

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

December 19, 2021



4th SUNDAY of Advent

MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

5112 Pocono Crest Road
PO Box 0
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
570-646-6424

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

December 19th, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

Year C



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." ~Lk 1:41-42



St. Maximilian Kolbe

Parish Staff

Reverend Sean G. Carpenter
~ Pastor

Deacon Tom Amoroso

Judy Grace

Director of Religious Education
~ stmaxreligiously@ptd.net

Juli Reese

Office Manager ~ Stmaxkol@ptd.net

John Marcinkowski, Jr.

Coordinator of Music ~ jjm1105@ptd.net

Visit us on the web @ www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org

GOSPEL MEDITATION

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday: **Anne Marie Alcamo**
by Nat Alcamo

Sunday 8:30 am: **For The Parishioners**
10:30 am: **Eugene Gartner and Daughter Denise**
by Joan Gartner

Monday: **John Hetherington**
by Joan Rinehimer

Tuesday: **Joseph Benner**
by The Benner Family

Wednesday: **Johann Hagen**
by Aline Lynch

Thursday: **Bernadette Hughes**
by The Hughes Family

Friday 4 & 8 pm: Christmas Mass Intentions
Polish Mass at Midnight:

For All Gathered & Their Families

Saturday 10:30 am: Christmas Mass Intentions

Sunday 8:30 am: **For The Parishioners**
10:30 am: **Christmas Mass Intentions**



**Confessions are held on
Saturdays in the church from
3:00 to 3:45 pm.
Other times by appointment only.**

MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY: Monday thru Thursday @ 9:15 am
(NO MASS ON FRIDAY)

SATURDAY: 4 pm

SUNDAY: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Readings for the Week

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Christmas Vigil: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; k 2:1-14

Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52



**Join us in the Celebration of
The Birth of Our Lord**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Fri. Dec. 24th -Christmas Eve- 4 pm and 8 pm

Fri. Dec. 24th - Polish Midnight Mass

Sat. Dec. 25th - Christmas Day 10:30 am

Sun. Dec. 26th - 8:30 & 10:30 am

Sat. Jan. 1st -New Years Day - 4:00 pm

Sun. Jan. 2nd - 8:30 & 10:30 am



Sanctuary Light
In Memory of Peggy Bostwick

Bread and Wine
For Victims of Abortion



Altar Flowers
Available for your Intentions
Call the Parish Office

ST. MAX PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

10 am to 1 pm



Katie Scully ~ Eileen Long - Geri Williams

Mary DeWaters ~ Marge McDonald

Charles Brunner ~ Lillian Bellis

Mirosława Trochimowicz ~ John Scomillio

Joan Aronowitz

If you know someone in need of prayers
and would like to have them added to this list,
please call the Parish Office.



Donations for December 5th were \$ 4,136.

Many Thanks to those who support our Parish.

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



Faith Formation Classes

Grades 1st & 2nd, preparing for Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, meet in the Church Hall from 9:15 to 10:15 am.

Grades 7th & 8th, for Confirmation, meet in the classrooms from 9:15 to 10:15 am.

Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 have Virtual classes.

Please contact Judy Grace in the Parish Office for any questions.

St Max Little Rock Scripture Group

The group will meet this Tuesday at 10 am and afterwards will take a recess until January 4th,

The new year will focus on reading “Life Eternal”. We have books and/or printed study materials available for you to follow. Contact Judy Grace, DRE at 570-646-6424.

ONLINE SCRIPTURE STUDY



The St. Maximilian Kolbe Scripture Study discussion group meets live on Zoom Wednesday mornings @10:30 am. New members are always welcome. For more information on how to join, contact Judy in the parish office. We would love to “see” you.

We Need Your Input

Our parish intern, Lynn, is forming a team of adults who will meet over the next few months to discuss adult faith formation. The focus will be on discerning what parishioners may need in order to live as disciples of Jesus to the fullest extent possible and beginning to address those needs with a short study or discussion group to be offered this coming Spring. The hope is to gather input from a diverse group of parishioners

– young & older, male & female, and multi-racial/ethnic. If you or someone you know of is interested in or has ideas regarding the faith formation needs of our adults, please contact

Lynn at L Ruezinsky@optonline.net or (908)251-4054. Thank you!

St. Maximilian Kolbe Bereavement Support Group Resumes Sessions

The Bereavement Support group meets downstairs in the parish hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm. Until further notice, all participants will be asked to wear masks and to observe social distancing in order to protect others in attendance who may be medically vulnerable.

It is not necessary to be a member of St. Max Parish in order to attend this ecumenical group. The format is open and ongoing (not limited to a fixed number of sessions) and the content of the meeting is selected to address the needs of those present. Anyone who has experienced a loss due to death, divorce, or separation is encouraged to attend. Through the use of audio, visual, and printed materials the group offers information about the stages of grief & the emotional, physical, mental, & spiritual effects that may be experienced by those who are grieving. A lending library contains materials that are helpful for children, adolescents, and adults. The compassionate presence of people who have journeyed through the bereavement process offer support for the newly bereaved and for those who may have delayed the process or who still need assistance. For more information, contact Lynnette at 570-839-9346; text to 570-242-6165; or email her at tomlyn65@ptd.net.

Ministry Volunteers: There is a table in the Narthex for all current ministry volunteers, as well as anyone who would like to volunteer. It includes copies of the current schedule, a roster to help you find a sub when needed, and a sign-up sheet for anyone wishing to help as Usher, Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister or Lector. These sheets will be checked weekly.



Living to the Max Youth Group

Meets Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Download the “Remind” app and search “Youth Group” so you can get updates about the group.

Email: resecup2018@gmail.com for more info.



It's easy to join our parish !

Go to: stmaxkolepoconos.org
and click **Join**.

Fill in your basic information & a member of our parish staff will contact you.
Or, call the parish office 570-646-6424 for a registration form.

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts. But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*



**Adoration with the Rosary
& Evening Prayer
will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m.**

A Wishful Christmas Prayer

*God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;*

*The warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
The all of Christmas, which is Christ.*

~Wilda English

"St. Max Cares"

**A Program of Service by and for the Parishioners of
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish**

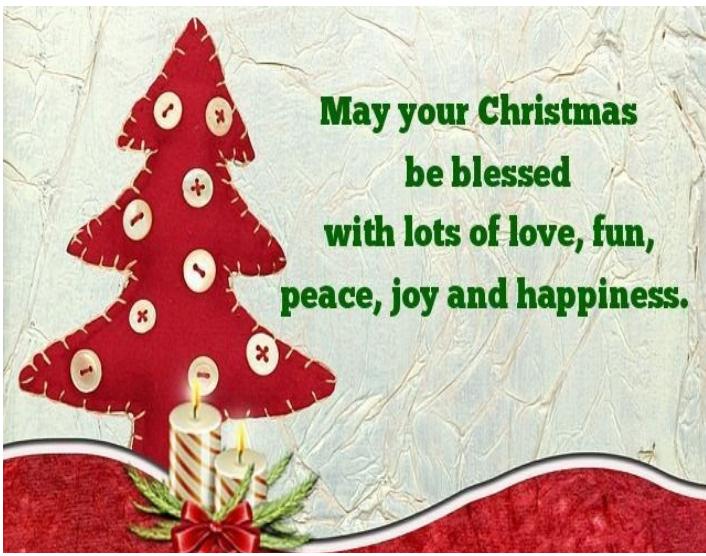
For the past six years, our Social Concerns Committee has sponsored a service program called "St. Max Cares." This program is designed to support our fellow parishioners who live alone. How? It begins with one caring person making a friendly **daily** phone call to another. *The mission of "St. Max Cares" is to know that those members of our parish family who live alone are safe; and, as a result, bring some peace of mind to their families.* We pray for you, we offer you the sign of God's peace at Mass, now may we offer you a friendly phone call each day?

If you or a loved one are interested in receiving this service, or if you wish to volunteer, please contact Jean Sockol at 727-542-2280. Remember, the members of St. Max cares about you!

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does RCIA stand for?

(Answer is found on the last page of the bulletin).



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

ADVENT MEDITATIONS **ALL ARE WELCOME -This Thursday 1:00 pm**

This Advent, don't get caught up in the busyness. Don't get lost in the anxiety of preparing for a day. Joyfully anticipate the coming of the person of Jesus through an encounter with his Most Blessed Mother. The *Rejoice! Advent Meditations with Mary* Journal not only lets you walk beside Mary during the first Advent, but also lets you get to know her in a way you haven't before. Fr. Mark Toups provides you with a word, a reflection, a Psalm, a reading, and a prompt, all to help guide your prayer. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion group which meets in the parish hall. **The is the last meeting date we will have in Advent. Join us in discussion about our prayer experiences this Thursday, Dec. 23rd at 1:00-pm.**

Contact Lynn Ruezinsky at Ruezinsky@optonline.net or 908-251-4054.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

Answer: Epiphany means "manifestation," or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This part of Matthew's infancy narrative differs from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph's long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text. Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact? ©LPI

SOCIAL CONCERNS BULLETIN & FLOCKNOTE ARTICLES

Update on "Stop the Hate" Endeavors

Since we were unable to coordinate neither an in-person or a virtual vigil in 2021, we tried throughout the month of October via Flocknote and the Youth Group Facebook page to offer materials to inform and inspire ideas and actions to help promote mutual respect, appreciation for diversity, and building communities of harmony and peace.

The annual interfaith services each year have called for people of faith to come together to:

~ *Act non-violently as agents of healing in their communities.*

~ *Stand up to hate violence directed at anyone.*

~ *Speak out when people are attacked or discriminated against due to race, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, gender, or socio-economic status.*

Just as we have gone forth from the Stop the Hate Vigils each year with renewed resolve to help to build a world of tolerance and respect, justice and peace, let each of us prepare for our next Vigil by striving each day to treat others as we would like to be treated, building bridges of kindness, compassion, & dialogue.

2022 CALENDARS

BOLOCK FUNERAL HOME has once again provided our parish with calendars for the new year. These are located at the exits of the church—please take one as you leave.

ADVENT CANDLES & OPLATKI

Sets of Advent Candles are available in the Narthex with a basket for your \$5. recommended donation.

Oplatki are also available from John, our Music Director, after mass is over.

Saint Joseph Sunday Missals

The new Saint Joseph Sunday Missals are here. Each family is welcome to take a copy of the New Saint Joseph Sunday Missal on your way out of the church. Baskets will be at the exits or copies can be picked up from the Parish Office.

SAINT OF THE WEEK EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

St. Peter Canisius

Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, 1521



St. Peter Canisius was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met

Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

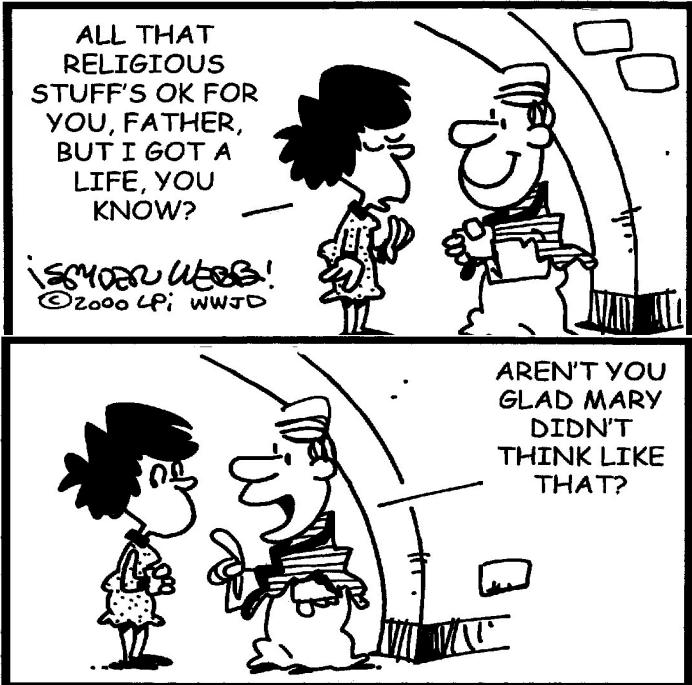
St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth. ©LPI

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known. ©LPI

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Trivia Answer:
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

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