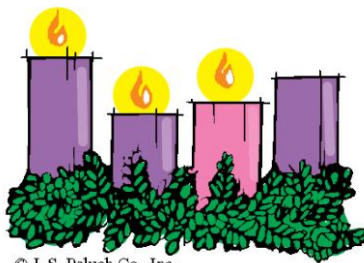


ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

THE CHURCH OF THE FRANCISCANS
FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR
FR. FRANCIS BALESTINO, IN RESIDENCE

CHURCH/RECTORY
536 Decker Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906



CONVENT
702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY
Monday – Friday
9:00AM---2:00PM
Website: StThereseJohnstown.com
Email: stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805
CHURCH HALL: 536-2287
CONVENT: 536-2287
RECTORY: 539-7633

Third Sunday of Advent

Dec 11, 2022

FIRST READING: The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

PSALM: The Lord saves us when he comes (Psalm 146).

SECOND READING Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

GOSPEL: Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: THE ONE FOR WHOM OUR HEARTS LONG

Put yourself in the scene of today's Gospel passage. John the Baptist is in prison. He has heard stories of what Jesus is doing, and wants reassurance that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. John's disciples and those who surrounded Jesus were faithful Jews who would have known Isaiah's prophecies by heart. God would send One who would bring sight to the blind, healing to those who were ill, salvation to all who longed to know God's mercy and peace. Jesus' response to the disciples' question rings as powerfully in our ears today as it surely did for the people who were with him that day. His actions are precisely those that the people had been told to expect. Jesus is the One for whom the people have been patiently yet anxiously waiting, like the farmer who waits for the fruits of his labor. Jesus is the One for whom our hearts long. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/11	...	.....	Cookie Sale after all Masses
MON	12/12			
TUES	12/13			
WED	12/14			
THURS	12/15			
FRI	12/16			
SAT	12/17	3:00PM	.....	Confession
SUN	12/18		.....	Nut Roll Pick up after all Masses Today

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 12th – Dec 18th)

MON	12/12	.....	7:50AM	.....	+ Joseph DiFalco – (Son & Grandchildren)
TUES	12/13	.....	7:50AM	.....	Good Health for Eileen Majcher
WED	12/14	.....	7:50AM	.....	+ Anna Krupa – (Ed & Jean Krupa)
THUR	12/15	.....	7:50AM	.....	+ Kay Schultz – (Cara Bettle)
FRI	12/16	.....	7:50AM	.....	+ Damien Lovas – (Wife, Darlene)
SAT	12/17	.....	4:00PM	.....	+ (A) Donald Kris – (Children & Grandchildren)
SUN	12/18	.....	7:30AM	.....	+ Jason Mulvehill – (Parents, Terri & Patrick)
		.....	10:30AM	.....	+ Peggy Murray – (Margaret Sutor)

Sunday Dec 11, 2022



ADVENT WREATH PRAYER
Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer:

We beseech thee to listen to our prayers, O Lord,
And by the grace of thy coming enlighten our darkened minds:
Thou who livest and reignest with God the Father
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen

**Advent Wreath Candle symbols:

- Candle 1. Hope (purple)
- Candle 2. Peace (purple)
- Candle 3. Joy (rose: for Gaudete Sunday)

Stewardship Reflections: We are gaining ground on our Advent Mountain climb and this is a time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. On this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday we are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and are given encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples. St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas. We can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us. Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/7/05)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS
(Dec 3rd & Dec 4th 2022)

Weekly	.....	\$	4,533.50
Building Fund	.....	\$	905.00
Fuel	.....	\$	95.00
Christian Mothers Christmas	...	\$	500.00

Thank you and May God Bless you for your continued support of St. Therese Church.

Sincere Condolences - The St. Therese Community would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of **Donald DeLusa**, who was called to his eternal reward this week. May God grant His eternal rest to **Donnie** and peace and consolation to his family.



Sincere Condolences - The St. Therese Community would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of **Robert Rovder** who was called to his eternal reward this week. May God grant His eternal rest to **Bob** and peace and consolation to his family.



Cookies will be sold before and after all Masses this weekend, Dec 10th & 11th in the Church Hall. Until supplies last!



"The Liturgy Committee would like to express out sincerest thanks to all who participated in the Angel Tree Christmas gifts for children. Our parish, as always was so enthusiastic to buy for the children.

Many, many thanks to our Christian Mothers and Liturgy Committee Members who maned the station for many weeks and kept track of the lists.

Finally, Thanks to the men and women who loaded the gifts and delivered them to the Salvation Army"



Children's Christmas Party - All children 13 & younger from St. Therese & St. Anne Parishes are invited to attend **Breakfast with Santa** on **Saturday, Dec 17th** in the **St. Therese Church Hall**. Doors open at 10:00AM Please complete the form and drop it in the collection basket. **Forms are available in the back of church. Registration deadline is Dec 11th.** Sponsored by the KOC #10409 & Christian Mothers.

There are envelopes in the back of the church for the new **Glass Etched Doors** going into the Chapel/ Sacristy. These doors will be in memory of the Franciscan Sisters of Millvale, PA, who dedicated years of service to our parish. Any donation will be appreciated.



Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith- As of November 30th. we have collected \$15,060.00 of our \$20,392.00 Goal. Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2022 to pay your pledge in full.

Moving or joining a different parish: Please remember to notify us if you have recently moved, and or joining other parish, so we can update our records and notify the Diocese of the changes. Please call 814-539-7633, Mon-Fri 9-2PM, or email @ stthereseofm@atlanticbbn.net. Thank you.

2022 Church Donations -- the cut-off date for posting donations for 2022 is Dec. 31st. To receive credit on your 2022 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31st will be credited to 2023. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.

Christmas Oplatki is available in the back of the church for \$1 per packet.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Last Class before the Christmas Break is Dec 18th

Classes will resume on Jan 8th, 2022.



The faculty wishes to extend Christmas blessings to our students and their families.



Congratulations to Addison Wharton who celebrated her First Reconciliation on Dec 10th

May she appreciate and frequent this sacrament often.

Advent Reading Material - There is excellent reading material for the Advent season in the back of church.



On January 14th & 15th 2023 the Holy Name and Knights of Columbus #10409 will host a coffee and Donuts

Social for the purpose of recruiting new members, in the Church Hall after all masses. This is a time for the men of Church to stop by and see what the Holy Name and or the Knights of Columbus is all about.

ABORTION; ABORTION;The product, abortion, is skillfully marketed, sold to the woman at the crisis time in her life. She buys the product, finds it defective, and wants to return it for a refund. **But, it's too late.**

Pray to end Abortion



"Some of the littlest things take up the most room in your heart"

Community News & Events



Westmont Presbyterian Church, 601 Luzerne St. are happy to invite you all to their Annual Christmas Concert, Today Sunday, Dec 11th starting at 7PM.



The Catholic Daughter of the America Court of Our Lady #647, Johnstown, Pa.

Invite Catholic women 18 and older to consider attending one of our meetings.

When: the third Tuesday of the month Jan 17th & Feb 21st, 2023

Where: St John Gualberts Activity Center

Time: Rosary begins at 5:30PM, meeting at 6PM, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Contacts- Tina Frank - 814-615-3238

Patti Brylsky - 814-619-9692

Winter dates weather permitting!!

Please RSVP to cawatson911@gmail.com



Area Penance Services

Dec 11	St. John Gualbert	2:00 PM
Dec 14	West End Penance Service St. Francis of Assisi	5:00 PM
Dec 18	St. Benedict	5:00 PM
Dec 19	Visitation	5:30 PM
Dec 21	St. Patrick	6:00 PM



The 6th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest sponsored by the West End Improvement Group. All West End residents, turn on your outside light and house decorations for 6-8PM on Dec. 19th, 20th, and 21st. Celebrity judges will be canvassing the West End to find the best decorated houses in 5 different categories. Prizes will be awarded. Winners will be announced on our Facebook page on Dec 22nd.

Gob Sale

St. Francis Gob Sale **Saturday, December 17th** at St Francis Activity Center **9 am to 12 noon.** **\$2.00 each.**

Families and the Gospel - (Matthew: 11:2-11) Third Sunday of Advent

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

Pittsburgh Pirates great **Neil Walker** will be visiting Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg on **Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 12:00PM-2:00PM.** He will be giving a talk about his Catholic Faith and will be available for a meet and greet. There is no registration or tickets to be purchased. No cost to attend; donations will be taken to help support Holy Name School. All are welcome to attend; pray for good weather.

Retirement Fund for Religious collection

Senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care and other necessities. Please give generously.

Please plan to come to the **FREE "Hometown Neighborhood Christmas"** sponsored by the West End Improvement Group on Saturday, Dec 17th at the Grace Lutheran Church, 246 Chandler Ave. Doors open at 3pm. There will be musical entertainment, a puppet show and Bob Beatty, the magician. Food will be served. Everyone is invited to attend.



OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, first appeared to Cuauhtlatzin (Juan Diego) on December 9, 1531 while he was on his way to a Eucharistic celebration in Tlatelolco, Mexico. The Virgin addressed him by his indigenous name, asking him to go to the palace of Archbishop Zumárraga to request that a shrine be erected there at the site of the apparition, in Tepeyac, so as to share her love and compassion for all believers. Juan Diego did so, but the archbishop did not believe him, demanding proof of his story and of the Lady's identity. He returned to Our Lady daily, and on December 12, he conveyed to her the archbishop's request for proof. She showed him Castilian roses blooming there through the stony ground despite the winter's cold. He picked the flowers and carried them in his tilma (mantle) to the archbishop. When he unfolded his tilma to present the roses, Mary's image was imprinted on the mantle! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son