

# The First Sunday Of Advent

December 1, 2024

## Mass Intentions

December	2	8:00 AM	<b>Monsignor Leo Bierschmidt</b>
December	3	8:00 AM	<b>Janet Primo requested by Dave &amp; Patty Suydam</b>
December	4	8:00 AM	<b>Intentions Of Pat &amp; Gwen Pray requested by Deacon Robinson</b>
December	5	8:00 AM	<b>Father Richard Waldron</b>
December	6	8:00 AM	<b>Intentions Of Tara Smity</b>
December	7	8:00 AM	<b>Intentions Of John &amp; Mary Blair requested by Deacon Robinson</b>
		5:00 PM	<b>Anne &amp; Angelo Altavilla requested by Louise Kline</b>
December	8	8:00 AM	<b>Diana Prowell requested by Joe &amp; Sue Meyer</b>
		10:30 AM	<b>People Of The Parish</b>

## Liturgical Ministries December 7-8

	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Extraordinary Ministers</b>	<b>Servers</b>
5:00 PM	Sue Guarducci	Dave Suydam	Terry Meek
8:00 AM	Scott Sheaffer	Scott Dunkelberger	Christopher Harlan Anna & Julia Sheaffer
10:30 AM	Nicole Wood	Nancy Stanton	The Morrison Family

## Schmidt Center Cleaning

**December 8**

Tonya Sands

**December 15**

Robin & Mike Chiccini

## Next Sunday's Readings

*Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from the Sacred Scriptures*

**Baruch 5:1-9**

**Phillipians 1:4-6, 8-11**

**Luke 3:1-6**

## Christian Stewardship

**Last Sunday's Collection amounted to: \$5,184.00**

**The Collection on this date one year ago amounted to: \$4,050.72**

**May God Bless you for your generous and responsible stewardship!!!**

## Church Calendar

### *Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (First Sunday of Advent)*

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

### *Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Mass, 8:00AM

Parish Advent Penance Service, 7:00PM

### *Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Mass, 8:00AM

### *Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>*

Mass, 8:00AM

Prayer Group, 8:30AM

### *Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>*

Mass, 8:00AM

Confessions, 6:15PM

Sacred Heart Devotions, 7:00PM

### *Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>*

Mass, 8:00AM

### *Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>*

Mass in Honor of BVM, 8:00AM

Confessions, 4:00-4:45PM

Sunday Vigil Mass, 5:00PM

Widow/Widowers Dinner, 6:00PM

### *Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)*

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

## From the Pastor's Desk:

Are you one of those people who flips to the end of the book to find out what happens or maybe you roam the internet for spoilers of your favorite show? We have all been tempted to know what is going to happen before whatever unfolds, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way we experience the

angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Like today: even as we anticipate and know the comfort and

joy of the Advent season, we certainly do not begin there with our Gospel reading from Luke. In it, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man: this time will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death.



Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed – and that, if we remain faithful to him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing this ending helps us have confidence and hope in God.

We are encouraged and challenged by the Word and our Advent traditions this first week to remember how it ends! In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them the days are coming when the Lord will “fulfill the promise.” This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke’s Gospel, Christ’s coming will be with “power and great glory” and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light who has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps his promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

O come, divine Messiah!

The world in silence waits the day

When hope shall sing its triumph

And sadness flee away

**Remember the Sick of our Parish** in your charity and prayers: Rosemary Anderson, Cathy Steiner, Marietta McQuaid, Marie Dishman, Suzanne Matunis, Pat Widdowson, Kay Dorundo, Gene Odato, Annetta Round, Joann Speis, Joni Lawrence, Shirley Scotta, Samantha Strazisar, Ellen White, Tara Smith, Dennis Haag, Louise Kline, Frances Kute, and all the long-suffering in our community and at Perry Village.

**Deacon Robinson’s Contact Information:** Contact Deacon Robinson at his cell phone (602-6298) or [deacon.robinson@analogyapologetics.com](mailto:deacon.robinson@analogyapologetics.com).

**Online Information:** You can access the weekly bulletin and other information at our parish website ([www.stbernardsnbpa.org](http://www.stbernardsnbpa.org)).

**Advent Penance Service:** As we spiritually prepare during the Advent season to celebrate Christ's birth again in glory, please make the Sacrament of Penance part of your family's preparation. A penance service is scheduled for Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM. Four additional priests will be present to help us celebrate this Sacrament of God's mercy and love.

**Advent Wreath Materials:** As we prepare for the Advent Season in spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ, all the materials you will need for creating a home Advent Wreath will be available in the narthex on the weekend of December 1/2. Our parish will supply the oasis, ribbon, and candles. All you will need, in addition, is a waterproof container and some evergreens to complete your wreath. This is one way we can keep Christ in Christmas as we prepare to celebrate His birth

**Blood Donors Needed:** The Perry County Commissioners are sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM at Christ Lutheran Church at 38 West High Street, New Bloomfield, PA. To make an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter code: "PerryCo" or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Blood donations help people like Gene Odato, from our parish, and others. Questions may be directed to Kathy Odato, Red Cross Volunteer, at 717-275-7549. Thank you for your support!!



**Youth Group Christmas Widows/Widowers Dinner:** The Saint Bernard's Youth Group will be hosting its annual dinner for widows and widowers of Saint Bernard's Parish on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall after the 5 PM Mass. The youth of our parish extend a warm invitation to all those who can attend. Please look forward to a night of fun, conversation, service, and entertainment given by our youth. We look forward to joining you that night and always in prayer for the souls of the faithful departed. *Please sign up at the bulletin board if you can attend. Please feel welcome to bring a friend or*



Christmas Dinner

*family member, especially if they are your means of transportation. Also, please note the number of people attending when you sign up.*

**The Mitten Tree:** Each year at Christmas, our parish reaches out to our own parish family and the community and provides approximately 100 gifts for those less fortunate. Again, this year, everyone is invited to select an ornament from our Mitten Tree and fulfill a Christmas wish for the needy. For many people, these are the only gifts they will receive. The Mitten Tree is located at the main doors of the Church. Only one gift per tag!! Your gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.



THE GIVING TREE

**Knights of Columbus Christmas Cards:** Our Knights are offering Christmas cards for sale. They were designed by the children in our CCD program. Cost is \$10 for a pack of 15 cards and can be purchased after Mass at the kitchenette.

**Church Cleaning for Christmas:** We will gather to clean the church for the coming Christmas Season on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM. If you can assist, please sign up at the bulletin board in the narthex.

**Church Decorating for Christmas** will take place after Mass on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Your gracious assistance is needed to help with the Christmas trees and poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary. Please sign up at the bulletin board if you can assist us.



**Advent Vespers and Covered Dish Dinner:** All parish families, especially our children, are cordially invited to an Advent Vesper Service and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed immediately with a covered dish dinner in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. A special visitor will arrive for the children. You are requested to bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert. The meat course will be provided by the parish. Please sign up at the bulletin board so adequate provisions can be made. For further information, please call Erin Jenkins at 834-6946.

