

PARISH NUMBERS

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



Readings for the Week of December 20, 2020

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
 Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
 Friday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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Observances for the Week of December 20, 2020

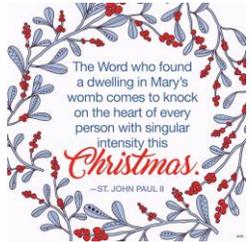
Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
 Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Tuesday:
 Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
 Thursday: Christmas Eve
 Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
 Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
 Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that “more” needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

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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.

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 |
| Mon | 8:00 a.m. | John Charles & Kathryn S. Redmond |
| Wed | 8:00 a.m. | Alice, Stanley, Jan Paul and deceased of the Draus Family - Estate |

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

| | | |
|------|------------|------------------------|
| Thur | 4:00 p.m. | Celebrant's Intentions |
| | 10:00 p.m. | Celebrant's Intentions |
| Fri | 10:00 a.m. | Celebrant's Intentions |

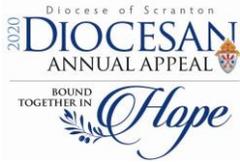
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

| | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| Sat | 4:00 p.m. | Ton and Dianne Tigue – Vincent & Barbara O'Hop |
| Sun | 8:30 a.m. | Thelma Prandy – Marie Griglock and Kossuth Family |
| | 11:00 a.m. | People of the Parish |

 . . . 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.



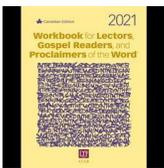
Due to the restrictions with regard to Covid-19 and in order to keep all our usual volunteers safe, we are scaling down our decorations of the church this year. We will only be bringing over to the Church the Holy Family Statues – all of the others associated with the birth of our Lord will be kept in quarantine!



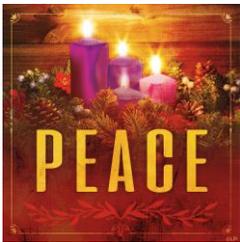
Our parish goal for this year's appeal is \$16,000.00. As of 12/16/2020, \$7,604.00 (47.6%) has been donated from our parishioners.



Monetary donations for 12/12-13 were \$4,254.00. Online giving during the week amounted to \$748.80. **Thank you for your generosity to our parish community.**



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



Light one candle for peace. Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but we refuse to be frozen by fear. Peace comes in fits and starts- a deep breath a courageous truth a humble heart.

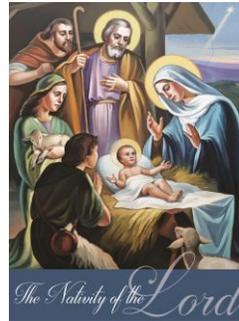
"Prepare the way," she whispers, "for the Lord comes to make the broken whole." So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

Karen Ware Jackson



Thank you to all who were able to participate in this year's food drive for St. Vincent's Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre. An open back truck and an SVU were filled with food along with 4 large bags of hand-knitted hats were delivered on Tuesday prior to the snow storm. Any additional items will be delivered this

week. A special THANK YOU goes to Ron and Maurita Bartnikowski who helped with the delivery.



**December 25, 2020
The Nativity of the Lord**

If the salutation, "Merry Christmas," is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the "more" really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from "doing" for the poor to "being with" the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, "Joy to the World," and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manger at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, "I and me," but, "we and us," and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?

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Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

4:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M.

There will be a musical prelude 15 minutes before the start of each Mass. Both Masses will be live-streamed via Facebook.

Friday, Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 A.M.

There will be a musical prelude 15 minutes before the start of Mass. Mass will be live-streamed via Facebook.

Wesley Village residents will be streamed in to it and Communion brought over after Mass.

