



SAINT JAMES PARISH

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

DECEMBER 6, 2020 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Second Sunday of
ADVENT



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 **A PARISH OF THE
DIOCESE OF
GREENSBURG**



MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday Vigil | 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass | 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Daily: Monday – Friday | 8:00 a.m.

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Six month notification required

Baptism: By appointment

Penance: Friday - 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.

Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Education Center
or by appointment

Pastoral Emergencies: Contact
Monsignor Kulick at
412-582-6082

PARISH OFFICE & STAFF

The Reverend Monsignor
Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Pastor

Loretta Oken, Office Coordinator

Laura Nalevanko, Website Content
Manager & Bulletin Editor

Missy DiRado,
Payroll/Financial Officer

Denise Pencola,
Director of Religious Formation

306 Saint James Lane
New Alexandria, PA 15670

Rectory & Office: (724) 668-2829

www.stjamesnewalexandria.org

Bulletin Deadline: Monday | 4:00 p.m.

Public Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Office Closed

FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR

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 all things 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?

LITURGICAL SERVICES OF THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020 | VIGIL MASS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

4:30 p.m. † James Aldridge - In Memory of Birthday (Wife, Lynda)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. † For the People

10:00 a.m. † Anna Jara - In Memory of One-Year Anniversary (Nick & Bernie Merenda)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020 | SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:00 a.m. † Allysan Puskar (Larry & Carol Zabkar)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:00 a.m. † Mary Ragan - In Memory of Birthday (Ragan Family)

6:00 p.m. † For the People

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 | ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Anthony Walters (Catherine Pastor)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 | ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Mary Murphy (Monsignor Larry J. Kulick)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020 | ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Dennis Ellis (Tony & Rose Sedlak)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 | VIGIL MASS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:30 p.m. † Lucy Lute (John & Mary Etta Legarski)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 | THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. † For the People

10:00 a.m. † Dr. Lois Scaglione - In Memory of Birthday (Rose Petrof, Cathy Sutor, Mary Ann Tompkins)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This doctrine of the Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Virgin Mary from the moment of her conception was kept entirely free from the stain of original sin by a singular grace and privilege of God.

Saint James will be celebrate the Solemnity with Mass for the Holy Day at **8:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020.**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In commemoration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Parish Office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020.**

PARISH MAILING

All parishioners should have received a special Advent and Christmas mailing and a letter from Monsignor Larry. This mailing included important liturgical and devotional activities that are scheduled for our Parish for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

If you do not receive this mailing, please contact the Parish Office. Extra packets are on the table inside the entrance of the church.

SAINT JAMES OUTREACH MINISTRY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN

In previous years Saint James Parish participated in a Dove Wreath for the children in need in our Diocese. This year, due to COVID restrictions, Catholic Charities has asked instead of parishioners purchasing gifts for the children that they will be accepting monetary donations. Our Outreach Ministry will be placing a box in the back of the church where you can place your donations. This collection will be available the weekends of **December 5 and 6; and December 12 and 13, 2020.** Saint James parishioners in the past have always generously supported this important collection. **Please make checks out to: Diocese of Greensburg - Catholic Charities.** Please prayerfully consider donating to this collection for our area's children and their families.

† SYMPATHY †

We commend to your prayers the soul of our parishioner, Mr. Larry Rich who passed away on **Tuesday, December 1, 2020.** We express our deepest sympathy to his entire family.

May God receive his soul into His everlasting Kingdom and grant comfort and peace to his family and friends.



THANK YOU

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the Saint James Parishioners who sent their well wishes and prayers during my recent surgery, it is so greatly appreciated. God bless all of you.

Jerry Eidemiller



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - "A WEEK OF GRACE"

The Diocese of Greensburg will be hosting "A Week of Grace" to extend the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance the week of **December 14 - December 18, 2020**. Here at Saint James, confessions will be heard during this entire week in the priest's sacristy from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily. The opportunity for confessions will continue on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Education Center, and in the priest's sacristy in church every Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

Due to health and safety regulations, we will not be having Advent Communal Penance Services, we want to give parishioners ample opportunities to receive the Sacrament before Christmas. The Sacrament of Penance is also available by appointment.

OPLAKI - CHRISTMAS WAFER "BREAD OF UNIFYING LOVE"

The holy wafers are shared with all present, each breaking a piece from the other at the Christmas Vigil meal, wishing health, happiness, and good fortune, and after this life an eternal crown in Heaven. The Oplaki are now available for you to take on the table at the entrance of the church. There are four wafers in each Nativity envelope (3 white - 1 pink). These will be packaged individually for your health and safety. A basket is available for your donations for the Oplaki.

"Glory to God in the highest, Peace to all God's people on earth"

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

MARIAN PRAYERS

Our Rosary Altar Society will sponsor our monthly devotions and Marian Prayers on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 1:30 - 3:15 p.m.** in the Church. Beginning at 1:30 p.m. all four mysteries of the Rosary will be prayed. There will then be a period of quiet time for private prayer. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed at 3:00 p.m. with closing at 3:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in this time of prayer as we pray for the intentions of the Church, our world and country along with your own private intentions.

STOCKING STUFFER TICKET

The Rosary Altar Society is continuing to sell the \$5.00 stocking stuffer ticket before and after each week-end Masses. The winning number will be taken from the Pennsylvania Lottery at 7:00 p.m. each day the month of January 2021.

Your help in buying and selling these tickets would be greatly appreciated. They make a great gift for Christmas and you can turn \$5.00 into a \$350.00 gift!!

2021 CALENDARS

The 2021 Calendars are available at the back of the church. Every home in the parish should have one of these Catholic Calendars with valuable reference information on the last pages announcing Holy Days of Obligation for 2021. They contain beautiful artwork and scripture readings for each month.

We extend a sincere thank you to the P. David Newhouse Funeral Home and Qwik Stop Mini Mart for providing these calendars to us for so many years, we are extremely grateful for their kindness. Please be sure to take one home!

LECTORS OF THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020

4:30 p.m. - Marion Cowan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

8:00 a.m. - Bridget Widdowson

10:00 a.m. - Mary Kay Rosborough

ADVENT PRAYER

God of power and mercy, open our hearts and remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes in glory, for He lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit for ever and ever. Amen

CHRISTMAS WINDOW MEMORIAL CANDLES

A special thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Advent and Christmas Memorial Candle Program. Your generous donations will allow our church windows to be decorated with candles that will burn for the entire Advent and Christmas seasons. Your donation will defer the cost of the candles used during this Holiday season and are such a beautiful way to honor our living and deceased loved ones.

In loving memory of Nalevanko, Swiencki and Grohe Families

(Tom and Maryann Nalevanko)

In loving memory of our parents: Victor and Evelyn Lasitis, Bernard & Emily Morelli, sister and brother-in-law, Arlene and Theodore Redish

(Bernard and Ruth Ann Morelli)

In loving memory of Blanche Pushic

(Pushic and Kost Families)

In loving memory of John Nemchik

(Wife, Pat Nemchik and Family)

In loving memory of Lucy Renchko

(Husband, Richard Renchko)

In loving memory of Mary Eidemiller

(Husband, Jerome Eidemiller)

In loving memory of Gene Forish, John and Susan and Family

(Marge Forish)

In loving memory of Parents, Ralph and Helen Allen

(Barbara Newhouse)

In loving memory of Parents, Paul and Lillian Newhouse

(P. David Newhouse)

In loving memory of Harold and Eva Turner, James and Leona Turner and Edward and Eva Kohler

(Mark and Laura Nalevanko)

In loving memory of John G. Yurack, Ann Hornock and Family

(Cecilia Yurack and Family)

In loving memory of Ahearn and Holleran Families and Marie Cherry

(Joseph and Betsy Ahearn)

In loving memory of George Pastor

(Wife, Catherine and Family)

In loving memory of Frank Nemchik

(Wife, Betty)

CUSTOM OF SAINT LUCY WHEAT

The Feast of Saint Lucy, *December 13*, is a favorite among many peoples, especially the Italian and Swedish. Saint Lucy's story is another of the hair-raising tales of martyrdom ending in heavenly triumph and we make the telling of it the focal point of her feast day.

A beautiful custom on the Feast of Saint Lucy is to plant the "Christmas wheat." Pressed gently into a pot of garden soil, watered, and kept in a moderately warm room, the wheat will be sprouted soft green by Christmas. Then the children (or adults) may carry it to the crèche as a gift for the Child Jesus, symbolic of the Eucharistic bread by which He feeds our souls at the altar as well as of the staff of life by which His Father keeps life in our bodies. The wheat may also be cut and used as the straw for the crèche. We will bless and distribute wheat after each Mass next weekend to celebrate the Feast of Saint Lucy on **Sunday, December 13, 2020**.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ in the tabernacle is burning during the month of **December 2020**:

In Memory of:

Steve & Edith Strosko

Requested by:

Marty, Dorothy & Paul Strosko



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF OUR LOVED ONES

The second collection on the weekend of **December 12 and 13, 2020** will help to defray the cost of our Christmas flowers and decorations. It also gives you a chance to remember your loved ones in a special way by having our Church decorated so beautifully for Christmas. Please remember to mark your envelope with your intentions, which will be printed in a special Christmas Flower bulletin insert. If you do not receive offertory envelopes you may use a white envelope with your name, intentions and offering.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE COLLECTION REPORT

NOVEMBER 21, 2020 & NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$2,116.00
Children:	\$5.00
Offertory Loose:	\$101.00
Fuel & Maintenance:	\$20.00
Candles:	\$225.00
Poverty Relief:	\$90.00
Thanksgiving:	\$15.00
Donation:	\$100.00
Total:	\$2,672.00

56 Adults - 24 % out of 237 who choose to use regular Sunday envelopes & 5 Youth

Income	Budget	Difference
\$2,582.00	\$3,688.85	- \$1,106.85

MASS ATTENDANCE

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 21, 2020 & NOVEMBER 22, 2020

4:30 p.m. - 38
8:00 am. - 29
10:00 a.m. - 55
Total - 122

THE ADVENT OFFERING

This weekends second collection is for the Advent Offering. Donations to this envelope may be made from the sacrifices we make during this Advent season. For example it may be abstaining from something we enjoy or usually do during the year, and directing the resources we would normally commit to these activities/items to our parish.

Donations made to this offering help make up for the weeks our offertory collection has been "under budget" and may be placed in the regular offertory collection anytime during the Advent season. Thank you for considering giving to this collection.



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE COLLECTION REPORT

NOVEMBER 28, 2020 & NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$1,709.00
Offertory Loose:	\$120.00
Fuel & Maintenance:	\$50.00
Candles:	\$68.90
Thanksgiving:	\$451.00
Flowers:	\$70.00
All Saints:	\$5.00
Diocesan Poverty:	\$20.00
Advent:	\$130.00
Oplatki:	\$14.00
Total:	\$2,637.90

51 Adults - 22 % out of 237 who choose to use regular Sunday envelopes

Income	Budget	Difference
\$2,617.90	\$3,688.85	\$ - 1,070.95

MASS ATTENDANCE

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 28, 2020 & NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Thanksgiving - 9:00 a.m. - 45
4:30 p.m. - 45
8:00 am. - 24
10:00 a.m. - 51
Total - 120

NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTRONIC TRANSFER REPORT

\$3,400.00
13 Users

This amount is added offertory revenue for our Parish for the month of **November 2020**. This amount represents offertory gifts given through our parish EFT program and those received through our Diocesan website offertory link and these are not previously published in the bulletin. This amount will be added to our total offertory income for **November 2020**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

BY: DENISE PENCOLA, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION

HEROES CORNER

Our hero of all human heroes is none other than the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception. The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception states that Mary was free from sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of Saint Anne. This is a truth and teaching that the universal Church has always believed but was not declared an official dogma, which must be believed by all Catholics, until 1854 when Pope Pius IX promulgated Ineffabilis Deus. There were some bishops and church leaders who had concern that because sacred scripture did not clearly proclaim Mary's sinless nature it would cause greater division among protestants – and it did! But the truth is still the truth and must be proclaimed even if misunderstood by some.

Blessed Fulton J. Sheen has one of the best explanations of this truth that we, as Catholics, hold dear, "If you could have created your own mother wouldn't you have made her perfect, flawless? Well, Jesus could and He did!" Jesus would not have come into the world through an impure vessel. Mary was chosen from all time to be that pure vessel through which the Savior of the world would come. Let us give thanks to Mary for her faithfulness and may we seek to imitate her example and heed her words to, "do whatever He tells you" John 2:5.

Blessed Mother pray for us!

Kids Corner

READ THE
GOSPEL &
COLOR



John the Baptist had an important message. When you make sinful mistakes, and when you turn away from God, stop. Learn from your mistakes, and do things God's way. Were you bossy or rude? Be thoughtful and kind. Did you tell a lie? Be honest instead. God wants you to share his love with other people.

PRAYER

Jesus, help me to learn from my mistakes. Thank you for forgiving me.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings. Ask them to forgive you.

DECEMBER 6, 2020

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ YOUTH MINISTRY

The last Religious Education/ Youth Ministry class for the year will be held on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Our classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Education Center.





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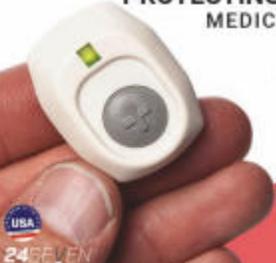

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