

DECEMBER 6, 2020

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ISAIAH 40: 1-5, 9-11. The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley.
PSALM 85. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
2 PETER. 3: 8-14. Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming day of God.
MARK. 1: 1-8. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

TODAY'S REFLECTION: A season of both comfort and warning. As an "Advent people," we are caught (like the Israelites returning to Jerusalem) between a world that is dying and, at the same time, waiting to be reborn. The work of Advent is to bring about rebirth: to prepare a world that is ready for the Lord's coming. Christ's coming is both a comfort and a threat: the Messiah comes with a Gospel that proclaims the love of God and the hope of his Son's Resurrection—but it is a Gospel that imposes the cross of humble loving servanthood. There is a highway to be built for our God through the wilderness of individual hearts and societies; there are valleys of want to be filled in and mountains of injustice to be brought low. Christ comes as the light that shatters the darkness of old animosities and hatreds and creates a new heaven and a new earth in the justice and peace of God.



INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES:

MONDAY 12/7 VIGIL MASS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

6:00 P.M.

People of the Parish

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

TUESDAY 12/8 -THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:00 A.M.

Deceased of the Kopa-Lowe Families (Ken & Joan)

WEDNESDAY 12/9

8:00 A.M.

Eleanor V. Costa (JoAnn Wilson & 3rd Grade C.C.D. Class)

St. Juan Diego

THURSDAY 12/10

8:00 A.M.

Philip Tochelli Sr. (Walter & Marie Mills)

Advent Weekday

FRIDAY 12/11

8:00 A.M.

Rose Jennings (Annette O'Bell)

St. Damasus I, Pope

SATURDAY 12/12

4:00 P.M.

Joan Lubash (Patricia Lubash- Mussari)

6:00 P.M. -OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

SUNDAY 12/13-GAUDETE SUNDAY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 A.M.

Mary E. Curatola (Tom & Kim Terpak)

10:30 A.M.

Walter Pagoda (The Family)

12:00 P.M.-SPANISH MASS

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 2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, www.respectlife.org/reflection.



OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020

OFFERTORY	\$3,281.00
ON-LINE GIVING	\$385.00
SALARY/DUES	\$115.00
FLOWERS	\$192.00
THANKSGIVING	\$423.00
ROOF FUND	\$86.00
INCOME	=\$4,482.00
AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES	=\$4,803.34



COUNTERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

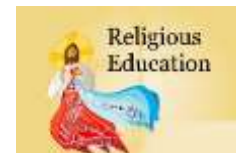
Diane Chelik
Theresa Daley

THANK YOU: Your generosity is appreciated and goes a long way, especially during these challenging times, in maintaining our Parish. God Bless You.

THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY DECEMBER 8TH FOR THE HOLY DAY, AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH.

C.C.D. CALENDAR:

Dec. 6 9:00 A.M.-Regular Classes
 Dec. 13 9:00 A.M.-Regular Classes
 Dec. 20 9:00 A.M.-Regular Classes
 Dec. 27 NO C.C.D. CLASSES



2020 RETIREMENT FUND FOR

RELIGIOUS: Help our Elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

REMEMBER YOUR FACE MASK: Please remember to bring your mask to Mass.

GOD'S DELAY: In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?" And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving everyone the chance to seek repentance. God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert. We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS: Will be celebrated Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 P.M. Traditional prayers and music will accompany our celebration in honor of Our Lady, Patroness of the Americas.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS/OPLATKI: These are available on the tables at the entrance of the Church. The donation is \$3.00.

CARE AND EDUCATION OF PRIESTS: We no longer have an envelope for this very important collection. **If you would like credit for this collection simply mark a plain envelope with your envelope number.** The second collection this Sunday will be designated for the Care and Education of Priests. Please be generous to this collection!



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: The Feast that call us to live our lives 'full of grace'. This week's Holy day call us to live our lives "full of grace". At our baptism, we received the same capacity for grace that Mary received at her conception. Unlike Mary, we struggle to remain graced fully aware of God's presence and able to reveal it clearly to others. Nonetheless, God remains at work in us transforming our destructive inclinations undoing the damage we have inflicted on ourselves, and healing the injury we have caused others. When we trust the actions of grace in our lives, God will, over time, craft for us a life many times better than any we left behind. Mary's life reminds us of that today. As she did let us trust the presence of God to build in us lives full of grace. **The Masses are: Monday at 6:00 P.M. (Vigil) and Tuesday, at 8:00 A.M.**



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION: Your baby is making progress developing all of his external features and internal organs. His brain is functioning at 40 days. His mother can hear his heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. His milk teeth buds are present an 6 1/2 weeks. And it has been reported that a two-month old baby can suck his thumb. From this moment onward, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines his body. But everything he needs to survive once he is born is already present by the end of the eighth week.



DRIVE THRU LIVING NATIVITY: Mary Mother of God parish cordially invites you to their Drive Thru Living Nativity in front of the Church on Sunday, December 13, 2020 from 1-2 P.M. 316 William Street, Scranton, Pa. 18508.



ADVENT CALENDAR AND ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS: These are available in the church for your home use. Please take a few home.

BLESSING FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA INTENTIONS: These are found in your packets and are for your Intentions throughout the Advent and Christmas Season. They will be placed on the Altar for your intentions to be celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

HOLIDAY HELPER TICKET SALES: Tickets for the Holiday Helper fundraiser will be on sale before and after all Masses on the week-ends of Nov 28-29 and Dec. 5-6. The cost is \$10 per ticket. The prizes are as follows:

- ★ 1st Prize-\$1,000.00
- ★ 2nd & 3rd Prize-\$500.00
- and three \$50.00 Gas Cards.

The drawing will be held **on December 9, at the monthly Stewardship Meeting** (7:00 P.M. in the Parish Center). Please consider purchasing tickets. Good Luck!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE UPDATE: Due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's Christmas Cookie Sale will be cancelled.

VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Winter and the post-holiday season can be difficult times to navigate grief, particularly during an ongoing period of social distancing offered by Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, Scranton. Anyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member of the parish to participate 6:30-7:30 P.M. The dates of the virtual meetings will be January 6, 13, 20 and 27. For more information contact Deacon Ed Schoener, 570-814-5133.

Did You Know...



You May Make a Gift to Your Parish or to the Diocesan Annual Appeal Directly From Your IRA

If you are 70% or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your *required minimum distribution* to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For information, please contact
Jim Bebla,
 Diocesan Secretary of Development,
 Jim-Bebla@DioceseofScranton.org
 570-207-2250

Our Parish Goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal is: **\$21,000.00.** To date we have **\$9,856.00** in Pledges. Thank You!



SONNY SAYS: The husband says to the wife: "Dear, after 60 years, our love is tried and true." Hard of hearing, the wife asks her husband to repeat himself. After hearing it again, she replies, "Well, after 60 years, I'm tired of you too."