

# Church of the Holy Angels

December 25, 2016, The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

855 Scott Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834-1811

Phone: (570)373-1221 Fax: (570)373-1226

email: [oneangel@ptd.net](mailto:oneangel@ptd.net)

WEBSITE: [www.HolyAngelsKulpmont.org](http://www.HolyAngelsKulpmont.org)

**MASSES OF OBLIGATION: SATURDAY 5:30PM**

**SUNDAY 8:30AM & 10:30AM**

**CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 4:00PM-5:00PM**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 9:00AM-4:00PM**

**OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS**

**Rev. Andrew Stahmer, Pastor**

**Deacon Thomas Conlin**

**Mary Kay Bartol, Secretary, Organist, Choir Director**

**Joette Foris, Director of Religious Education, Guitarist**

**Robert Balonis, Maintenance**

**Elaine Lutz, Office Volunteer**

## Parish Mission Statement

*We, the family of Holy Angels Parish, a diverse community of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, are united through the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Word of God to all peoples by following the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

*Working together in wisdom and love we commit ourselves in the following ways: protecting the unborn; fostering faith development in our youth; planting new seeds of evangelization throughout our parish family through prayer, spiritual works, education and outreach activities; ministering to the needs of our aging parishioners; promoting holiness through celebration of the sacraments, worship in liturgy, communal prayer, and our faith traditions.*

*Through these actions rooted in charity and mercy, we pledge to pass on our customs and beliefs to future generations, thus preserving our faith traditions for the greater glory of God and as a sign of Christ's love.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

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**Saturday, December 24**

**8:00am Eugenie A. Harlow**

**Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

**4:00pm Special Intention**

**6:00pm Special Intention**

**9:30pm People of the Parish**

**Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**

**9:30am Special Intention**

**Monday, December 26**

**6:30pm Ann Olbrish**

**Tuesday, December 27**

**8:00am Tony Niglio**

**Wednesday, December 28**

**8:00am Mary Katherine Sinopoli**

**Thursday, December 29**

**6:30pm Victor Martello**

**Friday, December 30**

**8:00am Joseph Cesari**

**Saturday, December 31**

**8:00am Lorraine Beissel**

**Saturday, December 31, Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**5:30pm Patricia Szoke**

**Sunday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**8:30am Gisella Mannello**

**10:30am People of the Parish**

**A Dime at a Time**

**Current Debt \$168,098.87**

**Dime at a Time \$34.05**

**Plus 1 (+1) Contributions \$33.00**

**Debt Reduction \$0.00**

**Balance \$168,031.82**

## Sacrificial Offering

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**Weekend of December 18, 2016**

**Sunday Offering Envelopes \$4,608.00**

**Youth Offering \$58.00**

**Loose Cash \$118.00**

**Energy \$45.00**

**Thanksgiving \$5.00**

**Immaculate Conception \$46.00**

**All Saints \$5.00**

**Amount Budgeted \$8,333.00**

**Amount Contributed \$4,885.00**

**Weekend of December 18 -\$3,448.00**

**Votive Candles \$57.00**

**Air Conditioning Maintenance \$301.00**

**Christmas Flowers \$939.00**

**Improvement Fund**

**Previous Balance \$10,158.00**

**Weekend of December 18 +128.00**

**Current Balance \$10,286.00**

**Diocesan Collections**

**Matthew 25 \$2.00**

**Retirement for Religious \$122.00**

## Vigil Lights

**December 25 thru December 31**

**Sanctuary Light: In loving memory of**

*Marie Bardales by Lorraine Fallat*

**St. Anthony: In loving memory of**

*Salvatore Lacroce by Wife, Children & Grandchildren*

**St. Anne: In loving memory of**

*Diane White by husband, Michael*

**St. Casimir: In loving memory of**

*Andrew Furca by Wife & Family*

**St. Theresa: In loving memory of**

*Pappy & Virginia DeSantis by Angela*

**St. Kateri: In loving memory of**

*Theresa Feddock by son, Billy*

**St. Marziale: In loving memory of**

*Angelo D'Alexander by wife, Minnie*

**Sacred Heart: In loving memory of**

*Elaine Duran by husband, Michael*

**Sacred Heart: In loving memory of**

*Theresa Feddock by Trish Olszewskie & Family*

## BINGO

Bingo will be held Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Doors open 4:30PM. Game begins 6:00PM. Please note there will not be Bingo on December 27.

### Bingo Workers & Bakers

Cakes or pies are always needed for Bingo on Tuesday evenings. Drop off your baked goods at the Activity Center during the day on any Tuesday. Men and women are most welcome to assist with working the floor!

### Adoration at St. Pauline Center

Eucharistic Adoration is held at the St. Pauline Center Fridays from noon until 10:00PM and Saturdays from 5:00AM to 7:00PM. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed in the chapel on Fridays at 3:00PM

### Holy Angels Pool Winner

December 13, 2016

Ann Martino \$74.00

### Altar Server Schedule

**Saturday, December 31, Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**5:30PM Mary Frances Komara, Brighton Scicchitano, Dominick Tamborelli, Brianna Tamborelli**

**Sunday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**8:30AM Gregory Troutman, Michael Wasilewski Bobby Schoppy**

**10:30AM Rosalie Mitchell, Liam Bradley, Sean Bradley**

### Adult Choir

Choir practice will be held on Wednesday, February 1 at 7:00PM.

### PREP Classes

**Sunday, January 8, 15, 22, 28, 2017 for Grade 8 at 9:00AM**

**Sunday January 8, 22, 29, 2017 for Grades 6 & 7**

**Monday, January 9, 23, 30, 2017 for Grades 1-5 at 5:30PM**

### Retrouvaille

You Can Help Your Marriage - 25% of surveyed couples say they are "Happily Married". For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue.....or have just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it make it even worse? Retrouvaille helps couples rebuild their marriages. For information or to register for the Harrisburg program beginning with a weekend on January 13-15, 2017, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

**Hershey Bears Tickets**-Everyone is invited to join our Catholic Schools at The Tenth Annual Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Night with the Hershey Bears Hockey Team, Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Tickets are discounted to \$14.50 for all ages over 2. Regular admission is \$20. The evening will begin with the Bishop McDevitt Choir singing the National Anthem prior to game start time. Ticket order forms are available at the Parish Office for those interested in ordering. **DEADLINE TO ORDER** is Monday, January 30, 2017. For more information, contact Janet Dise at [jdise@HersheyPA.com](mailto:jdise@HersheyPA.com)

## NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2016

5:30PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

8:30 & 10:30AM

### Diocesan Mass for Homeschooling Families

**Bishop Gainer will be celebrating Mass for Homeschooling Families in Room 103 of the Diocesan Center the evening of Friday, January 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM.** The Sacrament of Penance will be available before Mass from 5:30 - 6:15 PM. After Mass, there will be a light reception with cookies, coffee, and punch in the lobby. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Jim Gontis at the Diocesan Religious Education Office by January 3, at [jgontis@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:jgontis@hbgdiocese.org), letting us know the number of people from your family planning to attend. The Diocesan Center is located at 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA, 17111.

### Introduction to Scripture

An introduction to Scripture course will be offered at Divine Redeemer Church in Mount Carmel for all catechists of CCD, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, and any interested person. Mr. Joe Mullen from St. Columba in Bloomsburg will be the presenter. The classes run on Mondays for 4 weeks, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. They begin at 6:30PM and end at 9:00PM with a break in between. The cost of the course is \$25.00. Sometimes your church or school will cover the cost; make sure you ask them. If you have any questions, phone 570 339 3450 ask for Betty Ann or email [credrc@ptd.net](mailto:credrc@ptd.net).

### Prayer Shawl Retreat

We warmly invite women from around the Diocese to join us as we gather at the Diocesan Center for our third Prayer Shawl Retreat on Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The program, hosted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Organization Commission, will include Mass, prayer, knitting / crocheting, fellowship and lunch. You are welcome to attend even if you are a beginner and would like to be part of this time of fellowship and sharing. While the program is free, advance registration is required so that we can arrange a comfortable work area and plan for lunch. Please call Kathy Kokoski at [717-448-8899](tel:717-448-8899) or Deb Black at [717-514-8815](tel:717-514-8815) or email them at [kakoko120@comcast.net](mailto:kakoko120@comcast.net) or [mvdb01@verizon.net](mailto:mvdb01@verizon.net). Please register early as space is limited. **Deadline is Friday, January 6, 2017.**

### Mark Your Calendars!

Save the Date!

**HOLY ANGELS PARISH PICNIC**

**AUGUST 4 & 5, 2017!**

### CHRISTMAS

"C" Christ is born as a child of the Virgin Mary,  
"H" Herald angels in the sky,  
"R" Redeemer came to ransom for many,  
"I" Israel as well as the whole world must believe,  
"S" Star that shone so brightly,  
"T" Three wise men, who traveled far.  
"M" Manger where He lay,  
"A" Act of love and peace showered by the Holy Spirit,  
"S" Shepherds glorified Heavenly Father Almighty

## POT O'GOLD WINNERS

December 11, 2016

<u>Winners</u>		<u>Sellers</u>
	\$2500.00	
Alice Hummel		Not Listed
	\$500.00	
James Sandri		James Sandri
Robert Jevelle		Not Listed
	\$250.00	
Gram Schaffer		Chloe Schaffer
Linda Troutman		Todd Scheurmann
Louise Albright		Louise Albright
Kasey Fisher		Reese Fisher
	\$50.00	
Lisa Boyer		Not Listed
Ron & Sharon		Ron Miller
Bobbie Feese		
Petey		Holy Angels
Mom		
Sebastian		A. Sebastian
Frances Chichoskie		Our Lady of Hope
Geraldine Bonchak		Geraldine Bonchak
Grandma		Grandma
Charles Lopuck		Fallat
Bill Black		Deb Kohl

### **God's Love**

Kierkegaard has a fable of a king who fell in love with a maid. A king fell in love with a poor maid. The king wanted to marry her. When asked, "How shall I declare my love?" his counselors answered, "Your majesty has only to appear in all the glory of your royal raiment before the maid's humble dwelling and she will instantly fall at your feet and be yours." But it was precisely that which troubled the king. He wanted her glorification, not his. In return for his love he wanted hers, freely given. Finally, the king realized love's truth, that freedom for the beloved demanded equality with the beloved. So late one night, after all the counselors of the palace had retired, he slipped out a side door and appeared before the maid's cottage dressed as a servant to confess his love for her. Clearly, the fable is a Christmas story. God chose to express His love for us humans by becoming one like us. We are called to obey, not God's power, but God's love. God wants not submission to his power, but in return for his love, our own.

### Our greatest need at Christmas

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

### **The First Christmas Crib**

It was St Francis of Assisi who assembled the first crib in a cave on an Italian hillside. It was in 1293 that the first crèche was erected in the woods of Greccio near Assisi, on Christmas Eve. The crib was ready, hay was brought, the ox and the donkey were led to the spot. Greccio became a new Bethlehem. The aim of St. Francis was to make the Christmas story come alive for the people of the locality. His idea was to show them how close it was to them and their lives. On Christmas Eve the friars and the people assembled with candles and torches around the crib. Francis spoke to the people, who were mostly farmers and shepherds, about God's Son coming among us to teach us that we too are children of God, and that as such we have an eternal destiny. The shepherds and farmers got the messages: God had time for simple folks like them. At the end of the vigil they all returned to their homes, full of peace and joy, feeling very close to God and to one another.



### **Some Christmas Reminders**

- \* May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- \* May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- \* May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- \* May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- \* May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- \* May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- \* May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the son the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- \* May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!

We need to look for Jesus in unlikely places and persons. During the Christmas season we, must give our most precious gift, our lives to Jesus. We will learn to discover Him in the most unlikely places and in the most distasteful people - in those who are suffering or in distress, poverty or fear. The message of Christmas is that we can truly find Jesus if we look in the right places - in the streets, in slums, in asylums, in orphanages, in nursing homes - starting in our own homes, workplaces and town. We need to look for Him in people that we might otherwise ignore: the homeless, the sick, the addict, the unpleasant person, the rebel, or the person of different culture and lifestyle from us. True Christmas is about celebrating the coming of God among the poor, the homeless and the disadvantaged with a message of hope and liberation for these sufferers in our world. It is about working to remove the shameful blot of poverty, discrimination and exploitation that is the lot of too many in our environment of prosperity. God challenges us to be like the shepherds who overcame their fear in order to seek out Jesus, or like the Wise Men who traveled a long distance to find Him. Then we will have the true experience of Christmas - the joy of the Savior.

## Calendar

### Monday

December 26  
St. Stephen,  
the First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Tuesday

December 27  
St. John,  
Apostle and Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1–4  
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

### Wednesday

December 28  
The Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2  
Mt 2:13–18

### Thursday

December 29  
Fifth Day in the  
Octave of Christmas  
1 Jn 2:3–11  
Lk 2:22–35

### Friday

December 30  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17  
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

### Saturday

December 31  
Seventh Day in the  
Octave of Christmas  
1 Jn 2:18–21  
Jn 1:1–18

### Sunday

January 1  
Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God  
Nm 6:22–27  
Gal 4:4–7  
Lk 2:16–21

# Dear Padre,

## Should a Catholic school teach both evolution and creation?

A Catholic school should teach in a style that conveys Catholic Tradition. It also cannot ignore the insights and questions or the disagreements and misunderstandings that occur when the arts and sciences rub shoulders with Catholic teachings and perspectives. Our belief in God's creation of humanity and the scientific understanding of evolution are not fundamentally at odds with one another, as long as our Catholic vision of life is preserved. However, "faith obliges us to hold that souls are immediately created by God" (*Humani Generis*, 36).

Science is the careful study of details and theories that leads to the development of generalized statements (or hypotheses). If so many scientists, many of whom are people of faith, can intellectually justify the creation of humans through an evolutionary process, this itself shows the application of thought and discovery to deepen an understanding of our world and ourselves.

We need our faith to harmonize with other branches of knowledge, and this means respecting their proper domain of research and methods. It would seem prudent for a Catholic school to teach evolution in science class and the stories of creation in religion class. A calm, reasoned discussion that respects the limits of each discipline and espouses a unified search for God's revealed truths would be best. The attitude should be that evolution and creation are not mutually exclusive but complementary explanations for our human origins that arise from different perspectives.

From *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



ARMARIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



### A Word From Pope Francis

*"History has always been accompanied by the Lord!...In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father....He has pitched his tent in our midst."*

—Homily, December 24, 2013 (Midnight Mass)

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 25, 2016

Christmas (A)

Is 52:7–10

Heb 1:1–6

Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

## God's Family

This isn't a typical Christmas image, but stick with me! There is a renewed interest in genealogy as many seek to understand who and where they came from. These days, websites and genetic services make it easier than ever to track down our ancestry and examine our roots.

In tribal African art, one's ancestors have always been revered. In this piece from the Vatican Museums' missionary collection, we find the figure of a tribal leader, sculpted to resemble the trunk of an olive tree. The tree's veins are smaller individuals, each one united to another, representing the generations that have come before him and formed his bloodline. They are his "tree of life" that reaches back into the soil of history.

Judeo-Christian culture also values ancestors and highlights the roots of Jesus' heritage. The Messiah was to come from the line of David, which reaches back to Abraham, our father in faith. Behind each name there is a story, a family, God's action mingled with the person's hopes and failures. Each life flows and unites into one strong tree. And God watches over each and every one, preparing for the person of his Son. Today we celebrate the culmination of this plan. Jesus Christ,

our Savior, is born today!

### For Reflection

*Are you letting God work in you and your family so he can continue these blessings?*

This protracted lineage invites us to look back and up: back on the events that have filled the tapestry of our personal and family

history and up to see that God has brought us to know him and to accept his salvation. His providence works in and through it all.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *The Tree of Life*  
Artist and date unknown  
Location: Vatican Ethnological Museum



*"Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah (Matthew 1:16)."*