

PARISH NUMBERS

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



Readings for the Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54/
 1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9/
 Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23/
 Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12,
 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/
 Mt 1:1-17
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
 Lk 1:5-25
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,
 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
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Observances for the Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and
 Doctor of the Church
 Tuesday:
 Wednesday:
 Thursday:
 Friday:
 Saturday:
 Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
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**LIVE THE LITURGY –
 INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.
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SIGN UP . . . for our Christmas Masses by going to the parish website and clicking the link for the Mass you would like to attend. Due restrictions with regard to social distancing, our capacity at each Mass is limited. If necessary we will happily add additional Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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.

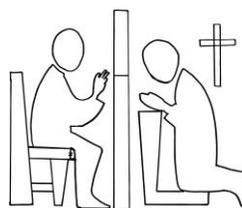
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 4:00 p.m. Geri Samony – Family
 Sun 8:30 a.m. People of the Parish
 11:00 a.m. John & Rosemary McHale - Family
 Mon 8:00 a.m. Paul Leonard – Family
 Wed 8:00 a.m. Joseph Roche – James & Ann Kelly
 Fri 8:00 a.m. Mary Rowley – Joanne McHale

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

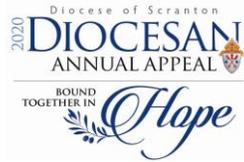
Sat 4:00 p.m. Leonard Yashinski – Robert Lopata
 Sun 8:30 a.m. People of the Parish
 11:00 a.m. Rita D. Corridoni – Dorothy Williams & Family

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.





Our parish goal for this year's appeal is \$16,000.00. As of 12/07/2020, \$7,504.00 (46.9%) has been donated from our parishioners.



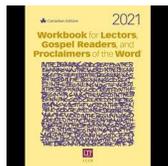
Monetary donations for 12/6-7 were \$4425.00, which included a \$200.00 donation in memory of *Michael Tighe*. Online giving during the week amounted to \$22469.97. We have also

received a donation of \$2,500.00 from the *John Charles and Kathryn S. Redmond Foundation* in memory of *Dorothy Roche*. **Thank you for your generosity to our parish community.**



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.

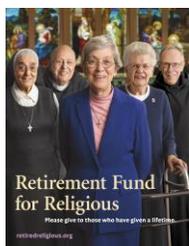
We ask you to use the Advent Calendar attached to this bulletin and pack a box of suggested food items which we will then take down to St. Vincent's. Please drop your family's box on the Religious Education Center Porch no later than Sunday, December 20 at Noon.



2021 Lector Workbooks are available in the sacristy. Please pick one up if you are interested. Thank you for service to our parish community.

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." — Jn 1:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have served our Church and world. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Yet hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. **Please be generous to the Annual Collection for the Support of Retired Religious.**



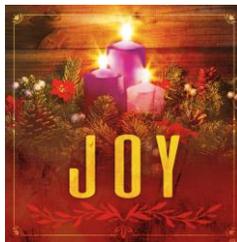
Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

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Light one candle for joy.



Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but our joy cannot be contained. Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe, Joy pierces our silence with song interrupts our sighing with laughter unshackles our fumbling feet to dance. "My soul magnifies the Lord," she whispers, "and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior."

So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Karen Ware Jackson