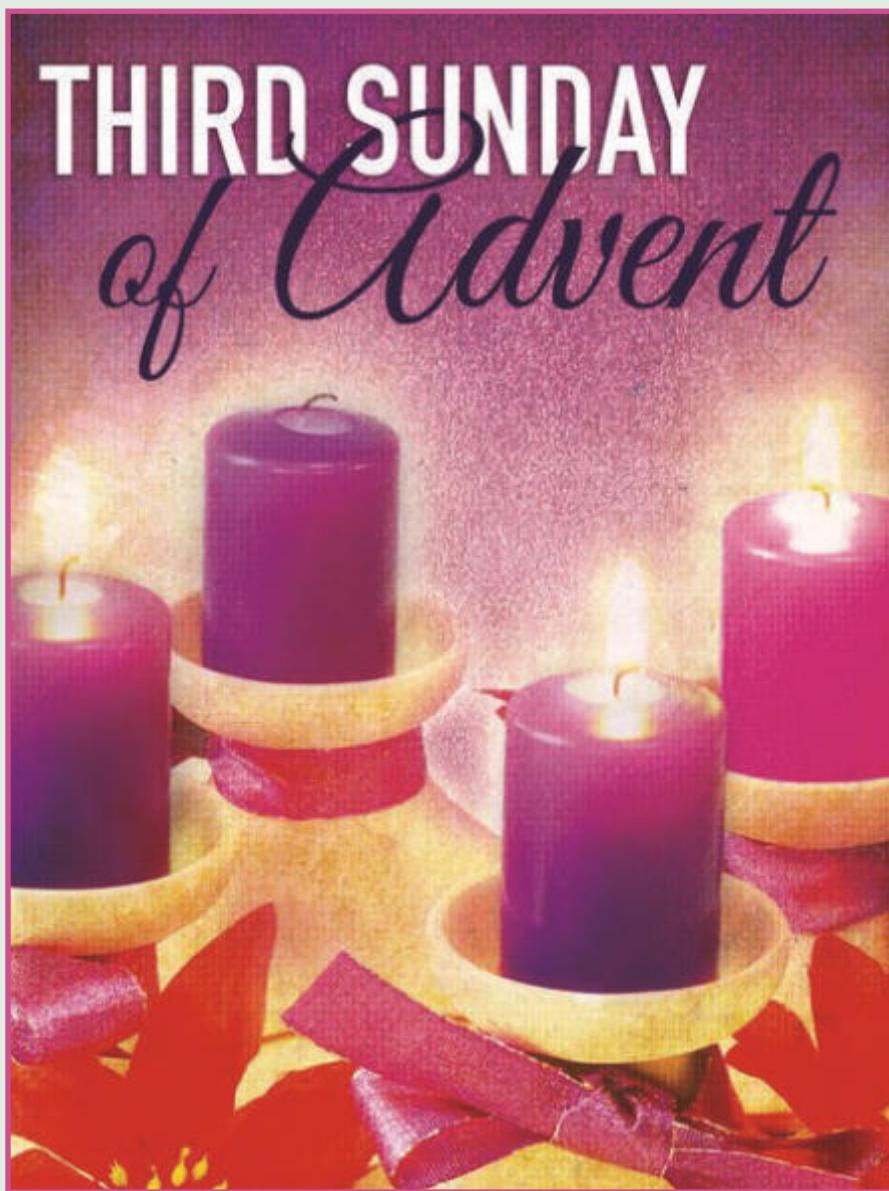




SAINT JAMES PARISH

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

DECEMBER 13, 2020 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



 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: Monday - Friday - 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Priests Sacristy

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

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lottery. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and we are not as satisfied as we thought we would be. We find ourselves living in our incompleteness and with profound sorrow and grief. We did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something we create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. Our need for joy mirrors our need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who we are and desires a home within us. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to our very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves us.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of our souls. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

LITURGICAL SERVICES OF THE WEEK

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 | SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

8:00 a.m. † Frank Nemchik (Sister Maria Zamberlan)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 | ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Victor Lasitis (Bernard & Ruth Ann Morelli)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 | ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † For Renewed Health for Matt Salandro (Catherine Pastor)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Dr. Lois Scaglione (Linda Miller & Family & Jean Bartoia)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † John & Barbara Wagner (Family)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020 | VIGIL MASS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:30 p.m. † Arlene Redish (Randy & Dottie Bacher)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 | THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. † For the People

10:00 a.m. † George Kapusta (John & Barb Porterfield)

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent also known as "Gaudete Sunday." This Sunday of Advent takes its name from the opening antiphon of the introit of Mass: "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in the Lord always.) On this Sunday, rose vestments are permitted in the Eucharistic liturgy and the third candle (rose) in our Advent wreath is lit. *Gaudete* is the imperative plural form of the Latin verb *gaudio* (to rejoice). It is a command calling us to rejoice! In these days of penance and preparation leading up to the feast of our Savior's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come.

Rejoice!

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 this weekend to celebrate the Feast of Saint Lucy on **Sunday, December 13, 2020**.

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"

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 this weekend **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.

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



SAINT JAMES NEWS

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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.

BLESSED STRAW

Next weekend at all Masses, those in attendance will have the opportunity to receive blessed straw. This straw can be used at home for your table for your Christmas Eve or Christmas Day dinner or displayed in a reverent manner as one of your family's Christmas customs. The straw that we distribute and that which will be used in our church's nativity scene is to remind us of the humility of Christ and the simplicity of his birth at Bethlehem. It reflects how God humbled himself to take on our humanity.

THE CUSTOMS OF STRAW AT CHRISTMAS TIME

The use of straw at Christmas time is symbolic of the humility of Jesus, as God took on human flesh. One Christmas custom is the practice of having little children prepare a soft bedding in the manger by using wisps of straw as tokens of their Advent prayer and good works. For every good deed a straw is placed in the manger is a graphic sign of growth and preparation for the awaited Christ child. Thus the figure of the Baby Jesus will find on Christmas Day an ample supply of tender straw to soften the hardness of the manger's boards. This custom serves as a vivid memorial to Jesus' first night's sleep in this world. Another Christmas custom involving straw involves placing straw on the table, under the tablecloth, or on the floor under the table. On top of the table straw is placed a clean white linen cloth representing the swaddling clothes of our Lord. This straw is for use in your home during the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Thursday, December 24 – 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Thursday, December 24 – 6:00 PM

Christmas Midnight Mass: Friday December 25 – 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day Mass:

Friday, December 25 – 10:00 AM.

New Year's Day Mass

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

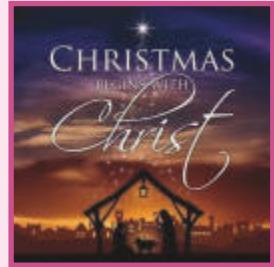
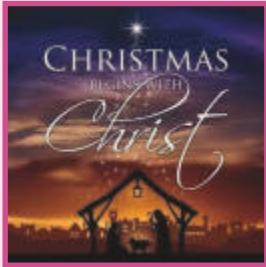
Vigil Mass: Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Friday, January 1, 2021

New Year's Day Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Epiphany Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church



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,
Andy Hornock 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)

"O" ANTIPHONS

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17th - 23rd. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17, 2020

*O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!*

December 18, 2020

*O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

December 19, 2020

*O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!*

December 20, 2020

*O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!*

December 21, 2020

*O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and
in the shadow of death.*

December 22, 2020

*O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the
dust!*

December 23, 2020

*O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!*

SAINT JAMES NEWS

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STEWARSHIP OF TREASURE

COLLECTION REPORT

DECEMBER 5, 2020 & DECEMBER 6, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$3,239.00
Offertory Children:	\$3.00
Offertory Loose:	\$132.00
Fuel & Maintenance:	\$687.00
Candles:	\$157.80
Christmas:	\$385.00
Flowers:	\$93.00
Advent:	\$475.00
Donation:	\$50.00
Thanksgiving:	\$25.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$40.00
Diocesan Poverty:	\$100.00
Oplatki:	\$16.00
Children Family Services:	\$40.00
Total:	\$5,442.80

66 Adults - 28 % out of 237 who choose to use regular Sunday envelopes - 3 Youth Envelopes

Income	Budget	Difference
\$5,302.80	\$3,688.85	\$ + 1,613.95

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF OUR LOVED ONES

The second collection this weekend **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.



MASS ATTENDANCE

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5, 2020 & DECEMBER 6, 2020

4:30 p.m. - 42
8:00 am. - 20
10:00 a.m. - 62
Total - 124

LECTORS OF THE WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

4:30 p.m. - Karen Bennett

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

8:00 a.m. - Bridget Widdowson
10:00 a.m. - Bill Mauck

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.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES APPEAL

SECOND COLLECTION DURING ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES

The second collection at our Christmas Masses will be for those people living within our own Diocese who are less fortunate than we. This collection is titled the "*Children and Family Services Appeal*." On the coming Christmas Feast, which reminds us of the gift of God's own Son, Jesus Christ given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility, we ask you to support the "*Children and Family Services Appeal*" and make your contribution toward changing the future of an individual, a family or a child through the good work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg. Your support of this collection allows those touched by poverty, violence or brokenness to look beyond their present conditions and find the hope to work toward better circumstances.

SAINT JAMES NEWS

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

BY: DENISE PENCOLA, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION

HEROES CORNER

We turn our gaze to one of the thirty-six Doctors of the Church this week. Saint John of the Cross was born on June 24, 1542 and died on December 14, 1591. His feast day is December 14. He served as one of the key figures in the Counter-Reformation in Spain. He desired the religious life from a very young age. He was sent to a boarding school for poor and orphaned children. In 1563 he joined the Carmelite Order taking the name, "John of Saint Mattias."

Saint John was known as an expert in the Bible and translated the book, Song of Songs into Spanish, which turned out to be quite controversial. It was forbidden at that time in history to translate the biblical text from Latin, for fear the original meaning could be compromised. Saint John was ordained to the priesthood in 1567. He met Saint Teresa of Avilia who encouraged him to follow her. On November 28, 1568 Saint Teresa founded a new monastery where Saint John and some of his fellow friars lived. Saint John remained there in 1572. It was at this monastery when he changed his name to John of the Cross.

Saint Teresa and Saint John went to Avila where he became her confessor and guide. In 1575 a controversy arose between the Discalced Carmelites and the ordinary Carmelites over reform. Both Teresa and John desired to restore the original rule for the Carmelites. On December 2, 1577, Saint John was kidnapped and imprisoned for "disobedience". His cell was so small he could barely lie on the floor. He was only given bread and water and on rare occasions scraps of fish. They removed him from his cell each week to beat him in the public square then returned him to his cell. Saint John passed the time in the cell by writing poems that he gave to a friar charged with guarding his cell. John managed to pry open his cell and escape after nine months of imprisonment. It took six weeks in the hospital for him to recover.

Pope Gregory officially separated the Discalced Carmelites from the rest of the Order in 1580. This resulted in the end of the rift. John became ill in 1591 with a skin condition which led to an infection and passed on December 14, 1591.

John of the Cross was beatified by Pope Clement X in 1675 and Canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. He is the patron saint of Contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets.

Quotes of Saint John of the Cross:

"In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved."

"Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction."

"To love is to be transformed into what we love. To love God is therefore to be transformed into God."

"In the inner stillness where meditation leads, the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds."

"Silence is God's first language."

"In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God."

"Whenever anything disagreeable or displeasing happens to you, remember Christ crucified and be silent."

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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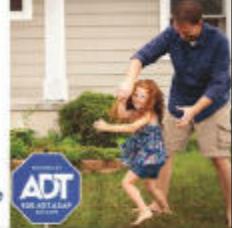
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