

# Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Roman Catholic Community

Established January 4, 2021

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

*One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*

Website: [joachimandannediopitt.org](http://joachimandannediopitt.org)



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### Faith Formation

Adult - Children - Youth

101 McLay Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone 412-754-0886

Email: [faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org)



### Administration Center

101 McLay Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone 412-751-0663

Fax 412-751-2161

Email: [office@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:office@joachimandannediopitt.org)

### Safe Environment

Email: [protect@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:protect@joachimandannediopitt.org)

### Church Buildings

Saint Eugene (StE)

3210 Liberty Way

McKeesport, PA 15133

+

Saint Michael (StM)

101 McLay Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

+

Queen of the Rosary (QoR)

530 Michigan Avenue

Glassport, PA 15045

## November 27, 2022

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

1640 Fawcett Ave. White Oak, PA 15131

Pre-3, Pre-4, Kindergarten, First-Eighth Grade

School Office 412-672-2360

Webpage: [www.maryofnazarethschool.org](http://www.maryofnazarethschool.org)

Pittsburgh Catholic: [pittsburghcatholic.org](http://pittsburghcatholic.org)

Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine:

[diopitt.org/pittsburgh-catholic-magazine](http://diopitt.org/pittsburgh-catholic-magazine)

Looking For A Faith Community?

Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you to join our community.

You may register by calling the Administration Center.

**Sacraments**

**Baptism of Infants & Children**

Baptism is celebrated any Sunday after Mass. **Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Class.**

Previous arrangements are necessary.

**Instruction in the Faith - R.C.I.A.**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Fr. Wagner.

**Reconciliation**

**St. Eugene Church, Liberty**  
**Tuesday, 7 - 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday, 5:15-5:45 pm**

**St. Michael Church, Elizabeth**  
**Saturday, 11-11:30 am**  
**Saturday, 3:15-3:45 pm**

**Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport**  
**Saturday, 1-1:30 pm**

**Marriage**

The bride and groom are to make arrangements with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require all couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program.

**Anointing of the Sick**

The Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally on the Second Sunday of the Month.

**Ministry to the Sick and Shut In**

Homebound members of the Parish should call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion at home.

**Sponsorship Forms**

Only registered, practicing, fully-initiated Catholics are eligible for sponsor certificates. Please call the Parish Office.

**Bulletin Information Deadline**

2 weeks in advance of publish date.

[office@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:office@joachimandannediopitt.org)

**Moving**

Please call or email your new address to the Parish Office, 412-751-0663.

**Victim's Assistance Hot Line**  
**Diocesan 412-456-3093 (Office)**  
**1-888-808-1235 (Hot Line)**  
**PA Childline 1-800-932-0313**  
**Immediate Danger Call 911**

**Mass Intentions For The Week**

**StE St. Eugene Church, Liberty StM St. Michael Church, Elizabeth**

**QoR Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport**

**November 27 — December 4, 2022**

**Saturday, 26, Vigil, First Sunday of Advent**

**StM 4:00 pm M Leonard Frost - Family**

**StE 6:00 pm T Blessings - Virginia Como - 98th Birthday - Anita**

**Sunday, 27, First Sunday of Advent**

**StE 8:00 am T George T. & Mary Frances Legin - Tom & Cathy Esack**

**StM 9:00 am M Flo & Ed Steindl - Choir**

**QoR 10:30 am T Cheryl Hopkins - Family & Friends**

**StM 12 Noon M Living & Deceased of the Parish Family**

**Monday, 28, Advent Weekday**

**QoR 8:30 am Patricia Sadowski - Parish Family**

**StM 9:00 am Debby Pikula – Mick & Family**

**Tuesday, 29, Advent Weekday**

**StM 9:00 am Lynn Wesolek - Friend**

**StE 6:30 pm Robert Johnson - Wife, Joan**

**Mass & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 7- 7:30 pm**

**Wednesday, 30, Andrew, apostle**

**QoR 8:30 am Eugene Skerkoski - Wife & Children**

**StM 9:00 am Eric David Kaczowski - Thad & Cheryl**

**Thursday, December 1, Advent Weekday**

**StE 8:30 am Brian Manning - Parish Family**

**StM 9:00 am Bill Piper - Family**

**Friday, 2, Advent Weekday**

**QoR 8:30 am John & Cecilia Ferko - Jack & Joe Ferko**

**StM 9:00 am Dr. Ramon Lozano - Mike & Kim Barker**

**Saturday, 3, Vigil, Second Sunday of Advent**

**StM 4:00 pm T John Sandor - Pat & Family**

**StE 6:00 pm M Margie Mykeloff - Mike & Lisa**

**Sunday, 4, First Sunday of Advent**

**StE 8:00 am M Living & Deceased of the Parish Family**

**StM 9:00 am T Virginia & Harold Luft - Luft Family**

**QoR 10:30 am M Joe Borrelli - Duane & Mary Jean**

**StM 12 Noon T John & Sara Capane - Kathy & Frank Book**

**Low Gluten Hosts available - please see Priest before Mass.**

**Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Lamp**  
**St. Eugene: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of**  
**George T., Jr. & Mary Francis Legin — Ladies of Charity..**  
**St. Michael: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of**  
**William Bittle from Ladies of Charity.**  
**Queen of the Rosary: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of**  
**Barbara Moranelli from Ladies of Charity.**

**Pastoral Staff**

**Clergy Team**

Reverend Thomas A. Wagner, Pastor  
 Reverend Miroslaus A. Wojcicki, Senior Parochial Vicar  
 Deacon Dale J. DiSanto, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Jeffrey P. Formica, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Stephen C. Pikula, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon John E. Ragan, Permanent Deacon

**Mary of Nazareth Catholic School**

Beau Quattrone, Principal, 412-672-2360

**Faith Formation - Religious Education  
 Adult - Children - Youth**

Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator  
 Amanda Wilt, K-6 Grade  
 Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High  
 Emily Hasek, Youth, Junior & Senior High

**Music Ministry**

Celeste Cafasso  
 Carol Gioia  
 Pamela Whitney

**Pastoral Secretary**

Jan Kunkel  
 Amy Megahan

**Facilities**

Tony Hutskow  
 Kevin Hopkins  
 Darla Losteter  
 Patricia Muic

**Business Manager &  
 Safe Environment**

Jeannie Premozic

**Advisory Councils**

**Pastoral Council**

Jack Ferko, Facilitator      Patty Smith, Co-Facilitator  
 Vickie Budd, Scribe

Glenn Bonczek      Elaine David      Eric Davis  
 Anne Laychak      Leah Meek      Brian Phillips

**Finance Council**

Barry Bisogni, Facilitator      Patricia Palmer, Co-Facilitator  
 Judy Zajicek, Scribe  
 Kay Callear      Sandy Palmer      Judy Shriane

**1st Sunday of Advent  
 November 27, 2022**



We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents.

We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at **doing** and neglect our need to **savor**. Jesus reminds his friends that **as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.**

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is for certain that he will come.

**Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die?** These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.

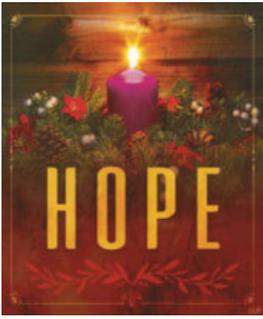
LPi

***We remember . . .*** In your charity, please remember all those who have died, especially: **Carmine Bossio, Barbara Moranelli, Justino DiLuca, Mary Giannandrea, all who will die today, and those who have no one to pray for them. Resting in Paradise. Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord. And Let Perpetual Light Shine on them.**

**Pope Francis' December Rosary Intention**

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

**Reflection question:  
 In what ways can I proclaim God's praise in the coming week?**



## Advent 2022

A few days ago, my iPhone gave me a weekly message: **Last week, your total screen time was down 17%**. I thought, good for me! But the message continued: **You averaged 5 hours and 23 minutes of screen time**. Yikes.

Where do we place our attention? The Prophet Isaiah says, **For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem**. God wants us to be His learners, people who grow through a steady stream of divine instruction. But if you're like me, you spend way too much time at the feet of the wrong teachers.

Our phones can help fruitfully re-direct our attention. It's amazing how many great Catholic Bible studies, classes, podcasts, and soul-forming material is accessible there. This coming new year let's use our phones to be a little **Zion or Jerusalem** — a place we go for wisdom and instruction, and not just endless data and entertainment.

**New year challenge:** Grab your phone. Start consuming some source of Catholic instruction each week to help you become a better student of Jesus. Keep it going into 2023. If our screen time helps us learn true wisdom, it will be a great use of time.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

## People Of The Light

We are called to reflect the light of God's love through the ways in which we live our lives. Imagine the impact if each of us took this call to heart, every day, at home, work, or school, in our parish, in the world. **All nations shall stream toward it**, toward the love that only comes from God. Yet, we must admit that much of the time we fail to be beacons of God's light. We fall asleep, complacent, preferring to go the easy route, which often leads to darkness rather than the radiance of Christ's light. As we begin the season of Advent, Saint Paul admonishes us to throw off the works of darkness, to awaken to the call of light and love. In today's Gospel, Jesus too tells us to stay awake, to be prepared to greet the Lord of light as people of the light.

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Invite  
a Friend

## First Sunday of Advent

**Have you ever been caught off guard?** The first **Sundays of Advent** often have an ominous quality to them. Jesus reminds his listeners today about how many people who lived at the same time as Noah were caught off guard when the deluge came. Of course, we can end up being complete nervous wrecks if we spend each day in paranoia, looking for signs of impending doom. A healthy readiness is called for, one that keeps us alert so we can find signs of God's reign—soon to be made manifest in Jesus—around us. In the coming days of holiday sensate bombardment and hours that fill up with busyness, this readiness can also serve to keep us focused on the coming gift of the Messiah, God's Anointed. Now is the time to take stock, to evaluate life, to make changes where necessary, preparing for God's holy reign to come.

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## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### The Season of Advent

#### What are we really waiting for during Advent?

The longstanding tradition of the Church is that the Advent season really marks not one but three comings of Christ: **his coming into history** two thousand years ago, **his coming in glory** at the end of time, and **his coming into our hearts** here and now. **Advent starts with a focus on the future coming of Christ** so that we might see the big picture. If Christmas is to make any sense at all, we have to ask the question, **What are you doing to get ready for the (final) coming of Christ?** This perspective opens us up to the sense of anticipation experienced by the Jewish people on the eve of the first coming of Christ. This Advent, we will hear John the Baptist tell them (and us) how best to prepare. He urges **repentance** and an **examination** and **reform** of our way of life.

Then on the Fourth Sunday, we are drawn in to the history of Jesus' arrival as the child of Joseph and Mary. Our work of spiritual preparation brings us to the point of the whole season.

**What good is it that Christ comes into my heart if I don't then carry that presence out into the world, just as Mary did?**

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**Remember, Jesus was a foster child.**

**FULFILL TODAY** —Anonymous

If what you did yesterday still looks big to you,  
surely you have not done much today.



## Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments Being Surprised by Christ

Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly — sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, in the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives — a loss, an accident, a calamity — it is likely that we will say this: **It was the shock more than anything that got to me.** Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming — which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the **pre-alarm** (the one on which he knows he's going to hit **snooze** just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: **You know the time. The time is now.** We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock — and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LP

### **Marriage Moments** by Susan Vogt

**Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come** (Mt 24:42). This scripture alludes to end times. We don't know for sure when we or our beloved will die but try not to end any day with anger against your spouse. Forgive before you sleep.

## On Edge

There are numerous photographs of people who sleep on mountainside ledges, who carelessly dangle their feet into the space of geological chasms, and of course there's the iconic photograph of workers eating their lunch on a beam of the under-construction Chrysler building in New York. Some people seem attracted to these precarious, stomach-churning locations; many of us are not. More of us have had the experience of beginning a new stage in life, with the excitement and occasional stomach-churning newness of a moment that can put us a bit on edge. Advent—its first couple of Sundays in particular—has a similar role in the passage of time that we call the liturgical year. It's unlikely that the **First Sunday of Advent makes many stomachs churn**, but perhaps more would if we truly took it seriously that we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the reign of God at any moment.

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## Walk In The Light

When we encounter the daily news, it can seem as though Isaiah's prophecy of swords turned into plowshares is running in reverse, making despair seem wiser than hopefulness. This is where Advent as the brink of God's reign comes into play. Advent can be a time for each of us to de-weaponize, even in the smallest of ways, the world around us. Advent's days offer a chance to look for opportunities to make the world a bit more hopeful for others. As we head through Advent, the elevated focus we have when we are standing at those new moments, those new stages of life, can help us tune out the despair, so we might open our ears and hearts to Jesus. **This way, we can turn our backs on gloom, and accept Isaiah's invitation to walk in the light of the Lord:**

**Jesus Christ, the Word-made-Flesh!**

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### **Parenting Pointers** by Susan Vogt

The Friday after Thanksgiving is often called **Black Friday** because it starts the frenzy of holiday shopping. It's especially challenging for kids not to get sucked into Christmas wish lists. Ask your children one gift they might like for Christmas that doesn't cost any money.





**Faith Formation  
Adult - Children - Youth  
Religious Education**

**101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037  
412-754-0886**

**Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator  
faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Amanda Wilt, K-6 Grade  
k6ff@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Susan Formica, Youth Ministry, Jr & Sr  
Emily Hasek, Youth Ministry, Jr & Sr  
youth@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Facebook: Saints Joachim and Anne Parish  
Living Stones of God's House —1 Peter 2:4-5**

**Elementary Faith Formation**

Sunday morning 10:15 -11:45 am and  
Monday evening 5:45 - 7:15 pm.

Please contact Julie or Amanda,  
412-754-0886 or email  
faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org

**Pre-Baptism Class**

Pre-Baptism Class is for expectant parents and Godparents  
or anyone who is seeking a Catholic Baptism for their child.

Pre-Baptism Class - Thursday, December 1, 2022,  
at 7:00 pm in St. Michael Meeting Room.

Please register at [joachimandannediopitt.org/baptism](http://joachimandannediopitt.org/baptism)  
or by emailing [faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org)  
or by calling the Faith Formation Office, 412-754-0886.  
Prior to scheduling a Baptism, first time parents  
need to attend the Pre-Baptismal Seminar.

**Pre-Cana Program**

If you are planning weddings,  
especially Winter, Spring & Summer 2023.

St. Michael - Archangel Hall, McLay Drive, Elizabeth  
**Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9 am-3:30 pm**

Registration \$50.00 per couple  
(includes materials & lunch)

Pre-Registration is necessary. Please call Julie  
In the Faith Formation Office, 412-754-0886  
or email [faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org).

**Candidates for Sacraments** (Holy  
Communion or Confirmation) should be adequately  
prepared to receive these gifts, and a proper understanding  
of the Sacrament should be gained and demonstrated.  
Generally, **two (2) consecutive years of instruction is  
necessary** for the reception of the Sacraments of Holy  
Communion and Confirmation for children & youth.



For the schedule and more information about  
the Senior and Junior Youth Ministry Program,  
please email [youth@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:youth@joachimandannediopitt.org)

**You're Invited**

**What: Mystery Dinner Theater  
Who Kidnapped Rudy  
the Rosy-Nosed Reindeer?**

**When: Sunday, December 18, 2022**

Doors open at 5:00 pm  
Show starts at 5:30 pm

**Where: St. Michael Church - Archangel Hall**

**Presented by:**

**Saints Joachim & Anne Youth Group**

Raffles and Door Prizes

Please wear your tackiest Christmas sweater  
or most festive Christmas outfit  
and join the festivities.

**Tickets: Adults \$15  
Children (ages 5 > 18 yrs) \$10  
Children under 5 are Free**

Dinner by R-Place Restaurant

**Menu: Chicken Romano, parsley potatoes,  
green beans, tossed salad, rolls & butter,  
cupcake, coffee, tea, water.**

For more information or tickets, reserve early,  
only 250 seats are available, please contact Sue,  
[youth@joachimandannediopitt.org](mailto:youth@joachimandannediopitt.org)  
or call, 412-926-8412.

**Bereavement Ministry**

This group, led by Deacon Dale DiSanto, is for people  
Who have lost a loved one and are experiencing grief.

This is a Support Group, not counseling.

If you need assistance in moving through your grief,  
this is an on going way to be supported during this difficult  
time. The weekly session begins with suggested topics,  
open discussion and ends with prayer.

**Thursday Afternoon - St. Michael Meeting Room  
RSVP Jan, 412-751-0663**

Please RSVP so that we may prepare materials.



**Read the Bible.  
Pray over Sacred Scripture.  
You can keep whatever you find...**



Invest just five minutes a day,  
and your faith will deepen and grow  
—a day at a time.

### **Sunday, Nov 20; Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

**Suffer the little children to enter paradise**—Jesus promises Paradise to a man dying in disgrace next to him on the cross. Today, on **World Children's Day**, we can bring Paradise a little closer by contemplating 10 principles the United Nations calls the **Rights of the Child**, including: Every child without exception should have a name and nationality; access to physical, mental, moral, spiritual, and social development; food, housing, and medical care; love and understanding; education and moral guidance; protection from exploitation and discrimination. Our Catholic preferential option for the poor and respect for life fully embraces the welfare of children. **Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**

### **Monday, Nov 21; Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4

**Ready for the ride of your life?**—Just as Catholics celebrate the conception, birth, and presentation in the temple of Jesus, we celebrate the same events in the life of Mary. God's plans (for all of us) begin and unfold before anyone's understanding of them. The story of Mary's presentation in the temple comes from a non-biblical text that says Mary's parents consecrated her to God at a very young age. With her Immaculate Conception, God set her on the path to a pivotal role in salvation history, but it required dedication and preparation nonetheless—culminating in her immortal **yes** at the Annunciation. Life hands us circumstances, and sometimes decisions are made that are beyond our control—have you considered how those might shape your purpose? Commit to following where the Spirit might lead you. **She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.**

### **Tuesday, Nov 22; Cecilia, martyr**

Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11

**Speak up**—Once Saint Paul's letters were collected in the third century, he got heat from Christians for **Wives, be submissive to your husbands**—adding that neither should they speak in church. For the third century also saw the martyrdom of Saint Cecilia. Paul's critics pointed out that Cecilia's eloquent words persuaded her husband and led him (and others) to convert. As for not speaking in church? It was Cecilia who allowed an underground church to worship in her home. Cecilia's story is told in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, recounted by a nun who praises her for evangelizing with both words and example. Men and women of faith, glorify God today with your own words and example! **Reap the harvest, for the time to reap has come.**

### **Wednesday, Nov 23; Clement I, pope & martyr**

Revelation 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19

**We owe You**—We naturally think of Saint Paul when we think of letters written to the early Christians in Corinth, but Saint Clement I—a disciple of the apostles and later a pope—had occasion to write to the Corinthian church as well. From one of

those letters comes advice that's fitting for Americans celebrating Thanksgiving tomorrow: **If you are wise, then display your wisdom by good deeds; and if you are modest, let others speak of your modesty instead of proclaiming the fact yourself. To God we owe everything, and therefore on every count we are under obligation to thank him. I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking.**

### **Thursday, Nov 24; Thanksgiving Day**

**Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions**

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28

**Saved in the cloud**—Thanksgiving is a time to recall the blessings in our lives. Most who are reading these words can give thanks to God for the freedom to worship, something absent for the saints and martyrs memorialized on this date. Today's memorial is unusual in that it honors 117 Vietnamese martyrs, the **companions** of Father Andrew Dũng-Lạc. In fact, those 117 actually represent the 100,000 to 300,000 Vietnamese Christians killed or severely persecuted for their faith between the 17th and 19th centuries. May your actions of gratitude today give honor to this **cloud of witnesses**. **Then [Jesus] said to him, Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.**

### **Friday, Nov 25; Catherine of Alexandria, martyr**

Revelation 20:1-4, 11—21:2; Luke 21:29-33

**Called to speak out** The early church was a place of great religious fervor and danger. Prior to 313 Christianity was outlawed, and many adherents were put to death. This was the age of the martyrs, including Catherine of Alexandria. Catherine was well educated and known for her keen intellect. As she grew in the faith, she became an outspoken critic of the dominant religion of the Roman empire. Though given many unconscionable "outs" to avoid death, Catherine held firmly to her beliefs and continued to speak out. What compels you to speak out, even when it costs you? **I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God.**

### **Saturday, Nov 26; Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36**

**The last day**—It's the last day of the year—the liturgical year, that is. Tomorrow is the beginning of a new liturgical year, a new cycle of readings, and a new season of joyful hope. Good thing, because the readings for the past few weeks, like today's, have been words of warning and apprehension regarding the **eschaton**, which means the end of the world. It all sounds terrifying, but it is good news, for however you prefer to interpret it, literally or figuratively, unless this world passes away in some way, the kingdom Jesus preached isn't fully realized. Pray God's kingdom come! **Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations.**

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For more information about TAKE FIVE go to [PrepareTheWord.com](http://PrepareTheWord.com)

**WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS**

### Saints Joachim and Anne Parish 2023 Mass Intention Requests

Offering Mass for a special intention is a longstanding practice in our Catholic Tradition. Mass is offered for many reasons, i.e. remembrance of someone who is deceased, for the health and well-being of someone, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary, etc. If you would like a Mass to be offered for someone or a special occasion, **please complete this form and return it to the Parish Office by the US Mail (101 McLay Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037) or the Offertory Basket.**

**The Mass Stipend is \$10.00 for each Mass Intention. Please include stipend (please make checks payable to Sts. Joachim and Anne Parish) with your request.**

**Please return the Entire Mass Intention Form (entire page) to the Parish Office by Wednesday, January 11, 2023.**

Anyone celebrating their **25th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries in 2023** should call the Parish Office, 412-751-0663, before Wednesday, November 30, 2022 to schedule a Mass.

**No requests will be taken over the telephone Until Wednesday, February 15, 2023.**

- **Three (3) Mass Intentions per family** (please only one weekend date).
- **No Mass intentions will be accepted for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter Sunday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Souls Day or Thanksgiving Day.**
- After **Wednesday, February 15, 2023**, you may call for any open dates. At that time, you will be welcome to schedule additional Mass Intentions.
- **If you do not have an Email address, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to receive confirmation of the dates requested. Thank you.**

Please Print

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print  
 Mass Intention For: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Living Intention: \_\_\_\_ Church Request: \_\_\_\_ St. Eugene \_\_\_\_ St. Michael \_\_\_\_ Queen of the Rosary \_\_\_\_ First Available  
 Mass Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Mass Time Request: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternate Date #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Date #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print  
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 Mass Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Mass Time Request: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternate Date #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Date #2: \_\_\_\_\_

### Time, Talent, and Treasure

November 13, 2022

Weekly Offering	\$	14,135
Monthly Offering	\$	1,330
Religious Education	\$	213
Children's Offering	\$	14
Military Collection	\$	213

#### Mass Attendance

4:00 pm	207	6:00 pm	100
8:00 am	78	9:00 am	163
10:30 am	132	12 Noon	122
Families	1,931	Souls	4,542

#### Parish Share

2022 Parish Share Goal	\$134,148
2022 Parish Share to Date	\$120,391

### Thank You For Your Sacrificial Giving!

**Mailing Offertory Envelopes:  
Saints Joachim and Anne Parish  
101 McLay Drive  
Elizabeth, PA 15037**

#### Monthly Envelope

The **Monthly Envelope** replaces the old **Capital Improvement, Building & Grounds, Upkeep** and the **Utility & Energy/Fuel** envelopes.

Each Family is asked to contribute **\$20** to the **Monthly Envelope**. These monies will be used to assist in the upkeep of parish property and help cover the cost of energy and utilities.

#### Saints Joachim and Anne Parish 50/50

In your offertory packet, there is a special envelope marked 50/50 Drawing--Donation \$5.00.

**Thank You For Your Support!**

### Upcoming Events

**Crochet Club** meets weekly on **Thursday from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** in the **St. Eugene Rectory - Meeting Room**. New members are always welcomed.

**Quilting Club** will not be meeting at the present time.

**Catholic Men's Fellowship** will meet on **Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 7:30 am** in the **St. Michael Church - Meeting Room**. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

**Christian Mothers/Women's Guild** will meet on **Thursday, March 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm** in **St. Michael - Meeting Room**. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

**Holy Name Society** will meet on **Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 9:00 am** in the **Queen of the Rosary - Social Hall**. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

**Knights of Columbus** will meet on **Monday, December 5, 2022 at 8:00 pm** in the **St. Michael - Meeting Room**. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

**Ladies of Charity** will meet on **Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 10:00 am** in the **St. Michael - Archangel Hall**. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

**Rosary Makers** will meet on **Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:00 am** in **St. Michael - Meeting Room**.

**Ushers Club** will meet on **Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm** in **St. Michael - Meeting Room**.

**Glassport Sons of Italy Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Sunday, November 27, 2022 - 12 Noon to 6 pm**  
Homemade Gnocchi or Cheese Ravioli  
with Meatballs, Salad & Dessert  
Eat-In or Take-Out, 412-673-3915.





The Giving Tree providing Christmas gifts to those in our local community who need our help.

The Giving Tree's Ornaments will be available the weekend of November 26/27 in all our churches.

You are asked to take an ornament off the tree and purchase the gift listed. The gifts can range from Clothing Items, Gift Cards, Toys, etc. There are ornaments on the tree for Infants, Children, Teens, Adults, Nursing & Personal Care Residents, Shut-Ins, etc. all from our local community.



Once you have purchased your gift, place it in Christmas packaging, and attach your Ornament on the outside of the package and return to the Church Sanctuary.

All gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 11, 2022.

All the gifts will be sorted after the 12 Noon Mass for distribution.

Thank You for caring!  
Kind deeds change lives, Thank You!

### Christmas Party

hosted by Sts. Joachim & Anne CCM & Womens Guild  
Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 1:30 pm

At R-Place Restaurant - Enterprise Drive, Elizabeth

All are invited and welcome to join in this joyous occasion.

Tickets are \$27 per person

Questions or to make reservations, please call Paula, 412-384-0499,

or you can put your name and money in an envelope and place in the collection basket.

Deadline for reservation is Sunday December 4, 2022.

### Christmas Cookie Sale

Sts. Joachim & Anne CCM & Women's Guild  
Saturday/Sunday December 10/11, 2022 after Masses at Saint Michael Church. Cookies are \$7 per dozen.  
Save the date to get your cookies.



Advent Lessons and Carols,  
Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

The Celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols includes prayers, readings from scripture, and the singing of carols from the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Inviting anyone interested in participating as a reader, or singing in a choir.

You are asked to contact Celeste, either after the 4 pm or 12 Noon Sunday Mass, or by contacting the Parish Office.

### Christmas Caroling

Your are cordially invited to join the Music Ministry in Christmas Caroling to our parishioners who are homebound this holiday season. We will be going after the Sunday Masses on December 10, 2022. We will try to keep you in the area you live in, so please let Pam know if you would like to come and sing along.

Please call Pam, 412-628-4112 to sign-up.

We look forward to singing with you.

### Saints Joachim and Anne Parish Food Bank Sunday



We accept all non-perishable food items and paper products to serve our local community on the Third Sunday of the Month.

Items needed are pasta and sauces, tuna fish, rice, stews, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, soup, coffee & tea, hot chocolate mix, peanut butter & jelly, sugar, flour, crackers, Jell-O gelatin, puddings, powdered milk, cocoa, infant formula & baby food, juices, facial soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, diapers, facial tissues, paper towels, toilet tissue, cleansers, etc.

Please bring your donations to Mass with you and leave them in the Gathering Space of the Church. Cash or checks are also welcome. Thank You!

Kind deeds can change lives!

**May God Bless Our Service Personnel**



We pray for and remember our Service Men and Women who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, especially: Cpl. Peter A. Barrante, USMC; Maj. Damian Baskerville, USAF; Col. Richard Collage, PA NG; Staff Sgt. Nicholas DeLuca, Army; Ens. David DeMaio,

USCG; Capt. Craig Dolhi, Army; Capt. Anthony Formica, Army; Jacob Formica, E-4, Army; 2nd Lt. John Formica, Army; SPC Samuel Formica, Army National Guard; Capt. Markus Gibson, USMC; 2ndLt. Miles Gibson, USMC; PO2. Mason Gibson, USN; T/Sgt. Michael Goodman, USAF; Lt. Col. James Hock, Army; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; Sgt. First Class William Nellis, Army; Staff Sgt. Timothy Oeler, USAF; 2nd Lt Nickolas Pasek, Army National Guard; LT. Timothy Ragan, USN; Amn. Stephanie A. Reichenbach, USAF; PFC David R. Saunders, Army National Guard; Sgt. Brandon R. Smith, USAF Pararescueman; Amn. Adam Stitt, USAF; Maj. Andrew Tkac, Army and All First Responders.

*Thank you for your service!*

*May We Never Forget . . . Freedom is Never Free!*

**Winter Wonderland Ticket**

Benefits Saints Joachim & Anne Parish Building Maintenance & Improvement

Try a chance at winning a total of \$5000.00 in the month of December.

Minimum payout is \$100.00.

\$10.00 per ticket with 31 chances to win! Pays out daily on the 7pm PA Daily Pick 3.

No bonus numbers.

Numbers will be dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are able to help with selling a few tickets, please contact Cathy or Parish Office.

**Thank You for your support!**

**Available Now.....**

**CUPID CIRCLE TICKET**

Benefits Saints Joachim & Anne Parish Building Maintenance & Improvement

\$5000.00 in the month of February.

Minimum payout is \$100.00.

\$10.00 per ticket with 28 chances to win! Pays out daily on the 7pm PA Daily Pick 3.

No bonus numbers.

If you would like to request a certain number for the February - Cupid Circle Ticket, please call Cathy, 412-980-2918 before Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

Numbers will be dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thank You for your continual support!

**They Make A Great Stocking Stuffer!**



**2022 Christmas Flower Memorials**

\_\_\_ St. Eugene \_\_\_ St. Michael \_\_\_ Queen of the Rosary

Please Print

\_\_\_\_\_

Requested by

\_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Deadline Monday, December 19, 2022

Please place in an envelope marked Christmas Flower Memorial and deposit in the collection. Thank You!

**Specialty Baskets & Craft Baskets**

**Saints Joachim & Anne Parish Annual Community Festival August 3, 4, and 5, 2023**

Planning for our Annual Community Festival has already begun. We will gladly accept donations for our Specialty Baskets & Craft Baskets.

Now would be a great time to pick up those **Summer & Fall Clearance Items, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter and even items for New Year's.**

Please bring your donations (new) to the Gathering Space in each church and remember that our festival will not be successful without your support.

**Thank you for your generosity!!!**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.  
 Be our defense against the wickedness  
 and snares of the devil;  
 may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
 and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host,  
 by the power of God,  
 thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits  
 who prowl about the world  
 seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn: Christ Be Our Light**



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.  
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.  
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.  
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.  
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.  
 Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.  
 Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.  
 Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.  
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,  
 Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.  
 Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,  
 Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,  
 Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see.  
 Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 shared un - til all are fed.  
 walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.



Lord Jesus,  
 You came into the world  
 to reveal your Father's love:

(Repeat after choir) **Kyrie eleison.**

Christ Jesus,  
 By your dying and rising  
 You have given us the promise of eternal life:

(Repeat after choir) **Christe eleison.**

Lord Jesus,  
 You ask us to be ready,  
 Watching and waiting for your coming:

(Repeat after choir) **Kyrie eleison.**

Advent Wreath Service , OCP John Schiavone

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading** Isaiah 2:1-5

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 122

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

**Second Reading** Romans 13:11-14

**Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. —

Paul M. French  
 Music © 1998, World Library Publications

**Gospel** Matthew 24:37-44

**Homily:** Reflection of the Word

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made. for us men  
and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
(All Bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again  
on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Liturgy of the Eucharist****Loving God, Hear Our Prayer****Advent Prayer**

Come, Lord Jesus. O God, you are great indeed.  
Look upon us and reveal your glory,  
promised to Abraham and sent to us  
through David and his lineage.  
Send us the warmth of your love,  
the light of your Word, the vision of your wisdom,  
and the comfort of your people.  
Open our hearts in welcome  
and grant us your salvation.  
Fill our minds with watchful hope  
and let us see your kindness.  
Give us new life, the promise and joy of salvation.  
May the glory of your Son dwell in our land forever.  
We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**Offertory Hymn: O Come, Divine Messiah**

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSII



1. O come, di-vine Mes-si-ah; The world in
2. O Christ, whom na-tions sigh for, Whom priest and
3. You come in peace and meek-ness And low-ly



1. si-lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
2. proph-et long fore-told, Come, break the cap-tive's
3. will your cra-dle be; All clothed in hu-man



1. tri-umph And sad-ness flee a-way.
2. fet-ters, Re-deem the long-lost fold.
3. weak-ness Shall we your God-head see.



Dear Sav-ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis-pel the



night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O



come, di-vine Mes-si-ah; the world in si-lence waits the day when



hope shall sing its tri-umph and sad-ness flee a-way.

Text: 78 76 with refrain; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877.

Music: Trad. French Carol, 16th cent.

**Holy**

Mystery of Faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection until you come again

Amen, Amen, Amen

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn: The King Shall Come



1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
2. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To  
3. O bright - er than the ris - ing morn When  
4. O bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall  
5. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



1. light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the  
2. bear, and fight, and die, But crowned with glo - ry  
3. he, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some  
4. this fair morn - ing be, When Christ, our King, in  
5. light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy



1. east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.  
2. like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
3. place of death, De - spite the rage of foes.  
4. beau - ty comes, And we his face shall see!  
5. peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly King of kings.

Text: CM; Greek; tr. by John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.

Music: *Sixteen Tune Settings*, Philadelphia, 1812; *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.

Going Forth Hymn: City Of God

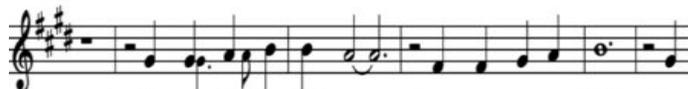
Dan Schutte



Verses 1, 2  
1. A - wake from your slum - ber! A - rise from your  
2. We are sons of the morn - ing; we are daugh - ters of



1. sleep! A new day is dawn - ing for all those who weep.  
2. day. The One who has loved us has bright - ened our way.



1. The peo - ple in dark - ness have seen a great light. The  
2. The Lord of all kind - ness has called us to be a



to Refrain  
1. Lord of our long - ing has con - quered the night.  
2. light for his peo - ple to set their hearts free.



Refrain  
Let us build the cit - y of God. May our tears be



turned in - to danc - ing! For the Lord, our light and our



love, has turned the night in - to day!



Verse 3  
3. God is light; in him there is no dark - ness.



3. Let us walk in his light, his chil - dren,



3. one and all. O com - fort my

Text: Based on Isaiah 9; 40:1-9; 1 John 1.

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**Patriotic Rosary**

Monday Evening

December 12, 2022 - 7:00 pm

Saint Michael Church, Elizabeth, PA

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Rosary, Patriotic Hymns and Benediction**

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction to conclude the recitation of the Rosary.

The Patriotic Rosary will be prayed on the Second Monday of the Month. **All are invited and most assuredly welcome!**

**Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us.**

**Acknowledgements:**

**Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation Year C (LPGA)**

WLP, J.S. Paluch Co. **Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen,**

**Lamb of God, Mass of Christ the Savior, Dan Schutte, OCP.**

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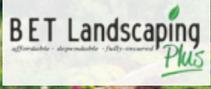
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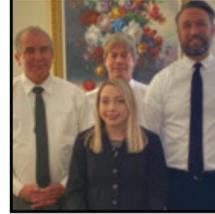
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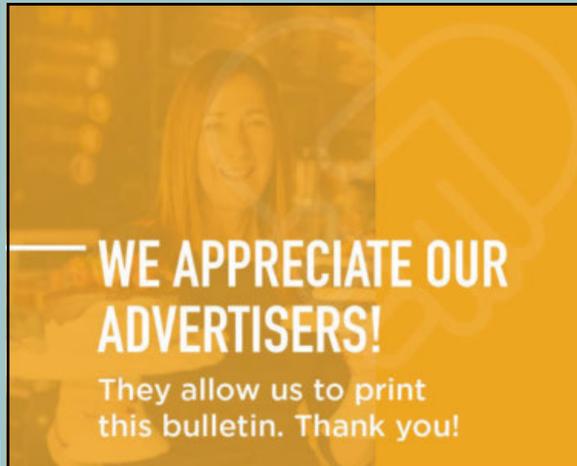
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