

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

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

CHURCH:
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CONVENT: 536-2287
702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

RECTORY: 539-7633
OFFICE HOURS-(Mon-Fri)
9:00AM to 2:00PM

December 4, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today's Scripture Readings

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

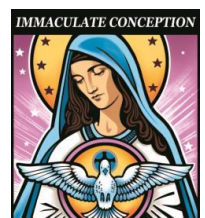
Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice, and 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.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

5:30PM	Saturday, Dec 10th	9:00 AM	Sunday, Dec 11th
Lector:	Rick Maser	Lector:	Kevin Houghton

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK -- (Dec 5th - Dec 11th)

MON	12/05	7:00AM	Sr. John of the Cross
TUES	12/06	7:00AM +.	Joseph Tri Tran - (M/M Thien Tran)
WED	12/07	7:00AM.	Intention Dantis
		VIGIL MASS	
		5:30PM. . . . +.	Mary Jane Zupan - (Michelle Lonergran)
			Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
THURS	12/08	7:00AM. . . . +.	(B) Ralph Holtzman - (Sister, Eleanor & Family)
FRI	12/09	7:00AM. . . . +.	Theresa Ryba - (Al & Bill Kozak)
SAT	12/10	5:30PM +.	For Living & Deceased Members of the Ferg/Swaney Family - (Barbara Voci)
SUN	12/11	9:00AM.	Pro Populo



December 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 & 27th, 2022**

Collection:

Weekly	\$ 1,122.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 5.00
Flowers	\$ 16.00
Fuel	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 5.00
Christmas	\$ 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!*

Christian Mothers Mass & Meeting – will be held **today, Sunday, Dec 4th**. Please mark your calendars. **Everyone is welcome to stop down and join in the meeting.**

The Knights of Columbus will hold their meeting Tuesday, **Dec 6th** at 7PM in the St Therese Church hall.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception – is a **holy day of obligation** and will be observed this **Thursday, Dec. 8th**. **Vigil Mass** will be **Wednesday, Dec 7th at 5:30PM**. **Mass on the Holy Day** will be celebrated at **7AM**.

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.

Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith-
Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. 100% of your gift goes directly to these ministries! As of October 31st, our parish has pledged **\$5,735 (75%) towards our goal of \$7,698**. Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2022 to pay your pledge in full.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER



Second Sunday of Advent

(Light the first & second purple candles on your wreath)

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 lives and reigns with God the
Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

*"Now spend a few moments in silent prayer,
thinking about where in your life you most need the
loving touch of Christ."*

****Advent Wreath Candle symbols:**

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

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

Advent Reading Material – Advent began last Sunday, **Nov 27th** There is excellent reading material for the Advent season in the back of church.



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.



THE WINNER IS...

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.



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.



Stocking for Solders

St Anne's Christian Mothers will again be participating in "Stocking for Soldiers." Stocking and instructions on how to fill will be available in the back of the church. Filled stocking will be accepted until Dec 11th. Please consider this worthwhile program to let our servicemen & women know how much they are appreciated.



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



New address or phone number: Please remember to notify us if you have recently moved or are joining other parish 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. 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.

Community News & Events



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

Where: St John Gualbert 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!!



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 3: 1-12)

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?"

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."

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.