



SAINT JAMES PARISH

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

DECEMBER 19, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday Anticipated Mass | 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass | 9:30 a.m. - Mass will be Live Streamed

Daily: Tuesday – Friday | 8:00 a.m. - Tuesday and Thursday Mass will be Live Streamed

SACRAMENTS

Marriage: Six month notification required

Baptism: By appointment

Confession: Available the Second & Fourth Weekends each month.

Saturday: After 4:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday: After 9:30 a.m. Mass

Pastoral Emergencies: Contact

Father Bandura, Pastor

724-552-2535

PARISH OFFICE & STAFF

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

Public Office Hours

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

Thursday - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday - Office Closed



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**A PARISH OF THE
DIOCESE OF
GREENSBURG**



SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we
shall be saved. (Ps 80)

SECOND READING:

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

GOSPEL:

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Friday: Christmas Eve
Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord
Next Sunday: The Holy Family

MEDITATIONS AFTER HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

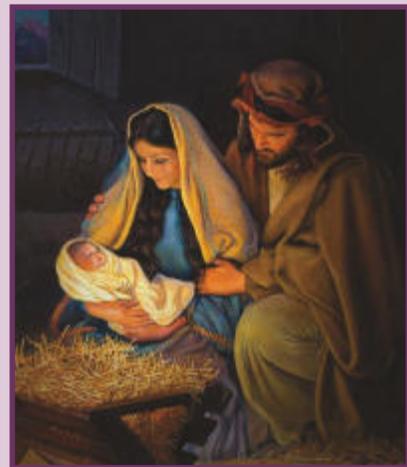
Where are you going today? Whom will you visit? What is on your agenda this week? Will you go to a child's or a grandchild's sporting event? When you go, will people know that you are a Christian? Wherever you go, how can you intentionally bring Christ to whomever you meet?

"Lord Jesus, in these moments after Holy Communion, You live inside me. As I go forward from Mass, I carry You with me. Please do not depart from me. Be with me through all my encounters and experience of today, tomorrow, and the rest of the week. Make me a fitting tabernacle of Your presence and a traveling monsternace of Your love and mercy.



"During Advent we do not just live in anticipation of Christmas; we are also called to rekindle the anticipation of the glorious return Christ, when he will return at the end of time, preparing ourselves, with consistent and courageous choices, for the final encounter with him. We remember Christmas, we await the glorious return of Christ, and also or personal encounter: the day in which the Lord will call."

*~ Pope Francis, Angelus
2nd December 2018 ~*



Growing Support of our Faith Community

I want to sincerely thank you for always remembering our parish family and contributing to our ministry over the last year. You have been a source of strength and stability for our parish. It is my great hope that our parish has also been a source of strength for you and the entire faith community. We have committed ourselves to helping the poor, caring for the needy in our community, connecting with those who were isolated, and forging ahead with our efforts to proclaim the Gospel through new ministry initiatives at Saint James Parish. We have also been blessed that we could continue onsite projects that address the ongoing maintenance and safety concerns of our aging buildings. I am also happy to update you that the initial phase of the landscaping project was completed. With this project came the installation of additional lighting around the Education Center. I am grateful to Creekside Landscaping, Gregory & Martin, Incorporated and GMI Electric for their work with these respective projects. In the next few months, we will move forward with replacing the doors of the Education Center, along with necessary updates to the electrical system of this building. These items are all necessary projects that address safety concerns identified by our finance council.

Last month, you received our Parish Annual Report, which provided detailed information about new ministry initiatives, the parish's financial state, and how we must plan for the future. I hope the report illustrated the generosity and vitality of this parish, along with the need for all of us to be active in exercising generous stewardship. We have been blessed by the faithful who have generously supported our parish by unselfishly giving of their time, talent, and treasure. But, as I mentioned last month, there is still a great need for us to consider planning for the future.

Making a Commitment

I know some of you might have reached the limit of what your personal financial circumstances will allow you to do. I understand if that is your situation, and I only ask for your prayers as we go forward. Keeping in mind God's call for us to be good stewards it is with great sensitivity to whatever your circumstances might be that I humbly ask you to consider an increase in your weekly or monthly offertory. As I mentioned in the annual report, after discussion with the Finance Council, I ask everyone to prayerfully review their contributions to the parish. For some of us, it has been some time since we have brought our giving before God. I ask that during this season of Advent as we reflect on God's generosity to us, that we take the time to do the same. How can we see our giving of time, talent, and treasure as a way to offer back to God a gift in gratitude for what He has done for us?

Please know that I am genuinely grateful for all you have done to support our parish, especially in the past year, and all you will do this year. As always, I pray that God continues to bless you and your family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



MASS SCHEDULE

CLPi

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021 | ANTICIPATED MASS - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:30 p.m. † Dottie Bacher (Beloved Friend)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 a.m. † For the People

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY - **NO MORNING MASS**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. † Lawrence Rich (Beverly Rich)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 | LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

4:30 p.m. † For Vocations

12:00 a.m. Midnight † For the People

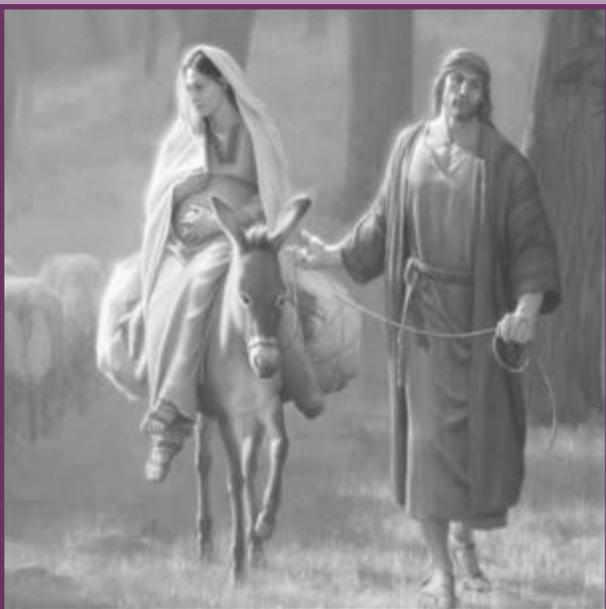
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021 ANTICIPATED MASS - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9:30 a.m. † For Homebound & ill

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

9:30 a.m. † George Pastor (Wife, Catherine & Family)

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.

©LPi



O Antiphons

December 18

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

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

December 20

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

December 21

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

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

December 23

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

The Roman 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 17-23.

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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Getty Images

Blessing of a Christmas Manger

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as
the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads
a text of sacred Scripture, for example,
Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10
(lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:

when our need for a Savior was great

you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



Advent, Christmas New Year's and Epiphany Schedule

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Friday, December 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass: Saturday, December 24th - 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day Mass: Saturday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m.

* There will be no 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 25th *

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Masses

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Vigil Mass: Friday, December 31st at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 1st at 9:30 a.m.

Epiphany - "Come to the Feast"

Our Next Intergenerational Event

Sunday, January 9th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

STOCKING STUFFER TICKET

We are pleased to report that all tickets have been sold. Thank you to all those that sold and purchased our annual Christmas ticket. Please remember to return all money and stubs for the stocking stuffer tickets at the Parish Office by **Monday, December 27, 2021 but no later than Wednesday, December 29, 2021**. The drawing will begin on **January 1, 2022** and we would like to have everything turned into the Parish Office before the first number is drawn. Thank you!

DECEMBER SOUP SALE

Thank you to all those that have purchased soup for our December sale. Soup ingredients were all donated making the profit for the December Soup Sale \$300.00. Please see the order form for the January sale included below. Thank you for your support of this continued fundraiser.

SOUP SALE - SATURDAY JANUARY 8, 2022

The Rosary Altar Society Members are having their January Soup Sale - **please note: Hours of pickup have been changed from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.**

Chili : _____ # of quarts - \$10.00 Quart
Minestrone : _____ # of quarts - \$10.00 Quart

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Soup Order Deadline: **Wednesday, January 5, 2022** via our website or completing this form and submitting to the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS WINDOW CANDLE MEMORIALS



Memorial candles will be available to adorn our church windows for Christmas week. These candles are available for your intention, in honor of someone, or in memory of a deceased loved one. There is a \$25.00 donation for each candle. The candles will burn beginning **Christmas Eve, December 24th through January 2, 2022**. If you have not already contacted the Parish Office, the final deadline to request a window is **Tuesday, December 21st**. A complete listing of these memorials will be printed in our parish bulletin.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF OUR LOVED ONES

If you missed last weekend's collection it is not too late to donate to 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 the bulletin. If you do not receive offertory envelopes you may use a white envelope with your name, intentions and offering. Please submit your intention and donation by **Wednesday, December 22nd**.



OPLATKI - 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 Oplatki 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). A basket is available for your donations for the Oplatki.

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



THANK YOU

On behalf of our son Mark and our entire family we want to send sincere thanks to our parish family for all your prayers, love, kindness and positive words during this time of Mark's illness. We thank Father Bandura for his constant prayers, concern and visits. We are truly blessed to be part of such a great family Parish. Mark is doing well, but we ask you to please continue praying for him as his healing continues and we will pray for all of you.

***Thank you from Gene & Mary Bartolini,
Mark, Jackie, Santino, Rocco, Michael, Tara, Gino, Angelo, Domenic and our entire family.***

BY: MRS. CATYLN BAILEY, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION
EMAIL: CBAILEY@DIOCESEOFGREENSBURG.ORG

Love

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts.

As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us.

Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter.

Our hearts are open to you, Jesus.

Amen.

 Dynamic Catholic

Loving God,
Help us remember
the birth of Jesus,
that we may share
in the song of the angels,
the gladness
of the shepherds,
and worship of
the wise men.

— Robert Louis Stevenson



www.ChristmasWishes.com

Come to the FEAST

9:30 AM Mass
10:30 AM Gather in the Social Hall
10:45 AM Teaching on Epiphany
11:45 AM Lunch

An Intergenerational Gathering

Adults, teens, and children of all ages join us and break into groups to learn about Epiphany

Jan. 9 9:30AM

Visit our website or complete the attached registration form by January 2

COME TO THE FEAST REGISTRATION FORM

Register by **Sunday, January 2, 2022** either by completing this form and returning in the offertory basket or you can also register on-line on our website: www.stjamesnewalexandria.org.

Name: _____

Number of Adults Attending: _____

Number of Children Attending: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Catered food will be provided for the Intergenerational lunch.

Young Adult Evening of Exploring God's Call with the Seminarians

Young adult-aged men interested in learning more about answering God's call in life are invited to join the diocese seminarians for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and conversation. Doing God's will can be a challenge for each of us, but it is not impossible. So come and listen as the seminarians share their experience of God's call and how it changed their journey in life. This event will take place on **December 30th, at 5:45 PM** at Christ Our Shepherd Center.

Please visit greensburgpriest.org for registration information.

Evening of Prayer and Conversation with the Seminarians
Prayer • Dinner • Vocation Stories

December 30 at 5:45 PM
Christ Our Shepherd Center • Register at GreensburgPriest.org

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG
All adult-aged young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood are welcome!

Cardio with Linda

Low impact exercise is a great way for the aging population to stay active and healthy. Join the New Alexandria Center for active adults located at 207 West main street for cardio with Linda! The exercise group meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from **1:00 pm to 2:00 pm, now through January 20th**. The class is free of charge to seniors in the area, so why not get moving and give it a try. No reservation necessary. For more information contact Melissa at 724-668-7055.

Laurelville Hosts First Day Hike/Run

Laurelville Retreat Center will host a First Day Hike/Run on **Saturday, January 1st**, from **1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**, beginning at the Coal & Coke Trailhead in Mount Pleasant. No registration or fees are required, and leashed pets are welcome. Participants should park at the trailhead at 23 W. Main St. and check in at Snyder Strength & Conditioning for free hot chocolate and restrooms. For updates/changes, visit the center's Facebook page or website.

Laurelville Retreat Center Offers Winter Youth Camp

Laurelville Retreat Center will offer a Winterville Youth Camp January 14-16 for ages 8 - 17, both individuals and church youth groups. The camp will feature winter activities, worship, music and Bible lessons. Cost is \$135.00 and includes two nights in a cabin and meals. For information, visit Laurelville.org or call 724-423-2056.

**SISTER
speakers**

2021 - 2022
Topics of speakers from the
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill

As part of our grateful response to the heritage of St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Vincent De Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, the Sisters of Charity are offering some programs to local parishes, and organizations.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

I'm Inspired. Are You?	Tending Our Toothpicks: Living in the Moment
Human Trafficking in Our Neighborhoods and in the World	Encountering Contemporary Strangers, Meeting Jesus
Beyond the Nonsense: How Catholic Sisters Shaped Greensburg and the World	Homelessness: Why in the U.S.? Why Anywhere?
On Being Mary in a Martha World	Ministry at the Borders: Sisters of Charity Share Insights
Elizabeth Seton: Wife, Mother, Community Founder, Saint	Ethical and Religious Directives at the Beginning and End of Life
Using Humor to Thrive and Not Just Survive	
The Church's Mission: Whose job is it anyway?	

To schedule a topic and speaker, contact: Sister Colette Hankon, S.C. by phone at 203-809-1574, or by email at chanlon@scsh.org.



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