



~TUES, DEC. 24TH  
MASS AT 4:00 PM  
AND MIDNIGHT~  
~WED, DEC. 25TH  
MASS AT 10 AM~

## 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](http://www.stjoepittsfield.com)

### THE STAFF

Pastor - Msgr. Michael Shershanovich  
e-mail: [msgrmike@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:msgrmike@berkshire.rr.com)

Priest in Residence - Rev. Geoffrey Deeker, CSS  
Most. Rev. Timothy McDonnell in Residence

Coordinator of Youth Religious Education  
John Arasimowicz  
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Secretary - Michele Madden  
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Pastoral Minister-Mrs. Patricia Momnie

## ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

Superintendent - Garret Wood  
Office Manager-Nancy Nolan-Tel: (413) 499-1317  
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December 15, 2019



invited to share this special time in preparation for the coming Christmas Feast.

Sunday, Dec. 15th 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

## Looking to plan a vacation in 2020? Join Msgr. Mike on a trip to AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND!

~ Sept. 27th to Oct. 6, 2020 ~ Sites include Vienna, Salzburg, Lucerne, Zurich and more. Price is \$2950 double occupancy. Additional \$495 for single room. Includes airfare, taxes, most meals. More information to follow.



### 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.

**FOOD PANTRY** – There will be **NO** food distribution at our pantry Christmas week. The pantry will resume on Tuesday, December 31.

### 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 3. Tickets for the dinner reception are limited, and special seating arrangements can be accommodated at the time of purchase.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Pageant at 9:00 AM Mass. In lieu of class, all students and their families are asked to attend. Christmas Party following in the parish center.

**December 29<sup>th</sup>**-- NO CLASS. CHRISTMAS VACATION. Please keep CHRIST in CHRISTMAS

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** – Classes resume.

## 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.



**Question:** Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

**Answer:** Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable. Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness. In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.



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.



## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat., Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM	Sun., Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM	Sun., Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM
Joe Tournier	Anne Hynes	Robin O'Brien
Kay Tournier	Pat Keegan	J. Weatherwax
Sr. Jean Bostley	Joe Ryan	Paul Mays
Sheila Bouquet	Betty Kirby	Anne Dunham
Joe Bourquard	Jack Laviolette	Charles Knappe
Michael Collins	MaryKay McClintock	
	Nancy Nolan	

## LECTORS

Tom Daly	Anne Kozlowski	Jeff Gerard
Juliette Ekouah	Sharon Vincent	Glenna Gerard





### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 15, 2019

Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. "What did you go out to the desert to see?" There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?" It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. "Go and tell John what you hear and see."

God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin "regain their sight." People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God?



<b>Saturday, December 14th</b> Mary Dickinson & John Buda Requested by Family	4:00 PM
<b>Sunday, December 15th</b> Patrick Mele Requested by Family	9:00 AM
For the Parish	11:30 AM
<b>Monday, December 16th</b> Raymond Delphia Requested by Connie & Joel	12:10 PM
<b>Tuesday, December 17th</b> DeAngelis & Gagnon Families & Jackie Scott~ Requested by Family	12:10 PM
<b>Wednesday, December 18th</b> For the Parish	12:10 PM
<b>Thursday, December 19th</b> For the Parish	12:10 PM
<b>Friday, December 20th</b> Joyce Armstrong Requested by Son, Jim	12:10 PM
<b>Saturday, December 21st</b> Leo & Mary McMullan Requested by Family	4:00 PM
<b>Sunday, December 22nd</b> Cecilia Mastalerz Requested by Family	9:00 AM
Nancy Weber~2nd Anniversary Requested by Family	11:30 AM



#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 15, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17  
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25  
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25  
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

