



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 21, 2019

4:00 PM *St. Peter Canisius*
Dorothy Riordan
(Sharon & Ed Grove)

Sun. Dec. 22nd **4th Sunday of Advent**
8:00 AM Rudy Muscarella
(Elizabeth Muscarella)

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Mon. Dec. 23rd *St. John of Kanty*

9:00 AM Frank Braga
(Family)

Tues. Dec. 24th **Vigil of Christmas**
5:00 PM **Christmas Blessings**

10:00 PM **Christmas Carols**

10:30 PM **Christmas Blessings**

Wed. Dec. 25th **The Nativity of the Lord**

10:00 AM **Christmas Blessings**

Thurs. Dec. 26th *St. Stephen*

No Mass

Fri. Dec. 27th *St. John*

Rockwell

10:00 AM James Colna

Sat. Dec. 28th *The Holy Innocents*

4:00 PM Special Intentions for the
Wedding Anniversary of
Jim & Ruth Seksinsky

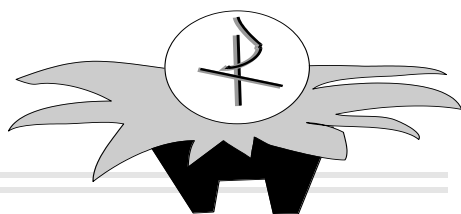
Sun. Dec. 29th *The Holy Family of*

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM Angela & Frank Masseria
(Elizabeth Muscarella)

No Mass on Thursday, Dec. 26th. Thank you.



Born to us

Jesus the Savior

December 22, 2019
Fourth 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: \$3,768.00
Repairs & Maintenance: \$ 720.00

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

Second Collections

January 1, 2020 – Solemnity of Mary

Extra Confessions times will be on Monday, Dec. 23rd from 9:30 to 10:30 AM and 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Sanctuary Candle is In Memory of Dorothy Riordan requested by Sharon & Ed Grove

Merry Christmas to all parishioners

Thank you volunteers for decorating our church so beautifully for Christmas! Because of your generous donations we were able to purchase all the lovely Poinsettia's you will see in the church for Christmas. Thank you everyone.

From Our Pastor,

Here we are already, the Fourth Sunday of Advent just a few days until Christmas Day. I hope and pray that your Advent journey to Bethlehem has been a time of growth in grace. So often we feel there is so much more to do and we don't get it all done, maybe that is the way Mary and Joseph felt at the first Christmas Day. We trust in the grace of God to do the rest.

There is so much I need to thank God for and to thank you good souls of St. Joseph Parish. May the Lord be thanked and praised and may you be blessed who are so sincerely sought to please the Lord and prepare for His coming in mystery.

Our Cookie Sale for the poor school children in Haiti was less than last year, about a \$1,000.00 less - that is about 60 fewer cookie platters sold. I have kept the extra cookie platters out in the cold to stay fresh this week and I beg you to please donate \$15.00 for another platter for Christmas. I know you will come through. Please do not forget the 'No Room in the Inn' project that we can build a modest home in Haiti for a poor family. I am not ashamed to beg for the poor and you should not be ashamed that our parish is mission minded, always remembering the poor.

Please do not forget to get your registration for our parish Christmas Epiphany Party, January 5th, Parish Center doors open at 12:30 p.m. Let us show one another how to keep the Christmas Season going and how much we enjoy being with one another. The forms are on the bulletin board, take one and please fill it out. Be safe and have a blessed Christmas no matter where you are, be with the Babe of Bethlehem by coming to Holy Mass for Christ-Mass on the 25th.

Parish Office Hours will be as follows:

Monday Dec. 23rd - 9 AM to 3:30 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 24th - Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 25th - Closed

Thursday, Dec. 26th - Closed

Friday, Dec. 27th - Closed

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY: Patricia Starcher, George Baran, Christine Koons, Bernice Yocum, Keith Robenolt, George Sarfine, Abram Koons Sr., 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.** We pray for those who are ill or need special intentions. If you would like to add someone to the Parish Prayer List or Parish Shut-in List, please contact the parish office. Thank You.

St. Joseph Happenings

**Dec. 24 Christmas Blessings
Mass at 5 PM & 10:30 PM**

**Dec. 25 Christmas Blessings
Mass at 10 AM**

Dec. 26 No Mass

Dec. 31 Vigil Mass at 7 PM

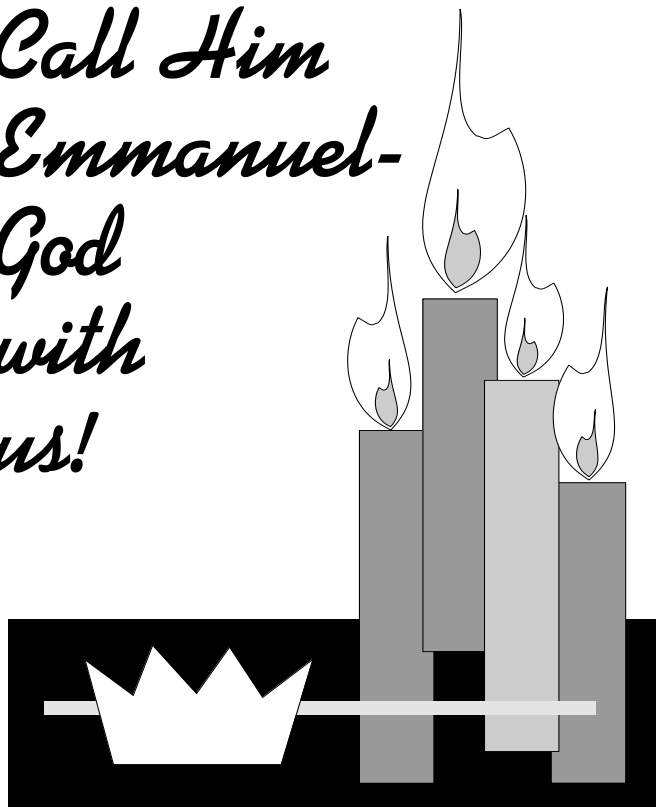
Jan. 1, 2020

**10 AM Mass for the
Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

Jan. 5 Family Epiphany Celebration

Family Epiphany 2020 Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 5th 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. 29th. Thank you.

**Call Him
Emmanuel-
God
with
us!**



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.

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. To date, your offerings have totaled \$1,175.00. 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.

Elizabeth Ministry-Food is Love: This ministry takes its name from the time when our Blessed Mother visited her cousin, Elizabeth to offer support and caring. Members of this ministry make meals for people who are ill, have just had a baby, or need short term meals provided. For a meal need, contact Sandy Muscarella at 570-742-7051.

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

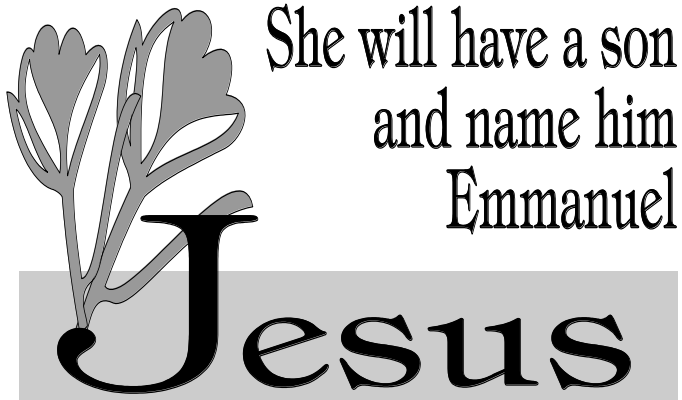
Box tops for Ed for Milton schools, parochial school

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 or 570-713-5827.



WEIS & GIANT GIFT CARDS: Please consider purchasing Weis or Giant gift cards this week to buy your groceries. **The proceeds from last weekend were \$22.50.**

THE MILTON FOOD BANK IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF DONATIONS. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS WHEN GROCERY SHOPPING. IN ADDITION TO CANNED OR BOXED FOOD ITEMS, BABY ITEMS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED. DIAPERS, BABY WIPES AND BABY FOOD TO MENTION A FEW. BOXES FOR YOUR DONATIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE CONFESSONAL. THANK YOU.

Harrisburg Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring an Art Contest. Open to all girls, 9-12 in the Harrisburg Diocese. Design an original artwork for the 9x12 cover using the theme of the 95th Convention which is "Rejoice and Be Thankful". The winner's page will be used for the cover of the Convention booklet. Deadline to enter is January 20, 2020. There is a flyer on the Bulletin Board. Contact Mary Rose Knelly for rules and regulations. mrtknelly@verizon.net
570-412-6256

Employment Opportunity

Office Position. Part-time to start with training. Could 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 or talking to Father Hoke for more information.

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 1st and February 29th, the winner will receive \$1,000. On February 14th and February 26th, 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.

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. 100% of the monies collected over our parish goal are returned to the parish for our use. Thank you for your continued support.

