



**DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



ISAIAH. 61: 1-2a, 10-11. As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations.

PSALM (Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54). My soul rejoices in my God.

1 THESSALONIANS. 5: 16-24. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good.

JOHN. 1: 6-8, 19-28. I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.



**TODAY'S REFLECTION:** The Advent call to joy. The Christ event calls us to joy—to realize and celebrate they joy of God's presence that we are often too busy or too jaded or too overwhelmed to see. God desires much more than a cold, submissive "Creator/created" relationship with us; he seeks the kind of loving and trusting relationship that exists between devoted parents and their children. While realizing our failings, God does not abandon us to sink in hopelessness and despair. We have so much to celebrate, so much to be thankful for, so much to be hopeful about. "God saw the world falling in ruin because of fear and immediately acted to call it

back with love. God invited it by grace, preserved it by love and embraced it with compassion," (St. Peter Chrysologus)

## Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

**INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES:**

**MONDAY 12/14**

8:00 A.M.

Deceased of the Joseph Barrett Family (Janice Petorak)

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

**TUESDAY 12/15**

8:00 A.M.

Joseph Germano (Mary Ryczak)

Advent Weekday

**WEDNESDAY 12/16**

8:00 A.M.

Carmen Occhipiniti (Family)

Advent Weekday

**THURSDAY 12/17**

8:00 A.M.

Special Intention of the Franks Family (Andy & Margaret Franks)

Late Advent weekday

**FRIDAY 12/18**

8:00 A.M.

Joe & Bill Solomon (Deborah Solomon)

Late Advent Weekday

**SATURDAY 12/19**

4:00 P.M.

Florence Mills (Walter & Marie Mills)

**SUNDAY 12/19-THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 A.M.

Veronica Fredericks (Gladys Gibbons)

10:30 A.M.

Jean McDermott (Judy Hine)

12:00 P.M.-Spanish Mass

People of the Parish

**WORD OF LIFE:** "O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." *USCCB "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"*

**THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

Christmas Eve: 2:00 P.M.; 4:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M. Spanish Mass; & 9:00 P.M.

Christmas Day: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Reservations are NOT Necessary. Masks and Social Distancing will be practiced, with Sanitizing between each Mass.

God Bless us this Christmas Season.



**OUR WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 13, 2020**

OFFERTORY \$3,495.80

ON-LINE GIVING \$354.00

SALARY/DUES \$696.00

HOLY DAY \$434.00

GOOD SAMARITAN \$5.00

FLOWERS \$78.00

CARE & ED FOR PRIESTS \$201.00

INCOME=\$5,062.80

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES=\$4803.34

Counters for Monday December 13<sup>TH</sup>

Sandra Mullen

Mary Fran Smith

Dorothy Perry



**THANK YOU:** Thank you to all who have been donating your offerings. We appreciate your generosity. You are our only source of assistance. May God Bless your generosity!

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS:** Each Saturday 3:00 -3:45 P.M.

Also, confessions will be available:

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 6-7:00 P.M. & Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 6-7:00 P.M.

**WILL THE REAL MESSIAH**

**PLEASE STAND UP?:** The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, "I am not he." He baptized with water as a mean of leading people to the coming of Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light. We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your "ducks in a row" and always has been. Today's encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.



**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.

**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.



**SANTA RIDES AROUND MAYFIELD:** Members of the Mayfield Fire

Departments have received word from the North Pole that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be traveling throughout the Mayfield Borough of Mayfield on Saturday, December 19 distributing treats to all the



GOOD children in Mayfield. Volunteer fire company members of the Mayfield Hose Co., Whitmore Hose Co., and William Walker Hose Co. will accompany Santa on his visit in his Special Sleigh beginning on the west side of town at 4:00 P.M. and continuing until all streets have been visited. Any parent of an ill or homebound child may contact Santa at 570-766-2959 prior to 1:00 P.M. that day to schedule an in-home visit. In case of inclement weather, the visits will begin at 5:00 P.M. the next Sunday, December 20.

**BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS CRECHE:**

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas, may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels, and animals found the Christ in this poor place. Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and guide our steps into the way of peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**WALL CALENDARS:** Special Thank you to Battenberg Furniture Store and Funeral Home for donating the Wall calendars for 2021. These are available in the back of the Church, please feel free to take one.

**2020 RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:**



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.

**C.C.D. CALENDAR:**

Dec. 13 9:00 A.M.-Regular Classes  
Dec. 20 9:00 A.M.-Regular Classes  
Dec. 27 NO C.C.D. CLASSES  
Jan. 3-NO C.C.D. CLASSES



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

**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.



**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.

CLERGY Support  
"Villa St. Joseph is a wonderful, wonderful place. We enjoy getting together for meals and sharing our lives. I say Mass in the chapel daily and go to community Mass on Sunday... Through the Appeal, the Diocese has been very generous."  
MGR. WILLIAM WARD, RETIRED  
Since his ordination in 1957, Mgr. Ward has served the Diocese as spiritual director at St. Pius X Seminary and Librarian at the Pontifical North American College for seminarians in Rome. He used his master's degree in counseling during his cherished assignments as pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Pike County, and St. Jude and St. John the Baptist Parishes, Luzerne County. Until his health prohibited it two years ago, after retirement, he assisted pastors by offering Mass, hearing confessions and visiting the sick.  
Retired priests continue to be a vital part of our Diocese. Before the COVID pandemic they assisted by offering Mass and administering the sacraments. From the most senior to the newly ordained, our priests selflessly serve us. We now ask you to support them through the Diocesan Annual Appeal.  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON BOUND TOGETHER IN HOPE  
THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL  
To make a gift visit AnnualAppeal.org

Our Parish Goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal is: **\$21,000.00.** To date we have **\$10,061.00** in Pledges. Thank You!

**SONNY SAYS:** The husband told his wife he would take her out to dine royally. They'll start out at Burger King and end up at Dairy Queen.

