

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

JANUARY 12, 2020



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road
PO Box O
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
570-646-6424

Mass Schedule:
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Saturday Confessions 3:00 pm

January 12, 2020

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” ~Mt 3:16-17



St. Maximilian Kolbe
Parish Staff

Reverend Sean G. Carpenter
~ Pastor

Deacon Frank Gisoldi

Deacon Tom Amoroso

Melissa Laverty

Pastoral Associate ~ St.MaxMelissa@outlook.com
Coordinator of Religious Education

Juli Reese

Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net

John Marcinkowski, Jr.

Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net

Visit us on the web @ www.stmaxkolbeapoconos.org

GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives four reasons for the Incarnation, why God became man in Jesus Christ. The third reason is “to be our model of holiness.” All of Jesus’ words and actions model for us what we ought to do. He also shows us how we’re meant to *be*. Jesus’ baptism ought to remind us of our own baptism and of the importance of baptism in the Christian life.

The Baptism of the Lord reminds us of our Trinitarian identity. When we are baptized, we stand in solidarity with Christ, bathed in the waters he sanctified. There, the Father proclaims our adoption into the family of God. “*This is my beloved son [this is my beloved daughter], with whom I am well pleased.*” And the Spirit, too, descends. We are filled with the Spirit’s grace and power to continue Christ’s mission on earth. We received these gifts in the sacrament, and they continue to dwell within us through sanctifying grace. We can — and should — invite God to stir up these graces of our baptism and consider them in our own lives.

Does Christ feel like a distant relative two thousand years in the past? Or do you see him as someone who can be encountered here and now? Ask yourself where you find your sense of dignity and worth. Do you still search for it in success, social status, and selfish pursuits? Or are you able to rest in being a beloved child of God? Remember, baptism gives us a call and a charge to change the world. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you? Or are you so focused on your own life that you miss the mission? This week, let’s do as Jesus did. Let’s live in our baptism!

God so loved us that he sent his only Son who also out of love died to save us. Jesus continues that work of salvation through the presence of God’s Holy Spirit with us today. It is the mission of the Spirit to fill us with God’s presence, so that we can be elevated in grace and truly become adopted children of our heavenly Father.



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR, PRAY FOR US

Mass Intentions

January 11th through January 19th

Saturday	4:00 pm	John Witt by Ann & Neal McKenna
Sunday	8:00 am	Nicholas Cerra by Joan & Allan Hild
	10:30 am	For The Parishioners
Monday	9:15 am	Sandy Alfonso by Joe Litwienski
Tuesday	9:15 am	George Campbell by Carpenter & McGruder Families
Wed	9:15 am	Joseph Conte by Pocono Men's Cornerstone
Thursday	9:15 am	Jane McCaney by Roseann & Edward Nidweski
Friday	9:15 am	Communion Service
Saturday	4:00 pm	Anne Marie Alcamo by Nat Alcamo
Sunday	8:00 am	For The Parishioners
	10:30 am	Christopher Madere by John & Marianne Hajduk

*9:15 am mass will still be celebrated
when we have a funeral mass that day.*



Confessions -Saturday 3 pm

First Friday Adoration
held after 9:15 am Communion
Service each month.



Christmas Collection..... \$ 11,741.
Polish Midnight Mass..... 657.
Sunday Collection 12/29/19..... 5,594.
Thank You for Your Generosity

Readings for the Week **January 12th through January 19th**

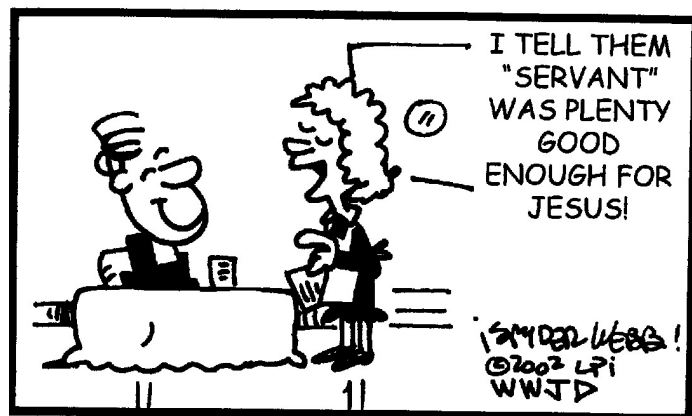
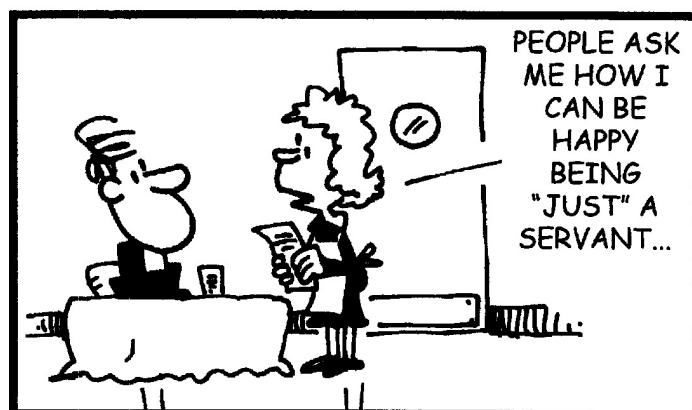
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38;
 Mt 3:13-17
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
 Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

*"An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and
 frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows
 you are thinking of her and supporting her.don't forget
 the most important thing is to pray.
 Even if it's just a quick two-second
 prayer, prayer is the most effective
 way we can help. Pray for her, for
 her child, and for guidance in how
 you can give her the best possible
 support."*



USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
 "10 Way to Support Her When Shes Unexpectedly Expecting"
www.respectlife.org/support-her

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR, PRAY FOR US

FAITH FORMATION UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Important Reminders:

Students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to bring a snack or lunch to class following the 10:30 a.m. Mass.



Important Dates:

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. Our celebrant will be the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

FAITH FORMATION CANCELLATION PROCEDURES



Parents, in the event of inclement weather, you will receive an email from Melissa, Coordinator of Religious Education, if classes are cancelled. If you do not receive regular emails from the parish, kindly contact the parish office to ensure we have your most recent email address. You may also call the parish office on Sunday morning to check if classes are cancelled for the day.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY

... will be taking a hiatus through the winter months but resumes in March. Using both videos and written materials, this program is designed to help bring Catholics to a greater understanding of the Bible and an awareness of God's living presence in the Scriptures, as well as an appreciation of how the Bible can be applied to daily life. For more information, call or stop by the parish office.



JEFF CAVINS BIBLE STUDY

Anyone interested in participating in this home bible study is asked to contact June Schott at 570-646-0379 for more information.



Parish Life

GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE

During any future Masses, our parish welcomes anyone who would like to bring forward the gifts of Bread and Wine to see one of the ushers before Mass.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In order to understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Baptism, expectant parents are required to attend Baptism preparation. A call to the parish office approximately four months before your child is due will make the scheduling of your pre-Baptism session easier and give you ample time to prepare for this Sacrament of Initiation to the life of grace. For more information, contact Melissa Lavery in the parish office.



UPCOMING PRE-JORDAN SESSION

In order to understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Baptism, expectant parents are required to attend Baptism preparation. A Pre-Jordan session will be held for all parents preparing for their baby's baptism on Sunday, February 23, at 12 p.m. in the parish hall. Since parents are seen as their child's primary teachers, the Pre-Jordan preparation session seeks to offer parents both the support of the community and an opportunity for reassessing their own faith and responsibilities. For more information, contact Melissa Lavery in the parish office.



CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who would like to become members of the Catholic Church are welcomed into a process of inquiry and formation. It is open to those who have never been baptized, those baptized in another Christian Church and those baptized as infants in the Catholic Church but who have not received further catechetical formation nor, consequently, the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. For information please call the office.



Parish Life

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Tues., Jan 14th -Prayer Shawl Meeting - 6:30 pm

Thurs. Jan. 16th - Retirement Talk in Our Lady of the Lake Hall at 7 pm



Immaculata Prayer Group - Winter Schedule

2nd Saturday of the Month at 3 p.m.

February 8th - March 14th

*Everyone is invited to attend
for Prayer and Praise.*



Jay Crandall ~ Bill Gleason ~ Richard Snell
Kim Maria Giganti ~ Fr. Ed Kearns ~ Jennifer Royall
Deacon Frank ~ Terry Howe ~ Joan Harrigan
Alice & Eileen O'Neill ~ Samson Colborn
Jamie Nderitu ~ Maurice Berger ~ Sal Rullis
Bill Goodwin ~ Msgr. Fitzpatrick
JoAnn Berger ~ Ryan Miller ~ Frank Ware
Cathy Valente ~ Fr. Anthony Urban ~ Jenyl Moody
John Mercer ~ Bette Jayne Kovich
Pasquale & Josephine Papa ~ Katherine Kraus
Katie Scully ~ Theresa Lockyer
Chrissy Johnson ~ Michael Dembinski
.....**And For All Members, Family and Friends that
are in need of Prayers, Lord Hear Our Prayer.**

Hospital Visits -

Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the parish is unaware when a parishioner is in the hospital. If you or a loved one would like a hospital visit from Father Sean, contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish Life



*K of C Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays
of the month @ 7 pm in the parish hall.*

~ <http://knights13752.webs.com/>

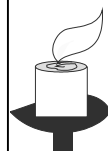
~Facebook: Knights of Columbus Pocono Pines



Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't.

The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.

Week of January 12th, 2020



Sanctuary Light

Available for \$20. for two weeks

Bread and Wine

For Victims of Abortion

Altar Flowers

Available for \$100 for one week



Parish Life

SAVE THE DATE: RETIREMENT! NOW WHAT?

The final session will be held in the parish hall on February 13th, from 7-8:30 pm

Don't miss this important series of discussions that highlight topics of interest for retirees and those contemplating retirement. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. To sign up, contact Bob at rbgettis@comcast.net or contact the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Sunday: 9 am to 10:15 am

Monday thru Wednesday: 9 am to 2 pm

Thursday: 9 to Noon

Friday: Closed



We welcome new parishioners.

If you would like to join our parish, registration forms may be found in our church narthex and in the parish office or if you prefer, you can register online at www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org.

You may also call the parish office (570-646-6424) and we would be happy to send you a registration form.

Why is it so important to register in a parish?

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think because they attend a particular parish that they automatically belong. Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you and to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in the parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of the parish.

Prayers for Military and Government Service



HA Valerie Novak ~ Sr. Airman Charlie Maldonado
Alston Smart, Jr. ~ Eugene Maslar, Jr
Sgt. Matthew Price ~ 1st Lt. Mark Gaido
Airman Patrick Alminde ~ TECH Sgt. William D. Olsen
Seaman Nicole Beckman ~ Cpl. John P. Bramley
Lt. Joseph V. Yuskaitis, Jr.
Major Thomas M. Smith ~ S Sgt. Amber Keppol
2nd Class Petty Officer DC2, Jeffrey Royall
Sgt. Andrew Malave ~ Sgt. Matthew Ponce
PFC Lars Hicks ~ Lance Corporal Kevin Horoszewski
Lord, hold our troops in you loving hands.

Parish Life

Testifying to Faith

The Bible talks a lot about “testifying” or “giving testimony” to our faith. That makes me think of a courtroom. What does testifying to faith look like in everyday life?

The courtroom image isn't too far off for some Christians. The Church has often been persecuted, and it was especially intense in the early days of the Church, when Acts and the various epistles were being written. For persecuted Christians, it did mean attesting publicly to their faith in Jesus Christ, sometimes before harsh judges. To testify is to bear witness, and this is something we are all called to do.

The call of Jesus is, first and foremost, a call to conversion of life. It is a repentance from sin, a casting off of old ways of seeing and moving in the world. The Christian life is one of transformation, becoming more and more like our God of love. In one sense, to testify to faith should happen naturally as we live like Jesus did. Our lives should bear witness in the respect we accord to others and the uncompromising dignity we honor in them. We bear witness in our gratitude, in our joy, in our hope in God's power and grace. This is where we start! Sometimes others might inquire, as St. Peter puts it, as to “a reason for your hope.” Now you're on the stand! It's time to offer, “with gentleness and reverence,” the Good News of the Gospel (c.f. 1 Peter 3:15-16).

MEMORIAL PAVERS FOR ST. MAX PRAYER GARDEN

With your support, the St. Maximilian Kolbe Stewardship Committee created a beautiful, quiet space on the church grounds where we are able to reflect and pray. Along the walkway, in addition to benches, statues, and Stations of the Cross, there is an area with memorial pavers to honor loved ones and to commemorate special occasions. 4 x 8 inch pavers (with 3 lines of 17 spaces and letters each) are \$60 for one paver and \$100 for two. An 8 x 8 inch paver is \$150. If you would like to purchase one of the pavers, get a form from the parish office.

*Bulletin submissions can be emailed
to Marion Colvin at: mcol@ptd.net*

*Please submit two weeks prior to publication date
otherwise we cannot promise publication date desired.*

~ Thank You

Parish Life

What do we know about St. John the Baptist?:

We know quite a lot about John the Baptist from the Gospels and other historical sources. John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth through a graced post-menopausal conception (Luke 1). John would have been raised with an intimate knowledge of Jewish doctrine and religious practice, due to his father being a Levite priest. Elizabeth is a “kinswoman” of Mary. While not in the same nuclear family, the two were close enough that Mary would journey to spend several months with Elizabeth during her pregnancy. We don’t know how close John and Jesus were as children, but they certainly knew of one another as cousins.

Luke 3 tells us he began his ministry in “the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar,” roughly 29 A.D. He lived as a hermit with clear ascetic practices, such as rough clothing and a simple vegetarian diet. Despite his remoteness, John’s ministry was prophetic. People came from across the region to be baptized in water as a sign of repentance. John, however, continually pointed beyond himself to the one who was to come: Jesus Christ. John the Baptist’s call to repentance extended to the rules of his day. John critiqued the local rulers, Herod Antipas and his wife Herodias. Previously, Herodias had been married to Antipas’ brother, Herod Philip, but had betrayed him, left him, and married his more powerful brother. John was arrested for the slight and was eventually executed (Mark 6). This martyrdom prophetically anticipates the trials that awaited Christ and his followers. In life and death, John the Baptist served as the herald of the Messiah.

Around the Diocese

Peer-Facilitated Leadership Retreat For High School Students

The Diocese of Scranton presents
International Student Leadership Institute Retreat
February 14-16, 2020

At Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton
For more information call 570-207-2213 x1155 or go
online for an application at dioceseofscranton.org

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages.



We are working to bring Retrouvaille back to the Diocese of Scranton in 2020. A weekend has been scheduled for May 29-31, to be held at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center in Clarks Summit. If you or other Retrouvaille couples you know would like to assist with the nuts and bolts of restarting the ministry, help is needed. To learn more about attending the weekend contact: Phil & Sue Milazzo, philmilazzo@outlook.com 631-3389-5413; or Jen Housel at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

FOOD PANTRY NEWS : Five Loaf House

133 Fire House Rd., Pocono Pines

Distributions are to qualified persons & families only
on the 2nd Monday of the month and the Tuesday
following that Monday. *Monday Hours 8:00 a.m. to
11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*by appointment after these hours & Tuesday 8:30 a.m.
to 11:00 a.m.* **Food Donations** are accepted on Mon/
Tues only, from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. or call 570-646-7456.

Parishioners Celebrating

25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2020

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C. L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2020 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 14.

The event includes a 2:20 pm mass at St. Peter’s Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation from the diocese should be made through the parish office before March 16.

Couples who missed their special year may also be included in 2020.

Members of St. Max may call the office to register, or for additional information. **Deadline March 16th**

“MEN, SAVE THE DATE! The 6th annual Diocese of Scranton Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre”.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

Can you spare 2-3 hours once a month to deliver meals to the homebound in the Tobyhanna/Tunkhannock Twshp. areas? If interested, call Sue Snell @ 570-646-7163 or Linda at the Meals on Wheels office @ 570-424-8794.

***Would you like more information
about St. Maximilian?***

Go to our website:

www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org