

## St. Joseph Catholic Church



109 Broadway, Milton, PA 17847

Rev. John D. Hoke

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### St. Joseph is a Tithing Parish

#### God's Plan for Giving

In return for the Lord's generosity,  
our people returned to God the following:

Sunday Collection: \$3,960.00

Our Faith, Our Future: \$645.00

MCA Spare Change Nov Deposit: \$302.50

#### Second Collections

December 3, 2023 – Our Faith, Our Future

December – Christmas Flowers

December 10, 2023 – Retired Religious

December 17, 2023 – Repair & Maintenance

December 25, 2023 – Christmas Offering

Our Sanctuary Candle burns this week  
for Frank Povish. May Frank rest in peace.

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>First Saturday</i>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Ken Laurence By Anne R. & Anne C.
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Robert Kirby by Sue & Larry Blase
<b>Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Violet Belcastro by her niece Amy Beaver
<b>11:00 AM</b>	People of the Parish <b>Mass will be at the Church.</b>
<b>Mon., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>St. John Damascene, Priest</i>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Vincenzo Viterbo by his daughter Giusi
<b>Tues., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>9:00 AM</b>	Shirley Horwedel by Marilyn Boiardi
<b>Wed., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Purina & Chic Chiccino by Anne
<b>Thur., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>St. Ambrose, Bishop &amp; Doctor</i> <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i> <i>First Day of Hanukkah</i>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Vigil Mass for Holy Day</b> <b>For Deceased Mothers</b>
<b>Fri., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Immaculate Conception of the</i> <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>For the Children of the Parish</b>
<b>Sat., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>St. Juan Diego</i>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	Special Intentions of Ruth & Jim Seksinsky
<b>Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Lola Benoit by Margaret Cochran
<b>11:00 AM</b>	People of the Parish

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - a Holy Day of Obligation.

There will be Vigil Mass at the church Thursday evening at 6:00 PM.

The Holy Day Mass will be at the church Friday at Noon.



## From Your Pastor,

Happy New Year, that is, happy liturgical new year. The Season of Advent will be short this year, we will have all four Sundays of Advent but less than four weeks, as the Fourth Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. No matter how much time we have, we need to spend some time waiting, longing, anticipating, with cold winter nights dreaming of sugar plums dancing in our head. It is time to slow down and wait. To know how, study a young pregnant woman, how is she thinking feeling and acting the last month before delivery?

We will not have our cookie sale for the feeding of children in Haiti, as there is no law enforcement. The food would be stolen from the missions and never reach the children. So please give extra donations to our fund for our Sister Parish. Later we will find ways to get support to Father Junior.

Please check the Deanery Reconciliation schedule, and the bulletin time for Confessions.

I am so proud of our little parish. We had a beautiful funeral service and luncheon for the Laurence Family and so many of their Milton friends.

By the time you get this bulletin the Milton Winter Festival, Breakfast with St. Nicholas will have come and gone. I pray all went well. Again, you made it happen by removing all our worship items, to make room for the children's breakfast. It is a lot of work, but work that reaches out to the community and to all the children in the area. Thank you.

Fr. John D. Hoke

### DEANERY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**  
St. Joseph's Church, Danville

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**  
St. Monica's Church, Sunbury

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**  
St. Pius X, Selinsgrove

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**  
St. Joseph, Milton

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lewisburg

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading

*Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*

Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

A prayer for the Lord's protection

### Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

### Gospel Reading

*Mark 13:33-37*

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

## 24-HOUR ADORATION



St. Joseph Church offers 24-hour Adoration each Monday beginning at 9:30 [following the morning Mass] and ending Tuesday morning at 8:55 [preceding the morning Mass]. If you can commit to a regular hour each week, please tell Father Hoke who is doing the scheduling.

If you have changed your particular hour as a regular "visitor" during the 24-hours of Adoration OR if you can't make it at your designated hour, please let Father Hoke know.



## CONFESSIONS

At the Church

Saturday from 3:15-3:45  
before the 4 o'clock Mass.

Sunday from 7:15-7:45  
before the 8 o'clock Mass.

Or by Appointment

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday 10:00-4:00

Wednesday 9:00-12:00

Office Phone: (570) 742-4356



## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Remember Those Who Are Sick:

Sharon Austin	Marie Luzenski
Pat Behan	Dallas Machamer
Dolores Caicco	Michael McHale
Leslie Cameron	Dave Moser
Helen Choplick	Jan Moser
Elaine Cook	Melinda Oliveri
Mike Enright	Mary Ruth Palmer
Giovanna Fanella	Eleanor Poponiak
Trey Gresh	Geri Pryer
Luann Hackenburg	Margaret Punako
Thomas Hackenburg	Melissa Rowse
Laverne Havash	Joan Rudloff
John Heimbach	Benita Kolen Solomon
Rita Klein	Eleanor Stopper
Abram Koons, Jr	Diane Sykes
Nicole Lamprinos	Mike Walter
Andria Laurence	Bill Woodling
Malysa Lenig	Vickie Youmans
Marie Lindner	Lincoln Yordy
Sue Lindner	Robert Zacker

Please contact the church office if you would like to have a name added to the prayer list.

*Happy Birthday This Week*

*Ruth Seksinsky*

*Jeanne Cavaliere*

*Marie Lindner*

*And twins Joan Rudloff &*

*Jan Batman*

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is offered every Sunday during the 11:00 Mass, when CCD is in session. Children's Liturgy is for school age children who **have not** received The Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Children must be mature enough to go to children's Lit without a parent or older sibling.



Please continue to drop  
your spare change in our MCA jars.

## DECEMBER HOLY DAYS MASS SCHEDULE

### *Immaculate Conception*

December 7, 6:00 PM Vigil Mass	Church
December 8, Noon Holy Day Mass	Church

### *Weekend before Christmas*

December 23, 4:00 PM Mass	Parish Center
December 24, 8:00 AM Mass	Parish Center
December 24, 11:00 AM Mass	Parish Center

### *Christmas*

December 24, 5:00 PM Mass	Church
December 24, 10:00 PM Carols	Church
December 24, 10:30 PM Mass	Church
December 25, 10:00 AM Mass	Church

### *New Year's Weekend*

December 30, 4:00 PM Mass	Church
December 31, 8:00 AM Mass	Church
December 31, 11:00 AM Mass	Parish Center
December 31, 5:00 PM Vigil Mass	Church
January 1, 10:00 AM Mass	Church

## RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

December 10, 2023



"Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will

provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

## FEBRUARY LOTTERY TICKETS

Please return all lottery ticket money and ticket stubs to Mary or Vince Emery by December 10<sup>th</sup>. They do not have any more tickets to distribute, and they need to know that the ones that are out will be sold.



## IMACULÉE CONCEPTION PARISH

Lalouere, Haiti  
Our Sister Parish

In 2014, Sacred Heart of Jesus Pastoral Council began to study the idea of “adopting” a needy Parish in a foreign country. After much deliberation, three committee members traveled to Lalouere, Haiti to establish ties with the Pastoral Council of Immaculate Conception Church.

In 2022, Father Hoke suggested that St. Joseph partner with Sacred Heart to support this Parish. During December 2022, we collected \$7,515.00 to send to the Immaculate Conception Church. We will be collecting again during the month of December. We have placed an envelope in this week’s bulletin. If you are using a check to contribute, please make a separate check written to St. Joseph Church, Memo: Sister Parish.

Father Junior, pastor in Haiti, started a school in 2013. He believes education will give these children



a way to improve their lives. The children wear clean and crisp uniforms which they are very proud to be able to wear to school.



He began with four grades, and he is hoping to extend it to 12 grades in the future. There was only one classroom, it was used by the kindergarten class, and the rest studied in the church. Workers are adding a second floor to the parish school which will feature four additional classrooms.

## Christmas in the Air



**Buffalo Valley Singers  
50<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert**

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30**

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 3:00**

**St. John’s United Church of Christ**

**1050 Buffalo Rd., Lewisburg, PA**

Singers from St. Joseph’s include  
Maddie Blamble, Tracie Leitzel,  
Kathy Piaskowski & Stan Salwocki

### PLEASE HELP!

Several of our Second Collection monies are not deposited to our General Account, and several Parishioners write one generous check for the month. So we must try to cash that check with the loose donations and deposit in the appropriate accounts. If you would like to make a monthly or even quarterly contribution – and list separate collections, could you make one check for the weekly & regular second collections and a second check for the special collections.

We will list reminders in the bulletin monthly of the monies that are not deposited to our General Account. Please continue to support the Parish, and help out the Sunday counters and the Office Staff.

During December the only Special Collection will be the one for our Sister Parish in Haiti.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We will be updating our email addresses and cell phone numbers this weekend at all Masses so we are prepared for announcements pertaining to change of venue for weekend Masses.**



**COAT DRIVE  
2023**



Knights of Columbus Coat Drive, a Faith in Action initiative that began in 2008, is one example of the Order's commitment of serving people.

The program reached a milestone of one million coats.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SERVE OUR COMMUNITY  
BY KEEPING THOSE IN NEED WARM.**



# ADVENT 2023

## *And the Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us*

The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him. In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by hemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. It is the concrete way, by means of his incarnation, that he loves us. It is the way in which he satisfies his own thirst for us that he had declared from the cross. (Jn 19:28)

Our first encounter with his paschal deed is the event that marks the life of all believers: our Baptism. This is not a mental adhesion to his thought or the agreeing to a code of

conduct imposed by Him. Rather, it is a being plunged into his passion, death, resurrection, and ascension, a being plunged into his paschal deed. It is not magic. Magic is the opposite of the logic of the sacraments because magic pretends to have a power over God, and for this reason it comes from the Tempter. In perfect continuity with the Incarnation, there is given to us, in virtue of the presence and action of the Spirit, the possibility of dying and rising in Christ.

Pope Francis (*Desiderio desideravi*, 10-12)



**Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who has truly suffered, and was sacrificed on the cross for mankind, whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood, Be for us a foretaste of heaven, during our final trial.**

### **The Angelus**

**V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

*Hail Mary . . .*

**V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.**

*Hail Mary . . .*

**V. And the Word was made Flesh.  
R. And dwelt among us.**

*Hail Mary . . .*

**V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Let us pray.**

**Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

*The Angelus is traditionally prayed by the Church three times a day at 6 a.m., Noon, and 6 p.m. as we pause to remember the Incarnation of God the Son in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The "Virgin of the Inexhaustible Chalice" icon written by Roberta K. Davis, parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Harrisburg.

# Praying with the Word of God: Advent

FIRST WEEK		SECOND WEEK		THIRD WEEK		FOURTH WEEK	
<i>Sunday</i>	Mk 13:33-37	<i>Sunday</i>	Phil 1:4-11	<i>Sunday</i>	Zep 3:14-18	<i>Sunday</i>	Mi 5:1-4
<i>Monday</i>	Is 2:1-5	<i>Monday</i>	Ps 85	<i>Monday</i>	Gn 49:2, 8-10		
<i>Tuesday</i>	Ps 72	<i>Tuesday</i>	Lk 1:26-38	<i>Tuesday</i>	Jer 23:5-8		
<i>Wednesday</i>	Is 25:6-10	<i>Wednesday</i>	Zec 2:14-17	<i>Wednesday</i>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25		
<i>Thursday</i>	Mt 7:21-27	<i>Thursday</i>	Ps 145	<i>Thursday</i>	Is 7:10-14		
<i>Friday</i>	Ps 27	<i>Friday</i>	Mt 11:16-19	<i>Friday</i>	Sg 2:8-14		
<i>Saturday</i>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	<i>Saturday</i>	Sir 48:1-11	<i>Saturday</i>	Lk 1:26-38		

## Daily Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As we make the Sign of the Cross,  
the leader says:*

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

**R/. Who made heaven and earth.**

*A song may be sung as the candle is  
lighted*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*Opening Prayer*

**Open our minds and our hearts, O Lord, to hear your word of promise! Send us the Holy Spirit to guide us through these holy days. Quiet our worries and anxieties and help us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ who is Lord for ever and ever. R/. Amen.**

*Scripture Reading (see Daily Readings above)*

*A reflection may be shared about the Reading*

*Concluding Prayer*

**Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**R/. Amen.**

*As we make the Sign of the Cross, we say:*

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us everlasting life.**

**R/. Amen.**

*Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.*

*Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.*

*Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.*

*Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me.*

*Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.*