

The Third Sunday Of Advent

December 15, 2024

Mass Intentions

December	16	8:00 AM	Frances King
December	17	8:00 AM	Intentions Of Tara Smith
December	18	8:00 AM	Intentions Of Sue Cover requested by Deacon Robinson
December	19	8:00 AM	Intentions Of Magdalene Fordyce req. by The Fordyce Family
December	20	8:00 AM	Intentions Of The Donnie Scheib Family req. by Ron & Kathy Scheib
December	21	5:00 PM	Rudoph Potetz requested by Patti Gravante
December	22	8:00 AM	People Of The Parish
		10:30 AM	Father Louis Ogden

Liturgical Ministries December 21-22

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
5:00 PM	Joe DeFrancesco	Mary Zimmerman	Dave Suydam
8:00 AM	Jory Harlan	Scott Dunkelberger	Christopher Harlan Julia & Anna Sheaffer
10:30 AM	Kathy Dubois	Rosanne Wheatley	Jacob Innerst Zoey Lowe

Schmidt Center Cleaning

December 22

Madeline Rogers & Pat Harshberger

December 29

Gabby Brandt & Jen Meek

Next Sunday's Readings

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

Micah 5:1-4a

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-45

Christian Stewardship

Last Sunday's Collection amounted to: \$4,870.00

The Collection on this date one year ago amounted to: \$5,945.00

Parish Contingency for November amounted to: \$1,690.00

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 15th (Third Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM
Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM
CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

Monday, December 16th

Mass, 8:00AM

Tuesday, December 17th

Mass, 8:00AM

Wednesday, December 18th

Mass, 8:00AM
Prayer Group, 8:30AM

Thursday, December 19th

Mass, 8:00AM

Friday, December 20th

Mass, 8:00AM

Saturday, December 21st

Confessions, 4:00-4:45PM
Sunday Vigil Mass, 5:00PM

Sunday, December 22nd (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM
Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM
CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

Monday, December 23rd

Mass, 8:00AM
Church Decorating for Christmas, 6:00PM

☉ Come, ☉ Come, Emmanuel!

From the Pastor's Desk:

Our life as a Christian should remind us that we are called to be a sanctuary lamp: to be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.' This



is not only our personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus.

We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one

mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them – indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains in our midst. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels' people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold.

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@analogypapologetics.com.

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

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

Blood Donors Needed: The Perry County Commissioners are sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on December 20th 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 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!!



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 22nd.



Church Decorating for Christmas will take place Monday evening, December 23rd 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 15th 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.

The Advent Spirit: The mood of the Advent season is one of somber spiritual preparation that increases in joy with each day that draws us closer to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. So, the worldly “Christmas” commercialism that surrounds it in the Western world should be overcome as much as possible. We should strive to keep the liturgical season of Advent holy, penitential, reflective, and prayerful, always remembering, as they say, that “He is the reason for the Season.” Jesus came once in the flesh; He comes to us now in spirit and power through His Word and His sacraments; He will come again in glory at the end of the age!

Pro-Life: “The Word became flesh and dwelled among us,” St. John’s Gospel tells us. Perhaps if we could look at each unborn child as a word from God, we would be less likely to destroy those children who each have a unique message to share with the world. Let us continue to pray that as we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, we may also reach out to welcome each of His unborn sons and daughters!



Rest in Peace: In your charity and prayers remember Rachel Lynn Scheib, daughter-in-law of Kathy Sheib. Rachel died just days after giving birth to her 12th child. May Rachel rest in peace and may God grant her family healing and consolation!

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Masses
Tuesday, December 24th
4:00PM and 6:00PM

Mass on Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 AM