

Church of the Holy Angels

December 13, 2020, Third 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 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

Monday, December 14

8:00am Lorraine Fallat

Tuesday, December 15

8:00am Robert Daniels

Wednesday, December 16

8:00am Ralph Mirarchi

Thursday, December 17

8:00am Tara Yancheski

Friday, December 18

8:00am Helen & Andrew Sabol

Saturday, December 19

8:00am Sr. M. Laboure Kuchinski
 4:00pm Eleanor Waraksa
 5:30pm James Korenkiewicz

Sunday, December 20

8:30am People of the Parish
 10:30am Joseph & Teresa Mirarchi



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 December 6

Number of registered households	883
155 Sunday Offering (Households)	\$4,402.00
Loose Cash	\$27.00
Youth Offering	\$10.00
Shortfall- Debt Reduction & Plus One	\$41.00
Energy	\$74.00
Votive Candles	\$88.00
All Saints	\$10.00
Thanksgiving	\$115.00
Immaculate Conception	\$388.00

Amount Budgeted	\$8,333.00
Amount Contributed	\$5,155.00
Weekend of December 6	-\$3,178.00

Improvement Fund	
Previous Balance	\$17,772.00
Weekend of December 6	+\$285.00
Balance	\$18,057.00

Air Conditioner Replacement Campaign	
Goal	\$60,000.00
Donations to date	\$11,576.00
Balance	\$48,424.00

Diocesan Collections	
Matthew 25	\$165.00

Confessions

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

Of Your Charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of **Robert Gula & Rose Marie Clauser**, members of Holy Angels Parish Family. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they 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 13 thru December 19

Sanctuary Light: *In loving memory of Albert Hrapowicki by Children & Grandchildren*
St. Anthony: *In loving memory of Waldo Orrego by Jennifer*
St. Anne: *Special Intention of Ruth Witrosky by Rose Witrosky*
St. Casimir: *Special Intention*
St. Theresa: *In loving memory of James Korenkiewicz by wife, Theresa*
St. Kateri: *In loving memory of Elaine Duran by husband, Michael*
St. Marziale: *In loving memory of Ronald Procopio by wife, Cindy & Children*
Sacred Heart: *In loving memory of Barbara Kahler by husband Dave & Family*



PREP

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

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

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! Please call the parish office, 570-373-1221, if you have the winning number!

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 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)

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. Tickets are still available. 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.

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.

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.

Christmas Mass Reservations

If you are planning on attending a Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and you have not yet made your reservation, please do so as soon as possible. If the number attending in your group changes, we ask that you contact us as soon as possible to make any changes.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Our Lady of Victory #588

Celebrated our 100th Anniversary

December 12, 1920 - December 12, 2020

Happy Anniversary to our members and thank you to the parish for all your support through the years!

Kathleen Peeler, Regent

Mary Snyder, Vice Regent

Mary Catherine Wydra, treasurer

Nora Avellino, Financial Secretary

Barb Persing, Recording Secretary

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 Auxiliary are currently being reviewed. Watch for upcoming changes in 2021.

Make a Difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

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.**

Children's Modified Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 20, the children who are signed up to receive a gift may pick it up in the Activity Center from 1:00PM- 2:30PM. Gift and treats will be given out, Santa will be there to greet the children!



Valesa - a Nightmare is a docu-drama written in Poland under a pseudonym and then smuggled out of the country. It tells the story of political prisoners like Lech Walesa. Near the end of the play a prisoner priest, who usually offers a solitary Mass, is joined by the rest of the prisoners at considerable risk to celebrate the Eucharist. At this moment, the play reaches a climax with the deafening scream of crows - a Polish symbol for the Communist military regime under General Jaruzelski. The cawing of the crows suddenly gives way to the soft chirping of spring birds and the comforting notes of a piano concerto - a symbol of the optimism of the Polish people that one day their quest for religious and political freedom will be realized. *Valesa - a Nightmare* shows how Christ can come into our lives even in the worst of circumstances. The Lord came to Lech Walesa in a Communist prison through Walesa's Faith and prayers, through his Polish culture and pride, through his fellow political prisoners and through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (Albert Cylwicki in *His Word Resounds*)

Today is called "*Gaudete Sunday*" because today's Mass (in its Latin, pre-Vatican II form), began with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" --"Rejoice in the Lord always." In the past, when Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant of the liturgy used to wear vestments with the penitential color of purple or violet. To remind the people that they were preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, the celebrant wore rose-colored vestments on the third Sunday. (By the way, we have a similar break--*Laetare Sunday*-- during the Lenten season). Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Savior. The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptizer all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people.

What should we do in preparation for Christmas? The Jews asked the same question of John. His answer was: "Repent and reform your lives, and prayerfully wait for the Messiah." This means that we have to pray from the heart and pray more often. Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, has urgently reminded us of the need for more fervent and more frequent prayer. Let us remember that the Holy Mass is the most powerful of prayers. We must become a Eucharistic people, receiving the living presence of Jesus in our hearts so that we may be transformed into His image and likeness. We encounter Jesus in all the Sacraments. Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us also listen daily to God speaking to us through the Bible. Perhaps, we may want to pray the rosary daily and fast once a week all year round, not just during Advent and Lent. After all, we sin all year round, so why not fast also all year round? Let us also find some spare time to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who have offended us and pray for those whom we have offended. Finally, let us share our love with others in selfless and humble service, "doing small things but with great love" (Mother Teresa). As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives, we need also to remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means of bringing Jesus into other people's lives.

Dear Padre,

Who was John the Baptist?

What we know about John the Baptist comes from a combination of Scripture and Church traditions that evolved during and after the writing of the Scriptures of the New Testament.

John's parents were Zechariah, who was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Elizabeth, who was related to Mary. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife would bear a son, even though she was quite old. It is believed that John was born in the region of Ain Karim, southwest of Jerusalem. When he was in his early twenties, he was a member of the Qumran community, and later was a hermit in the desert. John began his public ministry in his late twenties in the Jordan River Valley. His preaching followed the long line of Jewish prophets who preached against the evils of the day and demanded inner repentance and outer baptism as a sign of that repentance.



John continued his preaching in the Jordan Valley even after encountering Jesus. Eventually John was arrested by Herod Antipas and imprisoned at Machaerus Fortress by the Dead Sea. He was beheaded at the request of Salome, the daughter of Herodias, and buried at Sebaste, in Samaria. After John's death, many of his disciples followed Jesus, including Andrew and John.

John, whose name means "God is gracious," is usually represented in pictures holding a long slender cross with a small lamb partially hidden behind him.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Anxieties, difficulties, and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert....But the words of [John] the Baptist reveal that our joy rests on the certainty that this desert is inhabited: "Among you there is one whom you do not know."

—ANGELUS, GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 14
Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday
DECEMBER 15
Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday
DECEMBER 16
Advent Weekday
Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday
DECEMBER 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Friday
DECEMBER 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday
DECEMBER 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Sunday
DECEMBER 20
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,
14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent (B)
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Who Are You?

So far the readings for Sundays in Advent have shown God leading the people into a new way of life—a way of righteousness and loyalty, of honesty and responsibility. Today the readings show the people beginning to see that the accomplishment of this transformation would come through the leadership of one individual. Who might that person be?

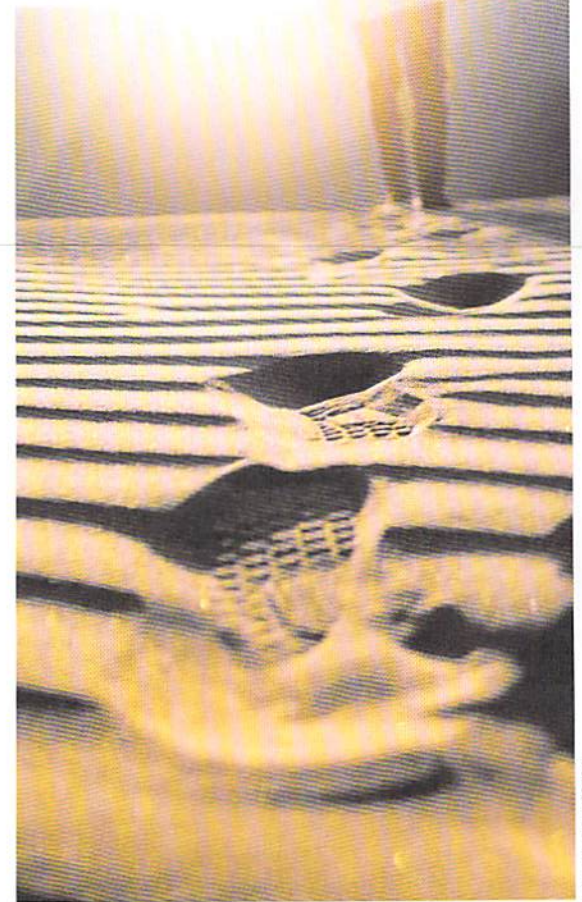
The passage from Isaiah describes a prophet, one anointed by God and bringing good news to the poor. When the Baptist appears on the scene in John's Gospel, people wonder if it might be him. He insists he is not the one, nor is he a prophet. Then, "Who are you?" (John 1:19) Recalling the passage from Isaiah read on the First Sunday of Advent, John tells them he is the one repairing the road, getting it ready for the long-awaited one to arrive. He adds that his baptism is a baptism of repentance. He is readying them to be what Paul describes as "perfectly holy...blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

We now see that these readings are preparing us for salvation. We are now told that such divine graciousness will be inaugurated by an individual, one who has not yet been identified. Will it be a powerful king? A mighty warrior? A spectacular prophet? Those in the time before Christ didn't know. We now know that it will be someone powerful enough to initiate a revolutionary change in the lives of the entire people. Now waiting gets exciting.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

[John the Baptist said,] "There is one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

JOHN 1:26-27



FOR Reflection

- How might you envision this long-awaited one? What do you think the nation needs in a leader?
- What kind of revolutionary transformation do you think we need today?