

Church of the Holy Angels

December 6, 2020, Second Sunday of Advent

855 Scott Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834-1811
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 email: oneangel@ptd.net

WEBSITE: www.HolyAngelsKulpmont.org

MASSSES OF OBLIGATION: SATURDAY 5:30PM SUNDAY
 8:30AM & 10:30AM

CONFESSIONS: HALF HOUR BEFORE WEEKEND
 MASSES

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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

OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

Rev. Andrew Stahmer, Pastor

Deacon Thomas Conlin

Sister Teresa Catherine, Pastoral Assistant

Mary Kay Bartol, Secretary, Organist, Choir Director

Joette Foris, Director of Religious Education, Guitarist

Robert Balonis, Maintenance

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Charles Kaminsky, Chairman, Mary Ann Daya,

Kathy Nolan, Frank Mirarchi, Peter Avellino

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 5

8:00am Russ Yakim
 4:00pm People of the Parish
 5:30pm Michael Sikora

Sunday, December 6

8:30am Helen Smith
 10:30am John Holleran

Monday, December 7

8:00am Deceased of the Chesney, Zinda &
 Kurland Families

Monday, December 7, Vigil Mass of the
 Immaculate Conception

7:00pm John Wydila, Charles Miriello &
 All Veterans

Tuesday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate
 Conception

8:00am Joseph Wanzie
 7:00pm People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 9

8:00am Lois Kemper

Thursday, December 10

8:00am Vince Chesney & Mike Yonkovig

Friday, December 11

8:00am Antoinette Wargo

Saturday, December 12

8:00am Daniel Yastishak
 4:00pm Frank & Aldona Anzulevich
 5:30pm Deceased of the Povish & Witowski
 Families

Sunday, December 13

8:30am Charles M. Zlocki, Jr.
 10:30am People of the Parish

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Nolan, Chairman, Joe Meyer, Vice-Chairman,
 Jeanne Avellino, Pat Bingaman, Sherry Bozza, Maria
 Foris, Teresa McCabe, Juliann Wanzie, Kathy Pupo,
 Jeff Kruleski, Alex Clayberger, Lena Leaveck

Sacrificial Offering

Weekend of November 29

Number of registered households	882
145 Sunday Offering (Households)	\$2,528.00
Loose Cash	\$36.00
Youth Offering	\$12.00
Shortfall- Debt Reduction & Plus One	\$92.00
Energy	\$118.00
Votive Candles	\$52.00
Thanksgiving	\$342.00
Individual Contribution	\$850.00

Amount Budgeted	\$8,333.00
Amount Contributed	\$4,030.00
Weekend of November 29	-\$4,303.00

Improvement Fund

Previous Balance	\$17,714.00
Weekend of November 29	+\$58.00
Balance	\$17,772.00

Air Conditioner Replacement Campaign
 Goal

Donations to date	\$60,000.00
Balance	\$11,576.00
	\$48,424.00

Diocesan Collections

Matthew 25	\$53.00
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Confessions

Father Andrew will be available for the Sacrament of Penance on Saturday, December 12 and December 19 from 1:00-3:00PM. Please remember to wear your mask.

Of Your Charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kenneth Sikora**, a member of Holy Angels Parish Family. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Welcome to All!

This church is our heavenly Father's house, a place of solace and grace, so feel at home here. Enter reverently, pray quietly, sing joyfully, listen attentively, give cheerfully and come back gladly. Remain in the church after Mass for some personal quiet time with the Lord and come early before Mass to pray the Rosary with others. If you ever feel unwelcome-let the pastor know! And if the pastor makes you feel unwelcome, let him know!

Active Parishioner Status

We receive many requests for parishioners to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at Holy Angels Parish. Part of the request is to be able to verify that a person is an "active member"

An "Active Member" is:

1. Properly registered on the parish rolls.
2. Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
3. Participates in parish activities/ministries when possible.
4. Uses the parish envelope system for donations.

These are the main factors that will be considered in making the determination that someone is an "active member." Other criteria are also taken into consideration when requesting a sponsor certificate.

Couples Planning Marriage

For couples who are planning to marry, please check the availability of our church prior to arranging venues.

Adoration at the St. Pauline Center

Fridays and Saturdays 10:00AM- 4:00PM. Chairs are spaced 6 ft. apart and masks are required. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Vigil Lights

December 6 thru December 12

Sanctuary Light: *In loving memory of*

Elaine Duran by husband, Michael

St. Anthony: *Special intention of*

Elizabeth Sikora

St. Anne: *Special Intention*

St. Casimir: *Special Intention*

St. Theresa: *In loving memory of*

James Korenkiewicz by wife, Theresa

St. Kateri: *Special intention*

St. Marziale: *Special intention*

Sacred Heart: *In loving memory of*

Michael Soubik by wife, Marian



PREP

Classes will be held on Sundays, December 6, 13, 20 for grades 6, 7, 8 at 9:30AM-11:30AM.

Classes will be held on Mondays, December 7, 14, 21 for grades 1-5 from 5:30PM-7:00PM.

Christmas Cookie Sale

Pick up date for those who ordered cookies is Saturday, December 12, between 10AM-12PM in the Activity Center.

The Twelve Days of Christmas and One for Good Luck!

Please watch your tickets from December 10th thru December 22nd for winning numbers determined by the PA Evening Lottery Number for those days!

MOUNT CARMEL - Mount Carmel Area Ministerium Food Pantry has announced food distribution times for the month of the November. Income-eligible residents may receive food once per month. Food will be provided at these times:

Wednesday December 9, 1-3PM

Wednesday, December 16, 1-3PM

Tuesday, December 22, 5-7PM

The pantry is open to income-eligible residents of the Mount Carmel Area School District and income-eligible residents of other communities who are members of churches that are part of the Ministerium.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)

Christmas Wafers are available in the back of the church. Donation \$3.00 per package of 4 wafers. (1 pink, 3 white)

Divine Redeemer Church

438 West Avenue

Mount Carmel, Pa 17851

Holiday Theme Basket Raffle

Support Divine Redeemer Parish

E-Z Chance "Bid at Home Form"

Tickets are 10 for \$5.00 or 21 for \$10.00. Select from the 8 terrific baskets. For more information on how to get a Form for the Holiday Theme Basket Raffle, please contact Divine Redeemer Parish Office 570-339-3450.

Holiday Theme Basket Raffle Form and Money is due by December 13, 2020. Drawing is Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Christmas Mass Schedule

We have been given permission from Bishop Gainer to celebrate Christmas Eve Masses with the earliest time being 2:00PM. Because we are unable to accommodate the normal amount of people in the church, we will be adding additional Masses this year. The Christmas Mass Schedule is:

Christmas Eve

2:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 8:00PM

Christmas Day

8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM.

Christmas Cash!

Tickets are available for a chance to win one cash prize of \$1,200.00 which will be determined by the PA Evening Lottery 3-digit number on December 21. Only 200 chances will be sold. Tickets are available in the vestibule after the weekend Masses or call the parish office to arrange for pick-up of tickets. Donation \$10 for 5 numbers!

Christmas Gift Sign-ups

A sign up sheet is available in the vestibule for you to sign the name, age and a gift suggestion (\$10-\$15 price range) for children of our parish up to age 8.

Gifts From the Holy Land

For many years now, we have welcomed Ray to Holy Angels Parish who gave us the opportunity to purchase olive wood carvings from the Holy Land. For obvious reasons, Ray was not able to bring these beautiful carvings to our parish this past year. However, if anyone is interested in any of the wood carvings, you may call Ray at 304-685-0560 and he will gladly help you with any purchase you'd like.

Carmelite Kitchen

For those who ordered from the Carmelite Kitchen, orders can be picked up in the rear of 929 Pine Street, Kulpmont, on December 17th from 11AM-3PM.

Knights of Columbus-The Christopher Club, Mt.

Carmel, - Open Tuesday and Friday evenings. Food menu varies; Annual community program "Blessing of the Manger" cancelled. Secret Santa and traditional Eggnog treat will be held on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 with a covered dish menu for those in attendance. Membership in the K of C is open to all practicing Catholics men over 18. Membership requirements for The Christopher Club and Ladies Auxilliary are currently being reviewed. Watch for upcoming changes in 2021.

Christmas Flower Memorial

On the back of your Christmas Flower Offering envelope, there is an area to enter the names of deceased family members. These memorials will be published in the bulletin the weekend of December 20. Deadline for memorial flower submissions will be December 14.

A Few Reminders

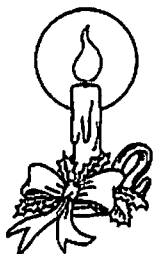
**Masks are to be worn as face covering the entire time parishioners attend Mass or any other liturgical event in the parish including sacramental Confession. They are not to be lowered at any time while in the church except to receive Holy Communion. It is not acceptable for parishioners to lower their face masks while sitting in the pew.*

**Social distancing is to be strictly enforced. The measure of 6 feet between individuals and family groups is to be maintained while seated and moving.*

**Groups are NOT to gather outside of our churches for social time. Face masks should be worn until a person has left the church property and distanced himself or herself from other congregants.*



Standing Altar Candles for the Month of December



In Loving Memory of

Given by

Salvatore Lacroce.....	Family
John Voloshin.....	wife, Anna Marie & Family
Michael Soubik	Kris, Alan & Brooke Korkuch
Chester Gard	wife, Ann & Children
Bill Roberts	wife, Joan
Robert Thomas.....	wife, Olga & Family
Diane Rompallo & Joann Thomas.....	mother, Olga & Family

Repent and return to the Lord – the priorities set by John: There are two traditions from which John’s baptism could be derived: One is the ritual washings by which people cleansed themselves of spiritual impurity. Ritual bathing was especially important in the Qumran community with which John may have had some connection. The other tradition is proselyte baptism of Gentile converts to Judaism; an initiatory cleansing rite performed by immersion. It seems likely that John borrows from both traditions (ritual washings and proselyte baptism) but establishes his own baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan to the Jews who were familiar with ritual and symbolic washings (Lev.11-15). The Jews insisted that when a male Gentile became a Jew, he had to do three things: i) accept circumcision as the mark of the covenant people; ii) offer sacrifice because he stood in need of atonement, and iii) undergo baptism by immersion in water, which symbolized his cleansing from all pollution. The most amazing thing about John's baptism was that he, a Jew, was asking fellow-Jews to submit to that which only a Gentile was supposed to need. John was convinced of the truth that even the chosen people needed true repentance and renewal of life to receive their long-awaited Messiah. We tend to think of repentance as feeling guilty about our sins, but it is more—much more. The Greek word, *metanoia*, means a change of mind or direction. It is related to the Hebrew word *tesubah*, used by prophets to call Israel to abandon its sinful ways and to return to God. Both words (*metanoia* and *tesubah*) imply “a total change of spiritual direction.” The baptism of a Gentile was accompanied by a confession made to three different recipients as a sign of repentance for sin. (i) A man must make confession to himself because the first step in repentance is to admit his sin to himself. (ii) He must make confession to those whom he has wronged. This involves humiliation and is a test of real repentance since there can be no forgiveness without humiliation. (iii) He must make confession to God because it is when a man says, "I have sinned," that God gets the chance to say, "I forgive."

John's message calls us also to confront and confess our sins; to turn away from them in sincere repentance; to receive God's forgiveness; and most importantly, to look to Jesus. Do we need to receive God's forgiveness? There are basically two reasons why we fail to receive forgiveness. The first is that we fail to repent, and the second is that we fail to forgive. Jesus was very explicit about this second failure in Matthew 6:14-15. He says, "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions." Is there someone we need to forgive today? Let us not allow what others have done destroy our life. We can't be forgiven unless we forgive. Let us let go of that bitterness and allow God to work healing in our life. Perhaps we need to draw closer to Him. Like the prodigal son's father, God will run to meet us. He will throw His arms around us and He will forgive us and restore us. He will receive us as His sons and daughters. Let us draw close to Him today, and He will draw close to us.

Dear Padre,

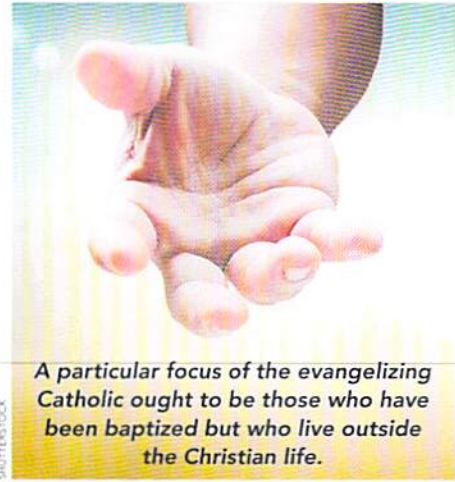
Do we need to evangelize, or spread the gospel, to fellow Catholics?

Yes! Evangelization is beneficial to Catholics who already practice the faith. As St. Paul VI pointed out, "The Church...seeks to deepen, consolidate, nourish and make ever more mature the faith of those who are already called the faithful or believers, in order that they may be so still more" (On Evangelization in the Modern World [*Evangelii Nuntiandi*], 54).

What about nonpracticing Catholics? Yes, again! A particular focus of the evangelizing Catholic ought to be those who have been baptized but who live outside the Christian life. We already know that a large number of the baptized have not formally repudiated their baptism but do not live in accordance with it. They resist the idea of evangelization out of indifference or a hostility based on the belief that he or she is one of the family, but is "in the know" and no longer believes.

Christ wishes God's love to be proclaimed and reproclaimed to all Catholics—practicing and nonpracticing. This is the essential mission that Christ gives to his Church—to invite everyone to experience the full impact of God's love in Jesus.

—Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



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Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday
DECEMBER 8
Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Wednesday
DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 40:25–31
Mt 11:28–30

Thursday
DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday
DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday
DECEMBER 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14–17 or
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26–38 or 1:39–47

Sunday
DECEMBER 13
Third Sunday
of Advent
Is 61:1–2a, 10–11
1 Thes 5:16–24
Jn 1:6–8, 19–28

Ow Parish COMMUNITY

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent (B)
Is 40:1–5, 9–11
2 Pt 3:8–14
Mk 1:1–8

Prepare the Way of the Lord

The admonition in the title of this reflection is found in the reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel passage. Isaiah describes a long line of exiles returning to Jerusalem after many hard years in Babylon. God leads them back home. In preparation for God's and the people's entry, the way is made clear: "Every valley shall be lifted up...The rugged land shall be a plain" (Isaiah 40:4). The road is repaired, just as we might do if someone important were coming to town. The Gospel writer reinterprets this passage. Instead of repairing an actual roadway, the words of John the Baptist prepare for the entrance of Jesus into his public ministry. Despite their differences, both passages

speak of the "way of the Lord," which is the way of salvation.

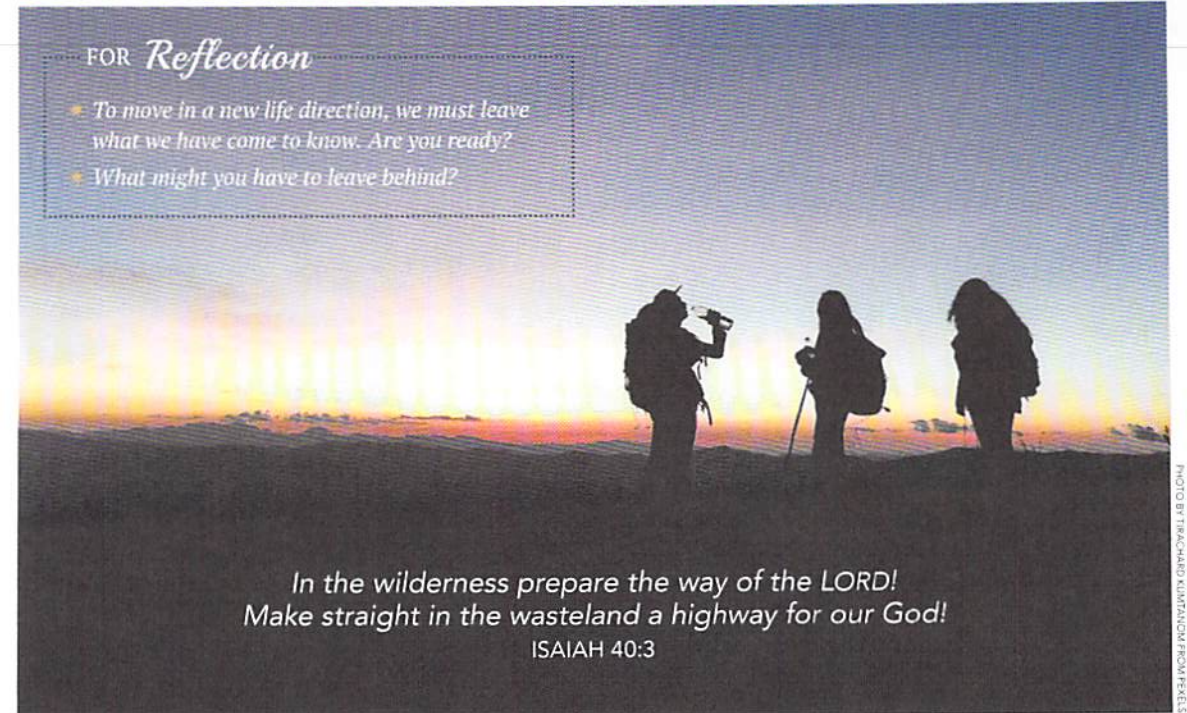
The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which righteousness dwells." Saint Peter further states that this will come to pass on "the day of the Lord," the day when God's promises will be fulfilled and "all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9–10).

The events described in all three readings unfold because of God's merciful love of all. It is for such a day that we are called to prepare. Are we willing to exert the effort? Are we willing to listen to God's words?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- To move in a new life direction, we must leave what we have come to know. Are you ready?
- What might you have to leave behind?



In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
ISAIAH 40:3



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life! Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving.

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 4, 2017

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



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November 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a year 2020 has become. Who would have thought that a global pandemic would impact every continent and continue to affect our daily lives, eight months after it reached our Diocese? I pray you and your loved ones have been safe during this time.

I am writing to you today as we have reached a milestone in the reorganization process for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg (RCDH). As you may know, November 13, 2020 was established by the bankruptcy court as the last day—or the bar date—for creditors, including survivors of abuse, to file claims against the RCDH. Having passed the bar date, we have received claims on behalf of approximately 59 survivors.

The next phase of the reorganization process, which is already in motion, is mediation regarding the claims asserted by survivors. Through this mediation, the survivors (either individually or through a committee representing their interests), our present and historical insurance providers, the RCDH, and the parishes and schools will work together in an effort to reach a consensual resolution of the survivor claims asserted against the RCDH.

As we explained when this process started in February, the RCDH's financial situation had been in a challenging position for several years prior to the Grand Jury Subpoena. That investigation and the legal costs we incurred took its toll on our financial situation, leaving us with no other path forward than to file for Chapter 11 protections and seek to reorganize. Once this process is complete, our Diocese will have a much stronger foundation to build, and rebuild, upon.

I fully understand that the past several years have been very difficult on our priests, deacons, religious, employees and most especially, each of you. There is no excuse, there is no justification for the RCDH's horrific past regarding clergy sexual abuse. I continue to offer my most profound apology to all those survivors of clergy abuse and to pray they will find healing. I also thank each of you for your continued faith, especially when it has been repeatedly tested.

We still have several months of mediation ahead of us and we will do our best to keep you informed of milestone actions, when possible. As we move through this process, I encourage you to visit www.hbgdiocese.org/reorganization-information for the most up-to-date information.

I humbly ask for your prayers for our Diocese as we continue this process. May God grant us every grace needed during this difficult time. May Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, intercede with Her Son to be our strength and support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg