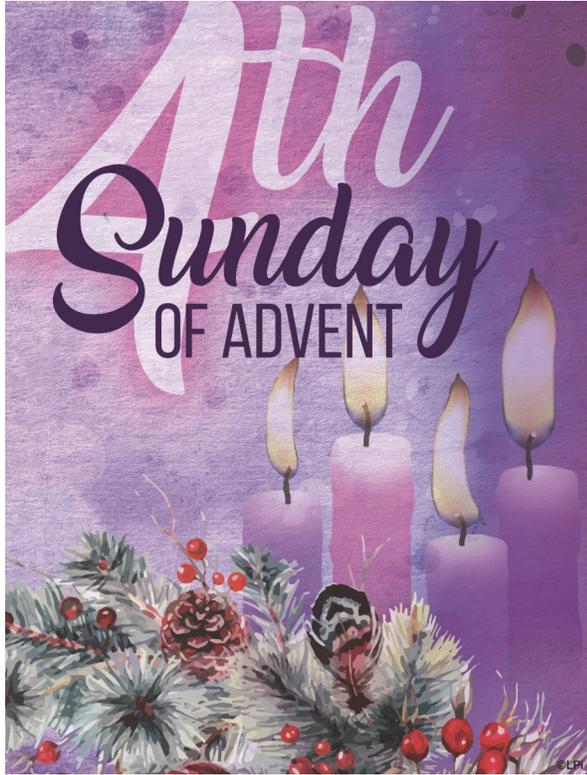




ASSUMPTION

 of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

 To Know Jesus, to Love Jesus, to Serve Jesus



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Church and Parish Office:

300 State Road • West Grove, PA 19390
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-12 pm, 1-4 pm
 Email: abvm@comcast.net
 Web: assumptionbvmwestgrove.org
 Facebook: *ABVM Parish Community, West Grove, PA*
 Twitter: *@ABVM_WestGrove*

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 4:30 pm
 Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm Masses

Daily Mass Schedule

6:30 am - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
 8:15 am - Tuesday, Friday

Eucharistic Adoration

After morning Mass, Monday through Friday, until 7 pm
 ABVM Adoration Chapel
 No Adoration on public holidays or snow days.

PastorReverend Scott D. Brockson
padrescott96@aol.com

In ResidenceRev. Msgr. Frank Depman

DeaconsDeacon Thomas Hannan
Deacon Ronald Lewis

Business ManagerMary Rose Edmonds

Parish Office StaffDonna Brumbaugh
Ann Caruso

Parish Office (Ph) 610-869-2722, (fax) 610-869-3252

Director of Liturgy & Music Michael Xavier Lundy
abvmwestgrovemusic@gmail.com

School PrincipalDanielle White
principal@abvmschoolwg.us

School Office (Ph) 610-869-9576, (fax) 610-869-4049

Director of Religious Education (DRE)
Janine Kramer
abvmfaithformation@gmail.com

Religious Education Office(Ph) 610-869-8575

Facilities Requestabvmfacilities@gmail.com

Sacraments and Devotions

Baptism: Sundays at 1:15 pm in Church (bimonthly)

Matrimony: Engaged couples are asked to meet with the parish priest at least six months prior to the wedding and enroll in a marriage-prep program.

Reconciliation: (Church) Saturdays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm

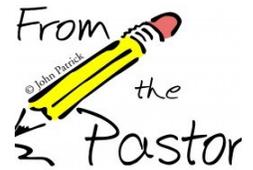
Rosary: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Patriotic Rosary: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm

Flame of Love Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet:
Thursdays, 6:00 pm -7:00 pm

Bulletin: Submit articles by 8:00 am on Thursday for publication the following week. Submit to the Parish Office or email DonnaABVM@comcast.net.

Hearing Assist Devices are available for use at Mass. Please see an usher for details.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



Many of us who are older are blessed to remember many beloved Christmas traditions in our families. In my house one of them was gathering at the top of the stairs on Christmas morning and waiting for my father to declare that it was alright for us to come down. The anticipation! There were four piles of gifts, one for each of the children, arranged in the living room around the train platform and Christmas tree.

My maternal grandparents would always come on Christmas Eve to stay overnight at our house. They would take me to dinner at the Norwood Diner, which for me was a big deal since my family rarely ate out. Invariably I ordered steak! This time out of the house allowed my parents to finish the Christmas preparations without me nosing around, since I was the youngest and could still be persuaded that the gifts were from Santa Claus.

There were other traditions I loved, especially the Christmas dinner at my grandparents' house, sometimes on the Sunday after Christmas, which was just like a Thanksgiving meal, which I loved. We ate after opening the piles of presents that Santa had left at their house for us, also. He didn't mind that we opened them a week late, and neither did we. But maybe Santa thought – in a nonjudgmental and kind way – that my siblings and I were a bit spoiled!

Christmas in the Brockson family was about gifts, food, and family. Unfortunately, little was said about the Christ Child, except that we would have a small manger scene set up underneath the Christmas tree. We never went to church. I used to wonder what Santa Claus and the Christ Child had to do with one another. When I would hear commercials on television and radio around Christmas for charity causes, I used to wonder why Santa Claus didn't provide for these causes himself.

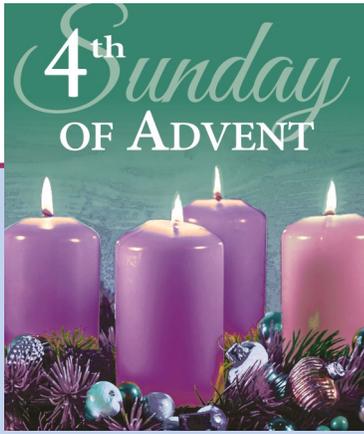
I am grateful for the Christmases my family celebrated as I was growing up, but I regret that they had almost nothing to do with the Holy Family. When I learned the truth about Santa Claus it was very traumatic for me, and I questioned what all the celebration was about. It seemed senseless. Eventually I came around to appreciate the sense of mystery and magic which the Santa legend had created, but it took a while for me to get over the fact that I had been misled.

If Christmas is merely a human event we might as well observe it like we do Presidents Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day. But no holiday is more widely celebrated in our nation than Christmas. I do not believe that its popularity has everything to do with its commercialization. Even among the unchurched, I believe that people still sense a significant difference about Christmas. It represents something transcendent. It expresses the human longing for peace, for goodwill among men, and the virtue of giving, especially to the poor.

Christmas represents so many good things because the original reason for the holiday was the birth of goodness and hope in the world. The West has been celebrating Christmas since the fourth century, and up until the present times it was overwhelmingly a religious holiday. Most people knew that God became man in the womb of a Virgin for the sake of saving human beings from their sins. This was always thought to be the good news worth celebrating.

Brothers and sisters, I pray that you enjoy your family traditions, and hope that all of them have the Holy Family of Bethlehem as their foundation. Children will remember their holiday traditions with affection, as I do. How much more will they be grateful when they grow up and understand how their celebration of Christmas rooted them in their Catholic faith. I am grateful to my parents and grandparents for making Christmas so special for me and my siblings. But today, my first thanksgiving goes to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to St. Joseph. Without them, Christmas would not exist, and there would be nothing to celebrate. May all our Christmas joy be founded on this saving truth!

- Father Scott



DECEMBER 18, 2022

Readings in Missal
Page 42

FIRST READING:
Isaiah 7:10-14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:14)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
Psalm 24:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

SECOND READING:
Romans 1:1-7

The gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power. (Rom 1:3-4)

GOSPEL:
Matthew 1:18-24

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. (Mt 1:20)

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon.....(Refrain) *Let the earth bring forth a Savior.*

Responsorial Psalm..... Psalm 24
Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation*Alleluia*

Offertory HymnThe Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came | #52
(10 am Mass) Hail Mary, Gentle Woman | #706

Communion Antiphon(refrain) *Behold, the Lord our God is with us.*

Recessional Hymn.....Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates | #69
(10 am Mass) Soon and Very Soon | #582

Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the
wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly
pray; and do thou, O Prince of the
Heavenly Host, by the Power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil
spirits who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 17, 2022

4:30 pm Mass - Joseph Bruecks, req. by Mike and Ella Havrilak Family

Deacon: No Deacon, EM: J. Fredericksdorf, R. Schill, 2 ministers needed

Readers: 1 reader needed, T. Harrison

Servers: H. Thornton, 2 servers needed

Sacristan: F. Buoni Music: R. Thomas, M. Lundy

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8 am Mass - Fred Atkinson, req. by The Atkinson Family

Deacon: No Deacon, EM: M. Bruecks, D. Lauletta, B. Michalski, M. Petrarca

Readers: V. Yakscoe, J. Calnan

Servers: A., L. & R. Hamilton

Sacristan: K. Kelleher Music: N. Boysen, M. Lundy

10 am Mass - Gabe and Gabey Bolla, req. by The Family

Deacon: No Deacon, EM: L. Goldstein, L. Lanciano, D. Shannon, M. Wharton

Readers: H. Leinhauser, N. Coyne

Servers: E. & N. Goldstein, 1 server needed

Sacristan: C. Foy Music: Anthem

12 pm Mass - Clevio "Monk" Angelo, req. by Jackie Battinieri

Deacon: No Deacon, EM: A. Barr, E. Barron, P. Crowley, 1 minister needed

Readers: S. Liberatore, J. Colgan

Servers: J. Calabretta, E. Stemerma, 1 server needed

Sacristan: J. Lyons Music: C. Clancy, M. Lundy

Monday, December 19, 2022, 6:30 am Mass

People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 8:15 am Mass

Patrick Barnes, req. by The Family

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 6:30 am Mass

The Kane Family, req. by Paul and TF Caruso

Thursday, December 22, 2022, 6:30 am Mass

Betty Shannon, req. by Dennis Shannon

Friday, December 23, 2022, 8:15 am Mass

Philip Budzynski, req. by Paul and Sue Zuk

Saturday, December 24, 2022, CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Mass - Christmas Remembrance

Presider: Father Beretta

Deacon: Deacon Lewis, EM: J. Fredericksdorf, M. Wharton

Readers: M. Losito, H. Leinhauser

Servers: A. & W. Gorman, J. Stumpf, H. Thornton

Sacristan: S. Gemp Music: Anthem

8:00 pm Mass - Christmas Remembrance

Presider: Father Brockson

Deacon: No Deacon, EM: A. Barr, E. Barron, J. Chapman, R. Schill

Readers: M.A. Schill, K. Hamill-Clark

Servers: C. Chapman, A., L. & R. Hamilton

Sacristan: J. Lyons Music: Parish Choir, M. Lundy

Sunday, December 25, 2022, CHRISTMAS

10 am Mass - Christmas Remembrance

Presider: Father Brockson

Deacon: Deacon Lewis, EM: L. Lanciano, B. Michalski, D. Shannon

Readers: J. Colgan, S. Liberatore

Servers: 4 servers needed

Sacristan: F. Buoni Music: G. Kull, M. Lundy

PRAYER REQUESTS



Yvonne Beaudet, Bruce G., Fabiola Matilonis, William D'Ambrosia, Joseph Neuman, Kilgallen Family, Richard Dodson, Beth Bierbower, Mark Bruecks, Art Roman, Helen Bachovin, Logan B., Marion Scheurich, Lori Gaffney, Howard Minkler, Ruth Louf, Pam Davidson, Deacon Tom Hannan, Peter McGinnis, Judith Hasson, Susan Chopko, Steve Saporito, Antonette Biondi, Sharon Kraynak, Frankie Knowles, Joe Schroder, Kevin Fogarty, Justin Smith, Kate G., Marc Simmons, Scott Autenreib, Ryan Coyle, Dorothy Verna, Keri Holmboe, Earl Keller, Susan & George Smith, Irene Horten, Eugene Smith, Savannah Martin, Bill Sauerwine, Jose Gonzalez, Cheryl Sedlak, Andrew Losito, Cheryl Sumner, Todd Dinius, Joseph & Philip Caruso, Gregory Kujala, Joseph Martinez, Jay Nardone, Sharon DeNapoli, Hannah Thompson, Gerald Doyle Sr., Mike R., Jo Manley, Thomas & Eileen Clark, Rob Rae, Visitation Prayer Intentions

Requests will be printed in the bulletin for one month and military prayers for six months. You may renew as often as you wish by calling the ABVM Parish Office at 610-869-2722 or email DonnaABVM@comcast.net.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Let us continue to pray for our Armed Forces. We thank God for their sacrifices they make to ensure our freedom.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◆SGT Jason Lyons | ◆HM1 Matthew Rosenberg |
| ◆SGT Andrew Hart | ◆SGT Meghan Guerrera |
| ◆SSG Ana Brunal | ◆SGT Michael Guerrera |
| ◆TSGT Michael Kauffman | ◆SGT James Francis |
| ◆SR Charles R. Bramble | ◆2 LT Nicholas J. Caruso |
| ◆SGM Nicolas Relacion | ◆SSGT James McWilliams |
| ◆2 LT Emily Fanning | ◆Service Members & Coalition |
| ◆LT Ryan Hoffman | |



A warm welcome is extended to all who come to ABVM Parish. All new parishioners are invited to register by calling the ABVM Parish Office, weekdays, at 610-869-2722, or visit our parish website for a registration form.

Parish Finances

Thank you for your continued support!

Collection for December 4, 2022	\$13,938
Includes \$6,100 estimated E-Giving	
-44% participation	
Budgeted Weekly Collection	\$13,846
Actual Average Weekly Collection	\$12,987

Note: Dec. 11th Collection update will be in next weekend's bulletin.

We have budgeted \$720,000 for our Offertory income, which is less than what we need to balance the overall parish budget. We plan to make up the deficit from the Annual Parish Appeal. This week, approximately seventy-eight percent of our regular weekly donors contributed. The financial support for December 4 was \$92 more than the budgeted Offertory income. Please keep up your good work until all our weekly donors return to Mass.

Parish Appeal Update

There is no update for the Parish Appeal this week. Please see next week's bulletin, or the Parish website where updates are posted as soon as they are available. The goal is \$150,000. The first \$150,000 will support parish operating expenses. The remaining funds will be dedicated to the Emergency Fund. The Finance Council and Father Scott thank you for your generosity.

Ways to Donate to Offertory and Parish Appeal

The Finance Council and Father Scott thank you for your generosity to the parish. There are multiple ways to donate to the Offertory and Parish Appeal:

- *Place your Offertory and/or Parish Appeal envelope in the collection basket
- *Mail the Offertory and/or Parish Appeal envelope to the Parish Office
- *Text 610-810-5080 from your smart phone or click on this link: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/PA832>.

Assumption BVM Church

*Building our Legacy;
Believing in our Future*



Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 pm Mass and 8:00 pm Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:00 am Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31, 2022

4:30 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass

(Note: There will be no 12 pm Mass)

Rest in Peace

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Margorie David

Grace Joan Herbst

Jack O'Connell

Confessions at ABVM

(Assumption BVM Adoration Chapel)

Saturday, December 24th, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Saturday, December 31st, 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Local Advent Penance Service

(Multiple priests will be available to hear Confessions.)

Tuesday, Dec. 20th - St. Patrick (Kennett Square) 7 pm

Announcements

Pray the Rosary for Life (12/18/22-12/24/22)

Sun. C. Lyons Thu. J. & N. Kennard
Mon. L. Liberatore Fri. T. & S. Hannan
Tue. C. Sedlak Sat. M. Mueller
Wed. T. & D. Harrison (Sign-up to pray in the vestibule.)

- ***HopeAfterAbortion.com;**
afterabortion.org; RachelsVineyard.org
610-354-0555,
- ***Pregnant? Need Help?** Call 1-800-CARE-002.
- ***Pregnancy Hotline:** Call 610-626-4006; text
484-451-8104. **Birthright:** 610-436-0773.
- ***List of Local Catholic Ministries:**
<https://www.phillyevang.org/fire/>
- ***Annulment Proceeding:** Metropolitan
Tribunal, Archdiocese of Phila (215) 587-3750.
- ***Al-Anon:** Email Mondaydat@gmail.com or
visit <https://al-anon.org>.
- ***Lions Club Hospital Equipment Loan**
Program: Contact 484-883-0515; w.aglions.com.
- ***Catholic Men's Pornography Addiction**
Group: Call confidentially at 215-490-4660.
- ***STRIVE 21 Day Detox from Pornography.**
Register at cardinalstudios.org.
- ***Courage:** Courage ministers to those with same-
sex attractions and their loved ones. A weekly
peer support group is offered to homosexual men
and women who wish to live according to the
teaching of the Catholic Church. Call 215-587-
4505. Confidentiality assured.
- * **Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 800-273-8255.
- ***Hope in Christ:** Spiritual Support for
Addiction: visit archphila.org/hope.
- ***Nourish for Caregivers Support Groups:**
Visit phillyevang.org/nourish
- ***Formed.org** Free access to Catholic movies,
ebooks, programs, & children's resources. Select
our Parish.
- ***Disabilities & Autism Help-Line:** Need help
accessing services and support for someone with
an intellectual disability or autism? Call 484-472-
5041.
- ***Natural Family Planning** (Creighton Model)
Contact Kaitlyn at 484-889-9519 or email
kaitlyn.sceski@gmail.com.
- ***Lily's Gift** is a network of concerned parents and
professionals who have experienced or worked
closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal
diagnosis. For resources, visit <http://lilysgift.org>.

Football Mania

Visit www.charitymania.com to view the winning sweepstakes game card numbers each week to see if they've won. Winners will also be notified by mail. Please note that Week 13 & 14 winners will be listed in next weekend's bulletin.



Christmas Decorating

It's time to prepare for Christmas! Volunteers are needed for decorating the ABVM Main Church for Christmas on Thursday afternoon, December 22nd at 4 pm and Friday, December 23rd at 8:45 am. We are also in need of volunteers to help water poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you are able to help, please contact Bonnie at 484-643-2451 or email environment@assumptionbvmwestgrove.org.

Ministry of Consolation

"Surviving the Holidays"



The Holiday season has begun and this might be the first holiday after your loved one's death or maybe it's your second, third or beyond. The Ministry of Consolation is here to help. We offer hope, support and a "survival guide" to face the upcoming holidays with a measure of peace and assurance. Please mark your calendar for our next meeting on **Thursday, December 22nd, 7:00 pm** at Assumption BVM Church (chapel). If anyone wishes to contact one of the members of this ministry for individual grief support, call Ginny at 610-322-6366, Joan at 610-322-5792 or email Consolation@assumptionbvmwestgrove.org.

WORD OF LIFE

"Jesus calls each of us to 'care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible' (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

- Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Sounds of the Season

Sacred Music for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Festival Choir and Soloists with Organ, Brass, Piano, Timpani
and Handbell Choir under the direction of Michael Xavier Lundy

Special Guest performance by the Wilmington Christian School

JUBILEE SINGERS under the direction of Mr. Jerry Polman

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

FREE WILL OFFERING

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

300 State Road, West Grove, PA 19390

610 - 869 - 2722

www.assumptionbvmwestgrove.org

Two New Archdiocesan Ministries for Catholic Families

Springs in the Desert Support for Couples Struggling with Infertility

Springs in the Desert accompanies those struggling with infertility by offering a place of respite and solidarity where they can know God's love for them and discover His unique call to fruitfulness. Firmly rooted in the anthropology, ethics and spirituality of the Catholic Church, and our shared experiences of infertility, Springs in the Desert affirms the goodness of marriage, upholds the giftedness of the child, and advocates for a broader understanding of what it means to be life-giving. Learn more on the website: springsinthedesert.org.

Springs of Love Catholic Foster and Adoption Support

Springs of Love encourages, educates and equips Catholics to discern and live out the call to foster and adopt, while creating communities of support to help cultivate a culture of foster care and adoption in our parishes. Springs of Love hopes to convey both the beauty and the challenges of fostering and adoption with attention to such issues as adoption after infertility, the impact of trauma on children, parenting a special needs child, the adoption triad, navigating relationships with birth families, the language surrounding fostering and adopting, the role of the Church in caring for children in need of parents, and more. To learn more, please visit website: <https://springsoflove.org/>



Come spend time with the Blessed Sacrament.
Get to know Jesus!

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday - Friday
After Morning Mass until 7:00 pm
Assumption BVM Chapel

For information, call 610-869-2722 or Prayer@assumptionbvmwestgrove.org.

Support our Advertisers!

This bulletin is furnished to the Parish without charge. The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs with which the church would otherwise be burdened. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank you for their kind generosity.

Simplify Your Church Contributions

We are excited to offer an alternative means of contributing to our parish: Church eGiving, which allows you to make automatic electronic contributions from your bank account or credit card! You can sign up to be part of this program. To sign up, please visit www.assumptionbvmwestgrove.org and follow the Giving link for *Faith Direct*.

Hospital Equipment Loan Program

If you are in need of hospital equipment such as hospital beds & mattresses, wheelchairs (manual/electric), walkers, bed rails, canes, porta potties, stair climbers, tub seats, hoist lifts and more, please contact Bob Yeatman at 484-883-0515 at the Avon Grove Lions Club.



Mass Times for Travel

<https://masstimes.org>

The purpose of the Mass Times ministry is to help Catholics get to Mass by helping them find churches and worship times.

Assumption BVM School



Calendar

Dec. 22nd: Class Christmas Parties; 11 am Dismissal

Dec. 23rd: No School

Dec. 26-Jan. 2nd: No School; Christmas Break

Save the Date:

Jan. 12th: 7 pm Winter Band Concert

April 22nd: 100th Anniversary Celebration, Red Clay Room, Kennett Square

Are you an Amazon shopper?

When making your Amazon purchases, please designate Assumption BVM School through the Amazon Smile program. Visit <https://abvmschoolwg.us/amazon-smile> for details. All proceeds go directly to ABVM School. To date we have received \$2,544 in Amazon Smile donations!

Religious Education



CHRISTMAS BREAK

There will be no CYFF Classes on Tuesday, December 27th and Wednesday, December 28th to celebrate the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Our Tuesday and Wednesday classes will resume on January 3rd and 4th.

Home-Based Parent Prep Session

Our next unit preparation session is scheduled for **Thursday, January 5, 2023 in the Church at 6:30 pm**. At this session we will have the privilege of welcoming Miss Alixandra Holden, Mission Education and Communications Coordinator. Ali will be offering an engaging and informative presentation for both parents and children. **All children in home-based formation, levels 1 through 6, are welcome to attend this session with a parent.**



Children's Christmas Nativity Program

We had another fun Christmas Nativity Program with some of our parish children! Thank you to all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to this annual event. We look forward to hosting our children again this Spring for the Lenten Walk with Jesus. Children's Liturgy of the Word meets every Sunday during the 10 am Mass. Hope to see your children there, as they grow to Know Jesus, Love Jesus, and Serve Jesus.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi*

THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

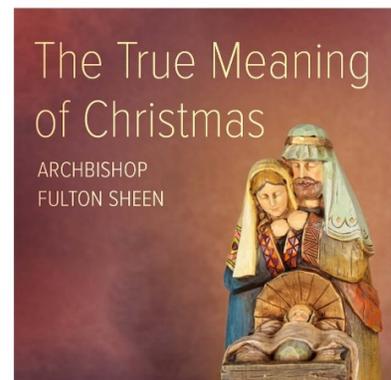
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

December 18, 2022

The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite.

To set up a free account, visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.





American Red Cross

Give the perfect gift. Give blood.

Assumption BVM Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 22nd, 11AM-3PM

ABVM Parish Life Center (Church lower level)
300 State Road, West Grove, PA 19390

Please visit: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation> and search by sponsor code **assumptionbvm** to schedule an appointment.

You can also call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule.

Give Something that Means Something.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®**

HAPPENING SOON

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, December 22nd

11 am-3 pm (Parish Life Center)

Dinner & Bingo

Thursday, January 5th

6 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Bingo (School Gym)

Coffee & Donut Social

Sunday, January 8th, 11 am

Knights Meeting

Thursday, January 19th

6 pm Social, 6:30 pm Meeting
(Parish Life Center)

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, January 19th

11 am-3:30 pm (Parish Life Center)

For membership information, contact
Brian Bruecks at Brian.bruecks@kcc.com.

Christmas Poinsettia Sale

ON SALE AFTER MASS

Poinsettias \$10



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus St. Pius X Council 3858.

"Flame of Love"

Prayer Group at ABVM

ABVM Adoration Chapel

Flame of Love Holy Hour:

*Pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
Every Thursday, 6 - 7 pm*

Flame of Love Rosary

Tuesdays & Fridays at 7:30 am



Bring your prayer intentions and join us! For information, please contact Mary at 302-388-3752, visit flameoflove.us, or email Prayer@assumptionbvmwestgrove.org.



Thursday, January 5th

Dinner — 6 PM • Bingo Begins — 6:30 PM

**ABVM Parish Center (School Gym)
290 State Road, West Grove, PA**

**10 Regular Games.....Winner receives \$30
3 Special Games.....Winner receives \$100
Last Special Game.....Winner receives 60%**



**\$5 for 10 games with 3 cards per game
\$5 for each Special with 4 cards per game
Bingo Package listed above: \$25**

**Dinner (\$10) includes: battered chicken, mashed potatoes
& gravy, vegetable medley, dessert & beverage. BYOB**

Proceeds will benefit the mission of

St. Joseph's House

*to foster a "Culture of Life" through the service of charity to the
defenseless of our society, particularly widows and orphans,
children, and families in crisis situations.*

*For information, contact John Brennan at 610-869-4100 or
Knights_of_Columbus@comcast.net*

Make it *BUDDY BINGO*...Bring a Friend!



The Bulletin Board

- * **ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** (December 18, 2022, 7 pm, St. Joseph Church, Downingtown, PA) Advent Lessons and Carols is a beautiful presentation of Scripture readings pertaining to the coming of Christ, interspersed with Advent and Marian music selections. Please join us for an evening of reflection.
- * **EPIPHANY EVENT** (January 8, 2023, St. Rita Shrine, Philadelphia) Join the Sisters of Life for an afternoon of Prayer and Festivity beginning with 2 pm Mass followed by a 3 pm Social. RSVP at philly@sistersoflife.org.
- * **OUR LADY OF FATIMA MEN'S RETREAT** (January 13-15, 2023, Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA) This is a traditional treat for men with conferences, confession, Adoration, prayer and Mass each day. Retreat Directors and speakers include Archbishop William Lori, Fr. Dennis Gill, Fr. James McGuinn, Fr. Robert Suskey and Marty Rotella. Visit malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.
- * **MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.** (January 20, 2023) The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant and joy-filled rally of people from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capital Hill. It is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest...Together, we gather to celebrate LIFE. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected. For more information, please contact the ABVM Respect Life Group at RespectLife@assumptionbvmwestgrove.org.
- * **THEOLOGY ON TAP** (January 21, 2023, 7 pm, The Great American Pub, 123 Fayette St., Conshohocken, PA) The Office of Ministry for Young Adults is hosting a Theology on Tap with the theme "Is Lifelong Love Possible?" Come join us for a lively panel conversation. RSVP at <https://www.ycpphiladelphia.org/events/panel-discussion-with-omya>
- * **LOVE NEVER FAILS** (January 24, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm, Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA) If you have a loved one struggling with addiction, join us for an evening of reflection on this topic. The evening includes a presentation by AFIRE founder and Catholic speaker, Dr. Nina Marie Corona. There will be Q & A, and will conclude with a prayer service. For more information, visit apeopleafire.org/events.
- * **WEEKEND RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS** (February 10-12, 2023, Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ) Come pray, reflect and laugh! Examine your personal faith in relation to God and others. The retreat includes daily Eucharist, prayer experiences, reflection, faith sharing, as well time to enjoy each other's company and the wonders of Cape May Point in winter. Cost: \$145. To register, call 609-884-3829, visit www.capemaymarianists.org or email mfrfc@capemaymarianists.org.
- * **WALKING WITH PURPOSE LIVE** (February 16, 2023, 7 pm, St. Joseph Church, Downingtown, PA) Join us for *Walking with Purpose LIVE* with Founder, Lisa Brenninkmeyer as she shares her talk "Strong Yet Tender: Building Resilience in an Age of Trauma". Registration opens 6 weeks prior to the event. Visit <https://walkingwithpurpose.com/event/wwp-live-with-lisa-brenninkmeyer-2/>

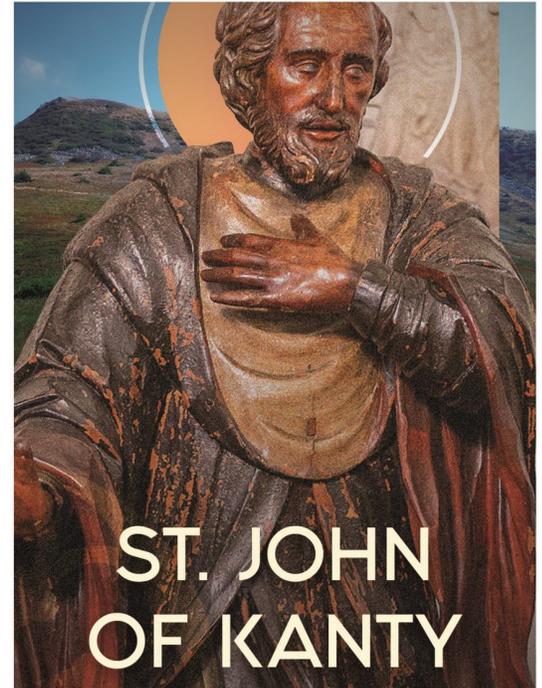
WEEKLY PRAYER

LIVE THE LITURGY - Inspiration for the Week

“God is with us.” This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life’s unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!

Observances for the week of December 18, 2022

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Saturday: Christmas Eve
Next Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord



Saint John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow. He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well. He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. Saint John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up; his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them. After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. Saint John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility. Saint John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron, and the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius was formed in Chicago, Illinois.

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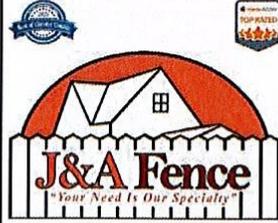
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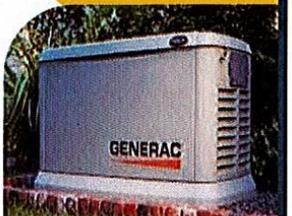
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