



# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday December 14, 2019

*St. John of the Cross*

4:00 PM People of the Parish  
Sun. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Joe Kruper  
(Daughter Liinda)

11:00 AM Pearl Gerbino  
(Geri Preyer)  
Spanish Mass

12:30 PM

Mon. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Lisa Reichelderfer

Tues. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Anna Leitzel

Wed. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM George Hogan

Thurs. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Beverly Hausammann

7:00 PM *Penance Service*  
*Kramm's Milton*

Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Marry Ann Fleming

Sat. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 PM Dorothy Riordan  
(Sharon & Ed Grove)

Sun. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 AM 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Rudy Muscarella  
(Elizabeth Muscarella)

11:00 AM People of the Parish

*December 15, 2019*  
*Third Sunday of Advent*

### ST. JOSEPH IS A TITHING PARISH

God's Plan for Giving

In return for the Lord's generosity, our people returned to God the following:

Sunday Offerings:	\$4,998.00
Last Year:	\$3,895.00
Retirement for Religious:	\$1,153.00

The above are bank deposit amounts

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, and the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

#### **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "Yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the messiah.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

While in prison, John sends a message to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?" Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

#### Second Collections

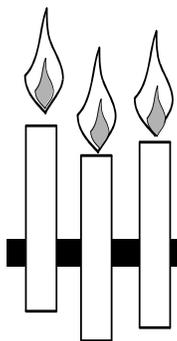
*Christmas Flowers*

*(anytime before Christmas)*

*December 15 – Repairs & Maintenance*

*December 25 – Christmas*

*January 1, 2020 – Solemnity of Mary*



Steady your hearts  
God is near

This week on Wednesday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, mass will be at 9:00 AM because of a Penance Service at St. Pius X in Selinsgrove. Thank you.

From Our Pastor,

This Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday, or Joyful Sunday, Let us rejoice in the Lord for the Lord is so close in His coming into our hearts. We use a Rose-colored candle and vestment to express joy, of being in the pink. One of the great gifts of Advent season is to open us to the many gifts that the Lord offers to us and the gift of peace and joy are two very important gifts from God. Let us pray for one another that the last few days before Christ's Mass, 'Christmas' will not drain us or fill us with worry and anxiety but rather grant us great joy and peace knowing that we have made spiritual Advent.

One way to improve on the quality of the gift we build for Jesus during Advent is to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to Confession/Penance. Just the process of preparing for Reconciliation is a gift of the Holy Spirit, we seek the grace of a calm peaceful examination of our conscience, we seek the courage to take an honest look at our souls and see if there is any way we could improve the place we want to enthrone the Baby Jesus on Christmas Day. This is not to make us feel broken, discarded but to reach out and believe in the grace of the Holy Spirit to heal restore cleanse and strengthen our love for Christ and His Holy Mother, that we might have the joy of giving a better self to God and to one another. Please make your best gift for Jesus by coming to Confession this week. See the Confession schedule for the Deanery.

It is not too early to start to think about our parish's Christmas/Epiphany Party on January 5th at 12:30 in the Parish Center. Come out and celebrate as a parish family with a meal and sing along and games. Rather than have you sign up on the bulletin board there are flyers for you to detach and fill in and return. We want reservations so that we will know how much food to provide and what special dish you will be bringing for the family party. So check out the bulletin board for a flyer, fill it in and return it a.s.a.p. the deadline is 12-29-19.

Please don't forget to put the homeless on your Christmas gift list; 'THE NO ROOM IN THE INN PROJECT' is a great way to unite us to Christ, giving to Jesus a gift He really wants for Christmas. Thank you for buying Christmas Cookies for the hungry.

God Bless and let us pray for one another.

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:** Michael Lentz, Paul Gharett, Chad Pata, Mike Azinger, Mike Weisner, Rita Prentiss, Aiden Barsis, Connie Buehler, Mason Reeder, Maria Harper, Matthew Rosboschil, Charlotte Farrell and Jackie Rando, If you would like to have a name announced in the bulletin or if someone is well and we can remove their name, please call the parish office. After six weeks of prayer, names will be removed. If further prayer is needed please call the Parish Office at 570-742-4356 to reinstate name. Thank You. **PRAYER IS OUR WAY TO CALL UPON GOD.**

**St. Joseph Happenings**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Dec. 19      | Penance Service   |
| Dec. 24      | Christmas Blessings<br>Mass at 5 PM & 10:30 PM            |
| Dec. 25      | Christmas Blessings<br>Mass at 10 AM                      |
| Dec. 31      | Vigil Mass at 7 PM  |
| Jan. 1, 2020 | 10 AM Mass for the<br>Solemnity of Mary,<br>Mother of God |
| Jan. 5       | Family Epiphany Celebration                               |

We invite all children of the parish and their families to provide *Christmas caroling for 30 minutes prior to the 5pm Christmas Eve* Children's Mass. Song books will be provided for caroling led by the music director. At 10 minutes till Mass time we will all go up 'the secret stairway' for your reserved seat in the choir loft where we will lead the congregation in the Christmas Eve Carols. Please contact Mr. Krepps at 570-898-1074 or [psk01@ptd.net](mailto:psk01@ptd.net) so he knows how many song books to prepare and extra chairs in the loft.

## CHOIR REHEARSAL

The **parish choir** is having rehearsal for late Advent, Christmas and Epiphany beginning on **Tuesdays at 7pm** and **Wednesdays at 7:30pm**. We want to accommodate as many as we can by giving you some choices. The choir is open for anyone that can carry a tune beginning in 5<sup>th</sup> grade through adult. We have 13 signed up so far.

**PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES:** The parish is in need of filling three Parish Council vacancies. Each council position has a mission responsibility. Positions open are Evangelization, Ecumenism, and Buildings and Grounds. A brief description of the missions: **Evangelization:** Live your faith; share your faith; foster gospel values in our society; outreach to inactive Catholics. **Ecumenism:** Encourage unity and understanding within the Christian community; seek opportunities to join with other Christian faiths in community activities. **Buildings and Grounds:** Work closely with Vince Emery and establish a priority of projects and repairs – communicate these items to the Parish Finance Committee. Solicit parishioners for assistance in maintaining the buildings and grounds. Interested parishioners are encouraged to contact Father Hoke or Jim Seksinsky at 570-437-2992.

### Penance Service Schedule

**Mon. Dec. 16 – St. Joseph, Danville**  
**Tues. Dec. 17 – St. Monica, Sunbury**  
**Wed. Dec. 18 – St. Pius X, Selinsgrove**  
**Thurs. Dec. 19 – St. Joseph, Milton**  
**Fri. Dec. 20 – Sacred Heart, Lewisburg**  
**Services begin at 7:00 PM**

### Holiday Giving Tree

We are asking you to help bring a little cheer to the Parish shut-ins and our elderly. Check the bulletin board. Please take a star with a number on it. Sign your name & phone number next to the number that you have taken. On each numbered star is a gift idea. **Return the gift with the numbered star attached to the Church by today, Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at noon.** Place monetary gifts or gift cards in an envelope and put them in the collection basket. Place other gifts on the table in the back of the church. Thanks in advance for your help.

**Family Epiphany 2020 Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:30 pm at the Parish Center. Complete the flyer provided on the bulletin board and return in the collection basket. Please return form before Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

***Cross Catholic Outreach “Homes for Christmas” or “No Room at the Inn”:*** During this time of Advent, we are asking again this year for donations to help build a home in Haiti. A home can be built for as little as \$3,000.00. Please place your donation in a separate envelope marked “Homes for Christmas” and place in the collection. **Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Church. Donations will be accepted during the month of December. Thank you.**

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Please consider helping those less fortunate. Donations of boxed stuffing mix, mashed potatoes, canned vegetables and fruits and baby items are needed for the area food bank. Consider picking up some extra items at the grocery store to donate. Boxes are located in the confessional. Thank you.

### Council of Catholic Women

1936 - 2019

**Food Bank Collection** area in confessional. Items needed include Cereal, Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna, Fruits and Vegetables along with Nonperishables, toiletries

**Migrant Outreach Collection for CSIU**

Small sized toiletries, razors

**Soda tabs** for Ronald McDonald House

**Box tops for Ed** for Milton schools, parochial school

**Facebook-** <https://www.facebook.com/ccwmilton>

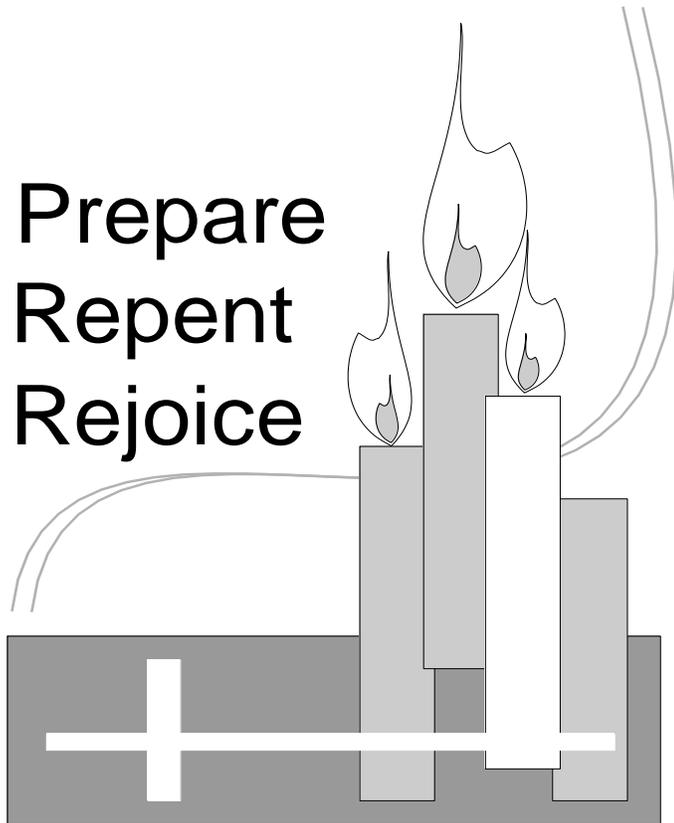
**Website-** <http://stjosephmilton.org>

**CCW PRAYER SHAWLS:** Any parishioner who can knit or crochet, please think about making prayer shawls. If anyone in the parish knows of someone that needs a prayer shawl, please contact a CCW member or officer.

***Ladies, save the date for the January CCW meeting. We will have our annual Epiphany Dinner Tuesday evening, January 7, 2020 at Rooney's in West Milton. RSVP to Michele Seebold if you plan to attend. [michelemseebold@gmail.com](mailto:michelemseebold@gmail.com) or 570-713-5827.***

**2019 Diocesan Annual Campaign:** Campaign is coming to a close. You may have received a pledge reminder from the Diocese if you have a balance. Remember that monies over our goal are refunded back to the parish. Thank you.

**WEIS & GIANT GIFT CARDS:** Please consider purchasing Weis or Giant gift cards this week to buy your groceries. **The proceeds from last weekend were \$15.00.**



**The Knights of Columbus, Council #4824 Milton-Lewisburg, sincerely thank the parishioners of St Joseph Church in Milton for your generosity and charitable giving to our annual Coat Drive.** From St Joseph alone, we received 21 new coats and 38 used coats for a total of 59 coats that were distributed to the following: Women's Expectations in Lewisburg, Haven Ministries in Sunbury, Transitions of PA in Lewisburg, Hand Up Milton. If anyone has any additional coats they would like to contribute after the box in the church has been removed, please call Kevin Wendt @ 484-335-3116. All additional donations will go directly to Hand Up here in Milton. Thank you again for your generosity. Peace & Blessings to all of you this Advent season.

### **February Lottery Calendar**

We are running the February Lottery Calendar again this coming year. Tickets are available from Harriet Moore (570-412-3769), Stefanie Shaw, Sara Mull, Jill Bertanzetti, Shawn Moore, Mary Moser, Vince Emery, or on the rectory porch after Masses. All winning numbers are determined by the 7 P.M. Pennsylvania Daily Lottery Pick Three Drawing. On February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup>, the winner will receive \$1,000. On February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>, the winner will collect \$2,000. Sunday winners will collect \$200. On the remaining days, the winner will receive \$150. Cost is \$20 per ticket. Tickets are also available at the parish office.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Until further notice - office will be open Monday and Wednesday – 9 AM to 3:30 PM and Tuesday 9 AM to Noon. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

*As previously mentioned in the bulletin – early deadlines from the bulletin company are necessary during this time of year. The office is not able to honor any announcement requests until after the New Year. Thank you.*

### **Employment Opportunity**

**Office Position. Part-time to start. Will lead to 4 days per week to take over for Barb. Must have computer and math skills, detailed work ethic, and enjoy working with parishioners.**

**Apply for position by e-mailing your resume to [stjoemilton@verizon.net](mailto:stjoemilton@verizon.net) or talking to Father Hoke for more information.**