

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

November 15, 2020



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road
PO Box O
Pocono Pines, PA 18350

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.” His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’” ~Mt 25: 20b-21

GOSPEL MEDITATION

God gives us the gift of His very self and asks us to invest it. Investing God’s greatest gift of Himself wisely, allows God’s kingdom to grow and flourish. God trusts us with this pearl of great price in hopes that it will produce abundant fruit. While God’s gift of self is realized in the gifts of faith, hope, and love, they are not meant to be solely for personal benefit. They are intended to be shared and are at the heart of Jesus’ blueprint for happiness, the Beatitudes.

When we properly invest God’s greatest gift, His most treasured possession, we invest in the wellbeing of all of our brothers and sisters and the world in which we live. We take up most seriously our call to be stewards and properly manage, not only our own affairs, but the affairs of those around and before us. God has put tremendous confidence in us. Do we have that same confidence in God?

We often go the extra mile and put in the additional effort when it comes to those concerns closest to us: our families, friends, careers, home and securities. But when it comes to things that are not as close to us, we can become lax and less conscientious. Tending to God’s treasure requires a great deal of focus and persistent hard work. It demands that I see the bigger picture, God’s picture, in which self-sacrifice is a given as we labor for the establishment of God’s kingdom, God’s vision. Fear and a lack of trust can loom large, however. We are afraid of letting go of what is “mine” and apprehensive of jeopardizing what we have in order to venture into something bigger and more promising.

Fear and a lack of trust serve no purpose in God’s kingdom. They benefit neither the person nor God. What is required is a courageous resolve that produces the fortitude necessary to stay the course and do what God is asking. Doing all in our power to cultivate the seeds of faith, hope, and love in our world, working diligently to put all of our relationships in proper order, becoming attentive to systems and ideologies that hurt and oppress people, being mindful of injustice, and laboring on behalf of the poor and the needy are at the core of what each of us is asked to do. It is how we invest God’s most precious gift wisely. If persistent, alert and attentive, then life will gradually improve around us, there will be greater peace and we will experience joy.



**St. Maximilian Kolbe
Parish Staff**

Reverend Sean G. Carpenter
~ Pastor

Deacon Frank Gisoldi

Deacon Tom Amoroso

Melissa Laverty

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

Juli Reese

Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net

John Marcinkowski, Jr.

Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net

Visit us on the web @ www.stmaxkolbeponos.org

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, pray for us

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 pm

Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Daily Masses

Monday through Thursday at 9:15 am

All masses will be on a first come, first serve basis. Overflow seating will be in the parish hall with live television. Everyone is required to wear a mask and ushers will take everyone to their seats, following social distancing protocols. We humbly ask for your patience and cooperation with this arrangement.

To access the Masses live on Facebook - Saturday at 4 pm
Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 am
go to Facebook.com and in the search engine, type
"St Maximilian Kolbe Parish,
Pocono Pines, PA."



Mass Intentions

November 14th through November 22nd

- Saturday:** **Mariana Sliwa**
by Edward & Anna Marcinkowski
- Sunday:** **Helen Toryak**
by Carol Litwienski
For The Parishioners
- Monday:** **The Ewing Family**
by June Schott
- Tuesday:** **Kristen Marie Feeney**
by Pearl and Bob
- Wednesday:** **Maurice Berger—Healing**
by JoAnn Berger
- Thursday:** **Carmela Siragusa**
by Tatum Gouny
- Saturday:** **Anne Marie Alcamo**
by Nat Alcamo
- Sunday:** **For The Parishioners**
Wieslaw Sulek
by Edward & Anna Marcinkowski
- BREAD & WINE: For Victims of Abortion**



Confessions/Anointing of the Sick
by appointment -only for serious need

First Friday Adoration

Suspended until further notice



Readings for the Week of November 15th

- Saturday:** 3 Jn 5-8; Lk 18:1-8
- Sunday:** Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;
1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30
- Monday:** Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43
- Tuesday:** Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Lk 19:1-10
- Wednesday:** Rv 4:1-11; Lk 19:11-28
- Thursday:** Rv 5:1-10; Lk 19:41-44
- Friday:** Rv 10:8-11; Lk 19:45-48
- Saturday:** Rv 11:4-12; Lk 20:27-40
- Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17;
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46



We thank those who continue to support St Max through Parish Pay or by other means.

Collections for weekend of November 1 were:

Offertory: \$4,268

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, Pray for us



Faith Formation Classes Continue

Online and at home Faith Formation classes for the 2020-2021 school year are under way for pre-k and kindergarten through eighth grade and there's still time to register. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year students in grades one, three, four, five, six and seven are learning at home through the *Faith and Life* program offered by My Catholic Faith Delivered. This interactive series includes videos, games, family discussion questions and reflections and online assessments. Teachers for the First Penance/First Communion and Confirmation classes are holding classes live on Zoom and pre-k and kindergarten families are using a program for self-directed learning. Faith formation fees have been waived for this year. If you would still like to register your student for classes, contact Melissa in the Parish Office.

Youth Group Forming

For teens in 7th grade and up.

Aubrey Reese and Lillian Nami are starting a youth group. The goal is to meet twice a month based on student and parent's availability. One of the meetings will focus on the spiritual works of mercy, these meeting would include food, bible study and prayer. The other meeting will focus on the corporal works of mercy (e.g. canned food drive, visiting the sick, volunteering at a shelter) or a fun activity to connect and form relationships with likeminded peers. This will be designed for St. Max parishioners, but all are welcome.



This will begin virtually, so if you have a child that is interested, please email or text to Aubrey: areese@thecommonsofscranton.com or 804-572-3399

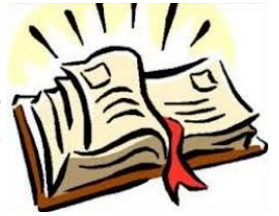
St Max Ministry Meetings

Ministry leaders are asked to please call Juli at the Parish Office to reserve a date and time for meetings to be held after regular office hours.

All safety protocols must be followed as directed by the Diocese of Scranton.

Tuesday Morning Zoom Scripture Sharing Group

All are cordially invited to join the group on Zoom at 10:30 each Tuesday morning as we proclaim the Scripture Readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass and discuss how God may be calling us to live out the message in our day to day lives. Anyone who prefers to just listen in is more than welcome to do so, and you may enter into a more active participation any time you would like to do so. The Scripture Readings, Discussion Questions, Prayers, and Commentaries will be emailed to you midweek before the upcoming session; if you are unable to join us for a session you can simply use the resources for personal or family reflection. If you would like to participate, or if you want more information, please call Melissa at the parish office during office hours or email her. She will be happy to assist you with the link and password to make sure you are on the group list for the weekly email resources.



ADVENT CANDLE SETS AND OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the parish will not be distributing and selling Advent Candles Sets and Oplatki Christmas Wafers. If you would like to purchase these items, the St. Jude Shop in Havertown, PA has them in stock. You can reach St. Jude Shop by calling 800-523-7604 or by ordering online at www.StJudeShop.com



Access weekend masses on Facebook, Pocono Catholic and Zoom.

If you have difficulty accessing these sites please contact the parish office.

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LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God has entrusted his possessions to us. God's possessions are not earthly, physical things like ours: a home, bank account, personal items, and so forth. God's possessions are far greater and deeper. God's greatest possession is His very Self and it is precisely this pearl of great price that He bestows freely upon us. What are we going to do with it? Nourishing the self-benefit is another. Wisdom asks us to broaden our horizons to embrace all avenues of human life, including the needs of the poor, the marginalized, and the needy. Manifested primarily in the virtues of faith, hope, and love, what God has entrusted to us can multiply exponentially if we invest His gift wisely and reap the greatest benefits. While it requires a great deal of focus and persistent hard work, we will experience tremendous joy when we realize just how much confidence God has in us. Not acting on something out of fear or lack of trust serves no purpose and is of no use to either God or ourselves.

Our Parish Seeks Tech Savvy Parishioners!

If you are "good" with technology, our parish needs your help! We are Looking for people to assist with technology during Masses and other parish events. If you are interested, you can reach out to the parish office at 570-646-6424.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Maximilian

Kolbe Parish – All Are Warmly Invited!

On Tuesday, November 24, at 7 p.m., the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council (TOMEC) will hold its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at St. Maximilian Kolbe. Everyone is invited to attend this service to celebrate and give thanks for the many gifts in our lives. Additionally, the service will be broadcast live on both Zoom and Facebook Live. Reverend Janice Puliti, Pastor of Pocono Lake United Methodist Church, will be the primary speaker, while the spiritual leaders and members of the eight congregations that comprise TOMEC will also participate in the service. An offering will be collected for the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry at Five Loaf House in Pocono Pines. Social distancing rules will be in place and masks are required at all times while inside the church.

ST. MAX PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Will meet (weather permitting) from
12 noon to 2 pm on the
first and third Mondays of the month.**

If you knit or crochet, please consider joining the group in making prayer shawls which are given to those persons who are ill and in need of physical or spiritual comfort.

**Please join Fr Sean on
a Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with
Barcelona, Oct 17 – 26, 2021
\$2999.00 pp double occupancy**

Includes transportation from the church, roundtrip air from Newark, 8 night escorted tour including most meals. For more information please call or email : Marge McCauley (member of Our Lady Queen of Peace).



Marge.mccauley@scullytravel.com
[570-486-4231](tel:570-486-4231)

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, Pray for us



Feed the Hungry

Every Family served by the Top of The Mountain Food Pantry (TOME) gets a turkey and food to make a full Thanksgiving meal. Your donations during this holiday season are more needed than ever. On the St. Max website, click on **"Give"** and then scroll down to **TOME** where you can make a one-time donation, or a recurring donation to help families in need.

Stockings for Soldiers



On the St Max website, click on **Events/News/ News** then **"St Max assists with Stockings for Soldiers"** for more info.

You will see a link for **Amazon.com Wish List** where much needed items can be shipped, **"contact free"**. Whatever you purchase will be shipped directly to the organization for distribution to our military.

Donations can also be sent to :
Stockings for Soldiers
1911 Foulk Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19810

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Buried in Your Backyard.....

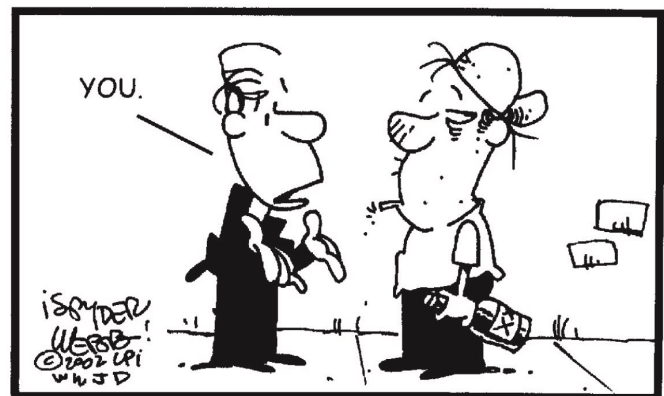
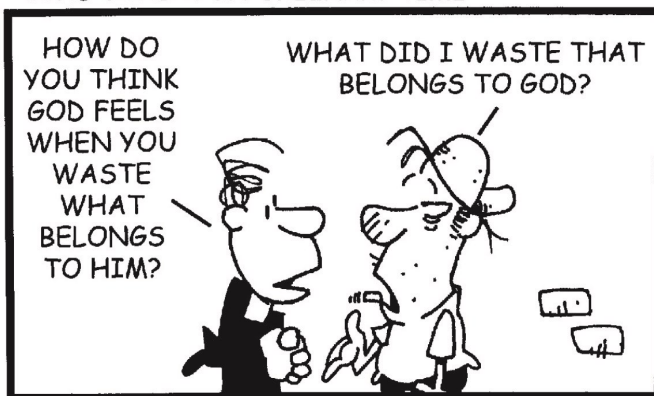
I remember watching a television show about a high school that dug up a time capsule that students had buried 25 years earlier. They had buried it with the purpose of showing others many years later the trends of the day and how student life was at that time. It was a fun exercise and everyone — the current students as well as those now grown — laughed at the clothing styles, corny photos, and lack of technology from years ago.

I wonder how the former students felt about how they had grown in those 25 years. How many of them realized their high school dreams? Did they find their purpose in this world and feel fulfilled in life? Did they use the talents and gifts God gave them to really make a difference in the world?

We have all been given talents and gifts by God to be cultivated and offered back to Him and those around us for His glory. As time has passed, hopefully we have taken seriously our stewardship of these gifts. But sometimes out of fear, misunderstanding, or even apathy, we have taken one or more of our gifts and buried them, hiding them away from others and stifling all growth. This is no way to honor God and certainly not a path to fulfillment in life. If we have anything buried in our backyard, we might do well to dig it back up, clean it up, and begin building upon it. Like a time capsule, those things will not be buried forever. One day the giver of that gift will ask what you have done with it. When that day comes, I pray you don't need to find a shovel.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK



Monday: St. Margaret of Scotland;

She was a very pious Roman Catholic, and among many charitable works she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth in Scotland for pilgrims travelling to St Andrews in Fife, which gave the towns of South Queensferry and North Queensferry their names. Margaret was the mother of three kings of Scotland, or four, if Edmund of Scotland (who ruled with his uncle, Donald III) I. In her position as queen, all Margaret's great influence was thrown into the cause of religion and piety. A synod was held, and among the special reforms instituted the most important were the regulation of the Lenten fast, observance of the Easter communion, and the removal of certain abuses concerning marriage within the prohibited degrees. Her private life was given up to constant prayer and practices of piety.



Monday: St. Gertrude, Virgin

Gertrude, known for being charming and able to win people over, entered the Benedictine Order at Helfta and became a nun. She devoted herself to her studies, was fluent in Latin and very familiar with scripture and works from the

Fathers of the Church, including Augustine. In 1281, 25-year-old Gertrude experienced her first series of visions that would continue until the day she passed away. Her priorities turned away from secular teachings and focuses more on studying Scripture and theology. She went on to become one of the great mystics of the 13th century. She practiced what is known as "nuptial mysticism," seeing herself as the bride of Christ. She embraced charity for both rich and poor, she was a simple woman with a deep solidarity with those not yet ready for the beatific vision,



Tuesday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

In her short life, Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and asceticism when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe.

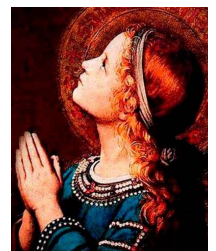


Wednesday: St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

She entered the Visitation of Mary convent at 19, and remained despite family opposition. As the French Revolution broke, the convent was closed, and she began taking care of the poor and sick, opened a school for homeless children, and risked her life helping priests in the underground. Later she joined the Infant Society of the Sacred Heart, where she had become a superior of the novitiate and a school. Her ambition was to go to America and work among the Indians, but because she not able, with drive and courage, she founded the first free school for girls west of the Mississippi.

Saturday: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated annually on November 21st, commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin as a child by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a heavenly message that they would bear a child. In thanksgiving for the God's gift of Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple to consecrate their only daughter to The Lord. The celebration of the Feast is first documented in the 11th century within the Byzantine Catholic Church. It was introduced into the Roman Catholic Church in the 15th century by Pope Gregory XI, then removed from the calendar by Pope Pius V in the mid 16th century. Pope Sixtus V later reestablished the feast in 1585, and it is still celebrated today, commemorating the faith of her parents, Joachim and Anne, and the purity of Mary.



YOUR SAFETY IS OUR CONCERN

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish has recently taken steps to make our church, offices and hall a safer environment for all our parishioners and visitors.

~We have installed an **ionization system** in the ducts of our Heating and Air Conditioning system which destroys virus and contributes to healthier air.

~Masks are required in the church.

~Ushers are present at masses and will direct people to safe seating locations in the church. All pews are properly sanitized after each mass.

~Please maintain social distancing while you are inside the church and make sure that you leave the church in a socially distant manner and avoid congregating in groups outside of the church.

St Maximilian Kolbe Parish adheres to the guide lines set forth by the Diocese of Scranton.

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