

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 10, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

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: MARK'S JESUS

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency. We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS

5:30PM
Lector

Saturday Dec 16th
Volunteer

9:00AM
Lector:

Sunday Dec 17th
Pat Wess

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (December 4th- December 10th)

MON 12/11 7:00AMIntention Dantis
TUES 12/12 7:00AM. . . +For Deceased Members of the Family of Mrs. Lirila Grajclor
WED 12/13 7:00AMFor Living & Deceased Members of the Kamnikar/Gardill Family - (Family)
THURS 12/14 7:00AM. . . +.Rich Poplinski - (Susan & Wayne Langerholc)
FRI 12/15 7:00AM. . . +(A) Kenneth Ferg, Sr - (Daughter, Barbara Voci)
SAT 12/16 5:30PM. . . . For Living & Deceased Members of the Ferg/Swaney Family - (Barbara Voci)
SUN 12/17 9:00AM . . . +(A) Krista Chverchko - (Mom)

December 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**

Collection:

Weekly	\$ 1,936.00
Monthly	\$ 162.00
Fuel	\$ 83.00
Flowers	\$ 255.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 97.00
Retirement Fund Religious	\$ 17.00
Christmas	\$ 205.00

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!

**Our Catholic Ministries Drive -
Together We Serve-**

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 November 30th, we have pledges and donations of **\$5,230.00 towards our \$7,682.00 Goal**. Please consider making a pledge to the Ministries Drive. You have until Dec 31st 2023 to pay your pledge in full. **Donations received after Jan 1st will be credited to the 2024 campaign.**

Christian Mothers will hold their Monthly Meeting today, Sunday, Dec 10^h after the 9AM Mass.

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

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)



Coffee and Cake... will be served in the Church Basement after both Masses **next weekend, Dec 16 & 17**. **Everyone is welcome to stop down for a delicious treat and to enjoy friendly conversation and fellowship.**
Hope to see you there



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS -- there are envelopes in your boxes for the Christmas Flower Collection. There are also extra envelopes in the back of the Church.

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.

Retirement Fund for Religious – Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer ministry, education and care for those in need – usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

Advent Reading Material – Advent begins Today 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.



Stocking for Solders

Filled stockings will be accepted until Dec 10th. Please consider this worthwhile program to let our servicemen & women know how much they are appreciated.

Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg is holding an Advent Prayer Service -- All are invited to a special evening of prayer, story, and song to be held in the church on Tuesday, Dec 12 at 7PM. 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 (preludes beginning at 6:45 PM) 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.

All Saints Parish in Boswell (Somerset County) will host their annual singing of Polish Christmas Carols (known as Kolędy or Pastoralki) on Sunday, January 7th, at 2:00 PM at the church (325 Quemahoning St, Boswell). The hymns will be sung by their Polish choir. Following the singing of hymns by the parish’s Polish choir, there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. Kolędy help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience the time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information please call the parish office at 814-629-5551.

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

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



Advent Penance Services

Sunday	Dec 10 th	2:00PM	St John Gualbert
Monday	Dec 11 th	6:00PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Monday	Dec 11 th	5:30PM	Church of the Visitation
Tuesday	Dec 12 th	6:00PM	St. Michael Church (Brownstown)
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

