

Dec. 19/20, 2015

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

Dec 21 • 6pm • Rc • Peter Canisius

† Loren Dixon



Dec 22 • 9am • Rc • † Anthony Mattero



Dec 24 • 3:30pm • J

4pm • M

7pm • M (candlelight)

Christmas Day: Dec. 25 • 10am • M

Dec. 26/27 • Holy Family • Year C

3:30pm • J † Carl Wolk r/o Brother, Bob & Sons

NO SAT: 5:15pm • Mass @ M

8:15am • J † John & Rachel Horvath r/o Family

10am • M † Joseph Mattes r/o Wife, Dorothy

N.B.: Sun Evening: 5:15pm • M † Joseph Aponick

r/o Wife, Joanne & Children



♦ STEWARDSHIP: M: S: 1337; Ret. Rel: 313; Campaign: 475;

• J: S: 1329; Ret. Rel: 385; Campaign: 255

• myEoffering: M: \$55 • J: \$110

*Stewardship of time, talent & treasure!*

♦ Scripture: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18;

• Christmas: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Mt 1:1-25

• Holy Family: Sir 3:2-6; Col 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

♦ Fill out the forms, even if you're healthy & would like to be prayed for in times of need!

... • John Biros • Richard Buczkowski • John Washko • Dorothy Yanuskiewicz • Rose Ann & Tracey Aponick • Jean & Alice Jarzinko • Joseph

Washko • Grace Snover • Vickie Hartz • Ann Lewis • Bob Fellin

• Gordy Weikel • Kathy Milefsky • Phil & Shirley Kennedy

• Bill/Flo Steele • Theresa Szott • Helen Mehalick • Margaret

Krupilis • Barbara Green • John Zakavage

♦ NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

82 N Center St., Ringtown, Pa. 17967

[No PO Box as of now!]

Regular Parish Office Hours: Mon & Wed: 4-7pm;

Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 4-6pm

NOTE the parish office will be open on an as-needed

basis only from Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> through Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>!

♦ Birthday Blessings: Robert Yurcho: 12/20; Cathy Andrews, Madison Kramer: 12/21; Mary Balkiewicz, Jim Dixon: 12/24; Bill D'Arcy, Daniel Flaim: 12/26.

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

♦ St. Joe's 50/50: Dec. drawing underway!

♦ Stewardship: No one can do everything, everyone can do something!

Make an offering of a gift in gratitude for all God has done for us!

♦ Choir @ M: There are some great voices, we can hear you, why not join us in giving praise and thanks to God! Practice resumes after the holidays. We meet Wed @ 6pm.

♦ Confessions will be heard in the RC after Mass this Monday, starting around 6:45pm.....

♦ 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: meet this Sun, 12/20 @ parish office after 10am Mass.

♦ Adult Ed: resumes after the Christmas/New Years holiday!

**Reflection: 4<sup>th</sup> S Advent C/Christmas:** The days of waiting are soon fulfilled as we greet the Newborn King! The world is in turmoil, up is down, left is right, men try to be women & women men. As in each generation, Christ the Savior is born for us.

As we enter into this most holy season, let us resolve that we will carry the light of Christ into our world. Worry not how far that light will go, simply carry it. God will do incredible things with it! Here's the secret: let it be a broken light, for it is then that the light of Christ can shine in & when we carry that light into the world, it will shine out!

It is my prayer that our parish will grow stronger by the light of faith. The light of a star that travels over space/time to shine brightly upon us, reminding us that no matter how far away, the light will bring us assurance that God has not forgotten us.

To all who, in great and small ways, has helped our parishes carry that light, I thank you. Let us support one another on the road lit by the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace & Lord of Lords. Surely, it may seem that the light grows dim, light a single candle and see how much light shines. Don't believe the lie that it doesn't make a difference. Go light your candle. Go light your world! ● Be a saint...what else is there? ●

Fr. Jim 🐾 & Peaches

frjim.stmj@gmail.com

♦ SCRIP: We've \$25 Applebee's, \$25 Cabela's, \$25 & \$100 Weis, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$10 Denny's, \$10 Pizza Hut, \$10 Dunkin' Donuts, \$25 Home Depot, \$25 Sheetz, \$25 Lowe's, \$25 Giant, \$10 Long John Silver's, \$25 PetSmart, \$25 Walmart, \$25 Olive Garden, \$25 Dunham's Sports, \$25 Red Robin, \$10 & \$25 Regal/United Artists Theatres, \$50 Sunoco on hand. Contact the office, we'll get them to you.



♦ Flowers: at the altar at Christmas are offered in honor & in memory of those you have designated in our Christmas Flower Offering. Thank you!

♦ Interested in our Catholic faith? Ask, encourage, invite! Share the gift of faith! ♦ See us: [stmarystjoseph.net](http://stmarystjoseph.net)



♦ 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.

♦ Collection: Local Poverty Relief: Your generosity has brought in \$2,200 to assist our local food pantry & St. Vincent de Paul Society. You can contribute through the Christmas Season: mark your contribution: **Poverty Relief.**

♦ St Mary's: next \$1K Drawing: Valentine Day, 2016! Tickets available! See a seller after mass!

♦ Oplatki: packets are at Church, they are \$3 per pack.

♦ [facebook.com/stmarystjosephrc](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystjosephrc)

♦ Ministry: We're in need of disciples to step up for ministry, extra-ordinary minister of communion, lector, servers. If we don't, regretfully, we'll have to bring some ministry to an end.

❖ **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.



**Eve: 3:30pm @ J; 6pm @ M;**  
**1/1/16: Day: 10am @ J**



❖ **Yankee Candles, Christmas Cards, Crosses:**

benefit St. Mary's, for sale. Prices vary! Crosses are handmade & donated by John/Dolly Zakavage (M) & Bob Bruno (J). They make great gifts!

❖ **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. Put this on our computers, laptops & mobile devices. The price? Saving our lives, family, marriages, faith: priceless!

❖ **Immaculate Waters: Hand/Body Lotion:** Lavender, Rose & Unscented. Favors, graces continue to be reported. Have a favor granted? We've heard about many small & great favors received! ...Our Lady's intercession reveals Christ's healing. The offering is \$10@.

❖ **Grand Raffle @ J:** Parish Picnic Sponsors are sought so that we can get our ticket out early! See the board on the wall at Church, sign up to sponsor one or several gift cards. We'll order the cards, you'll get the credit, the parish gets the % of the purchase & the winner gets a great gift card!



❖ **Year of Mercy:** Proclaimed by Pope Francis to fashion our year around living, receiving & extending mercy.

As our gift to you, the Magnificat Year of Mercy Companion Book is available. It will take us through the year. Giving us a weekly breakdown: Sunday: Poetry; Monday: Meditation; Tuesday: Saints; Wednesday: Catechesis; Thursday: Witness; Friday: Scripture; Saturday: Devotion. A great way to start your day!

We also have a prayer card, composed by Fr. Ezaki, a priest from our diocese to pray through this year of Mercy. Copies are at the entrance to Church. First come, first served.



❖ **Monday, Dec. 28, 6:30pm** a quiet Mass in the Christmas Season for any who experience the "blues" during these days. Join us if you are suffering while the world says: "be happy." If only....

❖ **Church Cleaning/Decorating:** We're cleaning and decorating **THIS 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.

❖ **Epiphany Blessing Packets:** It's time to reserve yours for your home blessing for 2016! We provide the outline, the chalk, the incense, the water: you mark the doorpost!

❖ **Giving Tree:** If you're one of those: after Christmas Sale Hunters, purchase items then! We accept them during the Christmas Season & beyond! No matter: bring gifts unwrapped, we'll make sure they get to Birthright Frackville & the Catholic Social Agency, Hazleton.



**Masses:** with Holiday/Holyday Mass so close to the weekend, we're offering you a chance to attend Sun night Mass! Thus, our schedule for two weeks:

**Sat: Dec. 27 & Jan 2: 3:30pm @ J;**

**[No 5:15pm Mass]**

**Sun: Dec. 28 & Jan 3:**

**8:15am @ J; 10am @ M**

**Sunday Evening: 5:15pm @ Rintown: TBA**

❖ **Christmas Novena** continues through the 24th! Pray the Lord bless us all & our world with lasting peace!

❖ **Christmas Greeters:** Visitors/Family & Friends will be coming to Mass, why not have some greeters to welcome them, to say: Merry Christmas while they come & go. Make Church a place where people believe that having others worship with them does make a difference! Come early, stay late!

❖ **After Christmas Shopping:** Why not look at one or more of those "deals" and pick one up for the parish block party! Bring them to us, we'll store 'em!

❖ **Socks/Gloves:** We've been made aware that a great need among the poor/homeless are socks & gloves. So the month of Dec./Jan. for us is sock & glove month. New: all sizes, all ages are needed: even some colorful ones for the high school age children! Let's make it a sock/glove storm with more than they ever dreamed! Disciples to organize/deliver are needed.

**Memorials @ J: Margaret Wilcko: Scott & Kelly Krutz: \$50.**

**@M: Nancy Blackwell: Family: \$40.**

❖ **Removal of Pews/Closing of Church:** St Mary's Tile, Painting & other necessary renovation work is set to begin the week of Jan. 3rd! Thus, St Mary's will be closed 3 weekends & 4 weeks. Funerals will be held at St. Joseph's. Sat./Sun. Mass will be celebrated at a Church tba after this week. Look for the announcement here & via social media.

**Umbert the Unborn**

by Gary Cangemi



❖ **Outside Events:** ☉ **2016 Calendar Sale:** \$10@, Benefits Trinity Academy; 570-462-3927 ☉ **Christmas Caroling:** 12/21 @ 7pm, meet at St. Paul's, Ringtown. ☉ **Trinity Academy Christmas Program:** 12/21 @ 6:30pm, Marian HS ☉ **Shepton Fire Co: Bingo:** 1/3/16 @ 1pm. ☉ **Extraordinary Ministers needed for Schuylkill Medical Center:** Contact Fr. Zelonis @ 570-429-0701. ☉ **O come let us adore Him:** Presented by Ashland Community Chorus; 12/27 @ 3pm, St. John's Lutheran Church.