

PARISH NUMBERS

Parish Phone Number 570-654-0263
 Parish e-mail olepittston@gmail.com

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
 Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

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Observances for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Andrew, Apostle
 Tuesday:
 Wednesday:
 Thursday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
 Friday:
 Saturday:
 Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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**LIVE THE LITURGY –
 INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Be watchful! Be alert! The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple. As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well. While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God’s presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ’s second coming, and even Christ’s coming in time are of lesser importance. When it finally dawns on us that we have wandered far away from where we need to be, and lost our attentiveness and focus, we will wonder how this all happened. We may even try to put the onus on God and blame God for a lack of involvement or presence. We are the ones, who through our own choice, put the distance in our relationship and lost touch. Now it’s time to come back and perk ourselves up a bit!

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Sister Mary Ann Cody, I.H.M., *Parish Life Coordinator*
 Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, V.E., *Sacramental Minister*
 Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E., *Priest Moderator*
 Rev. Thomas J. Maloney, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Ben Brubaker, *Director of Music Ministry*
 JoAnne McHale, *Coordinator of Religious Education*
 Barbara Grimes, *Coordinator Lucky # Calendar*
 Dennis Grimes, *Coordinator of Grounds and Maintenance*
 Mary Hanczyc, *Coordinator of Social Service Ministries*

PARISH COMMUNITY MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish Community, inspired by the Word of God and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, serves as a community of Catholic Christians, proclaiming the Gospel and striving to be disciples of Jesus Christ through love, Liturgy, prayer, on-going faith formation, and charitable works for all God's people.

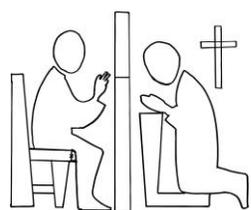
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat	4:00 p.m.	Aloysius & Gertrude Ankenbrand – Dennis & Barbara Grimes
Sun	8:30 a.m.	Thelma Prandy – Mollie Albie Rensky
	11:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Mon	8:00 a.m.	Edward Holleran – Paul & Sheila Kern
Wed	8:00 a.m.	Allan Haas – Frank & Donna Licata
Fri	8:00 a.m.	Eleanor Bellanco – The Francik Family

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat	4:00 p.m.	Leo A. Tighe – M/M Jim Silitis
Sun	8:30 a.m.	Earl & Catherine Campbell – Kathryn Campbell
	11:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

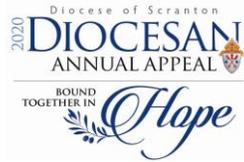


During this Advent Season, as we prepare for Christmas, Father Shantillo will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday afternoons before the 4PM Mass (3:30PM to 3:45PM) and on Sunday mornings after the 8:30AM Mass and starting again at 10:15AM before the 11AM Mass. We encourage all parents of our students to see that they have the opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation prior to Christmas.



“The Son of God entered this world as a homeless person. The Son of God knew what it was like to start life without a roof over his head.”

Pope Francis



Our parish goal for this year's appeal is \$16,000.00. As of 11/24/2020, \$7,204.00 (45%) has been donated from our parishioners.



You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!



Monetary donations for 11/21-22 were **\$2,450.41**. Online giving during the week amounted to **\$59.10**. **Thank you for your generosity to our parish community.**

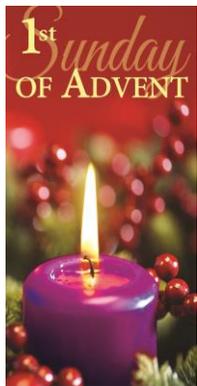
That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.



Our Parish Giving Tree this year is for those less fortunate than us who are served on a daily basis by St. Vincent's Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre.

We ask you to use the Advent Calendar attached to this bulletin and pack a box of suggested food items which we will then take down to St. Vincent's. Please drop your family's box on the Religious Education Center Porch no later than Sunday, December 20 at Noon.

First Sunday of Advent



Each year, this season of Advent comes around. We bless one candle each week in Advent. Let us ask God to bless our family on this First Sunday of Advent:

*God of new beginnings,
today we begin a new year in our church with the image of a wreath.
We ask you to bless our family.
Help us to see our family life as a wreath, without a beginning and without an end.*

As we light this one candle,

we recall how you have changed our family since we last gathered around the Advent wreath.

Help us to be for others what this family has been to us— a helper in times of need and a source of abundant blessings to share with others.

We ask this through Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega. Amen.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

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