

Dec. 3rd – Dec. 16th 2018

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

Our bulletin covers several weeks!

Dec 4 6pm • M † Edward McNamee r/o Loretta Zienkiewicz
Dec 5 9am • J Rc † Diane Sartori r/o Theresa Novak & Mary Stitzer
Dec 6 9am • J Rc † Nick & Kyle Nicholas r/o Cathy Stamatopoulos
Dec 7 9am • J Rc † **No Mass**

Immaculate Conception [Holyday]

Dec 7 @ 6pm • M (*Vigil*) *People of the Parish*
Dec 8 @ 9am • J *People of the Parish*

December 8th/9th • 2nd Sunday of Advent - C •

3:30pm • J † Tony Valanty r/o Ed & Kay Zuber
5:15pm • M † Joseph & Grace Scodari
r/o Charlie & Luann Scodari
8:15am • J † Robert Stancik r/o wife, Carol Stancik
10:15am • M † Nancy Blackwell r/o Children



Dec 11 6pm • M † David & Ray Milosh III r/o Family
Dec 12 9am • J Rc † Nick Stamatopolous
r/o Eagle Rock Rosary Ladies
Dec 13 9am • J Rc † Deborah Rader
Dec 14 9am • J Rc † Diane Sartori r/o Vincent & Veronica Dagostin

December 15th/16th • 3rd Sunday of Advent - C •

3:30pm • J † Simon & Philomena Walaites r/o Nahas Family
5:15pm • M † Jean Jarzinko r/o Tom & Judy Glanda
8:15am • J † Albert & Marie Salvaterra r/o Family
10:15am • M † Ernam King r/o Piaskowski Family



❖ **STEWARDSHIP: M:** 11/18:S: 974; 11/25:S: 900; Dues: 280; Bldg Fund: 197; Energy: 179; Christmas Flowers: 279 • **J:** 11/18:S: 1210; 11/25:S: 1449; Dues: 70; Bldg Fund: 426; All Saint's: 18; Energy: 1165; Christmas Flowers: 540; Retired Religious: 25

❖ **Prayer List Permission Form:** Names are placed on the prayer list, unless otherwise notified, for 60 days. After that time, a permission form must be re-submitted.



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

•Victor Yanuskiewicz •Frank & Dorothy Hovanec

•Joanne & Rose Aponick • Joe Tomtishen Sr. •Loretta Zienkiewicz

❖ **Memorials @ M: Patricia Shearston:** Kechula Family, Mildred Balulis, Steve & Brad Oravitz: \$70.00;
Edward McNamee: Paul & Tambi Swiney: \$50

❖ **Oplatki: \$3 per pack.** If you've haven't used this beautiful Eastern European custom, guides are included.

❖ **2019 Mass Book is open!** There are forms in the back of the church to fill out or call the parish office. Offering is \$10.00

‡ *Spiritual Corner*

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD FOR YOU TOO

14. To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.^[14]

15. Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. Gal 5:22-23). When you feel the temptation to dwell on your own weakness, raise your eyes to Christ crucified and say: "Lord, I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little bit better". In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gifts of scripture, the sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints and a multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God's love, "like a bride bedecked with jewels" (Is 61:10).

16. This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. Here is an example: a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbour and they begin to speak, and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: "No, I will not speak badly of anyone". This is a step forward in holiness. Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about his hopes and dreams, and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. That is another sacrifice that brings holiness. Later she experiences some anxiety, but recalling the love of the Virgin Mary, she takes her rosary and prays with faith. Yet another path of holiness. Later still, she goes out onto the street, encounters a poor person and stops to say a kind word to him. One more step.

17. At times, life presents great challenges. Through them, the Lord calls us anew to a conversion that can make his grace more evident in our lives, "in order that we may share his holiness" (Heb 12:10). At other times, we need only find a more perfect way of doing what we are already doing: "There are inspirations that tend solely to perfect in an extraordinary way the ordinary things we do in life".^[15] When Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn van Thuân was imprisoned, he refused to waste time waiting for the day he would be set free. Instead, he chose "to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love". He decided: "I will seize the occasions that present themselves every day; I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way".^[16]

18. In this way, led by God's grace, we shape by many small gestures the holiness God has willed for us, not as men and women sufficient unto ourselves but rather "as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet 4:10). The New Zealand bishops rightly teach us that we are capable of loving with the Lord's unconditional love, because the risen Lord shares his powerful life with our fragile lives: "His love set no limits and, once given, was never taken back. It was unconditional and remained faithful. To love like that is not easy because we are often so weak. But just to try to love as Christ loved us shows that Christ shares his own risen life with us. In this way, our lives demonstrate his power at work – even in the midst of human weakness".^[17]

❖ **Birthday Blessings:** Joann Dampman: 12/3; Joseph Wesolowski: 12/5; Jack Zubowicz: 12/6; Cindy Murray, Matt Roulin, Mary Andriasano: 12/7; Phyllis Mazzeo, Michele Pryzblick, Owen Titus: 12/8; Zachary Motil, Ann O'Boyle, Molly Freyne: 12/9; Sara Grow, Janet Kuzma, Eleanor Pryzblick, Mary Deleo: 12/11; RoseMary Boady, James Johnstone, Lawrence Pryzblick: 12/13; Anna Malocu, Lydia Banks: 12/14; MaryBeth Ambrose, Ann Opanel: 12/16

❖ **Flowers:** 12/8-9 @ M: IMO: Joseph & Grace Scodari, by Charlie & Luann Scodari; Immaculate Conception, by Dan & Kathy Milefsky

❖ **Envelopes:** for St. Joseph's & St. Mary's Parishioners are at Church. Please, if you have a neighbor/relative that you can take the box for, drop it off.

Members who support the parish by stewardship receive the benefit of active membership.



.....to the family of
 (M) • Sally McNamee
 Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord.....

❖ **K of C Happenings:** Beginning this Sunday, our Knights of Columbus Council 16072 will be offering FREE "Keep Christ in Christmas" Car/Fridge Magnets. Located at the entrances of SMSJ Parishes, please take one and display it proudly on the back of your car during this Christmas season as an outward sign of your Belief, Faith and Love in The Virgin Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

❖ **Thanksgiving Pie Sale:** We would like to thank everyone who helped, big and small, with our pie sale. With your generous donations and pie orders we made a profit of \$2049.70. This sale and our other pie sale has helped the choir purchase the Breaking Bread Missals and to give money to the churches general account for the New Year. Again... Thank you!

Christmas Mass Schedule:

- Christmas Eve: 3:30pm @ J**
5:15pm @ M (Candlelight)
- Christmas Day: 8:15am @ J**
10:15am @ M
- New Year's Eve: 3:30pm @ J**
5:15pm @ M
- New Year's Day: 8:15am @ J**
10:15am @ M



Advent Confessions: @ J: Dec. 12th 6:30-7:30; Dec. 22nd 2:45-3:15; @ M: Dec. 18th 6:30-7:30; Dec. 22nd for ½ hr. immediately following mass.

❖ **Advent Calendars & Candles:** @ M: Our Christmas table is set up once again at the back of church for the holiday season. Start a Christmas Tradition in your home with our Advent Calendars for the young & old. We will also have our Yankee Candles, and the price can't be beat! The Christmas table also features beautiful Handmade Crosses & Rosaries benefiting The Sisters of the Poor.

❖ **St. Mary: Jan. 1st drawing:** Evening Pa. #4 \$2. We seek help from our parishioners in making this fundraiser a great success and, to do that we need to sell all tickets. Tickets are available at the Christmas table. Write your name and # of packets taken. (25/packet) Single tickets are also available. Please return \$ before drawing. These make great gifts for the holidays!!



❖ **Women of Grace Happening:**
 ▶ **HOPE Ministry:** If you or someone you know could use some temporary help with meals, errands, rides to church or appointments, please contact the parish office at 570-889-3850
 ▶ **Birthright-Mom's & Babies:** Birthright of Frackville is once again asking for our support for the annual "Giving Tree" project. The Giving Tree is a loving reminder of the care, concern and respect we have for mothers and the precious little ones. Tags have been placed on the tree for the most needed items. *Please take a tag if you wish to participate and return your gift, unwrapped no later than Sunday, December 23rd. Thank you!*

➔ **Alpha for Teens: New Teen Ministry for Schuylkill County Schuylkill Catholic Young Church** is the new Schuylkill County regional youth ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming "Alpha" series, which includes free dinner. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning. Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to Alpha. Please RSVP: annie@allentowndiocese.org. Alpha will be held on Sundays from 6-8pm at the Frackville Youth Center (7 S. Broad Mountain Ave, Frackville) from January 27 through March 24.

❖ **SCRIP:** We've: \$25 & \$100 Amazon, \$25 Applebee's, \$10 Bath & Body Works, \$25 Bed Bath & Beyond, \$25 Boscov's, \$25 Cabela's, \$25 Cracker Barrel, \$10 Dairy Queen, \$25 Dunham's, \$25 & \$10 Dunkin' Donuts, \$25 Gap/Old Navy, \$25 & \$50 Giant Foods, \$25 Home Depot, \$10 Long John Silvers, \$25 & \$100 Lowes, \$25 Macy's, \$25 Olive Garden, \$10 & \$25 Panera Bread \$25 PetSmart, \$10 Pizza Hut, \$25 Regal Cinema, \$10 Regal Cinema (Admit one), \$25 Sheetz, \$50 Sunoco, \$25 TJ Maxx/Marshall's, \$25 Walmart/Sam's, \$100 Walmart/Sam's, \$25 Weis, \$100 Weis. *We're taking orders/sell @ St Joseph's after mass. Contact the parish office to place an order! These make great Christmas Gifts!*

❖ **Redner's Save-A-Tape:** Save your receipts, put them in Sunday Stewardship. (M) benefit 1%. **For your receipts to count toward the church you must sign up at Redners service desk!**

▶ **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Dec 9 – **STILL LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT?** Give each other the gift of a *WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER* weekend, a gift that will outlast anything money can buy! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

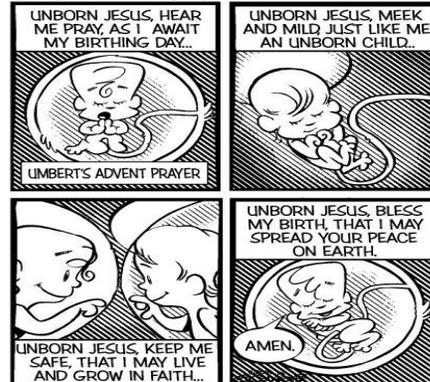
Dec 16 – **The birth of the CHRIST-CHILD** was a sign of hope for this world. Consider attending a *WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER* weekend for hope and rebirth in your relationship! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

▶ **The Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women** is sponsoring a Christmas Novena for Bishop Schlert and his intentions. The novena begins on December 8th and concludes on December 16th, 2018. Anyone can participate. A card will be presented to the Bishop, including the names of all those who enroll. To sign up to receive the daily prayer in your email in-box, go to www.allentowndiocese.org/BishopNovena. For questions, contact: 610-289-8900 ext. 2021 or e-mail cfw@allentowndiocese.org

▶ **Want to give yourself the perfect Christmas gift?** Join the women of the diocese at a Day of Reflection to be held at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 9:30am to 2:15pm. The Commission for Women is hosting the event, with the theme **"Advent: New Church Year, New Me."** Deacon James Russo will be discussing a Catholic perspective on the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol." Cost for the day is \$20, which includes a light breakfast, Mass, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours as well as lunch and time for fellowship. If you would like to register, please go to www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality. For questions, please contact **Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763** or e-mail cfw@allentowndiocese.org. Hope to see you there!

❖ **Outside Events:** • Sheppton Fire Co.: **Bingo: 12/2 @1:00pm;** • **Trinity News: Gift Cards** - Chances for the Gift Card Spectacular will be on sale for \$5.00 throughout December. One ticket will be drawn for each day in the month of January. The holder of the winning ticket will win a gift card valued at \$25 or more. The tickets make great stocking stuffers and are available through any student or at the office, 570-462-3927. **Freedom Giving Thanks** - <https://www.woobox.com/xjgv7w> Please vote for Trinity Academy to help us have a better chance of winning \$5,000 from the

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



Freedom Auto Group. They are giving away \$40,000 with their annual **FREEDOM GIVING THANKS** campaign! Between November 2nd through December 21st, 8 different local charities will be randomly chosen to receive \$5000. **Please help Trinity Academy** by typing in the link listed above, or by going to the Freedom Auto Group Facebook Page and clicking on the link for Freedom Giving Thanks! • **Christmas Program @ Trinity Academy** will present their Christmas

Program **Tuesday, December 18 @ 6:30 PM** in the North Schuylkill Auditorium • **St. Paul's UCC: Annual "Hanging of the greens" Sun, Dec. 9th @ 7:00pm** • **St. Stephan's Hall, Shenandoah: Ecumenical Christmas celebration, Dec. 9th from 2-6pm.** We will also be collecting new unwrapped toys for boys/girls, non-perishable holiday food and new/lightly used coats. Live music provided from 2:00-3:00pm c/o **"The Swingmasters** Polka/Variety band. Santa will visit! Christmas Carols! Food will be available. Join us for this

"Happy Birthday, Jesus - Celebration!"