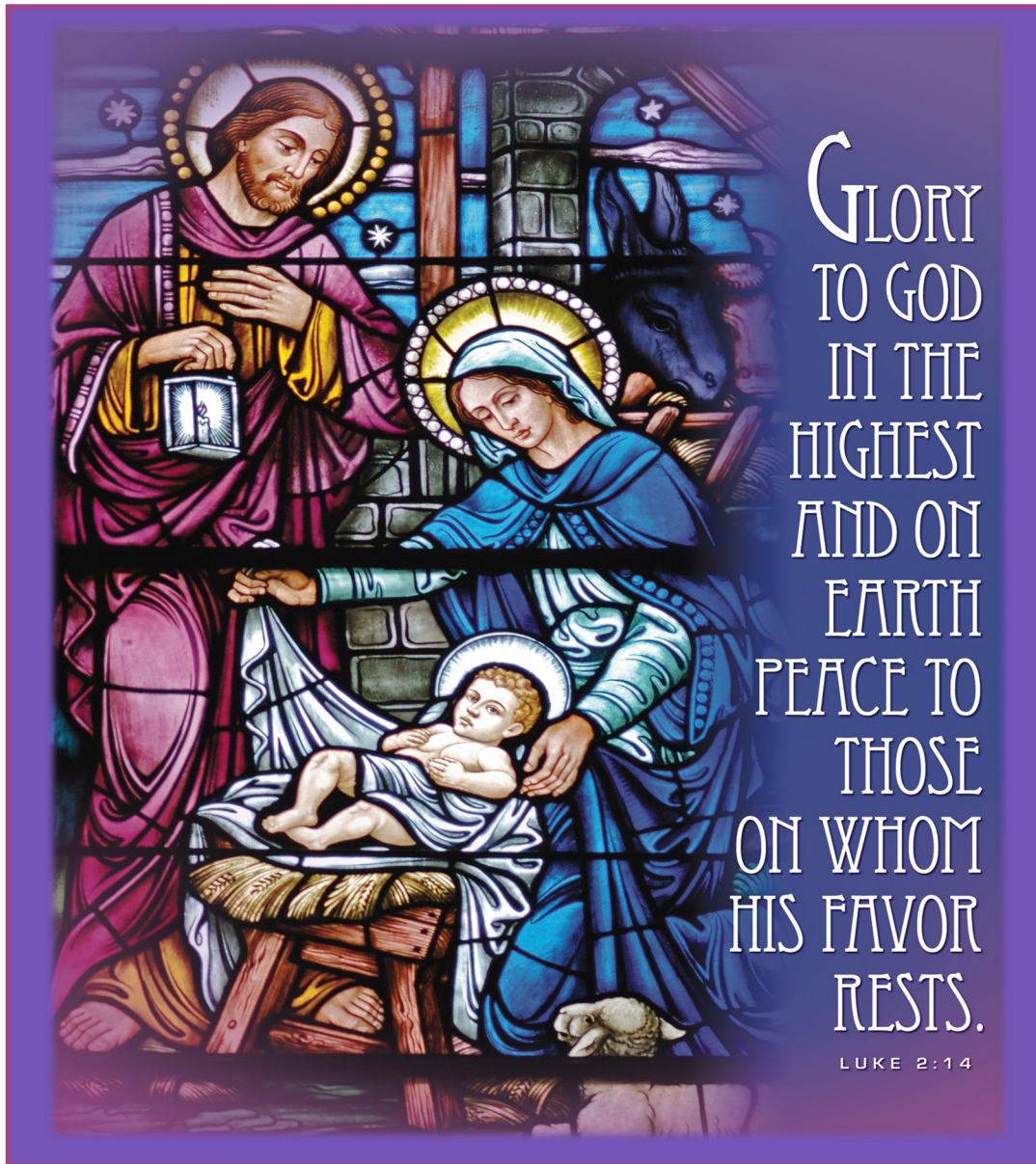


# St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

## December 25, 2022



### MISSION STATEMENT

We Worship ~ We Teach ~ We Care

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

Mass Schedule:  
Monday through Friday 9:15 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am

**December 25, 2022**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**  
**Year A**



The angel said to them "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." ~Lk 2:10-122

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPi



**St. Maximilian Kolbe**  
**Parish Staff**

***Father Paschal Mbagwu***  
 Administrator

***Deacon Tom Amoroso***

***Judy Grace***  
 Director of Religious Education  
 ~ stmaxreligioused@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](http://www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org)***

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





## Mass Intentions

**Saturday 4:00: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**(Family Liturgy with Living Nativity)**

**12:00 am: Midnight Mass in the Polish Language**

**Sunday 8:00 am: For The Parishioners**

**10:30 am: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Monday: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Tuesday: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Wednesday: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Thursday: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Friday: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 4:00 pm: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**Sunday 8:00 am: Christmas Mass Intentions**

**10:30 am: For The Parishioners**

**Weekday Mass at 9:15 am unless otherwise noted.**

**Saturday Confessions: 3:00-3:45 pm.**

### **ST. MAX PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**

***10 am to 1 pm***

**Your Intentions for Masses, Sanctuary Light,  
Bread and Wine or Flowers can be requested  
for loved ones or friends. Call the office for more  
information: 570-646-6424**



#### **Sanctuary Light**

***In Memory of John and Betty Bossuyt  
by The Bossuyt Family***

#### **Bread and Wine**

***For Victims of Abortion***



#### **Altar Flowers**

***Available for your Intentions***

### **Readings for the Week**

**Sunday: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18**

**Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22**

**Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8**

**Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18**

**Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35**

**Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23**

**Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18**

**Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21**

**We Wish Everyone a  
Happy and  
Blessed Christmas**



**STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

**Donations—December 11th & 18th**

**will be announced in the next bulletin. *Many  
thanks to those who support our Parish.***



**Katie Scully ~ Eileen Long ~ Maurice Berger**

**Mary DeWaters ~ Charles Brunner**

**Lillian Bellis ~ Mirosława Trochimowicz**

**John Scomillio ~ Ed Sohayda**

**Joan Aronowitz ~ Christopher Mortensen**

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



## FAITH FORMATION CLASSES IN SESSION

**Grades 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th**  
meet Sundays between masses  
from 9 am to 10:15 am.

**Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th**  
meet Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

Registration forms are available in the Narthex and in the Church office for the 2022-2023 year.

The cost of registration is \$30.00 for the first child in the family and \$15.00 for the second. There is no charge for any more children in the same family.

**It's not too late to register.**  
**Contact Judy in the parish office.**

### **St. Maximilian Kolbe** **Parish Bereavement Support Group**

The Monthly Meeting of the Bereavement Support Group is held **downstairs in the Parish Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm.**

It is not necessary to be a member of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in order to attend this ecumenical group. The format is open and ongoing. Anyone who has experienced a loss due to death, divorce, or separation is encouraged to attend. For directions or more information, please call Lynnette at 839-9346 or 570-242-6165, or email her at [tomlyn65@ptd.net](mailto:tomlyn65@ptd.net).

**Next Meeting:: January 11th at 2 pm**

### **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](mailto:reesecup2018@gmail.com)



### **An Invitation to Find Out More about** **St. Max Scripture Sharing Materials** **& Wednesday Zoom Sessions**

*"Scripture Sharing"* offers an opportunity to deepen our faith and grow in authentic discipleship by reading and reflecting on the Word of God.

Each week, materials are gathered & emailed to anyone who wants to join our "Spiritual Seekers" in preparing for the upcoming weekend liturgies by reflecting on Scripture Readings from the lectionary. In addition to the Scriptures, participants also receive attachments with several commentaries, Reflection Questions, and Prayers. All who sign up to receive materials for their own reflection are also welcome to use the Zoom link to join us at any Wednesday Sessions (10:30 am – noon). If you would like to receive the Scripture Sharing materials and the Zoom link each week, or if you have any questions about the group, please contact either Lynnette Smith (Group Facilitator) at [tomlyn65@ptd.net](mailto:tomlyn65@ptd.net) or Judy Grace (Coordinator of Faith Formation) at [stmaxkolreligious@ptd.net](mailto:stmaxkolreligious@ptd.net).



The *Word Among Us* magazine offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings of the Catholic Church, inspirational essays, stories of the saints and more!

For \$20 you can receive 10 issues each year that include the daily mass readings. If you are interested in a 2023 new subscription, please contact the parish office. New subscriptions begin at the start of the Lenten Season.

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



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Knights of Columbus #13752

meets on Wednesday evenings in the parish hall.

(no longer on Mondays)

the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm.

New members are welcome.

## Greeting Card Ministry

Do you know there is an active **Greeting Card** Ministry here at St. Max? We want to get the word out. Shout it from the rooftops if necessary! St. Max is blessed to have a few very dedicated members who write and mail beautiful notes to fellow parishioners who are sick or homebound, who are discouraged and need some cheer, who have lost a family member, or perhaps has been missing from Mass for a while.

Regardless of the reason for the card, we want to reach out and let them know their St. Max family is thinking of them. If you know of someone who would enjoy a personal greeting, please contact the parish office or leave their name in the labeled basket in the narthex. If you have Get Well cards to donate, please leave them in the basket as well. ~Thank You

**There is an URGENT need for Liturgical Ministers** both young and adult. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in learning more about serving as a Lector, Commentator, Eucharistic Minister and/or Altar Server. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex. You will be contacted to schedule trainings.

### Catholic Trivia—Just For Fun

**Question:** What is the star that rose above the stable where Jesus was born traditionally called?  
(Answer is found on the last page of the bulletin.)

*Please join us in the Celebration of  
The Nativity of Our Lord*



**Saturday, December 24th**

**4:00 P.M. - Mass during the Night**

Family Liturgy w/Living Nativity

**Sunday, December 25th**

**12:00 A.M. (Midnight Mass)**

Mass in the Polish Language

**8:00 A.M. - Mass during the Day**

**10:30 A.M. - Mass during the Day**



**Wednesday, December 28th**

**is the Feast of the Holy Innocents**

The Feast of the Holy Innocents, is commemorated on December 28 every year.



On this day, the Catholic Church honors the first martyrs. These were the children of Israel killed by King Herod in his quest to find baby Jesus. This day is also known as Childermas.

According to the Bible, Herod was afraid of the prophesied King of Jews and was angry that he hadn't heard from the Magi who had come to him initially seeking a newborn king. Furious that Jesus had escaped, Herod ordered the killing of all baby boys under the age of two in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas, hoping to kill Jesus.

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



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## ART 'N SOUL

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Please watch for updated dates/times. In the new year, they will be meeting one weekday plus one evening each month.

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### **PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

If you have offered Intentions for loved ones and friends please sign up to present the Gifts at our weekend masses.  
There is a sign-up book located in the Narthex.

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### **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.

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### **Latino Ministry Meet & Greet**

Meets monthly on Sunday's,  
immediately following the 10:30 mass.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Para Informacion/For Information: 570-646-6424**

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### **“St. Max Cares” A Program of Service by and for the Parishioners of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish**

For the past 10 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 or are homebound caring for a loved one. How? It begins with one caring person making a friendly phone call to another. *The mission of “St. Max Cares” is to know that members of our parish family, who might not have frequent contact with a friend or relative, are safe.* We pray for you, we offer you God's peace at Mass, now may we offer you a friendly phone call? 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, members of St. Max care about you!***

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## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### **Being the Sign**

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same—to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

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**2023 Calendars** courtesy of Bolock Funeral Home in conjunction with Jersey Memorial Group are available at all exits.

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**It's easy to join our parish !**

**Go to: [stmaxkolbepoconos.org](http://stmaxkolbepoconos.org)**

Click on ***Join*** and fill in your basic information and a member of our parish staff will contact you..



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

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## THE BELOVED DISCIPLE ST. JOHN



### Saint John the Apostle December 27

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed

him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" — they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. ©LPi

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**Trivia Answer:**  
The Star of Bethlehem

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

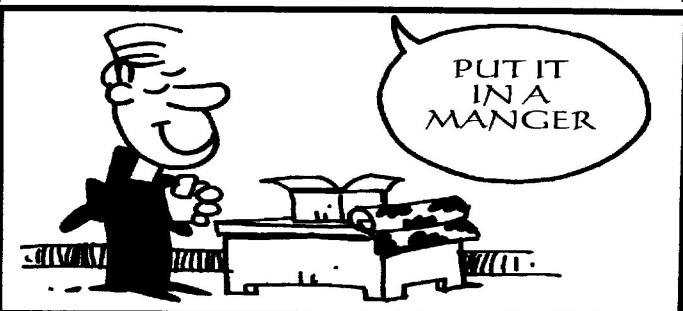
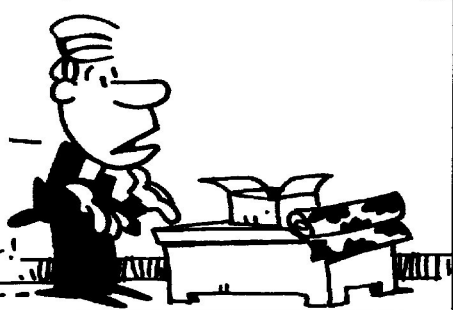
The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.

### New...Saint Joseph Sunday Missal:

**The Prayerbook and Hymnal for 2023 were donated by a parishioner.** These will be available at each exit. Each Family is welcome to take one.

### CHRISTMAS

LORD, WHAT'S  
THE BEST WAY  
TO WRAP A  
CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT?



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