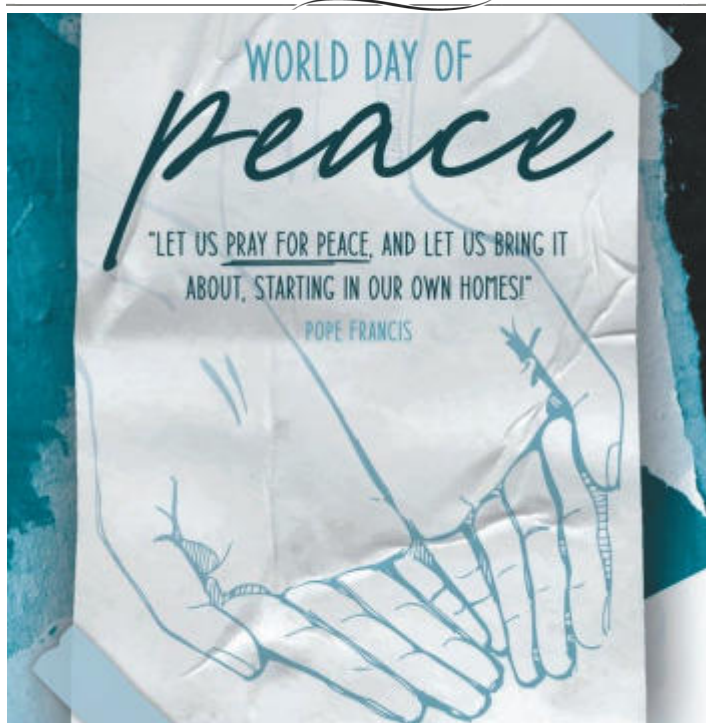
Have a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Sincerely,
 Jerry Harrison
 Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 Butler District Council



HOPE AND HEALING ARE POSSIBLE!!!

For those struggling with addiction or substance abuse, for their families and for those who have lost loved ones to the disease of addiction and overdose. We come together in prayer! PLEASE JOIN US FOR ROSARY AND SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS on Tuesday, **Dec 28th - 2:30-3:30pm** ABBA'S HOUSE, 320 W. MAIN ST., SAXONBURG, 16056
 information: patomaszewski@zoominternet.net



**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
 December 11 & 12**

Offertory at Mass	\$9,806.60
Offertory ONLINE	\$2,505.00
TOTAL Offertory	\$12,311.60
Parish Share (PSP)	\$8,935.00
Parish Share ONLINE.....	\$705.00
TOTAL Parish Share	\$9,640.00
2021 Parish Share to Date	\$112,785.70
2021 Parish Share Goal	\$127,706.00
Immaculate Conception	\$2,562.75
Retired Religious	\$90.00
All Saints	\$40.00
Food Bank	\$60.00
Christmas Flowers	\$395.00
Christmas Offering	\$80.00
Christmas Charities	\$75.00
Utility Fund	\$24.68
Solemnity of Mary	\$25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$10.00
Mission Sunday	\$20.00

Due to the early submission date of the bulletin, the offertory totals for December 18 & 19 will be published in next weekend's bulletin.

**Thank you for your support
 of Parish Ministries!**

The Christian Mothers and Women would like to thank all the wonderful bakers who donated cookies for our first **Christmas Cookie Sale**. Many thanks to all who purchased our cookies! We hope you enjoyed them as much as we enjoyed making them. God bless you!

Thank you to all who have donated so generously this holiday season to help those in need. Whether you purchased gifts for the Angel Tree, donated to the Cabot Food Bank, Freeport Meals on Wheels, Marian Guild food drives, or our St. Vincent de Paul fund, we thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Praying for our Families
through the
Intercession of the Holy Family

Families,

No doubt you have heard the saying: “The family that prays together stays together”. This is so true. But we should not be satisfied with merely having our family stay together. We should want more, much more. We should want our families to be holy families, just like the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the family which shows us what God intends the family to be- a community noted for love of God and neighbor. A community of joy, unity and peace.

Beginning in January, we will introduce a way of helping our families to become more like the Holy Family. Each week a prayer card along with a framed picture of the Holy Family will be blessed and presented to three families after Mass. The blessed picture and prayer card should be displayed in a prominent place in the home. Gather together and pray near the picture each day during the week. Meanwhile, a number of our parishioners will be praying rosaries and other prayers for these families all week. We encourage you to continue to pray together to the Holy Family each day even after your week has concluded.

We hope that this practice of family prayer will help our parish families grow in holiness and love of God and neighbor.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Pray for Our Families.

St. Francis of Assisi Evangelization Team






SOLEMNITY OF
MARY, MOTHER
OF GOD

January 1st

Since The Solemnity of Mary falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of obligation.



ask.
seek.
knock.

What is the Meaning of Life?

FIND OUT!

discovering
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Sessions begin on Monday, January 10, 2022, and will be held every Monday for seven weeks, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the hall (former school cafeteria), at St. Mary in Herman. The program will include dinner. Everyone is invited to attend, but seating is limited, so register now! Registration forms are available in the vestibule of each church. If you have any questions, contact Sue Fraley (sue@saintclareparish.com, 724.445.3713 Ext. 3) or Angie Robb (angela@saintfrancisparish.net, 724.352.2149 Ext. 208). Join us in **discovering CHRIST!**

Pajama Day at Pre-school!



St. Joseph Blue Class



St. Mary Class

★
WE
WISH
YOU A
Merry
CHRISTMAS



St. Joseph Yellow Class

Dedicated decorators making garland for the doors of St. John



Fr. Matt wearing his fun Christmas hat at the combined staff Christmas luncheon



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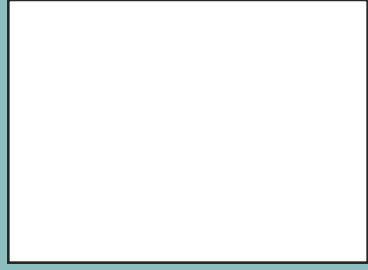
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