

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 4, 2022

FIRST READING: He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

PSALM: Peace and justice will come in the day of the Lord (Psalm 72).

SECOND READING – Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

GOSPEL: Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: HARMONY

Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice, and awe in God's presence reign. In such a paradise, everyone sees eye to eye and thinks in harmony with each other, as Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Romans. Even animals with a natural animosity toward one another coexist peacefully. John the Baptist understood that such harmonious relationships do not simply happen. They are the fruit of living in right relationship with God and others.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

MON	12/05	
TUES	12/06	7:00PM KOC Meeting
WED	12/07	
THURS	12/08	. HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
FRI	12/09	
SAT	12/10	3:00PM Confession . Cookie Sale After Mass
SUN	12/11	. Cookie Sale After All Masses



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 5th – Dec 11th)

MON	12/05. 7:50AM.	+ M/M Joseph Cisz – (Daughter, Joan Cisz)
TUES	12/06. 7:50AM.	+ (B) Jason Mulvehill – (Marian Oravec)
WED	12/07. 7:50AM.	+ (B) Betty Gorentz – (Daughter, Gloria & Family)
	Immaculate Conception Vigil 4:00PM	+ Kevin Gritzer – (Mark Freidman)
		Immaculate Conception
THUR	12/08. 7:50AM	+ William Kolega – (Chuck Di Falco)
	. . . . . 6:00PM	+ William & Frances Mikesic – (Tim & Jodi Lindrose)
FRI	12/09. 7:50AM	+ Laverne Bobby – (Mary & Jerry Urbas)
SAT	12/10. 4:00PM	+ (A) Anna Tursic – (Daughter, Janet)
SUN	12/11. 7:30AM.	+ (B) Francis Revesz – (Wife, Karen)
	. . . . . 10:30AM.	+ Holy Name

Sunday Dec 4, 2022

Stewardship Reflections: The Prophet Isaiah continues the theme of journey towards the holy mountain, the Kingdom of God. It is a kingdom of peace, justice, and harmony among all God's creatures. St. Paul encourages us to focus, "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." The idea of welcoming others as Christ welcomes us is the essence of Christian hospitality and is vital to stewardship living. This kind of hospitality involves seeing people as God sees them and being ready to invite others into our lives whenever and however God asks; it is an attitude we take with us wherever we go. As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. We climb farther up God's holy mountain and attract others to join us on the path toward holiness. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior. Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/7/05)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Nov 26th & Nov 27th 2022)

Weekly	.....	\$	4,769.75
Building Fund	.....	\$	579.00
Fuel	.....	\$	10.00

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



Second Sunday of Advent

Prayer: Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the paths of thine
Only-begotten son:
that we may worthily serve thee
with hearts purified by his coming:
who livest and reignest with God the
Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

**Advent Wreath Candle symbols:

- Candle 1. Hope (purple)
- Candle 2. Peace (purple)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - will be observed this **Thursday, Dec. 8th**. Vigil Mass will be held, **Wednesday Dec 7th at 4:00PM**. Masses on the Holy Day will be held at **7:50AM and 6:00PM**.



Parish Advent Christmas Project -

-Please place your star on the outside of your gift. Return your **unwrapped** gift to us **no later than today, Sunday Dec 4th**

Congratulations to **Monica Kolar** the **BIG WINNER** of the **Thanksgiving Day Special** drawn on Thursday, Nov 24th evening PA pick 3 daily number. The winning number was 963. Thank you to all who purchased tickets, we appreciate your support.



Congratulations to **Paul Petrilli** the winner of the **Holy Name Thanksgiving Day ticket**, drawn on Thursday, Nov 24th evening, Pa daily number. The winning number was 963. Thank you to all who purchased a ticket the Holy Name appreciates all of your support



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



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.



Stocking for Soldiers

Please drop off your filled stockings in the boxes in the back of the church. Your stocking is due **today, Dec 4th** so they be shipped out in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support to our Soldiers.



Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith- As of September 30th, we have collected **\$14,560.00 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.

ABORTION; ABORTION; "Inconceivable"

"An angel of light descended from heaven, came to a virgin kneeling in prayer, and asked her if she would allow God to dwell within her—and so intimately, that she would give Him a human nature and thus become the tabernacle of the Word made flesh.

Notice that the heavenly messenger did not tell Mary that she would conceive a fetus. No! She would conceive and bear a Son, a person, a Child of the Most High God.

It was inconceivable to her that because of her poverty, the overpopulation in Bethlehem, inadequate housing, and the shame attached to the unusual nature of her conception, that she would thwart the life within her, as some women do today."



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

Community News & Events



The **West End Improvement Group** will sponsor the **Annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony** on **Tuesday, Dec 6th at 6PM** at the skate park on Fairfield Ave. The Johnstown Fire Dept will escort Santa to the light up.



Westmont Presbyterian Church, 601 Luzerne St. are happy to invite you all to their **Annual Christmas Concert**, 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	



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: 3:1-12)

Second Sunday of Advent

Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask; "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

The Immaculate Conception (December 8)
December 8 we celebrate the patronal solemnity of the United States and the greatest of Mary's Advent festivals. On that day we remember Mary's conception in the womb of her mother (and nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate Mary's birth). In this liturgy, we affirm our belief that God prepared Mary to be the mother of the son of God by allowing her a share, from the moment of her conception, in the salvation that would be won for all by Christ.

Five mothers make their presence felt on December 8. The first is Eve, the mother of all the living. The second is Mary's mother, who conceived, brought to birth, and nurtured an "immaculate" daughter who would become the mother of the Word made Flesh. The third is Elizabeth, who conceived her son John "in her old age." The fourth, of course, is Mary herself.

Finally, the letter to the Ephesians and the texts of the Mass for this feast remind us that the Church has been "chosen" to be a spiritual mother. We pray: "The image of the Virgin is found in your Church . . . Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith."

In this Advent time, we are called, as Mary was, to make room for Christ in our hearts. What will it take, what will be the cost for us to become, as Mary became, real "bearers of the Word?" Let us be open to the intercession of Mary on our behalf, that we may become more and more like her beloved Son.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Advent Reading Material - There is excellent reading material for the Advent season in the

back of church.



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.

Candlelight

One of the earliest uses of candles by Christians was to help light their way into the catacombs, visiting the graves of revered martyrs on their feast days. But candles have been used symbolically for almost as long. St. Jerome declared a candle be lit as a sign of joy whenever the gospel was read. The glow of candles at the Easter Vigil symbolized the illumination of the newly baptized. At this time of year we use candles in an Advent wreath to symbolize our hope as we wait in winter darkness for the Messiah. The Irish began the custom of placing a single candle in the window during Christmas to symbolize the hospitality Joseph and Mary weren't able to find. Candles in a wreath worn as a crown help Scandinavian Christians celebrate the feast of St. Lucy on December 13. For many Christians the candles of the Advent wreath make way for a stout candle that burns during the Twelve Days of Christmas. "Lord, we know that this is a season of hope. Help us be the kind of person who radiates joy because we believe in your faithful presence."

Retirement Fund for Religious collection

Lighten the Load. An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

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