

Dec. 5/6, 2015

M: St Mary • J: St Joseph Rc: rectory chapel



Holyday: Immaculate Conception of Mary

Dec 7 • **3:30pm** • J • † John Soda r/o Helen Mehalick
6:45pm • M • † Ron Rader r/o Bob/Ellen Selgrade
Dec 8 • **9am** • Rc • † Ernest Lorenz r/o Vicky Bevans

Dec 9 • **Noon** • Rc • Juan Diego † John Schadler
Dec 11 • **6pm** • Rc • Damasus I † Rita Senner

Dec. 12/13 • 3rd S Advent • Year C

3:30pm • J † M/M Joseph Antonelli
r/o M/M Jerry Evangelista

5:15pm • M † Billy & Marie Houser
r/o Bill & Family

8:15am • J † Mike Funanage
r/o Wife, Cecilia

10am • M † Irene Cicioni r/o Shenandoah Senior Citizens



❖ **STEWARDSHIP:** M: S: 1214; C. Flowers: 398; Campaign: 80; J: S: 2139; C. Flowers: 599; Campaign: 225
•myEoffering: M: \$55 • J: \$145
Stewardship of time, talent & treasure!

❖ **Scripture:** Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Luke 3:1-6;
•Next Week: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18;

❖ Fill out the forms, even if you're healthy & would like to be prayed for in times of need!
.... •John Biros •Roy Gius •Richard Buczkowski •Mary Balkiewicz •Bea Gius •John Washko •Dorothy Yanuskiewicz •Rose Ann & Tracey Aponick •Jean & Alice Jarzinko •Joseph Washko •Ed & Sally McNamee •Jen Gilliam •Grace Snover •Vickie Hartz •Ann Lewis •Bob Fellin •Gordy Weikel •Nancy Blackwell •Kathy Milefsky •Phil & Shirley Kennedy •Bill/Flo Steele •Theresa Szott •Emily Milewski •Helen Mehalick •Margaret Krupilis •Barbara Green •John Zakavage

❖ **Bulletin:** our newest sponsor joins us: Harman Funeral Home, Rock Glenn. Thank you & welcome. Consider our sponsors for your service, let them know that we appreciate their support!

❖ N.B: Parish Office Hours: **Mon & Wed: 4-7pm; Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 4-6pm**

❖ **Birthdays Blessings:** Cindy Murray, Matt Roulin: 12/7; Ann O'Boyle: 12/9; Sara Jane Grow, Janet Kuzma: 12/11.

❖ **Year of St. Luke's Gospel** began! Pray your Bible!

❖ **St. Joe's 50/50:** Nov. winner: **Cecilia Coslop: \$75.50** Congrats! Dec. drawing underway!

❖ **Stewardship:** *No one can do everything, everyone can do something!* Make an offering of a gift in Advent expectation of Jesus' coming in glory!

❖ **Choir @ M:** There are some great voices, we can hear you, why not join us in giving praise and thanks to God! Practice continues: Wed, 12/2 @ 6pm.

❖ A special Thank You to **Bill & Rosemarie Fellin**, for donating a portion of their \$1K winnings back to the parish!

Condolences to the family of **Nancy Blackwell**, from St. Mary's, being buried this Monday.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

❖ **Amazon Purchases: Smile:** visit our webpage or Facebook: hit the smile, taking you to your amazon page, the parish receives 5% on your purchase! We're using St Mary's to filter all purchases, if you'd like credit to go to St Joseph's, let us know. No cost to you!

❖ **Knights of Columbus:** We meet: 12/20 @ parish office after 10am Mass.

❖ **Adult Ed:** Session next Mon., Dec 14 @ 6:30pm @ Rc after Mass. Our topic: **Christmas Memories/History down through the Ages!**

Reflection: 2nd S Advent C: John the Baptist, as precursor to the Lord Jesus, makes his appearance in the Gospel the 2nd week of Advent. John's voice comes, not as Jesus is about to be born, but instead He cries out in the wilderness when both he & Jesus are in their 30's!

A meditation from the Magnificat prayer book reminds us of the reason for Jesus' birth quoting St. Leo the Great: "Jesus Christ was born to die on the cross!" The road that John proclaimed be made straight, echoing Isaiah, will be a major theme in Luke's Gospel as Jesus "goes up" to the great city of Jerusalem, not to be crowned King, but to be "crowned" with a crown of thorns, to mount the throne of the Cross, thus bringing an end to the question: "Does God really care about me/us in our day to day challenges, sorrows, aches & pains?" The answer doesn't come from a babe, but the babe become man does. We celebrate the traditional time of His birth as we fashion grateful hearts for the "gift" of His life, death & resurrection, freeing us from sin and death. No greater gift could be received or given. Thus why we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come! ● Be a saint...what else is there? ●

Fr. Jim & 🐾

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❖ **SCRIP:** We've \$25 Applebee's, \$25 Cabela's, \$25 Weis, \$10 Bed, Bath & Body, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$10 Denny's, \$25 iTunes, \$25 Home Depot, \$25 Sheetz, \$25 Lowe's, \$10 Long John Silver's, \$25 PetSmart, \$25 Walmart; \$10 Pizza Hut, \$10 Taco Bell on hand. Contact the office, we'll get them to you.



❖ **Flowers:** This week @ M: In Memory of **Joseph & Grace Scodari**, by Charlie & Luann. Celebrating? For the main altar &/or tabernacle: \$75+, side altars: \$25+. Contact us via the parish office.



❖ **Orange Ribbons:** Wear one as a sign of support that we wear the "color" that the "people of the Cross" wear when they're martyred.

❖ **Interested in our Catholic faith?** Ask, encourage, invite! Share the gift of faith! ❖ See us: smarystjoseph.net

❖ **Collection: Local Poverty Relief: updated total:** Your help allows us to assist our local food pantry & St. Vincent de Paul Society. Updated deposit: **\$955 @ J & \$1109 @ M.** You can continue to do so in the coming weeks. Mark it: **Poverty Relief.**

❖ **Ministry:** We need adults to step up for ministry, otherwise we'll end ministry service. Will you complain loudest when, after review, we are mandated to cut back for lack of participation? CH_ _CH: what's missing?

❖ **St Mary's:** next \$1K Drawing: Valentine Day, 2016!

❖ **Oplatki:** are available at Church, they are \$3 per pack.

❖ [facebook.com/stmarystjosephrcc](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystjosephrcc)

❖ **Thanksgiving Pie Sale:** Thanks again to all who helped in the kitchen, the peelers, rollers, prep team & bakers & all who purchased our pies & made donations. Thank you so much! This year we rolled more pies than ever & show an initial profit of \$2222.38.

Our next sale is shoo-fly for Palm Sunday weekend!

❖ **Religious Ed:** Classes for grades 1-8 are held Sunday mornings at St Joseph's: 9:15-10:15. 2 yr prep for Confirmation: see schedule. **Weekly Mass attendance is a must!** Contact: Sue Crawford @ 570-384-5732.



❖ **Yankee Candles, Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Crosses:** benefits St. Mary's, are available. Prices vary! Crosses are handmade & donated by John/Dolly Zakavage (M) & Bob Bruno (J)

❖ **Integrity Restored.com** Children age 7 porn finds them! IR provides education, encouragement & resources to break free from porn, heal relationships, help parents prevent & respond to porn that devastates lives/families. To fight: **covenanteyes.com:** enter the code *Patrick* for a 30 day trial. We should have this on our computers, laptops & mobile devices. The price? Saving our lives, family, marriages, faith: priceless!



THIS WEEKEND: Dec 5/6:

3:30pm @ St Joseph

5:15pm @ St Mary

❖ **Immaculate Waters: Hand/Body Lotion:** Lavender, Rose, and Unscented. Favors, graces continue to be reported. Have a favor granted? We've heard about a chronic back problem being relieved! ...Our Lady's intercession reveals Christ's healing. The offering is \$10@.

❖ **St. Nicholas Shoes:** Leave them at Mass this weekend, Dec. 5/6, the feast of St. Nicholas (pre-cursor to our present day Santa Claus). Tradition holds that children/young people who leave their shoes at home or Church are "blessed" with gifts of candy, fruit & items to help enrich their lives and share with others the joy of following Jesus! Mark the shoe, leave it at the Advent wreath.

St. Nicholas



Mercy

❖ **Year of Mercy:** Proclaimed by Pope Francis, begins this week, Dec. 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, as we mark the 50th anniv. of

the closing of the 2nd Vatican Council. In making this proclamation, the Pope wants us to fashion our year around

living, receiving & extending mercy. You will read much about that during the year. We have a beautiful prayer card offered as we begin the year. A prayer composed by Fr. Ezaki, a priest from our diocese. We are also making available a book from the printers of the Magnificat Magazine to help us as we walk through the year of Mercy. The book contains a reflection for each day of the Year of Mercy. They are made available at the end of Mass, we have a limited supply, so first come/first served.



❖ **Christmas Cards:** for our parish elders & the priests who served us. Drop a card in stewardship or mail to them: St Mary's: Peg Burns, Anna Kaczmarczyk, Bill/Florence Steele, Joan Opanel, Jean Dolan, Dorothy Yanuskiewicz, Jeff/Madelyn James • St Joseph's: Catherine/Steve Hovanec, Irene Mehalick, Beatrice Gius, Catherine Lorenz, Mary Yadinskie.

...for our priests: *Fr. Potts: St. Ursula Church, 1300 Broadway, Fountain Hill, Pa. 18015; *Msgr. O'Connor: St. Patrick Church, 4th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa 17901; *Mrs. Schware: 1507 Sage St. Allentown, Pa 18103; *Fr. Brensinger: 15207 Kutztown Rd., Kutztown, Pa. 19530; *Fr. Slezak: 424 Sugarloaf Heights Rd., Drums, Pa 18222; *Fr. Brennan: 368 W. Main St., Girardville, Pa. 17935 *Fr. Zelonis: St. Clare of Assisi Rectory, 250 E. Hancock St., Saint Clair, Pa 17970 *Msgr. Handges: 215 W. Arch St., Pottsville, Pa 17901 *Fr. Winne: Newman House, Lafayette College, 119 McCartney St., Easton, Pa 18042

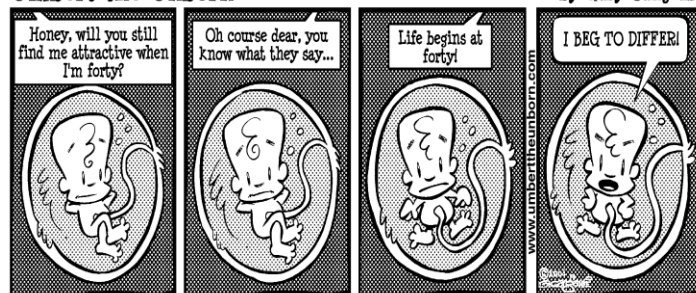
❖ **Giving Tree:** Take a tag (or two) from the "tree", purchase the item for pregnant/unwed parents, bring it unwrapped (gift 'bags' might work), leave it at the tree! They'll be left out throughout the season. Your participation helps Birthright Frackville & the Catholic Social Agency, Hazleton.



❖ **Church Cleaning/Decorating:** We're cleaning and decorating Sun, Dec. 20th after Mass. Join us to help! Bring a bucket/cleaner, work gloves & a willing spirit to help prepare the Church for our family of faith to welcome those who join us for the birth of the Savior.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



❖ **Outside Events:** ©2016 Calendar Sale: \$10@, Benefits Trinity Academy; 570-462-3927. ©Sheppton Fire Co Bingo: this Sun @ 1pm ©Hanging of the Greens: St. Paul's UCC, Ringtown, this Sun @ 7pm. ©Bach & Handel Chorale: St. John's, 12/12 @ 3pm. ©Christmas Caroling: 12/21 @ 7pm, meet at St. Paul's, Ringtown.