

Dec. 17th – Dec. 30th 2018

M: St Mary • J: St Joseph • Rc: rectory chapel
Our bulletin covers several weeks!

Dec 18 6pm • M † Leonard Laurusevage r/o Loretta Zienkiewicz
Dec 19 9am • J Rc † Robert M. Wolk r/o Nan & Pop Watahovich
Dec 20 9am • J Rc † People of the Parish
Dec 21 9am • J Rc † Diane Sartori r/o Rita Boyle & Family

Dec. 22nd/Dec. 23rd • 4th Sunday of Advent C •

3:30pm • J † Carmen Fierro r/o Theresa Novak
Confessions: 2:45-3:15 @ J
5:15pm • M † Bill Lorah r/o Wife, Pauline
Confessions: 1/2 hr immediately following mass @ M
8:15am • J † George Mehalick r/o Helen Mehalick & Family
10:15am • M † IMO Noel Brouse r/o Ruth Ann & Children

Dec. 24th 3:30pm • J
5:15pm • M(Candlelight) r/o People of

Dec. 25th 8:15am • J the Parish
10:15am • M

Dec 26th 9am • J Rc **No Mass**

Dec 27th 9am • J Rc **No Mass**

Dec 28th 6pm • J Rc **No Mass**

Dec. 29th/Dec. 30th • Feast of the Holy Family of JMJ •

3:30pm • J † Dec'd of Baruka & Nahas Family r/o Nahas Family
5:15pm • M † Joe Aponick r/o Joanne, Tracy & Family
8:15am • J † Robert Wolk r/o Rick & Lynn Kuzmitsky
10:15am • M † Bron Rejent r/o Son Gene, Sherry & Family



❖ **STEWARDSHIP: M:** 12/2:S: 1031; 12/9:S: 1310; Dues: 625; Bldg Fund: 85; Energy: 45; Christmas Flowers: 162; Retired Religious: 180; Immac. Conc.: 283 • **J:**12/2:S: 1396; 12/9:S: 1234; Dues: 521; Bldg Fund: 15; All Saint's: 20; Energy: 20; Christmas Flowers: 55; Retired Religious: 224; Immac. Conc.:156; Assumption: 10

❖ **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.



Hear Our Prayer

❖ **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
•John & Angie Ounfuer •Fr. Jim Torpey

❖ **Memorials @ M:** Edward McNamee: Danny Delgado, Craig Noll, Jodel Antlin, Patricia Mundy: \$75; Sally McNamee: Bill & Marjorie Lorah & Family: \$30; Patricia Shearstone: George & Vickie Kechula, Mildred Balulis & Family, Steve & Barb Oravitz: \$70

Holiday Office Hours:

Office will be **closed:** Dec. 24th – 26th & 31st, Jan 1st-Jan 9th.

Office will be **open:** Dec. 27th & 28th

*If there is an emergency Jan 1st-Jan 9th contact Fr. Tolentino.

‡ Spiritual Corner

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD YOUR MISSION IN CHRIST

19. A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for “this is the will of God, your sanctification” (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel. 20. That mission has its fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through him. At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life. It consists in uniting ourselves to the Lord’s death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus’ earthly life: his hidden life, his life in community, his closeness to the outcast, his poverty and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love. The contemplation of these mysteries, as Saint Ignatius of Loyola pointed out, leads us to incarnate them in our choices and attitudes.^[18] Because “everything in Jesus’ life was a sign of his mystery”,^[19] “Christ’s whole life is a revelation of the Father”,^[20] “Christ’s whole life is a mystery of redemption”,^[21] “Christ’s whole life is a mystery of recapitulation”.^[22] “Christ enables us to live in him all that he himself lived, and he lives it in us”.^[23] 21. The Father’s plan is Christ, and ourselves in him. In the end, it is Christ who loves in us, for “holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full”.^[24] As a result, “the measure of our holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us, to the extent that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life on his”.^[25] Every saint is a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Jesus Christ and gives to his people. 22. To recognize the word that the Lord wishes to speak to us through one of his saints, we do not need to get caught up in details, for there we might also encounter mistakes and failures. Not everything a saint says is completely faithful to the Gospel; not everything he or she does is authentic or perfect. What we need to contemplate is the totality of their life, their entire journey of growth in holiness, the reflection of Jesus Christ that emerges when we grasp their overall meaning as a person.^[26] 23. This is a powerful summons to all of us. You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today’s world.²⁴ May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens.

❖ **Birthday Blessings:** Jeanette Irwin: 12/17; James Abrose Jr, Dolores Oscovitch: 12/18; Jonathan Casella, Rosanna Freyne: 12/19; Rose Ann Aponick, Lynnette Motil, Robert Yurcho: 12/20; Johnathan Gilbert, Madison Kramer, Cathy Andrews: 12/21; Dylan Baranowsky: 12/22; Mary Balkiewicz, James Dixon: 12/24; Kristina Redanauer: 12/24; William D’Arcy, Daniel Flaim: 12/26; Ruth Brouse, Jacob Johnstone, Desiree Milosh, Joseph Tomtishen, Joshua Lex: 12/27; Patrick Loftus: 12/28; Carol Stancik: 12/28; Diane Fulton: 12/30; Kelsie Kramer, Edward Opanel, Kim Davidson, Roseann Evangelista: 12/31

❖ **2019 Mass Book is open!** There are forms in the back of the church to fill out or call the parish office \$10

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

❖ **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.

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



❖ **Church Decorating @ J:** Mark the date: Sun, Dec 23rd after the morning Mass. Take pride in your parish, help to bring out boxes, hang the greens, get the church ready for friends/family.

❖ **K of C Happenings:** next meeting January 20th. Our Knights of Columbus Council 16072 is offering FREE "Keep Christ in Christmas" Car/Fridge Magnets. Located at the entrances of SMSJ Parishes, while they last! 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!



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 1/2 hr. immediately following mass.

❖ **Candles:** @M: Need a last minute gift? We have our Yankee Candles, and the price can't be beat! The Christmas table also features beautiful handmade 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!!

Energy Raffle Winners (J): 1st Place: Judy Vasey; 2nd Place: Irene Feeko; 3rd Place: Jill Datchko; 4th Place: Nancy K.; 5th Place: Rick & Diane Searles. Profit: \$1750

Thank you to everyone who bought/sold tickets.

❖ **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:** *Please return your gift, unwrapped no later than Sunday, December 23rd. Thank you!*



❖ **Calendars:** for 2019 are here! **Take one home.**

Thanks to **Oravitz Home for Funeral Inc.** for sponsoring our calendars!

► **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.

❖ **Epiphany Blessing Packets for 2019:** Will be available starting Dec. 29th. We provide the outline, the chalk & the incense. Bring a jar for holy water for blessing your home! They will be on the table at the back of church.



❖ **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. 23rd – GOD GAVE US HIS GREATEST GIFT OF LOVE when He sent His only son, JESUS, into the world. Experience a deeper love in your marriage by attending a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

Dec. 30th – As we celebrate HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, let us remember that God's love for us is reflected the love we have for each other in our family. Why not encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend?

For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

❖ **Outside Events: •Trinity News:** Gift Cards - Chances for the Gift Card

Spectacular will be on sale for \$5 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.onbox.com/txjey7w>

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi

<p>THE BIBLE SAYS THAT MARY CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.</p>	<p>IMAGINE THAT! JESUS WAS ONCE A SINGLE TINY CELL JUST LIKE I WAS.</p>
<p>I WONDER WHAT HIS FIRST MOMENT IN THE WOMB WAS LIKE.</p>	<p>THANK YOU, HEAVENLY FATHER, FOR THIS PERFECT PLACE TO GROW.</p>

Please vote for Trinity Academy to help us have a better chance of winning \$5,000 from the 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 at 6:30 PM in the North Schuylkill Auditorium • Christmas Caroling, Sun. Dec. 23rd @ 6pm starting at St. John's. All ages Welcome.

