

St. John    St. Joseph    St. Mary

December 13, 2020

*Third Sunday of*

# ADVENT



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## Saints John, Joseph and Mary Children's Faith Formation

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## Sacraments

**Baptism** - Instruction is required for first time parents. Please call your Parish Office for details and scheduling arrangements.

**Marriage** - Arrangements must be made at least six months prior to the wedding date. Please contact your Parish Office.

**Confessions** held on Saturdays, St. Mary- 11am-12pm and St. Joseph-12pm-1pm  
Contact the parish office or Fr. Ward or Fr. Jim directly to schedule a confession by appointment







## Holiday Schedule

### Sundays in Advent Evening Prayer

5:00 PM St. Mary

### Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM St. Joseph

6:00 PM St. Mary

7:00 PM St. John

10:00 PM St. Joseph

10:00 PM St. Mary

### Christmas Day Masses

8:00 AM St. John

10:00 AM St. Joseph

10:00 AM St. Mary

### New Year's Eve

5:00 PM St. John

7:00 PM St. Mary

### New Year's Day- Solemnity of Mary

10:00 AM St. Joseph

**SIGN UP!** 

*I am asking all parishioners to wear a mask in the proper fashion whenever you enter Church for Mass at any of the parishes in our grouping or in the diocese. We are beyond personal feelings, opinions or political allegiance. I have had parishioners tell me that they will not attend Mass because there are those present there who are not wearing a mask. This practice of wearing a mask is not a major crisis. If you are wondering how this will be enforced I can only call upon your Christian concern for the health and well of others and of yourself. God Bless and thank you for your compliance. Fr. Ward*

We ask that you continue to sign up for weekend Masses, the link to the *Sign Up Genius* page (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4DA9AF29A7FF2-december>) is on our website, [stsjmccatholic.org](https://stsjmccatholic.org). If you do not have online access, call your parish office and we will sign you up. A special link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4DA9AF29A7FF2-christmas>) for Christmas Masses can be found on the website as well. Please sign up for the Christmas Mass of your choice in advance.



## Still Time To Sign Up

Traditionally, Christmas is the time to come home. And, yes, we do want you to come home, we are, however, in pandemic times. This brings the words social distancing, wash your hands, wear a **mask to the front of our minds. There's nothing more gratifying than seeing a full church eager to** celebrate the birth of our Savior. But we are restricted during this epidemic time. The bishop reminds us that we are in no way permitted to accommodate more than what our social distancing numbers allow.

We have a plan and it involves signing up for Mass. If you do not have a computer or for whatever reason cannot or do not want to sign up online, we invite you to call and sign up through the Parish Offices. St. John will offer overflow seating in their social hall for the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. St. Joseph will offer overflow seating in St. Joseph Hall for the 4 and 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Masses. These Masses will be livestreamed to those locations. That capacity will be determined and posted as part of the signup online or when calling in.

Communion will be offered in the overflow areas and distributed by our Eucharistic ministers. Or another option would be to watch the Mass live streamed to your own computer or television, especially if you have health concerns. We ask for your patience, understanding and participation. Thank you!

# Mass Intentions for the Week

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Offered By
Saturday December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	4:00 PM	St. Mary	Jeremy Yenick	Mom, Kristie & Brothers
	5:30 PM	St. Joseph	Caroline Isabel Lang	Family
Sunday December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Mary	
	8:30 AM	St. John	Paul Furey	Family
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	<b>Victor "Jim" Carbin</b>	Joe & Rose Stupf
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Robert Tomaszewski	Tomaszewski Family
Monday, December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	8:00 AM	St. Mary	Mary Heist	Friends
Tuesday, December 15	8:00 AM	St. John	Evelyn Adams	Birch Family
Wednesday, December 16	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Stanley Perrine	Family
Thursday, December 17	8:00 AM	St. Mary	Ann Cornibe	Judy & Rege Convery
Friday, December 18	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Sick Parishioners	Christian Mothers & Women of St. Joseph
Saturday December 19	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	<b>Priest's Intention</b>	
	4:00 PM	St. Mary	Arlene Widenhofer	Gene & Shirley Widenhofer
	5:30 PM	St. Joseph	Limbacher & Ragan Family	Family
Sunday December 20 4th Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Sue Rovnan	John & Janet Rovnan
	8:30 AM	St. John	Bob Swigart	Wife & Family
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Parishioners of St. John, St. Joseph & St. Mary	
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Georgetta Sadowski	Elizabeth Blackburn



# PRAYER REQUESTS

*Please remember in your prayers the sick, suffering, and homebound of our parish community, especially those listed below from our parish grouping.*

Gregory Robb  
Bernice Durand  
Andy Durand  
Geraldine Wiefeling  
Elaine Lydon  
Marge Steinhiser  
John Lorenz  
Kathy Miller  
Joe Krall  
Lois Davanzati

Elizabeth Rakarich  
Evelyn MacDonald  
Jeannie White  
Agnes Widenhofer  
John Prokopchak  
Dick Leroy  
Carol Rowley  
Alice Spinneweber  
Dan Jonczak Jr.  
Judy Convery

Nicholas Miller  
Mary Carbin  
Jim Edwards  
C.J. Kriley  
Loretta Schnur  
Janet Biscetlia  
Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM, Cap.  
Fr. Gary Stakem, OFM, Cap

*Pray for all members of our armed forces, especially those from our parish families.*

Kyle Campbell  
Michael Fritz  
Tylor Grant White

Matthew McCandless  
Jimmy Adley  
Russell Bauer

Brandon Bauer  
Trevor Cottage  
Jordan Cottage

Nicholas Cottage  
Stephen Konyha  
Dustin Michel

*Please call your Parish Office or email Jenn at [stmarybulletin@zoominternet.net](mailto:stmarybulletin@zoominternet.net) to add or remove names from the grouping prayer lists.*

Please join us for Evening Prayer with Benediction each of the Sundays in Advent, 5:00 pm at St. Mary's in Herman. All are welcome!

## This week's Blessed Mother candle at St. John is

In memory of Joe Snyder



*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.*

*Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.*

Amen

Early submission due dates for upcoming bulletins

If you wish to have items published in the bulletin, please email to Jenn ([stmarybulletin@zoominternet.net](mailto:stmarybulletin@zoominternet.net)) by 10 AM on the dates listed below.



December 20<sup>th</sup> bulletin by Monday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

December 27<sup>th</sup> bulletin by Thursday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

January 3<sup>rd</sup> bulletin by Wednesday, Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>

Please be patient with us as we muddle through our new phone system. Thanks!

## St. Joseph Parish Office Schedule

The Parish Office will close from Thursday, December 17, thru Thursday, December 31, and will reopen for business on Monday, January 4. If you require any information of a business nature, please call Karyn before the 17th or leave a message by calling 724-352-2149 and choosing ext 204 or feel free to call her cell at 724-355-5403. Karyn will return your call in a timely manner. She will be recuperating from knee surgery and glad to chat, as well as have your prayers.



Couples anticipating baptism for their "first" child are asked to attend a preparation session.

Godparents are encouraged to attend also. Please call the Parish Office at 724-352-2149 to pre-register.



The Pittsburgh Catholic ONLINE

The new, online version of the *Pittsburgh Catholic* can be found at [www.diopitt.org](http://www.diopitt.org)



# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

<b>SUN 12/13</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>MON 12/14</b>	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
<b>TUE 12/15</b>	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
<b>WED 12/16</b>	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
<b>THR 12/17</b>	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
<b>FRI 12/18</b>	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
<b>SAT 12/19</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
<b>SUN 12/20</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

<b>Sunday:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
<b>Monday:</b>	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.



*The desire  
for God  
is written  
in the  
human  
heart.*

Three weeks until our new parish, St. Francis of Assisi, officially begins. The **responsorial psalm of today's liturgy is Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, from the Gospel of Luke**, her prayer of joy, hope, and confidence. We know that change **isn't easy, that leaving the past behind is difficult, and that no one knows what** will happen in the future. But we are a pilgrim people of God, a people filled with hope who are confident that with Jesus as our head and the Holy Spirit as our guide we will become a united parish community. Our mission this Advent and **always is to be a parish community that effectively proclaims Jesus' Gospel of** divine mercy and truly witnesses to it by our lives. Let us continue to pray for our parish clergy team, our parish staff, and our leadership councils, that they will fearlessly lead us to be disciples of our coming Savior. His coming means our joy and gladness, our hope for the future.



# ADVENT



**HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.**

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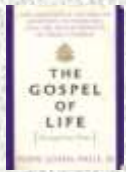
## The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.





This year marks the 25th anniversary of  
**Pope St. John Paul's encyclical,**  
**"The Gospel of Life" (Evangelium Vitae).**



Below is an excerpt to reflect on this  
**week. From the "Gospel of Life" #71**

It is therefore urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of a sound democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no State can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote.  
 - Pope St. John Paul



**New Protocol for Scheduling  
 Mass Intentions**



**It's working!**

Mass intentions including those for 2021 for St. John, St. Joseph and St. Mary parishes will be scheduled through the **Parish Office at St. John's in Coyleville only. Here's the new protocol:**

- **You may call Jenn, St. John's Office Manager, on** Tuesdays or Thursdays at 724-287-7590 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. to schedule your intentions. The stipend for each Mass is \$10. Checks are to be made payable to *St. Joseph Church* and mailed to 315 Stoney Hollow Road, Cabot 16023 with a check memo notation of the *Mass Intention and date scheduled*. OR
- **You may visit Jenn in person at St. John's on** Tuesdays or Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Checks are to be made payable to *St. Joseph Church* and *given to Jenn*. OR
- You may email the Mass intentions to (stjohnchurch@zoominternet.net) OR mail to (St. John the Evangelist Church, 668 Clearfield Road, Fenelton, PA 16034). Jenn will respond to your request confirming the date and time that she is able to schedule your intentions. After that communication, please then send your check made payable to St. Joseph Church, indicate the date and intention in the check memo line and mail to 315 Stoney Hollow Road, Cabot 16023

Thank you for your patience and willingness to support

**Grouping 439—St. John-St. Joseph-St. Mary  
 Merger Progress Report**

**Unified Children's Faith Formation Program**

New Parish Administrative Center — St. Joseph campus

Common Bulletin

Common Parish Website [stsjmccatholic.org](http://stsjmccatholic.org)

Shared Adult Faith Formation Programs

Mass Intentions—schedule thru St. John

New Parishioners—signup thru St. Mary

Collection Counter Forms in place for January 2021

Collection Envelopes in process for 2021

New Parish Sacramental Registers Ordered

Unified Staff Meetings

Unified Pastoral Council

Grouping Bank of choice— First Commonwealth selected

Combined Parish Databases

Combined Online Giving in process

Staff Positions—defined job descriptions/responsibilities

New Parish Logo in process

New Quicken software installed

New Parish Phone System

**COMING IN JANUARY:**

**THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS**

The Letter to the Hebrews is like a mini catechism of



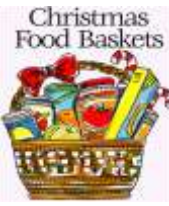
biblical theology. It is full of the truths that are the foundation of the Catholic faith, but it can be a little difficult to unpack its theological concepts on your own.

**Enter "Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant" by Jeff Cavins and Andrew Swafford from Ascension Press.** This study will draw out the rich truths of Hebrews and draw connections between the Old and New Testaments, the Liturgy, the Eucharist, the priesthood and much, much more. Understanding Hebrews will help you appreciate the astounding generosity of God as you see the wonders he has given us in His Church.

The cost for this eight week study is \$20.00 and includes both the workbook and online access to the videos for one year. Bible Buddies will begin this study on Jan. 6 and Faithful Friends on Jan. 7. For more information and to sign up for this study contact Jean Hlivko-Neely at [mrsjeanforccd@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjeanforccd@gmail.com) or call (724)353-1825. Registration will close December 17 to allow time to order materials.



**Breaking Bread ~ Oplatki** The Christmas wafer brings home the gift announced by the herald angels: "Peace on earth to all of goodwill." Peace is begotten through reconciliation. Those who break the bread, forgive and forget all past transgressions. They promise to remember only that which was good, kind and harmonious. Sharing the wafer brings with it the blessing of Bethlehem and the peace of heaven, fusing bonds that neither time, distance nor malice can break. Continue the tradition or start one with your family. Pick up an Oplatki packet in the gathering space. If you are so inclined to make a free-will offering, we appreciate it.



If you have any last minute donations for the Holiday baskets being distributed by St. John Marian Guild, contact: **Kathy 724-431-5531, Jen 724-256-8353, Dixie 724-285-3934, Linda 724-283-0933**



The  
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The new, online version of the *Pittsburgh Catholic* can be found at [www.diopitt.org](http://www.diopitt.org)

## Christmas Flowers

If you are so inclined to make a flower donation this year, please use the envelope in your packets. We appreciate any donation given. It all works together to create a beautiful space for the birth of the Christ Child.



We would like to thank all the people how helped in any way, their time, donation of food, baskets, buying **dinners etc... to make the spaghetti benefit for Bob Holben** a huge success. **We couldn't have pulled it off** without your support. Also, we would like to thank all of you who purchased baked goods after the Masses at St. Joseph church. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people in our community!

Sincerely,  
The Family of Bob



Due to the pandemic and all of the restrictions and limitations involved with it, St. John Marian Guild has decided to collect items to donate directly to the residents of our 2 local nursing homes, in lieu of the Giving Tree. A bin can be found in the back of the Church to donate items for the residents. Some suggestions are: individually wrapped snacks and candy, socks, toiletries, and activity books. Donations are requested by Dec. 20th.

Due to the pandemic, the Marian Guild of St. John will not do the poinsettia sale fundraiser this year.



If you or a loved one would like added **to St. John's prayer chain, please contact** Rose Chuba at 724-285-1134

## Christmas Memory Tree

All parishioners from St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. John are **invited to add an ornament/picture to St Joseph's memory tree**. You can make your ornament and put your loved ones name on it or we can make one for you. You may make as many as you like. This tree is dedicated to those who have gone to their eternal rest over the years. Please place your ornament in the designated basket in the narthex so that we may place it on the tree. Look for the Memory tree when the church is decorated for Christmas. It will be located near the baptismal font. Any questions or help with an ornament, call Teresa Sintz, 724-355-4758



## Christmas Sharing Due Today



**St. Joseph's Christmas Sharing will take on a bit of a different format this year.** Due to COVID-19, we will be involved in three outreach efforts—Meals-On-Wheels, Cabot Food Bank and Gift Cards for those in need (Giant Eagle, Dollar General, Visa, Sprinkle's and Walmart). **Simply** place your donation in an envelope with your name and which outreach you are donating to. Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket, dropped in the black lock box or mailed or dropped at the Parish Office.



All children enrolled in the in-person CFF/ Edge Program at our St. Joseph and St. John Parish sites will be enjoying a Christmas Break this month.

All grade levels have faith formation materials to complete during the break. These are due when we return to CFF/ Edge in January 2021.

*May your Christmas be blessed with lots of love, fun, peace, joy and happiness!*



## Attention: Online Givers

St. John, St. Joseph, and St. Mary parishioners who currently make their contributions online, please note that the website online portals will be shut down December 15 thru January 4. You will not be able to change, delete or add contributions during this period. Your designated transactions will still occur. Nothing will change. You do not need to do anything.

**A new portal for the "new parish" will be You do not have to** do anything. The system will be up and running for January 4.

If you are thinking about signing up for online giving. A good time would be after February 1, 2021. There will be one portal on the website for all three churches under the name of the new parish. Questions, please call 724-352-2149.



You may have noticed that **St. John's doors are missing.**

With part of our *Church Alive!* funds, allocated to restoring items within the Church, we are having the main doors and hardware refurbished. There are temporary doors in place until the doors and hardware are completed and can be re-installed. As a reminder, in case of an emergency, there are exit doors located in each sacristy. There are Emergency Exit signs above the doors on both sides of the Altar.

Our artist has been busy fulfilling orders for slate shingle paintings! Thank you to all who have ordered. There are still slates available if you would like to have one painted, contact Jenn at the office.



## HOPE AND HEALING ARE POSSIBLE!!!

Our families and friends need our prayers during this time of uncertainty, fear and anxiety. Those struggling with addiction or substance abuse are extremely vulnerable!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ROSARY AND SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS

TUESDAYS: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-3:30

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7-8pm

\*\*\*\*No gathering on December 29<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\*

**WHERE: ABBA'S HOUSE, 320 W. MAIN ST., SAXONBURG, 16056**

\*\*\*\*CDC recommends wearing a mask\*\*\*\*

*Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil for you are at my side. – Psalm 23*

Information: [patomaszewski@zoominternet.net](mailto:patomaszewski@zoominternet.net)



## For Your Advent

The season of Advent is upon us. As the calendar year is coming to a close, our liturgical year is just beginning. With all we have been through in 2020, now is an opportune time to begin anew with our Lord. Begin new habits and new commitments so that God can begin something new in our hearts. In the midst of all the chaos, sickness, loneliness, and confusion we have experienced, we ask Jesus to come into our homes, our families, and our hearts. With a new appreciation for all that is good and hopeful, we cry out, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." To help us develop or strengthen our habit of daily prayer, we have The Word Among Us filled with daily Scripture readings and meditations, thoughtful articles, and The Order of the Mass. If you prefer daily email reflections, please take a minute to sign up with Word on Fire with Bishop Barron at <https://adventreflections.com>, Formed at <https://formed.org/advent>, or Dynamic Catholic at <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-ever.html>. Lord Jesus, come into our hearts!



## Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Join us as we sing carols and share this Christmas hope where it's needed most: the abortion facility right here in our community.

Event: Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

When: Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM

Where: Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh

More Info: Contact Tim Barr at 412-417-7822 or [timbarr5480@gmail.com](mailto:timbarr5480@gmail.com)





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