



# SAINT JAMES PARISH

*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

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

*Fourth Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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### **MASS SCHEDULES**

Christmas Eve | 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Christmas | 12:00 Midnight &  
10:00 a.m.

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: 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](http://www.stjamesnewalexandria.org)

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

### **Public Office Hours**

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

Thursday, Friday - Office Closed

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**DIOCESE OF  
GREENSBURG**



## FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR

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 may be seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. 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.

## LITURGICAL SERVICES OF THE WEEK

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020 | VIGIL MASS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY 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)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Joseph & Margaret Gallek (Son, Edward & Doris Gallek)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Joseph & Olga Janoscrat (Daughter Theresa)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Ann Loyacona (Dominick & Mary Tagliati)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 | VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS

4:00 p.m. † For our Youth

6:00 p.m. † Special Intention

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020 | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS

12:00 a.m. † For the People

10:00 a.m. † For the Homebound & ill

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020 | VIGIL MASS - THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

4:30 p.m. † George Pastor (Wife Catherine & Family)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020 | THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:00 a.m. † Frank & Maryann Levandosky (Son, Frank & Cathy Levandosky)

10:00 a.m. † For the People



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I would like to encourage you to enter into this Christmas with a spirit of hope, peace, joy and love. At Christmas, we come together in solemn worship to give glory and honor to God through the sacred liturgy of the Church as a people of faith united in our belief in the mystery of the Incarnation. At our Christmas Masses, we reaffirm our belief that God who is always true to His promises has sent to us so great a Redeemer, one who has restored to us the gift of eternal life by His suffering, death and resurrection.

Christmas is the time of the year when we naturally pause to give thanks to God for His gift of love and to reaffirm our faith in this gift. We have received not only the precious gift of His only Begotten Son, but through His providential plan, we have been reborn by Baptism into the life of the Church and afforded His special graces through the gift of the Sacraments.

We all realize that this year with the pandemic, Christmas will look and feel different. We continue to observe our health and safety plans for *"in person worship"* so that those choosing to attend Mass can have a safe environment to worship. We have added an additional Vigil Mass to our regular schedule and have *"overflow contingencies"* in our Parish Social Hall for all Christmas Masses. Christmas Masses will be available on our parish and Diocesan website as well as three liturgical Diocesan Masses. Christmas Vigil Mass at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. Both Masses will air on PCNC, the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel. Christmas Day Mass will also air at noon on WPXI Channel 11.

May this Season of Christmas, however we are able to celebrate it, lead us to encounter Jesus more deeply. May it increase our joy and praise of God. May it lead us, through the witness of our daily lives to share this Good and Joyful News that was acclaimed by the angels on that first Christmas night. Along with my deep and sincere gratitude for all you do and share with our parish and with me, please be assured of my prayers at Christmas.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

*Monsignor Kulick*

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25, 2020** for the Christmas holiday. On behalf of Monsignor Kulick and the staff of Saint James Parish, we wish everyone a very blessed and Merry Christmas.

## 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

## WE WELCOME A NEW PARISHIONER

Saint James Parish is delighted to welcome the following new parishioner to our Church:

**Mrs. Nancy Gibson**

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest member of our Parish. We pray that you may find warmth, encouragement and spiritual growth in our parish and we look forward to getting to know you personally in the weeks and months ahead. God bless you and your family.

## BLESSED STRAW

This 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 service 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.

## 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

### STOCKING STUFFER TICKET

The Rosary Altar Society is continuing to sell the \$5.00 stocking stuffer ticket before and after each weekend Masses. We have approximately 90 tickets remaining to be sold. The winning number will be taken from the Pennsylvania Lottery at 7:00 p.m. each day the month of January 2021.

Please remember to return all money and stubs for the stocking stuffer tickets either by placing them in the collection basket or dropping them off at the Parish Office by **Monday, December 28, 2020 but no later than Wednesday, December 30, 2020**. The drawing will begin on **January 1, 2021** and we would like to have everything turned into the Parish Office before the first number is drawn. Thank you!

## 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)

## 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 OUTREACH MINISTRY

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN

Thank you to everyone who gave monetary donations for the Catholic Charities collection for Children and families in our area.

It is with your kindness that you will have made a difference in their lives this Christmas season. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

## DIOCESE PLANS TELEVISED CHRISTMAS MASSES

In addition to in-person Christmas Masses all over the Diocese of Greensburg, you can also watch Christmas Masses on television or streaming on the Diocese website and Facebook page. Join us for Christmas Vigil Mass at 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg.

Both Masses will air on PCNC, the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel. Christmas Day Mass will also air at noon on WPXI Channel 11.

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE COLLECTION REPORT DECEMBER 12, 2020 & DECEMBER 13, 2020

Adult Envelopes:	\$2,198.00
Children:	\$2.00
Offertory Loose:	\$100.00
Fuel & Maintenance:	\$140.00
Candles:	\$44.10
Immaculate Conception:	\$421.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$1,011.00
Catholic Accent:	\$25.00
Thanksgiving:	\$5.00
Advent:	\$455.00
Christmas:	\$1,350.00
Oplatki:	\$16.00
Donation:	\$53.00
Children/Family Services:	\$40.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,860.10</b>

66 Adults - 28 % out of 237 who choose to use regular Sunday envelopes - 2 Youth

Income	Budget	Difference
\$5,795.10	\$3,688.85	\$ + 2,106.25

## MASS ATTENDANCE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12, 2020 & DECEMBER 13, 2020

4:30 p.m. - 45  
8:00 a.m. - 24  
10:00 a.m. - 53  
**Total - 122**



## 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.

Please consider a gift this Christmas to the Children and Family Services Appeal; the second collection at all Masses on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>

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## LECTORS OF THE WEEK

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

4:00 p.m. - Nicole Wells  
6:00 p.m. - Karen Bennett  
12:00 Midnight - Mary Kay Rosborough

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

10:00 a.m. - Marion Cowan

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

4:30 p.m. - Marion Cowan

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

**BY: DENISE PENCOLA, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

### HEROES CORNER

The obvious hero of heroes is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, born December 25. However, I would like to focus on another hero and good role model for all of us. Saint Stephen, the first deacon and first martyr, whose feast day is December 26 is a man after the heart of God. Little is known of his early life. The Acts of the Apostles records Stephen's faith, his role as the chief among the seven early deacons, prophetic preaching, arrest, trial with false witnesses and eventual stoning in chapters six and seven.

Probably one of the most compelling traits of Stephen that equates to Christ Himself, are his final words while being stoned to death; *"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit...Lord, do not hold this sin against them"* Acts 7:59-60. Sounds a lot like Jesus' words on the cross, *"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"* Luke 23:34. Could we say the same thing if we were being so severely persecuted? That is great faith. It requires giving our whole self to God, trusting completely.

Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of faith. Help me to grow closer to You each day. Help me to place all of my hope and trust in You as Saint Stephen did. Saint Stephen pray for us!

#### **Christmas Prayer of Saint Pope John XXIII"**

*"O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Pour into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which You alone can give them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also Your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for Your infinite goodness. Join them all together in Your love. And give them Your heavenly peace. Amen."*

## 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.

## MAKE CHRISTMAS LAST

For Catholics, Christmas does not end the day after when some people turn off the lights, take down their tree and when unsold goods go on sale. Ours is a whole season of joy, from Christmas Day until the Baptism of Our Lord. Here are some highlights of the season:

#### **Feast of the Holy Family - December 27, 2020**

Gather for a special meal with family or make contact with out-of-town relatives.

#### **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - January 1, 2021**

Attend Mass and dedicate a special rosary to the Blessed Mother asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

#### **The Epiphany, January 3, 2021**

The image of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing him with the entire world. This is our opportunity to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

#### **The Baptism of Our Lord, January 10, 2021**

Take this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.



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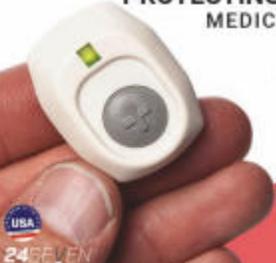

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