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Second Sunday of Advent,
December 8th, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY - The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

12:05 - Lucille Hoover
(Req. by Evelyn & Jim Haggerty)

5:30 PM - Ed & Mildred Stofko
(Req. by daughter Nicolett)

TUESDAY - Advent Weekday

12:05 PM - Msgr. Peter Tay
(Req. by Jeno Lecci and Family)

WEDNESDAY - Advent Weekday

5:30 PM - Sandra Morris
(Req. by Helen Boyle)

THURSDAY - Advent Weekday

Private Mass
Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair
(Req. by husband John)

FRIDAY - Advent Weekday

12:05 PM - Helene Balagusz
(Req. by Debbie & Dave Magro)
Rescheduled from 12-4-24

SATURDAY - Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - George & Elizabeth Cleaver
(Req. by Grandson Ron Cleaver)

SUNDAY - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM - Pro Populo

MASSSES ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
WILL BE CELEBRATED IN CHURCH DURING ADVENT

SANCTUARY CANDLE
In Memory of Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair
Req. by the Murillo Family

1127 McKinley Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15905

Rev. John J. Slovikovski, PhD, Pastor
Mrs. Maureen Clark, DRE
Mrs. Kathleen Bumbnick, DMM
Mr. David Kozak, Chairperson, PC
Ms. Catherine Bennett, Secretary
Mr. Joseph Martella, Vice-Chairperson, PC
Mr. Steve Myers, Chairperson, FC
Ms. Chris Houghton, Maintenance

**Rectory Office Hours: Monday through
Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is available for your intentions by calling the parish office. Please attempt to request your intentions as early as possible. A \$10 donation is suggested.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Beginning in Advent, Confessions will be heard from 6:30 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday Evenings. DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR, CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD FROM 3:00 PM until 3:40 PM THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH. Confession may ALWAYS be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the rectory office. Please avail yourselves to this life-giving sacrament!

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Scheduled no less than nine months prior to the date of marriage. Four preparation sessions with the pastor, as well as all diocesan requirements, must be met. All Catholic candidates for Marriage must be registered, practicing members of a parish at least 6 months prior to scheduling the wedding. There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

INFANT BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally celebrated during one of the Sunday Liturgies. Pre-baptismal instructions must be completed by the parents at least 3 weeks prior to the celebration of the sacrament. Catholic godparents must obtain a letter of eligibility from their pastors four weeks in advance. Baptisms are never celebrated during the Season of Lent. **ANoint-ING OF THE SICK:** Celebrated after any Sunday Mass as requested and as a parish during the Easter Season.

MEMBERSHIP: Forms are located on the back page of the bulletin (or on the parish website) to be filled out and sent to the parish. Registrations are also welcome by phone.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - December 1, 2024

Loose Money.....	\$240.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2234.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$27.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$120.00
All Soul's Day.....	\$5.00
All Saint's Day.....	\$10.00
Share in the Care.....	\$10.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$20.00
Sanctuary Candle.....	\$30.00
Learning Lamp - Dec.....	\$3800.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$225.00

TOTAL: \$6721.00

Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Baby Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leflie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Pauline Molchany, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petrero, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rovon, Leonard Russell, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Megan Varnecky, Christi Vavrek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of December 9th to December 15th:

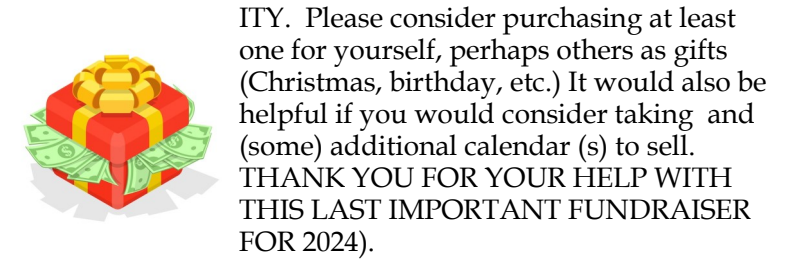


Elizabeth Smitley
 James Wenderoth
 Michael Huston

John Bair
 Lacie George
 Susan Wachs

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part of It

The 2025 Yearly Calendars of Prizes are now available! Beginning this weekend and through the end of December, we will be selling them in the main vestibule of the Church. This is our last yearly fundraiser and IT IS ESSENTIAL TO DO WELL IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR FINANCIAL STABIL-



Home Visits with the Eucharist - If you or someone, or know someone who cannot come to Church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please either fill out the form on the parish website or call the parish office and give your name to the secretary. We will be certain that you or your friend or loved one will receive the Lord regularly as you rightly deserve.

Come and See: Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith? Were you or someone you know baptized in the Catholic faith and never Confirmed? We would like to provide an opportunity to anyone who would answer yes to these questions to “come and see” the possibilities and possibly become a part of the Christian Initiation process and become full members of the Catholic family. If you are interested, we will be holding a second set of inquiry sessions on the Weekend of December 14th and 15th following each Sunday Mass (4:00 PM Sat. /9:00AM Sun.). We will gather for light refreshments in the rectory meeting room (next door to the Church) so that you can speak with me and meet members of our Christian Initiation Team. There is absolutely no commitment. Just “Come and See.”

Some Brief “Churchy” Notes: I have been asked by several parishioners that I remind the assembly that socializing should be done in the vestibule of the Church and not in the back of the Church itself. As I have not been in the back of the Church since before my operation, I am assuming this has become an issue, but an issue that I believe can be resolved by simple courtesy. A second gentle reminder that if you are not joined with the assembly in the body of the Church for the celebration of the Mass you have not met your Sunday obligation. Standing in the vestibule does not count as full, active, conscious, communal participation in the celebration of the Eucharist. Also, I kindly ask individuals to not leave Mass early unless it is for the most urgent reason. I really do think the Lord wants us to spend as much time as possible with him as a community each week. I am sure it saddens the Lord’s heart to think you want to rush off so quickly from the most sacred and nourishing time of the week. Do you run out of someone’s home when invited to dinner? Please make the most of your Sunday experience.

OUR ANNUAL PARISH ADVENT Penance SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th at 6:00PM.

From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his *Sunday Angelus* message, Pope Francis speaks of the Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent, where Jesus addresses a word of hope to His disciples: “Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” The Master's concern is that their hearts do not grow drowsy (cf. v. 34) and that they await the coming of the Son of Man with vigilance. Specifically, Jesus’ invitation is this: raise your head high and keep your hearts light and awake. Indeed, many of Jesus’ contemporaries, faced with the catastrophic events they saw happening around them – persecutions, conflicts, natural disasters – were gripped by anxiety and thought that the end of the world is coming. Their hearts were weighed down with fear. Jesus, however, wanted to free them from present anxieties and false convictions, showing them how to stay awake in their hearts, how to read events from the plan of God, who works salvation even within the most dramatic events of history. That is why He suggested that they turn their gaze to Heaven to understand the things of earth: “Stand erect and raise your heads.” The pope insists that for us too Jesus’ recommendation is important: “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy.” All of us, in many moments of life, ask ourselves: what can I do to have a light heart, a wakeful heart, a free heart? A heart that does not let itself be crushed by sadness? And sadness is awful, it is awful. Indeed, it can happen that the anxiety, fears and worries about our personal lives or about what is happening in the world today weigh down on us like boulders and throw us into discouragement. If worries weigh down our hearts and induce us to close in on ourselves, Jesus, on the contrary, invites us to lift up our heads, to trust in His love that wants to save us and that draws close to us in every situation of our existence, He asks us to make room for Him in order to find hope again. And so, Francis asks us to ask ourselves: Is my heart weighed down by fear, worries and anxieties about the future? Do I know how to look at daily events and the vicissitudes of history with God’s eyes, in prayer, with a broader horizon? Or do I let myself be overcome by despondency? May this Advent season be a precious opportunity to lift our gaze to Him, who lightens our hearts and sustains us on our way.

This week in his **Wednesday Audience**, Pope Francis considers the Spirit’s role in the Church’s mission of evangelization, that is the *preaching of* and *in* the Church. The First Letter of Peter defines the apostles as “those who preached the good news to you [through] the holy Spirit” (cf. 1:12). In this expression we find the two constitutive elements of Christian preaching: its content, which is the Gospel, and its means, which is the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament, the word “Gospel” has two principal meanings. It can indicate any one of the four canonical Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and according to this definition the Gospel means the good news proclaimed by Jesus during His earthly life. After the Pasch, the word “Gospel” assumes its new meaning of good news about Jesus, that is, the Paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord. The preaching of Jesus and, subsequently, that of the Apostles, also contains all the moral duties that stem from the Gospel, starting from the ten commandments In catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or kerygma, which needs to be at the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. It is first because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another

through the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. We must however bear in mind also the means by which the Gospel is proclaimed. It must be preached “through the Holy Spirit” (1 Pt 1:12). Preaching with the anointing of the Holy Spirit means transmitting, together with the ideas and the doctrine, the life and conviction of our faith. It means doing so “not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power” (1 Cor 2:4), as Saint Paul wrote. It is easy to say, one might object, but how can it be put into practice if it does not depend on us, but on the coming of the Holy Spirit? In reality, there is one thing that does depend on us, or rather two. The first thing that depends on us is praying, so that the Holy Spirit may come. The second is not wanting to preach ourselves, but Jesus the Lord (cf. 2 Cor 4:5). Not wanting to preach oneself also implies not always giving priority to pastoral initiatives promoted by us and linked to our own name, but willingly collaborating, if requested, in community initiatives, or entrusted to us by obedience. Pope Francis ends his catechesis by praying that Holy Spirit help us, accompany us and teach the Church how to preach the Gospel in this way to the men and women of this time!

Advent Adult Education Series: Don’t forget that During this Advent Season, Fr. John will be offering an adult education series on Monday afternoons from 2:00PM until 3:15 PM (December 9th, 16th, and 23rd) entitled: The Birth of Jesus in the Gospels: Prayer and Study. IF YOU MISSED THE FIRST WEEK, DON’T WORRY – YOU CAN CATCH UP THIS WEEK. WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!

WELCOMING NEW AND FORMER MEMBERS TO OUR SUNDAY LITURGIES: This Advent we hope to increase our identity as a welcoming parish by inviting parishioners who have not been with us for a while especially since COVID to come home to pray with us again AND if we know of anyone who is searching for a parish to join our family. A family is only as strong as is its weakest member, BE A STRONG AMBASSADOR FOR OUR PARISH BY INVITING SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH US ON A REGULAR BASIS. Remember, the future life of our community is in YOUR hands.

Jubilee 2025 – News and Notes: Ministers of Hospitality are being recruited currently. Remember, we have been designated a HOLY SITE for the Jubilee YEAR and we need to make potential pilgrims feel welcome at our weekend liturgies. If you are interested, please contact Fr. John.

Opening Liturgy for the Jubilee Year: The opening liturgy for the Jubilee Year will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All parishes in the diocese have been asked to send representatives to this Mass. If you are interested in being part of the car pool to attend this memorable liturgy, please contact Fr. John. This mass is very important to me personally, you won’t be disappointed if you attend.

