

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

January 2, 2022



THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

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

January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

Year C

GOSPEL MEDITATION

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved. ©LPi



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11



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.stmaxkolbeapoconos.org

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday: Christmas Mass Intentions
Sunday 8:30am: For The Parishioners
10:30am: Joseph Benner
 by The Benner Family
Monday: Paul and Margurite Greenwald
 by The Miller Family
Tuesday: Msgr. Joseph Rebman
 by Aline Lynch
Wednesday: James Barbouer
 by Mary and Dick Miraglia
Thursday: Julie Rogers
 by Joe and Mariette
Saturday: Carpenter & McGruder Family
 (Healing & Protection)
Sunday 8:30am: For The Parishioners
10:30am: Marie DeVito
 by Melissa Lavertry
Sunday 1:00 pm: Polish Mass for
 Wanda and Miroslaw Kaminski
 by The Bubrowiecki Family



Sanctuary Light
 Available for your Intentions
 Call the Parish Office



Bread and Wine
 For Victims of Abortion



Altar Flowers
 Available for your Intentions
 Call the Parish Office

Readings for the Week

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Lk 2:16-21
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38;
 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



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

ST. MAX PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
10 am to 1 pm



Donations for December 19th were \$ 3,053.
 Many Thanks to those who support our Parish.



Katie Scully ~ Eileen Long - Geri Williams
 Mary DeWaters ~ Marge McDonald
 Charles Brunner ~ Lillian Bellis
 Miroslawa Trochimowicz ~ John Scomillio
 Joan Aronowitz ~ Christopher Mortensen

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

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which sacraments can only be received once?
 (Answer is found on the last page of the bulletin).

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FAITH formation



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 resume meeting this

Tuesday 10 am - 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 LRuezinsky@optonline.net or (908)251-4054. Thank you!

St. Maximilian Kolbe Bereavement Support Group Resumes Sessions Next meeting is January 12th

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: reesecup2018@gmail.com for more info.

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**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**

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*



To All Our Members,

Friends and Visitors of

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

We Wish You All a

Happy and Blessed New Year.

I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am the New Year.

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**"

-Author Unknown

Rediscovering The Mass

Are you seeking to rediscover your friendship with Jesus? Haven't been to Mass in a while and wondering where to start? Start by getting to know Jesus again through prayer. It doesn't matter how long it's been since you have been to Mass. You are always invited to encounter Jesus in the Mass.

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'" - John 6:35

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**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.



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.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer: This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: *How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled?* If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.). ©LPi

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Celebrate the Three Kings

Sat., January 8, 2022

from 3:00—5:30 pm

St. Luke's Parish Hall

Corner of Ninth and Main in Stroudsburg

Music, Stories and Refreshments for Children
Live Presentation of the Christmas Story
in Spanish and English.

Pre-register at: nepaflecha@gmail.com

Visit Facebook page—“FLECHA Poconos”

SAINT OF THE WEEK EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 - January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith.

When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of

tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of “saint.” ©LPi

Stay Connected to God.

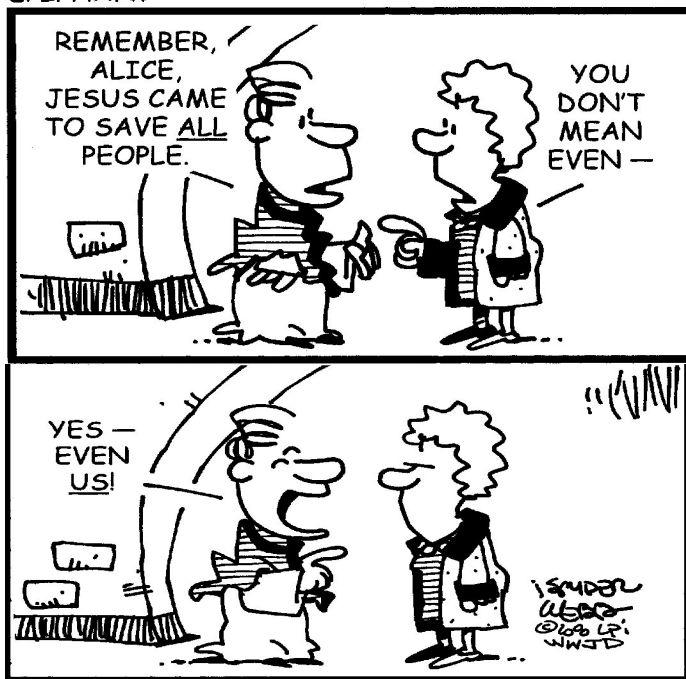
Check this out....morningoffering.com

This website offers free daily devotional email including wisdom from the saints, classic books on Catholic spirituality, Daily Mass readings, a homily on the Gospel, monthly devotions and more.

LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

EPIPHANY



Trivia Answer:

Confirmation, Baptism and Holy Orders

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