

ST. JOSEPH'S -MOTHER CHURCH OF THE BERKSHIRES



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

414 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Tel: (413) 445-5789//Fax: (413) 443-5466
Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM
Website: www.stjoepittsfield.com

THE STAFF

Pastor - Msgr. Michael Shershanovich
e-mail: msgrmike@berkshire.rr.com
Priest in Residence - Rev. Geoffrey Decker, CSS
Most. Rev. Timothy McDonnell in Residence
Coordinator of Youth Religious Education
John Arasimowicz
e-mail: johnacd@gmail.com
Secretary - Michele Madden
e-mail: Michelemadden@berkshire.rr.com
Pastoral Minister-Mrs. Patricia Momnie

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

Superintendent - Garret Wood
Office Manager-Nancy Nolan-Tel: (413) 499-1317
Website: www.stjoecem.com
e-mail: stjoecem@verizon.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday-4:00 PM—Sunday-9:00 & 11:30 AM

Daily Mass-12:10 PM—Holiday Mass-9:00 AM

RCIA-Wed. 6:30 PM

Holy Hour —Monday - Friday 11:00 AM

Prayer Group —1st & 3rd Wed. 6:45 PM

Rosary —Monday - Friday 11:30 AM

PRAYER LINE 413-443-1221



December 1, 2019

ST. ANNE CHRISTMAS TEA

The St Anne Society will have its annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Parish Center. There will be delightful desserts, tea, and musical entertainment. Following the tea the members will attend the 4 p.m. Mass and proceed into the church with the entrance procession following their Banner of St. Anne. Any women who would like to attend are most welcome.

Members are reminded to attend the 11 am Holy Hour and Rosary on Wednesday, December 11th to pray for an increase in vocations to



the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministry. Any women interested are welcome to attend as guests.

ADVENT VESPERS

prayer for a season of hope

Sunday, Dec. 8th we will celebrate evening prayer | Vespers in the South Chapel of St. Joseph Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by a video program featuring Bishop Robert Barron "Catholicism, Pivotal Prayer" series. Everyone is invited to share this special time in preparation for the coming Christmas Feast.



We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church. This takes place every 6 weeks or so on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Please contact the rectory if you are interested.

CHURCH DECORATING

We need help! Please come join us in decorating the Church for Christmas.

This is a big task and we need everyone who can help. Sunday, December 22nd after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.



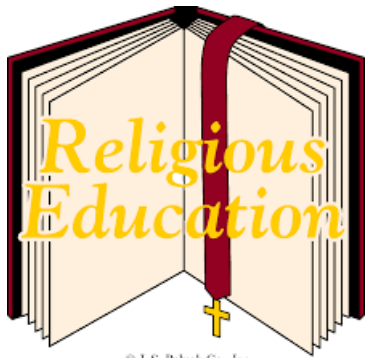
Anyone interested in singing with the Choir for Christmas Eve mass at 4 p.m. —meet in the choir loft for rehearsals on Thursday at 6 p.m.



TWELFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Twelfth Night Committee is happy to announce that the 59th Twelfth Night Festival will be held at St. Joseph Church on Saturday, January 11, 2020 with Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by a dinner reception and dancing in the Parish Center. This beautiful celebration of the coming of the Three Kings began at Mount Carmel Church and now continues for all people of the Central Berkshire Catholic Community. The Youth Ensemble of St. Ann Church will sing prelude music beginning at 3:40 p.m. as well as several selections during the liturgy. Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained at the St. Joseph Rectory beginning December 1 through January 8. Tickets for the dinner reception are limited, and special seating arrangements can be accommodated at the time of purchase.





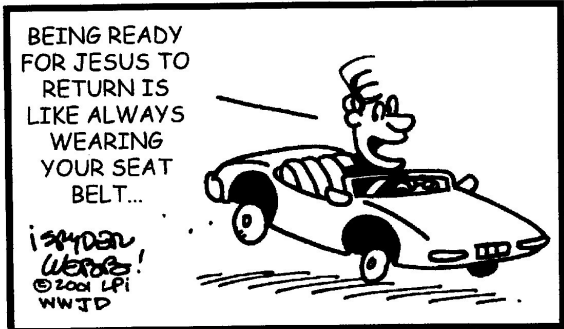
© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

December 1st– NO CLASS. Thanksgiving Break.

December 8th– Classes for K-9.

December 15th - Class for grades K-9. Grade 10 meet in Parish Center from 6:00-8:00pm

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Question: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord. We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

HOMELESS NEEDS IN PITTSFIELD

St. Joseph Parish is conducting a winter clothing drive to help the homeless in need in the Pittsfield area. We are requesting **NEW** items of – winter boots, clothing, socks, underwear, gloves, hats, hoodies, parkas, rain ponchos, winter coats, etc. Mostly for men and some women. Kindly

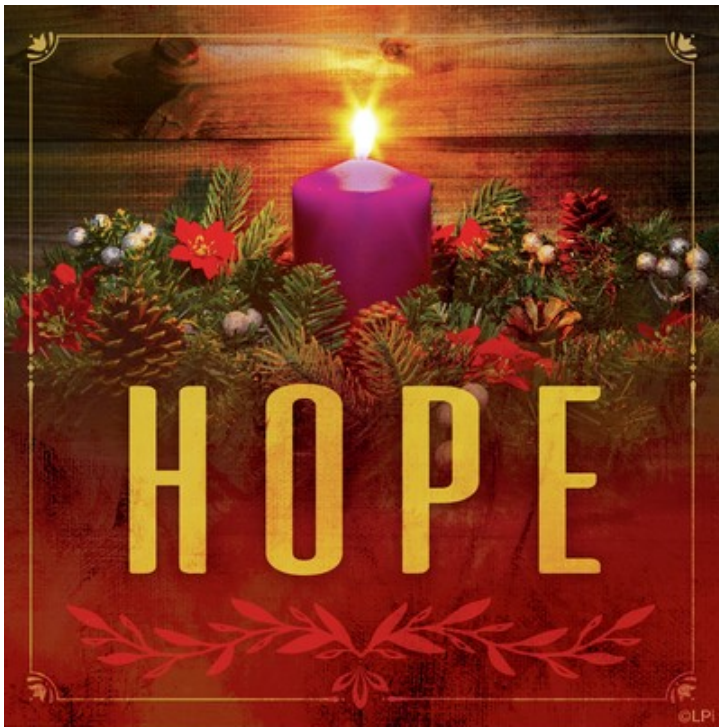
bring donations to St. Joseph Rectory from 9:30 to 2:30 Monday through Friday. We will deliver these donations to Berkshire County Sheriff Dept. for delivery to the homeless. May God bless you for helping your fellow human beings in need.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat., Nov. 30th 4.00 PM	Sun., Dec. 1st 9.00 AM	Sun., Dec. 1st 11.30 AM
Pat Momnie	Anne Hynes	Robin O'Brien
Juliette Ekouah	Pat Keegan	J. Weatherwax
Cheryl Furtak	Anne Kozlowski	Paul Mays
Marie Kotowicz	Betty Kirby	Mike McClusky
Ron Pelletier	Jack Laviolette	Sharon McClusky
Mary Sukiennik	MaryKay McClintock	
Sr. Jean Bostley	Nancy Nolan	

LECTORS

Juliette Ekouah	Bob Cancilla	Jeff Gerard
Sharyn Fresia	Donna Quallen	Glenna Gerard



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1, 2019

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep'?" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. "In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left." When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep. Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time. "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

MASCH REQUESTS



Saturday, November 30th Bernie Ropelewski Requested by Family	4:00 PM
Sunday, December 1st Rose Paduano Requested by Family	9:00 AM
The Abanulo Family-Celebration of 36th Wedding Anniversary	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Steven E. Combs, Jr Requested by Lil Quinn	
Monday, December 2nd Brian Curtin Requested by Sheila Koscher	12:10 PM
Tuesday, December 3rd Tom Renton-2nd Anniversary Requested by Family	12:10 PM
Wednesday, December 4th For the Parish	12:10 PM
Thursday, December 5th Keith Ramsdell- Anniversary Remembrance Requested by Family	12:10 PM
Friday, December 6th Gene Momnie Requested by Pat	12:10 PM
Saturday, December 7th Daniel Albano Requested by Family	4:00 PM
Sunday, December 8th Daniel Fancher Requested by Family	9:00 AM
Rob Brodeur Requested by Don Betit	11:30 AM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 1, 2019

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 1]/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt
8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk
10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/
Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a
[26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt
9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf.
7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12