

# ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR  
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CONVENT:  
702 Saybrook Place  
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RECTORY: 539-7633  
OFFICE HOURS-Mon - Fri  
9:00AM to 2:00PM

**December 8, 2024**

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Today's Scripture Readings

**FIRST READING:** Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

**PSALM:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**SECOND READING:** May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

**GOSPEL:** John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).



#### Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Peace

The second Advent candle symbolizes peace. The Jubilee Year is meant to be a time of Sabbath rest, reconciliation, and peace. Pope Francis encourages us during this time to be reconciled to God and one another. The Jubilee Year allows us to do this through opportunities for sacramental confession and the gaining of indulgences (“eased purgation from sin”) offered throughout the year. May you come to know the Jubilee “Prince of Peace.”

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### Liturgical Ministry Schedule

5:30PM Saturday – Dec 14<sup>th</sup>  
Lector Volunteer

9:00AM Sunday – Dec 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lector: Pat Wess

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### Mass Intentions for the Week: (Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – Dec 15<sup>th</sup>)

MON	12/09	7:00AM. . .+ (B) Ralph Holtzman – (Sister, Eleanor & Family)
TUES	12/10	7:00AM. . .+ Dom Kurtz, Sr. – (Amy Gresh)
WED	12/11	7:00AM. . .+ For Deceased Members of the Family of Cirilla Graicar
THURS	12/12	7:00AM. . .+ Frank & Sue Karmanocky – (Family)
FRI	12/13	7:00AM. . .+ Nicky Fluder – (Pattie L. Horner)
SAT	12/14	5:30PM. . .+ For Living & Deceased Members of the Ferg/Swaney Family – (Barbara Voci)
SUN	12/15	9:00AM. . .+ (A) Kenneth Ferg, Sr. – (Daughter, Barbara Voci)



**December 8, 2024**

**The Christian Mothers will be wrapping Christmas gifts** on the second floor at Boscov's on **Dec 14, & Dec 20.**



We are looking for volunteers. Any help would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer call Janet Knapp at 814-241-6198

**Stewardship Reflections:**

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two "comings" of Christ – His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, our First Reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

This Advent let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about – moving ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS  
Nov 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec 1, 2024**

**Collection:**

Weekly	\$ 2,349.00
Monthly	\$ 115.00
Flowers	\$ 325.00
Fuel	\$ 30.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 35.00
Christmas	\$ 85.00

*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 Reading Material** - Advent began Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. There is still some excellent reading material for the Advent season in the back of church.

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

**Important Notice – Please do not park in the service station on the corner of Woodland & Ohio St or block the alley behind during mass. Cars will be towed!**

**2024 Church Donations** -- the cut-off date for posting donations for **2024 is Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**. To receive credit on your 2024 Financial Statement, your envelopes must be received by that date. Any donation received after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to 2025. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you.

**Catholic Ministries Drive**

**Encountering Christ.** Thank you to the families who have pledged as of October 31<sup>st</sup> a total of **\$4,850** towards our target amount of **\$\$8,276**. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge according to your means so we will be able to reach that target. You have until Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 to pay your pledge in full. **Just a reminder that the remaining balance of \$3,426 will be paid from the church's funds.** Thank you in advance for your contribution.



**Feast of the Immaculate Conception** – is a **holy day of obligation** and will be observed this **Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**. **There will not be a Vigil Mass on Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**. **Mass on the Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** will be celebrated at **7AM**.

**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.”*



Sincere Gratitude to Fr. Bernard and the Committees who planned, invited, and prepared for the Birthday Celebration. Everything was great. It certainly was the most memorable party of my life. Thanks for all the cards and gifts, especially your prayers. Let's all wait for another celebration. Everyday is a good day and a gift from God. Again, many thanks to all.

*Fr. Bałestino*

**Retirement Fund for Religious** – Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service – praying, teaching, and caring for those in need – usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have their religious savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

## Community News & Events

### How to Make It Through Remembering and Missing a Loved One This Holiday Season --

Perhaps someone very special to you has died. Perhaps a relationship is broken or estranged or someone you love is suffering from illness or addiction. The loss you feel is real, the grief you feel is real, and the upcoming holidays may be difficult for you. You don't have to walk this road alone. Join Sister Cindy Burns, CCW, for a morning of prayer and heartfelt reflection on "How to Make it Through the Holidays" on Saturday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown.

### **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."

## **Families and the Gospel Second Sunday of Advent**

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

## 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**

Wednesday	Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Anthony of Padua, Windber
Sunday	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	2:00PM	St John Gualbert
Sunday	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:00PM	St Benedict Johnstown
Monday	Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Tuesday	Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM until 7:30PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
Wednesday	Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Elizabeth Ann Seton Windber
Wednesday	Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00PM	St Patrick

