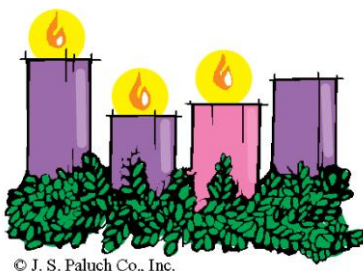


# ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

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

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Johnstown, PA 15906

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

December 17, 2023

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

**FIRST READING:** As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**PSALM:** My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

**SECOND READING:** Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**GOSPEL:** I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

**LITURGICAL REFLECTION:** John the Baptist

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team. 'With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad. "It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles. John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen. John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

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### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS

5:30PM Lector	<u>Saturday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup></u> Ed Olshefski	9:00AM Lector:	<u>Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup></u> Kevin Houghton
		<u>Christmas Eve Mass</u> 5:30PM	Linda Lopez

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### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (December 18<sup>th</sup>– December 24<sup>th</sup>)

MON	12/18 7:00AM . . +.For Deceased Members of the Family of Mrs. Liria Grajcior
TUES	12/19 7:00AM. . . . Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity
WED	12/20 7:00AM. . . +(A) David Ferg, Jr. – (Aunt Barbara Voci)
THURS	12/21 7:00AM. . . .Intention Dantis
FRI	12/22 7:00AM. . . +.Frank Karmanocky – (Neo Catechemunal Way Community)
SAT	12/23 5:30PM. . . +.Matthew Schlosser – (M/M Michael Piscitella)
SUN	12/24 9:00AM. . . +.Rosalie Verhovsek – (Ester & Hank Hughes)

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

5:30PM . . + Joe & Margaret Knapp – (Son, Joe)

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December 17, 2023

**Stewardship Reflections:**

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. 'Gaudete' is a Latin word meaning 'rejoice'. The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing. The more we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more we will be filled with joy.

We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light. ... He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too, to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior, by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our actions and our priorities themselves give testimony to all that God has done in our lives. What a privilege!

When God himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any 'clutter' in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Collection:**

Weekly	\$ 1,616.90
Monthly	\$ 5.00
Fuel	\$ 120.00
Flowers	\$ 75.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 233.00
Retirement Fund Religious	\$ 95.00
Initial Offer	\$ 25.00

*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**

(Light the first & second purple candles & the rose candle)

**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)

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

**Support the Retirement Fund for Religious**

A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I do not think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).



**Coffee and Cake**...will be served in the Church Basement after both Masses **this 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 Oplatki** is available in the back of the church for **\$1 per packet.**

**Families and the Gospel (John 1: 6-8 19-28)**

Today's gospel reports, "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that do not start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.



**Advent Penance Services**

Sunday	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:00PM	St. Benedict
Monday	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Michael Church (St Michael)
Thursday	Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00PM	St Patrick

