



MASS  
INTENTIONS

Saturday December 28, 2019

*The Holy Innocents*  
4:00 PM Special Intentions for the  
Wedding Anniversary of  
Jim & Ruth Seksinsky

Sun. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>  
*The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary & Joseph*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
11:00 AM Angela & Frank Masseria  
(Elizabeth Muscarella)

Mon. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>  
*6<sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of  
the Nativity of the Lord*

9:00 AM Beverly Hausammann  
Tues. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> *7<sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of  
the Nativity of the Lord*

7:00 PM **Vigil for the Solemnity of  
Mary, Mother of God**

Wed. Jan. 1, 2020 *Happy New Year!*  
10:00 AM **Solemnity of Mary  
Mother of God**

Thurs. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 AM Lisa Reichelderfer

Fri. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8:30 AM *First Friday*  
Rosary

9:00 AM Jean Machamer  
Sat. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
*First Saturday*

9:00 AM Lloyd Wolf  
4:00 PM Harold Prentiss  
(Bonnie & Tony Lupo)

Sun. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> **Epiphany**  
8:00 AM Rudy Muscarella  
(Elizabeth Muscarella  
Family)

11:00 AM People of the Parish

*December 29, 2019*  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

**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:

Early printing deadline.  
Figures not available at time of printing.

The above are bank deposit amounts

**First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

This passage from Sirach details the duties children  
owe to father and mother. Their life-long devotion  
will not be forgotten and "will take lasting root."

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

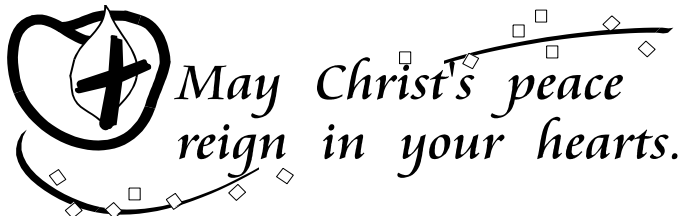
Paul urges Christians particularly in the setting of  
the family, to "clothe" themselves with kindness,  
patience, humility, and mercy; to forgive; and,  
above all, to love!

**Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

An angel of the Lord, appearing in a dream to  
Joseph, urges him to flee with Jesus and Mary to  
Egypt to escape the murderous schemes of Herod.  
Later, in another dream, an angel tells Joseph to go  
with Jesus and Mary to a town named Nazareth in  
the region of Galilee, thus fulfilling the Scriptures:  
"He shall be called a Nazarean."

*Second Collections*

*January 1, 2020 – Solemnity of Mary*  
*Jan. 5 – Our Faith, Our Future*



*Happy New Year!*

**From Our Pastor,**

But it came and left so fast, not really it is still going on in our hearts of many....the Christmas Season continues. Traditionally, it is a twelve day celebration from Dec. 25 to January 5, or there about. This year we sneak in an extra week adding the feast the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. Let us have the courage to go against the flow and be different, celebrating Christmas long beyond when many have already put their decorations away for another year. Daily Mass would be a great way to find time and effort to welcome the newborn into our busy lives, at least additional prayer each day, spending time with the innocent babe. Don't forget that January 1<sup>st</sup> is also a Holy Day of Obligation, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. What a great way to begin the New Year with coming to Mass and honoring the mystery of the maternity of Mary, she who brought to us our savior.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family should help remind us of the importance of our church or parish family. Our parish family will celebrate her Christmas/Epiphany Parish Party next Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>; the doors open at 12:30 p.m. There are forms to take and fill in so as to reserve a place for you, to know how much food to prepare and to know what you will be bringing. So please take a form today, take time while still in the church to fill it in and place in the box at the back of the church. I hope you are not so tired of celebrating Christmas during the Advent Season that you will not want to come out and celebrate with the parish family. Please come and celebrated with us our wonderful parish family.

*Special thanks to our parishioners, youth, and CCD students who helped with the Christmas arts and craft project with our friends at Carriage House. The residents and staff enjoyed our visit and are grateful for this Christmas ministry.*

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:** Margaritta Bellido, 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. 31 Vigil Mass at 7 PM**  
**Jan. 1, 2020 10 AM Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**Jan. 3 Rosary @ 8:30 AM**  
**Jan. 5 Family Epiphany Celebration**  
**Jan. 10 Filled Chicken Breast Dinner**

**Parish Office Hours**

**Monday, Dec. 30 – 9:00 to 3:30 PM**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Closed**  
**Closed, Wed., Thurs., and Friday**  
**Happy New Year!**

*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 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.*

**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.**

**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.

**Council of Catholic Women**  
1936 - 2020

**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 Seibold if you plan to attend. [michelemseibold@gmail.com](mailto:michelemseibold@gmail.com) or 570-713-5827.***

**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.

**Men's Group:** Men's Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7 at the parish office (107 Walnut St) upstairs. The subject matter will be for men and their Christian Journey. Your input is what matters, so join us for an hour. For questions, please contact Bob Engleman at 570-412-3707 or email – [bobengleman268@hotmail.com](mailto:bobengleman268@hotmail.com)

**WEIS & GIANT GIFT CARDS:** Please consider purchasing Weis or Giant gift cards this week to buy your groceries. **The proceeds from last weekend were not available.**

**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.**

**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.

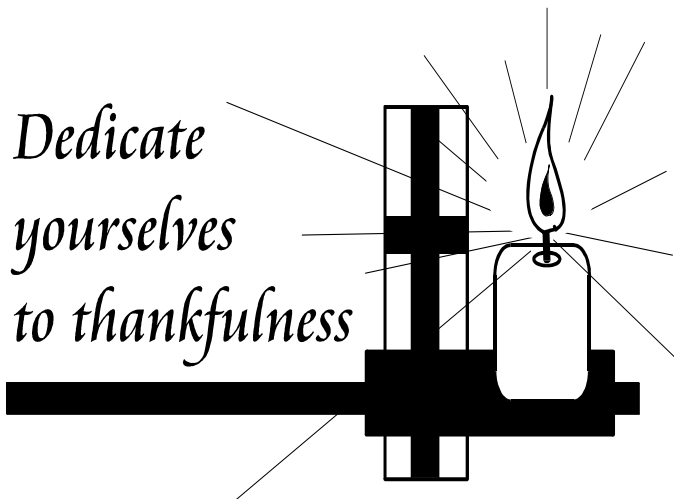
**2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** If you would like a contribution statement for 2019, **place your request in a SELF ADDRESSED – STAMPED- BUSINESS SIZE ENVELOPE IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.** Deadline for request will be January 29<sup>th</sup>. Offerings for 2019 must be processed in our computer system BEFORE we can honor statement requests. You must request your statement as addressed above. Thank you.

**End of Year Information for Parishes**

*(provided by the Diocese)*

There were big changes that accompanied the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act when it passed in 2017. Among them was the increase in the standard deduction for all who file income taxes. For 2019, here are the standard deductions.

Tax Filing Status	2018 Standard Deduction	2019 Standard Deduction
Married Filing Jointly	\$24,000	\$24,400
Head of Household	\$18,000	\$18,350
Single	\$12,000	\$12,200
Married Filing Separately	\$12,000	\$12,200



**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](mailto:stjoemilton@verizon.net) or talking to Father Hoke for more information.

Most taxpayers will no longer need to itemize their deductions and will take the standard deduction amount. Unless itemized deductions exceed the standard deduction on a donor’s filing status, the taxpayer is better off using the standard deduction. Parishes who send a requested donors year end statements regardless of giving total may want to further examine this issue as this document may not be needed or used by most donors. You may want to let your parishioners know of the changes for 2019 via bulletin and website announcements prior to the end of the calendar year.

*The Diocese will no longer automatically generate year end statements for the Annual Lenten Appeal unless it is requested by the donor. Our preference will be to send these electronically as this provides a considerable cost savings. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call the Office of Stewardship & Development at (717) 657-4808 ext 245.*