

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR
FR. FRANCIS BALESTINO, IN RESIDENCE

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OFFICE HOURS-(Mon-Fri)
9:00AM to 2:00PM

December 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today's Scripture Readings

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.

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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

5:30PM	Saturday, Dec 17th	9:00 AM	Sunday, Dec 18th
Lector:	Ed Olshefski	Lector:	Pat Wess

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK -- (Dec 12th - Dec 18th)

MON	12/12	7:00AM. . . . +. Theresa Ryba - (Mike & Lois Dipko)
TUES	12/13	7:00AM Intention Dantis
WED	12/14	7:00AM. . . . +. (A) Kenneth Ferg, Sr. - (Daughter, Barbara)
THURS	12/15	NO MASS
FRI	12/16	7:00AM. . . . +. John & Maria That Tran - (M/M Thien Tran)
SAT	12/17	5:30PM +. (A) Krista Chverchko - (Mom)
SUN	12/18	9:00AM. . . . +. Poor Soul's of Purgatory - (Bob Kuhns)

December 11, 2022

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 & 4th, 2022**

Collection:

Weekly	\$ 2,005.20
Monthly	\$ 79.00
Flowers	\$ 269.00
Fuel	\$ 60.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 115.00
Christmas	\$ 145.00
All Saints	\$ 30.00
Retirement Fund for Rel	\$ 20.00

*Thank you for your continued support of St. Anne’s Parish!
Please remember in your prayers the deceased parishioners
and benefactors of our parish. God Bless!*



**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)



Birthday Cake & Coffee --and will be served **NEXT weekend (Dec 17 & 18)** after each Mass in the Church Hall! Be sure to stop down to enjoy a sweet treat.
Everyone is cordially invited to join us!
Hope to see you there!!!

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



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS -- there are envelopes in your boxes for the Christmas Flower Collection. There are also extra envelopes in the back of the Church. The cost of donating a Poinsettia Plant in memory of your loved one is \$6.00. If you wish you may claim a poinsettia and take it home after the Feast of The Three Kings.



Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith-
As of November 30th, we have collected **\$6,560 of our \$7,698 Goal** leaving a balance of \$1,138. Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2022 to pay your pledge in full.

Help Aging Religious. 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.



Stocking for Solders

Thank You, Thank You, Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthwhile project letting our servicemen and women know how much we appreciate their service and sacrifice.



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 10AM.

Forms are available in the back of church.
Registration deadline is Dec 11th. Sponsored by the KOC #10409 & Christian Mothers.

Have you moved or had a change to your phone number (adding a cell/removing you landline). Please notify us so we can update our records and notify the Diocese of the changes. Please call the rectory office at 814-539-7633, Mon-Fri 9-2PM or update your information on your first envelope of 2023. 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.



Area Penance Services

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



Community News & Events

An Advent of Christmas Concert will be held 7:30pm, Saturday, December 17 at St John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Divine Mercy Catholic Academy Chorale. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.



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

Pittsburgh Pirates great Neil Walker will be visiting Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg on Saturday, Feb 4, 2023 from Noon to 2PM. 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.



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?

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"

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

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."