

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

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

CHURCH/RECTORY

536 Decker Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY

Monday – Friday
9:00AM---2:00PM
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CONVENT

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

FIRST READING: — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley
(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

SECOND READING — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God
(2 Peter 3:8-14).

GOSPEL -- I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION GOD’S DELAY - In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, “Where is God? Why hasn’t your Lord come to save you now?” And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today’s second reading: the “delay” of the Lord’s second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God’s patience. God is giving everyone the chance to seek repentance. God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a “straight highway” for them across the desert. We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God’s Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

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WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	12/10	Christian Mothers Cookie Sale after all Masses
MON	12/11	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
TUES	12/12		
WED	12/13		
THURS	12/14		
FRI	12/15		
SAT	12/16	10:00AM	Children’s Breakfast with Santa
		..... 3:00PM	Confession
Next Sun	12/17	.....	Nut & Poppyseed Roll Pick-up after all Masses today



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Dec 11th – Dec 17th)

MON	12/11	..... 7:50AM.	+ Joseph DiFalco – (Son, Charles, Grandchildren, Vito & Kiara)
TUES	12/12	..... 7:50AM.	+ (B) Carolina Albert – (Son, Joe)
WED	12/13	..... 7:50AM.	+ Chandler Pentrack– (Chuck DiFalco)
THUR	12/14	..... 7:50AM.	+ (A) James Marshall– (Mom & Family)
FRI	12/15	..... 7:50AM.	+ (WA) Frank Karmanocky – (Wife, Sue)
SAT	12/16	..... 4:00PM.	+ William Kolega – (Brian & Racheal Crooks)
SUN	12/17	..... 7:30AM.	+ (B) Thomas Friedman – (Brother, Mark)
		..... 10:30AM.	+ Damien Lovas – (Wife, Darlene)



Sunday Dec 10, 2023

Stewardship Reflections: Today's readings on this Second Sunday of Advent can be summed up as equal parts comfort and warning for the Christian steward. We serve a merciful and patient God - in His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us. The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

Through the readings today, we are to assimilate two truths - the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple. St Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion" and that we should be "eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent 'reset' - to return to (or intensify) living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In practical terms, this means that we as Christian stewards must make good use of the gifts of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service. In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Dec 2nd & Dec 3rd 2023)

Weekly	.....	\$ 4,159.00
Building Fund	.....	\$ 440.00
Christmas Flowers	.....	\$ 740.00

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



Cookies will be sold before and after all Masses **this weekend, Dec 9th & 10th** in the Church Hall. Until supplies last!

Our Catholic Ministries Drive -Forward In Faith- As of November 30th, we have collected **\$16,990.00 of our \$21,083.00 Goal.** Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2023 to pay your pledge in full. **Just a reminder that the remaining balance will be paid for from the church's funds.**



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)
- Candle 3. Joy (rose: for Gaudete Sunday)
- Candle 4. Love (purple)
- Candle 5: Christ (white; center of wreath)

Advent Reading Material - Advent began Sunday, Dec 3rd. You will find some excellent reading material for the Advent season in the vestibule and are encouraged to select some for-home reading.



We would like to express our 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.

We would also like to take this time to thank Linda Kozak who volunteered to take on this project, and to Doris Pasternak for her guidance. A big shut out to all the "helpers" that help keep track of all those names, You guys are BEST!!



Stocking for Solders

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

Holy Name will meet this Sunday, December 10th at 10:30 Mass, no meeting.

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

St Therese Holy Name Society will be raffling off a **Nativity Diamond Painting** starting this weekend Dec 3rd. Chances will be \$1 a chance 6 for \$5

Community News & Events



Families and the Gospel - (Mark 1:1-8)

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings, which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift, which makes a difference. Give forgiveness

Lower Yoder Volunteer Fire Company is selling **2024 Lottery calendars**. Cost is only **\$25**. Winning number is determined by the 3-digit PA Daily Evening Number. If interested please call Aaron at 814-525-0012.

2023 Church Donations -- the cut-off date for posting donations for **2023 is Dec. 31st**. To receive credit on your 2023 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31st will be credited to 2024. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.

Holy Name Church (Ebensburg) Advent Prayer Service

All are invited to a special evening of prayer, story, and song to be held at Holy Name Church in Ebensburg on **Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM**. In the midst of this busy season, here is an opportunity to pause and direct our minds and hearts to the coming of Jesus Christ, our Messiah. The service will feature music by the Adult Handbell Choir and a presentation of the cantata "Emmanuel, God with Us" by the combined Men's and Women's Choirs. Following the service, light refreshments will be served in the Narthex.

Retirement Fund for Religious -today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please donate to help thousands of elderly religious individuals retire with dignity. Your donation will provide essential care, medicine, and other necessities for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have served for decades-usually for little or no pay. Let us show our appreciation by generously supporting those who have given so much.



Advent Penance Services

Sunday	Dec 10 th	2:00PM	St John Gualbert
Monday	Dec 11 th	6:00PM	Our Mother of Sorrow
Monday	Dec 11 th	5:30PM	Church of the Visitation
Tuesday	Dec 12 th	6:00PM	Our Mother of Sorrow
Wednesday	Dec 13 th	6:00PM	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (Windber)
Wednesday	Dec 13 th	5:00PM	St Clement Church
Monday	Dec 18 th	6:00PM	St Michael Church (St Michael)
Thursday	Dec 21 st	6:00PM	St Patrick

