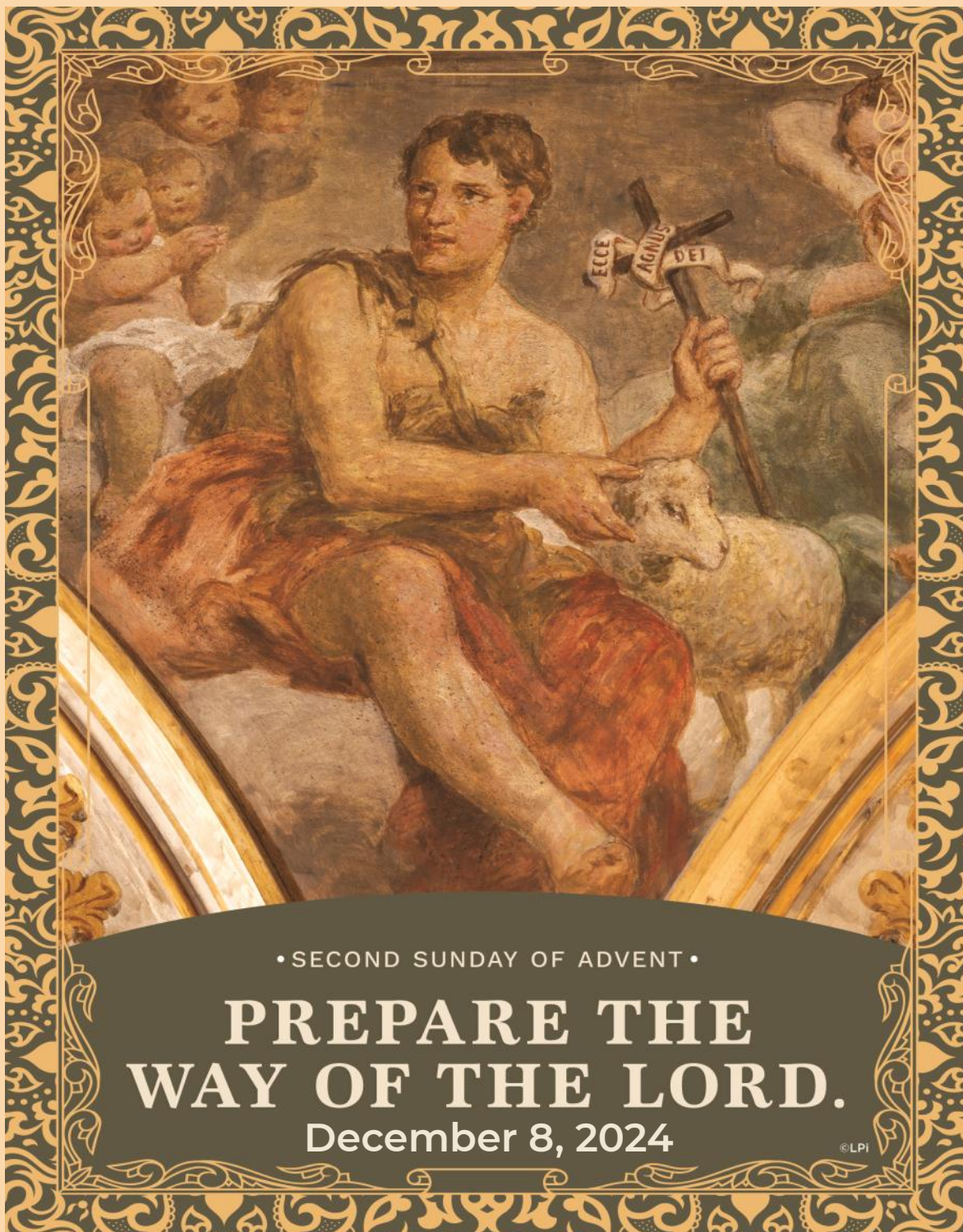




Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi

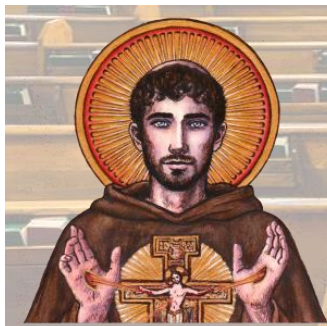


• SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD.

December 8, 2024

©LPI



Saint Francis of Assisi



ST. JOHN
668 Clearfield Rd.
Fenelton, Pa 16034



ST. JOSEPH
315 Stoney Hollow Rd.
Cabot, Pa 16023



ST. MARY
821 Herman Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

**315 Stoney Hollow Rd.,
Cabot, PA 16023**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 1 PM

Phone: 724-352-2149

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Senior Parochial Vicar

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frward@saintfrancisparish.net
Emergencies: 724-777-9432

Senior Parochial Vicar

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Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Jim Kurtz Ext. 226
frjim@saintfrancisparish.net
Emergencies: 412-421-3962

Deacon

Bruce Beaver
bbeaver@diopitt.org

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

11:00am-12:00 pm - St. Mary
12:00pm-12:30pm - St. John
12:00 pm-1:00 pm - St. Joseph
(Cabot)



PARISH STAFF

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St. Joseph Preschool

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parish.net Ext.209

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Online Giving through Vanco
To set up online giving, visit the
parish website and click the
link or **scan the QR Code** to go
directly to the
St. Francis online
giving page via Vanco.





Saint Clare of Assisi



MATER DOLOROSA
409 North Main St.
Chicora, PA 16025



ST. JOSEPH
864 Chicora Rd.
Chicora, PA 16025



ST. WENDELIN
210 St. Wendelin Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

864 Chicora Rd.,
Chicora, PA 16025

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Deacon

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CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

11:00-11:30 am - Mater Dolorosa
11:00-11:30 am - St. Wendelin
11:45 am-12:15 pm- St. Joseph
(North Oakland)



PARISH STAFF

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St. Wendelin School

724-285-4986

St. Wendelin School Principal

JoLynn Clouse
stwend@zoominternet.net

Saint Clare Prayer List

For Prayer List updates, call
Fran Parker @ 724-445-7421 or
the parish office.

Scan here to visit
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to 84576 Or **Go online to:**
SaintClareofAssisiParish.flocknote.com

ALL Cemetery Inquiries

Contact North Regional Office,
2636 Ellwood Road, New Castle,
PA 16101, 724-323-0033,
cpca@cpca-pgh.org



The
**Pittsburgh
Catholic**
ONLINE

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the Pittsburgh Catholic at
www.diopitt.org

ST. FRANCIS WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Mary	Living & Deceased of the Lawrence & Alberta Convery Family	Rege & Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	St. Joseph	Rich Weleski	
Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Rudolph "Pete" Rovnan	Jeanie & Dennis Franke
	8:30 AM	St. John	Delores Bono	Elaine & Larry Shay
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Clare Mitch	Josi & Don Nebel
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
Monday, December 9 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:00 AM	St. John	Ronald "Mick Stutz	Joe & Geraldine Geibel
	4:00 PM	St. Mary	Aimee Fritz	Ken Collins Family
	7:00 PM	St. Joseph	Peggy Matas	Kathy & Randy Lasko
Tuesday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto	8:00 AM	St. John	Living & Deceased of Alfred & Mary Spohn Family	Family
Wednesday, December 11 St. Damasus I, Pope	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	John Christie	Family
Thursday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	8:00 AM	St. Mary	Bob Ruediger	Family
Friday, December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Charles & Olive Dougherty	Family
Saturday, December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	9:00 AM	St. Joseph	Rose Michel	Carol Bettykefer
	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Mary	Heather Craig	Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	St. Joseph	Bill Venesky	
Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Al & Nancy Peciulis	Michael Davanzati Family
	8:30 AM	St. John	Wanda Riemer	Rich & Jackie Sherrieb
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Tony & Rose Green	Family
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Robert Tomaszewski Jr. & Paul Valliere	Family

ST. CLARE WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, December 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Joe Stephenson	Stephenson Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Jane Angert	Susan Parker
Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Sharon Lewis	Kathy & Gary Jodzis
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	John & Kate McNallen	Fred & Martha Callihan
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	Stephen Birckbichler	Family
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Doris Stephenson	
Monday, December 9 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Pearl Ritzert	Don & Lois Noullet
	10:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Michelle Peduto	St. Wendelin School
	12:00 PM	Mater Dolorosa	John & Pat Riley	Don Hershberger Family
	7:00 PM	St. Joseph	James L. Kusner	Randy & Virginia Neff
Tuesday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto	8:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Debbie Kepple	J.R. & Peggy Green
Wednesday, December 11 St. Damasus I, Pope	10:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Ellie Williams	Bob & Joyce Geibel
	6:00 PM	Mater Dolorosa	Irma L. Potchak	Donna Lynch
Thursday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	8:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Yvonne Orloski	Rita Musthaf Family
Friday, December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	12:00 PM	St. Joseph	James L. "Jimmie" Graham	Dick & Shirley Graham
Saturday, December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Tom Dunn	Judy & Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Gertrude Flick	James & Brenda Robinson
Sunday, December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Karen Bohin	Mr. & Mrs. Vince Kriley
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	Tracy Weiland	Norma Geibel
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Rita Geibel Musthaf	Bev Wesley



MESSAGE FROM FR. MATT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My family has been going to Bethany Beach, Delaware for as long as I can remember. It is kind of a long trip, depending on traffic and how many times you stop. One of my favorite moments on the trip is when we would get to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. If you have never been on that bridge, it is pretty amazing. It is 4.3 miles long. When I was a kid, it amazed me. We'd roll down the windows and smell the salty air. As I have gotten older, it sometimes freaks me out but once I get to the last quarter of it, I get excited. I have crossed it nearly every summer for 50 years! Man, I am getting old! The thing is, even though I have made the same trip for so many years, the Bay Bridge always tricks me. You see the water and the boats and you think; I'm almost there! But you're not. Not even close. There is still nearly 2 hours of driving through the farms of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware to go. It is a winding part of the trip. For sure, there have been some road improvements but it is mostly still maddeningly tedious. I remember, as a little kid, wondering why we had to drive on these two-lane roads in long lines of cars. Why couldn't they just put a road right from the bridge to the beach? Like a big highway? That part of the trip could be less than an hour if there was a direct route. I wasn't thinking of the destruction of people's farms or houses that would come with building a direct route, I just wanted it to be quicker and more direct.

In the First Reading for this Second Sunday of Advent, the Prophet Baruch tells Israel that God will build them a highway through the wilderness so that they may return home from their exile in Babylon. The Word Among Us magazine has a really nice reflection on this. The road from Babylon to Israel was a lot like the road from the Bay Bridge to the beach, only much longer and more treacherous, but it was the only road. God isn't going to settle for that. He wants His people to be home and so, Baruch tells us, God will command the mountains to be flat and the valleys to be filled up so that there is a straight and level road back to the Promised Land! Pretty amazing. God even says that He will walk home with Israel, leading them with Joy.

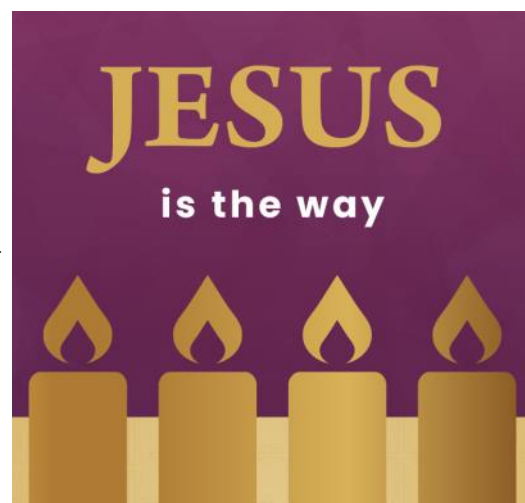
What that prophecy promised was fulfilled to some degree when Israel returned to the Promised Land. Centuries later, Jesus was born, a member of the people Israel, in the same Promised Land to which His ancestors returned. However just as it was last week, in Advent we always have to remember the two promises. One fulfilled and one yet to be fulfilled. The Gospel and the Second Reading show us the prophecy yet to be fulfilled.

We meet John the Baptist in the Gospel for today. John, like Baruch, is a Prophet, but he is different. John is called the greatest prophet, because John introduced to the world, the Word Made flesh, the very Son of God, Jesus. John recalls the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who sounds a lot like Baruch, who tells us that the valleys will be filled and the mountains will be made low. This time, however, God's people will be led to something bigger than the Promised Land, they, we will be led to eternal life in Heaven. St. Paul, in the Second Reading, just as he did last week, offers a beautiful prayer that speaks of the promise yet to be fulfilled; that in the end we will stand before Jesus and where we spend our eternal life will be revealed. St. Paul prays that our love may increase and that we will know what is of value so that we may be pure and blameless on the day that we stand before Christ. He then says something interesting; this will come to us through Jesus.

Jesus then, as He says in John's Gospel, is the Way! He is the highway directly from the Bay Bridge to the beach! So often when we hear this Gospel passage, we focus on all of the work that we need to do to straighten our paths. Maybe we are missing something. Sometimes I think that at least in my case, I focus so much on myself and my brokenness that I keep myself on the single lane, meandering roads like those that wind through the farms of Delaware, when all the while, God has given us a highway, a direct path to the fulfillment of the second promise. It is a person. It is Jesus.

This week, let's focus on turning to Jesus. Focus less on yourself and more on Him. Give your brokenness to Him. Give Him your faults, your weakness, your grudges. He knows the way to peace and joy and eternal life, because He is the way!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt





REMEMBER *in your prayers*

Lou Heasley
David Russell
Aaron Brown
Les Bauer
Joe Beilstein
Rod Meely
Eliza O'Donnell
Finley Skiff
Shelly Double-Barnhart
Tracy Anderson
Robert Kriess
Marie
Gary Black
Tom Green
Ian McElroy
Ann Annarella
Robert Clouse
Tony
Abby Koenig
Jerry Ruediger
Dick Curry
Killian Eakman
George Kepple
Regis Fallecker Jr.
Shawn Nolan
Sheri Payne
Diane Krapf
Danny Krapf
Nancy
Hayes Markle
Thomas Wetzel Sr.
CJ
Bus & Joanie Neigh
Lisa Cammisa
Katie
Robert Riemer
Jane Schafer
Marcus dosSantos
Kathy Steighner
Bobbi Adley
Mindy Floro
Angie O'Mahoney
Jim Lorenz
Donna Green
Chrissie Wilcox
Linda Heagy
Ed Moore
Joe Moser
Jeannie White
Helen Marie Hartle
Shirley McCoy

Donna M.
Rose Stumpf
Lucy Duffy
Jessie Black
Laura & Family
Patricia Ryan
Leonard Dombroski
Bernadette Conerty
Mason Martin
Jim Bowser
Larry Karenbauer
Wayne Watson
Dave Maley
Jennifer Perkins
Paul Erkens
Rodger Davis
Erik Fry
Corrine Schnur
Lynn Toward
Michael Black
Peg Moser
Nicholas Kerr
Regis Convery
Emilia Schaffner
Betty Neff
Marilyn DiGiacomo
Marek Wabazewski
Mary Lou Beilstein
Aria Joy Olson
Pearl Kocher
Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM, Cap
Eric Werner
Robert Adams Jr.
Paul Flick
Shawn Phillips
Pud Craig
John Williams
Karol Halin
Stephanie Sellers
Cheryl Brown
Christine Cessna
Carol Hall
Wayne Pennington
Dick Preston
Sue Ellen Carr
Ada Skelly
Madeline McCloskey
Joseph McCloskey
Fr. Rick Thompson
Steven Shultz
Lena Jane Steiner
Sharon Golobish
Madalyn Rose Geibel
Jim Bergbigler
Virginia Briski
Carter T. Williams



Weekly Readings

**FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 8, 2024**

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Pray for Our Military, Especially . . .

Daniel Sheehan
Amanda Skidmore
Landon Hines
Jeremy (J.J.) Dawson



Jacob Medley
Matthew
McCandless
Russell Bauer
Jimmy Adley
Jon Clark

Evan French
Simon Geibel
Brian Kusner
Hayden Iman
Jonah Bartholic

To add or remove intentions from the combined prayer list, or the Military list, please contact either parish office.

The Christian Mothers & Women of St. Francis Parish will be selling pre packaged one dozen assorted cookies after all Masses at each church in St. Francis Parish this weekend for \$8/dozen!



This fundraiser helps the Christian Mothers & Women provide a variety of services for our parish and the community. Thank you for your support! May God bless you and yours in this Christmas season!



Today is the St. Clare Christian Mothers and Women Christmas party at DePaul Hall, St. Joseph N.O. Social hour begins at 11:30am. Meal will be served at 12:30pm.

The next monthly St. Francis **Marian Guild meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, December 11th** at 6:30 pm in the St. John hall. All women are welcome to attend.



The next **St. Clare Senior Pot Luck Lunch** is **Wednesday, December 11th**, at DePaul Hall (St. Joseph N.O.) from 12-2 pm. Please join us for food, friends, and fellowship! All are welcome!



A reminder to anyone who selected a tag from the **Giving Angel Tree**, please return wrapped (unwrapped if specified on the tag) gifts to the **tree at St. Wendelin or the St. Clare Parish office no later than Monday, December 9th**. Thanks for your generosity as always!

St Clare Parish has Giving Trees in the entrance of Mater Dolorosa and St. Joseph, North Oakland Churches. Pa-

rishioners are welcome to take a tag and purchase gifts for a resident of Quality Life, Chicora. Please take a tag off the tree and fill in your name by the corresponding number on the sheet. Return all wrapped gifts with the tag attached to the outside of the gift to the office **by Friday December 20th** at noon. Gifts may also be left in the vestibule of the churches. Thank you again for supporting the residents of Quality Life, Chicora Medical.



Just a reminder, if you took a tag from one of the Angel Trees at St. Francis Parish, wrapped gifts are due back to the **churches today or the office no later than Monday. Please attach the original tag to the gifts (to identify the recipient of your wrapped gifts)**. If you have any questions or issues returning your gift, please contact Allison in the office at extension 212. Thank you for your generosity!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

SAINT FRANCIS PARISH

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9th

8:00 am at Saint John

4:00 pm at Saint Mary

7:00 pm at Saint Joseph

Saturday Confessions During Advent

11 am - 12 pm at Saint Mary

12 - 12:30 pm at Saint John

12- 1 pm at Saint Joseph

LAST CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st



Wednesday, December 11th

Saint Mary 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saint Joseph 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Solemnity of Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord

December 24 - 4:00 pm at Saint Joseph (Cabot)

December 24 - 7:00 pm at Saint John

December 24 - 8:00 pm at Saint Mary

December 24 - 10:00 pm at Saint Joseph

December 25 - 8:00 am at Saint Joseph

December 25 - 10:00 am at Saint Mary

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

December 31 - 4:00 pm at Saint Mary

January 1 - 9:00 am at Saint Joseph

SAINT CLARE PARISH

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9th

7:00 am at Saint Wendelin

10:00 am at Saint Wendelin (School Mass)

12:00 pm at Mater Dolorosa

7:00 pm at Saint Joseph N.O.

Saturday Confessions During Advent

11 am - 11:30 am at Mater Dolorosa

11 - 11:30 am at Saint. Wendelin

11:45 am - 12:15 pm at Saint. Joseph N.O.

LAST CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st



Wednesday, December 11th

Mater Dolorosa 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Solemnity of Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord

December 24 - 4:00 pm at Saint Wendelin

December 24 - 4:30 pm at Mater Dolorosa

December 24 - 7:00 pm at Saint Joseph N.O.

December 24 - Midnight at Saint Wendelin

December 25 - 9:00 am at Mater Dolorosa

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

December 31 - 4:00 pm at Saint Mary

January 1 - 9:00 am at Saint Joseph

Parish Giving

ST. FRANCIS PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTIONS –NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Offertory - Mass	\$9,799.00
Offertory - Online	\$2,166.05
Total Offertory	\$11,965.05

PARISH APPEAL

Weekly Parish Appeal	\$1,795.00
2024 Parish Appeal to Date ...	\$124,086.77
2024 Parish Appeal Goal.....	\$118,154.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Utility/Energy Fund.....	\$21.10
All Saints Day	\$35.00
Retired Religious Fund.....	\$3,638.75
Thanksgiving.....	\$10.00
Immaculate Conception	\$10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$230.00
Christmas Offering	\$30.00
Ash Wednesday	\$5.00
Easter Offering	\$30.00
Easter Flowers	\$20.00
Feast of the Assumption.....	\$10.00
Feast of the Ascension	\$10.00

ST. CLARE PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTIONS –NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Offertory - Mass	\$6,007.00
Offertory - Online	\$982.00
Total Offertory	\$6,989.00

PARISH APPEAL

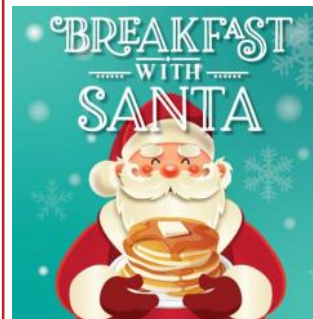
Weekly Parish Appeal	\$1,330.00
2024 Parish Appeal to Date ...	\$47,074.40
2024 Parish Appeal Goal.....	\$64,547.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Maintenance Fund	\$605.00
School Support.....	\$45.00
All Saints Day	\$12.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$27.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$2,673.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$20.00
Christmas Offering	\$20.00
Mass at National Shrine	\$20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$20.00

Collection totals for December 1, 2024 will be published in next weekend's bulletin due to early submission dates.

Thank you for your continued support of Ministries at Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes!



St. Francis Knights of Columbus are hosting breakfast with Santa! **Sunday, December 15th, St. Joseph Church Hall (Cabot), 8 AM – 1 PM**
Menu will include a variety of pancakes, sliced ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, tea, and coffee! Come enjoy breakfast and visit Santa!

The **St. Francis Bereavement group** invites all parishioners to add an ornament/picture to the **Christmas Memory Tree at St Joseph in Cabot**. Parishioners can make ornaments for loved ones, or the group can make one for you, make as many as you like. This tree is dedicated to those who have gone to their eternal rest over the years. Ornaments may be placed in the designated basket in the entrance of St. Joseph Church, the group will place them on the tree. The Memory Tree will be displayed for Christmas near the baptismal font. Please contact Teresa Sintz by calling the office if you have any questions or need help with an ornament.



The **St. Francis Marian Guild** is collecting non-perishable food, hygiene and paper products for Christmas baskets to be given to families in need in our community. Drop off bins are in the back of each St. Francis church. There is no Amazon wish list this year however some especially appreciated items include canned yams, applesauce, boxes of cereal, peanut butter, and paper towels. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Checks may be made payable to the Marian Guild. Donations are requested **by December 8th**. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



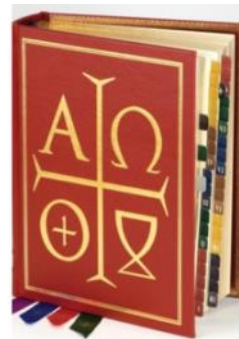
St. Clare Parish will be **decorating for Christmas** on **December 22nd** after the last Mass at each Church. Please stay and help, if you are able.



Decorating at St. John will take place following the **8:30 am Mass** on **December 22nd**, anyone who can lend a hand, **please come!**

A group of St. Clare parishioners, who have attended Mater Dolorosa all of their lives, decided to honor Fr. Lou in his retirement by purchasing some new liturgical items for Mater Dolorosa. Pictured (right) are some of the items purchased and below is a note of thanks from Fr. Lou.

To the people of Sts. Clare and Francis who attend Mass in Chicora. It was good being back with you for Sunday Mass in mid November. I am honored by the wonderful liturgical items donated to Mater Dolorosa in my name after my retirement. Thank you for the donations and also for the effort to identify things both needed and beautiful. The Easter banners, white cope, red chasuble, and Missal all look great. I hope each will enhance your Masses and other prayers. Pray for us sinners and I'll continue to pray for you. God bless, Fr. Lou



A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare of Assisi Parishes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 @ 2 PM

St. Wendelin Catholic Church

210 St. Wendelin Rd., Butler, PA 16002

Refreshments Following

First-time fundraiser to benefit the charitable deeds of the St. Clare Christian Mothers!

A Pie a Month for a Year! 12 pies total, delivered on the day of your choosing, any flavor and number of pies can be ordered at anytime and will be delivered! Chances are \$1 each and available from any Christian Mother and will be available in the entrance of each St. Clare church and can be placed in the envelope provided or placed in the collection basket. The winner will be chosen at the social following the Combined Parish Christmas concert on **Sunday, December 15th**. Pies are freshly baked daily at The Korner Restaurant in Rimersburg. **Pie Flavor Choices Include:** Coconut meringue, Lemon meringue, Chocolate meringue, Peanut butter, Graham cracker, Apple, Cherry, Peach, and Blueberry.



Wreaths Across America Day Saturday December 14th

Following a short dedication ceremony, wreaths will be distributed on **Saturday, December 14th at 11am at St. Wendelin Cemetery.** Thank you for your support!



The **Marian Guild** of St. Francis Parish will be hosting a **Poinsettia Sale** on **Sunday, December 22nd** at the **St. John Hall** at **9:30 am** (following the 8:30 am Mass at St. John).





Children's Faith Formation

St. Francis Parish

December 8: Elementary

Nativity Play- 2PM St. Joseph Church
Middle School

December 15: Elementary

Youth Mass with Elementary Students
at 11AM St. Joseph Church
Middle School

December 22: OFF

December 29: OFF 

St. Clare Parish

December 8: Elementary

Middle School Spaghetti with Seniors
Report 3:15PM at Mater Dolorosa

December 15: Elementary

-Grades K-2 -Regular class time
-Grades 3-8 -Reconciliation following 10:30AM
Mass at St. Wendelin (No regular class)
Middle School

December 22: OFF

December 29: OFF 

St. Clare Children's Faith Formation Student of the Week is:

Christian Neff!

Christian is in the 8th grade class this year. He likes his family. Christian enjoys riding dirt bikes and spending time with his cousin. When he is older, he would like to be a mechanic.

Congratulations to this week's St. Clare Children's Faith Formation Student of the Week,

Christian Neff!



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Children's Nativity Play



2pm Dec 8, 2024
Everyone is welcome!

St. Joseph Church
Cabot, PA

Refreshments
following



Early Bulletin Submission Dates
Please submit any information for the bulletin by 5pm on the date listed. Thanks!

Publication Date

December 22nd
December 29th
January 5th

Information Due By

December 11th
December 19th
December 26th



St. Clare Parish (volunteers from St. Wendelin) hosts the Community Dinner at St. Paul Church in Butler, on Tuesday, December 17th. Volunteers are needed to **pack and distribute the carry out meals from 3-6:30pm.** No dessert donations are needed this month. If you are interested in volunteering, **call the St. Clare office and leave your name by Friday, December 13th.** Community dinners are a Corporal Work of Mercy shared among Catholic churches and their ministries that have proximity to downtown Butler.

A **list with names and addresses** of former clergy and religious from **both St. Francis & St. Clare**, as well as names and addresses of members of our parish family serving in the military, and parishioners who are homebound, is available in the entrance of each church. Please feel free to pick one up if you would like to send a Christmas card or greetings to any of them. Copies of the list will also be available in the parish offices, call either office if you have any questions or need a copy.



Giddy Up & Save The Date! A Nite at the Races—Saturday, March 1, 2025

Tickets go on sale the weekend of January 18/19 after all Masses at St. Joseph in Cabot. Ticket price is \$20 and includes beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks and a light buffet. More details to follow.



St. Francis of Assisi &
St. Clare of Assisi Parishes

EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Sundays in Advent
5 PM
St. Mary of the Assumption Church
Herman, PA



Come Spend a half
hour with the Lord!

Oh come
let us
Adore **HIM**

ADVENT

Music & Meditation
1 Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, December 10
7 pm to 8 pm
St. Wendelin Church



Volunteer(s) are needed to help water and maintain the **poinsettias** at **St. Wendelin Church** this Christmas season. If you could lend a hand, please call the St. Clare office! Thank you.



Pick up a **St. Clare Parish 2025 Lottery Calendar** now! Calendars are a \$20 donation and available in each St. Clare church entrance and at the parish office.

Stocking Stuffers

Completed stub and payment can be dropped in the collection or at the St. Clare office.



For Your Advent



As the calendar year is coming to a close, our liturgical year is just beginning. To help us develop or strengthen our habit of daily prayer, **please pick up the Little Blue Book** filled with reflections on the first part of Matthew's Gospel and a variety of thoughts about the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Eucharist, the feast of the day, and various traditions and customs. If you prefer daily email reflections, you may sign up with Word on Fire at <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel> or Dynamic Catholic at <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>.

Advent on FORMED

If you need to sign up on FORMED, go to <https://formed.org/signup> and enter 16025. Select **St. Clare & St. Francis Parishes**. Enter your name and email address. That's it!



Deepen your roots in Christ this Advent.

Embark on a powerful journey with *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree*. In just 7 minutes a day, explore Scripture, uncover the stories of Christ's ancestors, and experience meaningful Advent reflections that connect faith to your daily life.

Plus! Bring this rich Catholic tradition into your home with FREE Jesse Tree ornament coloring sheets.

Available only on FORMED.org

SCAN QR CODE



SANTA BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

8 AM to 12:30 PM

Saint Wendelin Church Hall



Breakfast with Santa is hosted by the Parent Teacher Guild and the proceeds benefit Saint Wendelin School. We love this event because it brings families together during the most wonderful time of the year. Come support our school and have a magical time!

Breakfast Includes:

Pancakes, Sausage, Bread and Muffin Bar, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, and Orange Juice

Adults: \$8.00

Children: \$5.00 (Age 12 and under)



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- 50/50
- RAFFLE BASKETS
- PICTURES WITH SANTA
- CRAFT STATION
- GET YOUR REINDEER FEED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Catholic Identity Program Family Link

This Week's Virtue: JOY

Joy is the pure gift of God's grace and happiness. It is beyond human seeking or what we can imagine for ourselves.

Joy

The **St. Wendelin School PTG** will be selling **hoagies** following **each Mass at St. Clare Parish next weekend, December 14 & 15**. Hoagies are \$10 each.



St. Wendelin School November Monthly 50/50 Raffle Winners

Winner: Kevin R. - \$513

Winning Ticket Seller: Maisie R. - \$50

Sold over 25 books winner: Pete G. - \$100

Sold over 10 books winner: Brad Z. - \$50

There is no raffle in December, the next drawing will be in January 2025.

Thank you for supporting St. Wendelin School!

50/50
RAFFLE



St. Wendelin School ANNUAL MEAT RAFFLE

1st Prize: \$150 Gift Card to Thoma Meat Market

2nd Prize: 40lb case of Boneless/ Skinless Chicken Breast from Schnur's Country Market

3rd Prize: 40lb Case of Bone in Thigh from Schnur's Country Market

4th Prize: \$50 Gift Card to Sprinkle's Market

Donation \$5.00. Drawing on December 20th, following the Christmas concert

(Winner does not need to be present)

Tickets are available in the back of all St. Clare Parish churches. All tickets and money must be returned to the school (drop box or mail) or St. Clare office by **Friday, December 13th.**

Pick up a copy of the *Kids' Bulletin* for your children to enjoy!



December 13th

Please Join Us For A

HOLIDAY BINGO

The Elves left the North Pole for the night to play Bingo! They are gifting some fun extras throughout the night!

Our next BINGO will be on Friday, December 13th at the Saint Wendelin Church Hall.

Doors open at 6 PM, BINGO starts at 7 PM.

50/50 & Concessions

Cost will be \$20 for a triple-row packet, \$10 per single row packet, and \$5 per every additional single row packet.

**Benefits SWS Alumni



The ladies of the **Marian Guild** extend their **thanks to everyone** for the generous donations for the Thanksgiving food baskets. They were able to provide 26 families in the community with a generous amount of food and necessities!



DID YOU KNOW?

The "Collect"

The "Collect" is the official name for what is generally known as the Opening Prayer of the Mass.

This term suggests how we ought to approach the opening oration (sermon). The Prayer is preceded by the invitation of the priest: "Let us pray." This is not a time to be preoccupied by other distractions of opening a book, etc. This is a time, in silence, that the entire assembly is joined in prayer. The Collect gathers these silent prayers. Let the silence be an opportunity for each of us to say, "Lord, I offer myself to you, completely and entirely." After Communion let it be "O Lord, thank you for this great gift of yourself; unite me to yourself." This single effort could totally change our experience of the Mass.

"When he who is to 'collect' the prayer rises from the ground, they all stand up at once, [...] lest it should be thought that he has offered his own prayer independently instead of following the leader to the close." ~St. John Cassian

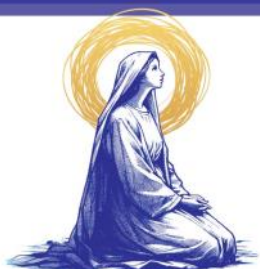


The
"Little
Turkeys"
from
St. Joseph
Preschool
pictured
with their
colorful
Thanks-
giving
turkeys!



HOPE AND HEALING ARE POSSIBLE! For those struggling with addiction or substance abuse, for their families and for those who have lost loved ones to the disease of addiction and overdose. We come together in prayer! **JOIN US FOR ROSARY & SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS—TUESDAYS: December 10th and 31st from 2- 3 pm & December 17th from 7-8pm at ABBA'S HOUSE, 320 W. MAIN ST., SAXONBURG.**

Fr. Matt and the 6-8 grade Faith Formation students wearing crowns they made to celebrate Christ the King!



The Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary