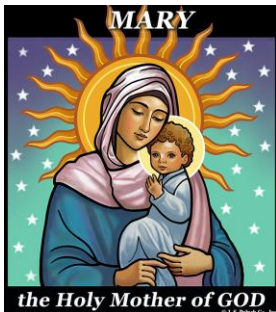


ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

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

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Jan 1, 2023

FIRST READING: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

PSALM: May God be merciful and bless us (Psalm 67).

SECOND READING God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

GOSPEL: The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: BLESSINGS

Today’s readings include another account of the story of Jesus’ birth. The reading from the book of Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God’s Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God’s Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	01/01	
MON	01/02	
TUES	01/03	7:00PM Knights of Columbus Meeting
WED	01/04	
THURS	01/05	11:30AM Christian Mothers Rosary Meeting
FRI	01/06	
SAT	01/07	3:00PM CONFESSION
SUN	01/08	

CANCELED

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Jan 2nd – Jan 8th)

MON	1/02. 7:50AM. + William Kolega – (Doris & John Gritzer)
TUES	1/03. 7:50AM. + (B) George Antonikas – (Susan & Brian Ryba)
WED	1/04. 7:50AM. + Kevin Gritzer – (Bob Hamryszak)
THUR	1/05. 7:50AM + M/M Joseph Cisz – (Daughter, Joan Cisz)
FRI	1/06. 7:50AM + (A) Bob Hubbard – (Wife & Family)
SAT	1/07 4:00PM + Agnes Labuda Mash – (Mark Friedman)
SUN	1/08. 7:30AM. + (WA) Nick & Jean Nikonow – (Son, Paul & Marie Nikonow)
	. . . . . 10:30AM. + Holy Name

Sunday Jan 1, 2023

Stewardship Reflections:

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The blessing included in the First Reading is very familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing. It was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. Very importantly it begins with "The Lord bless you." All blessings come from God. Blessings do not always mean happiness or security or prosperity. To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us ever in His care. We must keep all these things in our heart as Mary did in her amazement.

God knows what blessings we need. The key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/7/05)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 24th & Dec 25th 2022)

Weekly	.....	\$ 3,078.25
Building Fund	.....	\$ 51.00
Fuel	.....	\$ 100.00
Christmas	.....	\$ 8,118.25
Christmas Donations	.....	\$ 450.00

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

Children's Party Thank You - A special Thank You goes out to everyone involved in making this year's breakfast with Santa a huge success. Story time and ornament making were lots of fun, of course, the visit from Santa and the delicious treats and gifts were the high-light of the day! The kids really had a great time



Thank you so very much!! A Big thank you to the "special angels" who helped to get the Church ready for Christmas! For all of the hard work that went into cleaning, sanitizing, and decorating the Church. Everything looks beautiful!! Also, we would like to express our gratitude to the Barb, Theresa and choir for the lovely Christmas carols sung at Midnight Mass. It was very uplifting. Thank you and God Bless you all.

KOC Council #10409 - This month's meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan 3rd at 7PM in the Church Hall.

Christian Mothers Mass & Meeting is cancelled for this coming week, Jan 5th 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 2nd.

Blessing of Homes...If you would like Fr. Bernard to bless your home in the New Year, please call the Rectory Office @539-7633 or put a note with your name, address and phone number in the collection basket



20 + C + M + B + 23

FR. BERNARD ON SABBATICAL

Fr. Bernard has received permission from Bishop Mark to go on a 6-month sabbatical beginning sometime in January or February. There may be a disruption in some services. In January Bishop Mark and Fr. Alan Thomas, the vicar general, would like to meet with the staff and concerned parishioners of both St. Therese and St. Anne's sometime in January.

2023 Envelopes & Calendars- Adult and children's envelopes & calendars are available in the vestibule, please stop by and pick yours up.

Families and the Gospel - (Luke 2: 16-21) Solemnity of Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

The gospel tells us "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." We would do well to imitate Mary in our New Year's resolution. Instead of criticizing let's "keep it in our hearts." Criticism isn't productive or well received anyway!

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.



Community News & Events

CASH BASH – Save the Date for FEBRUARY 11th at St. Francis Activity Center! Tickets are \$25 and includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. \$200 given away every half hour, \$500 at 7:30 and 9:00. We will also have qualifiers, 50/50, baskets, door prizes and much more! For tickets, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.