



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~December 24, 2017

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel100@yahoo.com

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann – stpreled@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;
Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706

Mary Beth Sampson 570-724-2953

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Tara Gordon 570-439-0006

Paul Urner 570-723-9970

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371

Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371

Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/25 <i>Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18</i>	10:00am	Our Christmas Intentions
Tuesday 12/26 <i>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22</i>	No Mass	
Wednesday 12/27 <i>1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1-8</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Peg O'leary (Brother, Charles)
Thursday 12/28 <i>1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Raymond Beuter (Family)
Friday 12/29 <i>1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Louis LuBera (Ilene Close, Dan & Sue Thompson)
Saturday 12/30 <i>1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confession In Memory of Joseph A. Kowalski (Janet K. Perkowski)
Sunday 12/31 <i>Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40</i>	8:30am 4:00pm	In Memory of Eric Swendrowski (Dio & Marilyn de Guzman) In Memory of Delores Carmen (Norb & Nona Josten)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 24, 2017

No Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, December 25, 2017

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, December 26, 2017

Rectory Closed

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, December 27, 2017

St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, December 28, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, December 29, 2017

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, December 31, 2017

No Religious Education Classes

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend instructions classes before the birth of their child. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages - In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm

Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in
Memory of Fr. Andrew Apostoli (Singer Family)

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

December 24th/25th

4:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Servers: L.Singer, Z. Singer, M. Mann, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: A.Singer, C.Evert

E. Min.: V.Anthony, A.Singer, E.Evert, I. Dziengowski

6:00pm (Christmas Eve)

Servers: J.Gordon, L.Gordon, W.Feil

Lectors: H.Sampson, M.Sampson

E. Min.: D.Sherman, G.Brown, C.Lannak, M.Bialas

10:00am (Christmas Day)

Servers: A.Dunkel, L.Germينو, X.Tellgren

Lectors: P.Kramer, R.Kramer

E. Min.: K.Tellgren, T.Straniere, D.Stager, L.Stager

December 30th/31st

5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, A.Banik, W.Feil

Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson

E. Min.: D.Sherman, K.Wilcox, B.Chiamonte, G.Brown

8:30am

Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, M.Ingerick

Lectors: N.Kennedy, M.Stirnaman

E. Min.: A.Singer, L.Whitney, T.Gamble, M. Stirnaman

4:00pm (Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary)

Servers: W.Poirier, J.Poirier, Z.Singer

Lectors: G.Poirier, D.Bleggi

E. Min.: T.Straniere, A.Singer, V.Anthony, B.Butler

(No Mass on January 1st)

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS - This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *Hand and Feet Warmers, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Homemade Cookies and Fudge & Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)*

A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS - This month's food pantry items are: *Creamy Peanut Butter & Grape Jelly.*

A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.



Liturgical Reflection

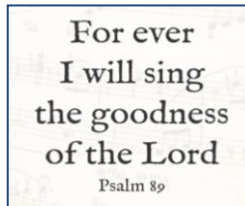
Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

This passage from 2 Samuel is a delightful conversation between David and the Lord. David wants to build a house for God, but instead God responds that he will build the house. God promises David that this house and kingdom will be firm forever. The house of David also means the household, family, or relations of David. David's salvation does not come alone as an individual or even as a king. Rather, it comes in community, among people who are in relationship with one another. Christians throughout the ages have come to believe that the birth of Jesus fulfilled the "Davidic covenant"; the promise God made to King David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 89

The psalmist sings a hymn of praise to God for faithfulness to the promise given to David. The promise is in the form of a covenant, a bond between God and the people of God. This bond is based on fidelity and is intended to endure "through all generations." The ensuing relationship is not like a civil or political agreement; it has the nature of a relationship as familiar and intimate as that between a father and a son.



SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Found at the end of Paul's epistle, these verses are a doxology or a benediction, a hymn of praise and glory to God. This reading echoes connections to the other readings in images of the endless mystery of God to be proclaimed to all nations. In proclaiming this gracious and generous message of covenantal relationship and compassion to all, it will be known to the world that God is indeed faithful. God offers salvation to everyone, Jew and Gentile alike, who has faith in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38



In telling Mary's story on this last Sunday, the Church highlights her response to the overwhelming power of God's Spirit. In her acceptance and trust of God's promise, Mary responded as a faithful servant of the line of

David. There has been no kings in the Davidic line for over five centuries since the Babylonian exile, yet God is faithful and has found a way to allow the Son of the most High to inherit David's throne. Mary has responded as a faithful disciple and, because of her willingness to allow God to enter into her very self, God's salvation will be seen upon the earth. As the season of Advent draws to a close, "all nations" wait in eager expectation for the celebration of the birth of Christ and remain ever-vigilant for his return.

Parish Activities and Information

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed on December 25th and 26th and December 29th through January 1st. In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency numbers found on the front of the bulletin. Fr. Bechtel will return your call as soon as possible.

2018 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2018 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance to the church and on the handout table. Special thanks to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their full sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.

HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to everyone who recently volunteered recently to staff the homeless shelter and prepare meals for guests! Your assistance to those in the most need in our community is appreciated! The schedule for 2018 has been released. St. Peters is on again next month, from January 7th – 13th. As a result we are again asking for people to encounter and minister to the needs of the poor in our area in a tangible way. Please consider signing up to help staff the shelter on Charleston Road from 5:00-9:00pm during this week, or preparing a meal for guests. To sign up or questions please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005. Signup sheets can be found on the hand out table on the side of the Church.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



The Social Concerns Committee extends a special thanks to those who generously supported this year's Giving Tree project! Your gifts will make Christmas a little merrier for local children and nursing home residents and will help Seeds of Hope respond to community needs during the coming year. **Reminder: Deliver the gifts for the nursing home residents in person, by December 24th**

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A candle is kept burning day and night wherever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches. It is an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with loving adoration in return. Sanctuary candles are available to remember or honor your loved ones. Please call the rectory to reserve a week.



*"Say to the faint of heart:
Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us."*

Isaiah 35:4

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful, prayer shawls to help comfort and warm those in need. They comfort the sick, the bereaved, shut-ins, nursing home residents, or people experiencing loneliness and emotional distress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. If you know of anyone needing a shawl, please call Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.

MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR WEEKLY ENVELOPES

In order to ensure that your contribution to the parish is correctly recorded, please make sure that the amount of your donation is denoted on the front of the envelope. This is a great help to our counters.

2017 STATEMENT OF DONATIONS

The 2017 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2017 statement. If you would like a 2017 statement, please call the rectory or write "send statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season, memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

2018 CHANGE IN RECTORY HOURS

Beginning in January 2018, the rectory hours will be open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am – 2:00pm; closed Friday. This change is occurring for a couple of reasons. One, the survey requested the rectory hours accommodate those who work. While we cannot stay open until 5:30pm or later, we are opening an hour earlier at 8:00am, so those working can stop in before their work day begins. Another reason for the change in hours is to better utilize our staff resources more efficiently.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 17, 2017	\$ 4,553.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses	<u>\$ 5,750.00</u>
Difference	(\$ 1,197.00)
Year to Date Budget Variance	\$ 1,419.91

We are very grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Refresh and expand your understanding of what being a follower of Jesus means by attending the 7-session "Following Christ" course in St. Peter's Parish Center Wednesday evenings, from January 10th through February 28th from 7:00-9:00pm. There will also be a Spirit-filled Retreat on Saturday, February 17th.

following
CHRIST
a seven-week journey

Following Christ helps those who are hungry to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ to better understand and respond to the Lord's call. This is accomplished through the grace of God by praying together, teaching, and supporting one another in some of the basic disciplines and truths practiced by Christians since the early Church.

Following Christ consists of seven sessions and a retreat day. The weekly sessions include four components: prayer, video teaching, fellowship, and small group discussion.

- Prayer - The prayer time is an opportunity for participants to grow deeper in their response to God's love together in group prayer.
- Video Teaching - The teachings provide practical ways to grow in relationship with the Lord and include foundational disciplines and truths important for maturing in Christ.
- Fellowship - The time of fellowship over drinks and desserts comes after the teaching as people transition into their small groups.
- Small Groups - The small groups are a place to freely discuss the teaching content, as well as a place of accountability for completing the action items encouraged in each session.

Session Topics: Daily Personal Prayer, Hearing God in Scripture, The Power of the Sacraments, Forgiving One Another, The Spirit-Empowered Life, Retreat - The World, The Flesh, The Devil, and Advancing the Mission of the Church.

To register or for more information, contact Norb Josten at 570-724-9095 or norb.josten@gmail.com. A satellite course will also be hosted at the deGuzman residence in Keeneyville for those interested.

Religious Ed. & Youth Group News



Youth Group Christmas Party

That's The Way It Is!



Merry Christmas it's a Boy!

The Christmas Season is a time to pray and meditate on the Incarnation of God in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. Note that God chose to incarnate as a man. That God chose to incarnate as a man begs the question as to why God

chose to incarnate as a man and whether God's incarnating as a man has any significance in the work of redemption. Theologians call the study of the work of redemption Soteriology. To put the question, then, in theological language, we can ask "Does the fact that God incarnated as a male as opposed to a female have any soteriological significance?"

Most people, especially if they are steeped in the principles of modern feminism would answer in the negative. They would say that God became a man because of the culture of the time in which he became incarnate. People were not educated then. They thought females were inferior to males. Had God incarnated as a woman, no one would have taken him seriously. Had God chosen to come today, he might chose to incarnate as a female. This is because we are so much more enlightened as a society today than those living in first century Palestine.

The fact is that God became man for a reason—and the reason is not incidental. The reason has nothing to do with culture and everything to do with the way in which humanity fell. In Adam, all sinned. Adam was a male. Adam was also the head of the human race. Thus, the new Adam, Jesus, is male in order to redeem humanity. Adam, however, did not sin in a vacuum. Eve's disobedience paved the way for Adam's disobedience. In the order of redemption, Mary, the second Eve, through her obedience, paves the way for the second Adam, Jesus to redeem the human race. Hence, just as the fall of humanity happened with a man and a women working in tandem, the redemption of humanity happens in a way that parallels the fall of humanity. A man and a women work in tandem to redeem the human race. It was necessary, then, that in order to save humanity, God not only assume our humanity. God must assume our humanity as a male.

This may make little sense to the modern mind. I think this is, in part, due to the fact that many people today think categories like male and female are incidental—that is—subjective projections of the human mind. Many, being steeped in the principles of liberal, secular humanism believe that the categories of male and female are not essential aspects of humanity. The categories of male and female depend more on a person's subjective identification than any objective features of the real world.

Christianity believes that the categories of male/female are objective features of the world. God intentionally created humanity male and female in His image. Males and

females equally, though in distinct but complementary ways image God. It is important to understand this because if we do not understand this, we will not understand the significance of the incarnation of God as man, the significance of Mary's obedience in contradistinction to that of Eve, nor will we understand how redemption works. If we do not understand how redemption works, we will not understand the nature or purpose of the Church in the world. If we do not understand the nature or purpose of the Church in the world, we will begin to look on the Church as little more than another private, charitable organization, rather than an organization that exists to bring redemption to the world. We will not understand the roles of men or women within the Church or why those roles exist as they do.

This morning we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This evening we will celebrate Christmas. The celebration of Christmas is a birthday celebration. We celebrate the birthday of Christ. God became man because Jesus is the second Adam. In Jesus, man does what man did not do in the first Adam: die for his bride.

If you want to understand the significance of the incarnation of God as man, try meditation on the fall of humanity. Try seeing the connections between the fall of humanity and how redemption plays out. I need to state that this is hard work. These connections are subtle. This is not something you will sit down and immediately see. However, if you meditate on the mystery of the fall and the mystery of redemption with the eyes of Faith, you will begin to see things more clearly.

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018. Enjoy your Christmas and New Year's celebrations with your family and friends. To those who might be alone, do not lose heart! While celebrating Christmas with family and friends might be nice---if you have Jesus in your heart, you have all you need to celebrate Christmas!

Merry Christmas, it's a boy!

That's the Way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

Holy Family, December 31st

Saturday ~ 5:00pm; Sunday 8:30am

Mary, Mother of God ~ 4:00pm Vigil

(Because the Solemnity falls on a Monday this year,
it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

There will be no Mass on Monday, January 1st.)

News from the Vatican



JOSEPH, SILENT STRENGTH AND FAITH

Joseph is a perfect model of silent strength and faith. Pope Francis reflected on Joseph's initial doubt and worry when he learned Mary was pregnant. When we have difficulties or

are down, Pope Francis said, we should be inspired by St Joseph, who knew "how to walk in darkness," "listen to the voice of God," and "go forward in silence." While he "did not understand," the Pope said, he knew that Mary was "a woman of God," and believed when the Lord sent him an angel in a dream to explain how—though the Holy Spirit—the child had been conceived.

"Joseph fought within himself; in that struggle, the voice of God is heard: 'But get up' — that 'Get up' [which is heard] so many times in the Bible at the beginning of a mission — 'Take Mary, bring her to your home. Take charge of the situation; take this situation in hand, and go forward.' Joseph didn't go to his friends to be comforted, he didn't go to a psychiatrist so that he could interpret the dream. No... He believed. And he went forward. He took the situation in hand. But what must you take in hand, Joseph? What was the situation? What was it that Joseph had to take up? "Two things: fatherhood, and mystery," Francis answered. Regarding "fatherhood," Francis observed: This is already implied in the genealogy of Jesus, which explains how He "was thought to be the son of Joseph."

"He took on a paternity that was not his own: it came from the Father. And he went ahead with that fatherhood and all it signified: not only supporting Mary and the Child, but also raising the Child, teaching Him his trade, bringing Him up to manhood. 'Take up a paternity that is not yours, but God's.' And this, without saying a word. In the Gospel, there is not a single word spoken by Joseph. A man of silence, of silent obedience."

Turning to mystery, the Holy Father explained that Jesus took in hand the mystery of leading people back to God mentioned in the first reading.

"Joseph took in hand this mystery and helps: with silence, with his work, up to the moment when God called him to Himself. It is said of this man, who took up fatherhood and mystery, that he was the shadow of the Father: the shadow of God the Father.

"And if the man Jesus learned to say 'daddy,' 'father,' to His Father Who He knew as God," Francis explained, "He learned it from life, from the witness of Joseph, the man who took care of Him, the man who raised Him, the man who carried forward every paternity and every mystery, but took nothing for himself."

Pope Francis concluded saying this is the great Joseph, whom God needed to carry forward "the mystery of leading the people anew to the new Creation."

POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER - @Pontifex

December 17th - May the Lord grant us the wisdom to seek that which is worthwhile and to love, not with our words but with our actions.

December 18th - Every stranger that knocks at our door is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ.

December 13th - Christians are called to work concretely in the realities of this world, illuminating them with the light that comes from God.

Apostleship of Prayer - Papal Intention for December

The Elderly - That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Diocese of Scranton News

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

St. Peter's annual appeal goal is \$46,500. We currently have raised \$48,261.50 and have met our goal!



Thanks you to all who supported this year's appeal.


Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE


The readings of today and the closeness of Christmas, thrust us into reflections on the Incarnation. Christmas is not only the Feast of Christ's birth, but the celebration of the entire mystery of God taking on a human nature – beginning with the event narrated in today's Gospel, whereby Christ was conceived within Mary's body. God redeems us by joining every aspect of our lives to his. God even becomes an unborn child. Human life was already sacred because it always was and is God's creation, made freely from his love. But in the Incarnation it takes on an even deeper meaning and sanctity, because human nature is forever united with Divine Life. This affects all who share human nature, even the children still in the womb. That is why *Evangelium Vitae* can make the following two assertions: "Life, especially human life, belongs only to God: for this reason whoever attacks human life, in some way attacks God himself" (EV n. 9). "By his Incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every person. It is precisely in the "flesh" of every person that Christ continues to reveal himself and to enter into fellowship with us, so that rejection of human life, in whatever form that rejection takes, is really a rejection of Christ" (EV n. 104). The fact that Mary was not expecting to carry a child, and was troubled at the greeting, also leads us to reflect on the Providence of God. No unexpected pregnancy has ever affected history so profoundly, and no woman besides Mary is a better example to those who feel they cannot handle a pregnancy.



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Mark will be the primary Gospel proclaimed.



As Elizabeth recognized God's presence
in Mary, we too are invited to discover
the Lord in our midst. May our eyes be open to see
God among us, and may we respond with hearts that
are open to the abundant love
which is our inheritance.



The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

*The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills,
and life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.*

*O brighter than the rising morn
when He, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.*

*O brighter than that glorious morn
shall this fair morning be,
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
and we His face shall see.*


*The King shall come when morning dawns,
and earth's dark night is past:*

*O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that aye shall last.*

*And let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns,
and light and beauty brings;*

*"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings!*



CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 25 - January 8

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.


Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

A Prayer for Christmas

*O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember
the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the
angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship
of the wise men. May Christmas morning make us
happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring
us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and
forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen*





Gran & Campbell Families
Butler Family
Jim Comes
Tom & Rita Rudy Family
Randall, Jones, & Kibler Families
Hewitt & Matsuda Families
John & Marie Marks
Frank & Marcella Kramer
Campbell & Cimino Families
Korenkiewicz & Glasgow Families
Sticklin Family
Robert & Margaret Shea
Fred Massing
Marie Green
Snyder Family
Douglas Robinson
John & Marion Cumiskey
Jean & Gerald Robinson
Adrienne Palmer
Stephen & Mildred Boyce Family
Helen Boyce
Donald & Rosemary Boyce Children
Bob Brant
G. Darby Gamble
Thomas Young
Sally West
Shirley Ashcraft
M.D. Fagg
Mekos Family
Mitchell, Bryant, Keck Families
Koza Family
Veronica Stager
Stager & Tinder Families
Austin Seymour
Jeffrey Mann

Ronald Behers
Edgar & Marian Wallace
Frank & Helen Bechtel
Tom Bechtel
Elizabeth Bechtel
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John & Marcella Worden
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Katherine Tobin
Stephanie Daddona
Frank Daddona
Sulewski, Mountain, & Wilcox Families
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Ethel & Lyman Brown
Joseph & Mary Tarszowicz
Brown & Tarszowicz Families
Ruth Reindl
Ruth Knapke
Sampson Family & Friends
Cynthia Gordon
Thelma Hill
John Gordon
Norman Hill
Fred White
James, Amelia, & Robert Williams
William & Mary Carlson
Leo & Doris Williams
Guertin & Plumley Families
Beth Patt
Earl & Martha King
Butler Family

James Callahan
Harold Berguson
Elizabeth Callahan
Rita O'Donnell
Dugan & Alice O'Donnell
Robert & Helen Diltz
James & Marjorie Crawford
John & Ann Bialas
Erin Bialas
Cass Crawford
Phil & Pat Bradley
Marie Stager
Effe Antonio
Vincent Arena
Dorothy Arena
Chris Arena
Shirley Arena
James Arena
Dolores Dyett
Elizabeth Cram
William Wood
Lola Dein
Ted, Doris, & Teddy Sykora
Gertrude & Jack Whitney
Phil, Steve, Doug Clark
Joe Cazzalino
Lana Bennett
Joseph Stanley Lisowski
Anar Tokarz
Thomas Miller
Walter Tokarz
Virginia Miller
Debra Brylione
Scott Waclawik
Carl Waclawik
Matthew & Florence Waclawik
Robert & Jeanette Dalbey
Nick & Virginia Basile
Everett & Marjorie Gooch
James Long

Flick Family
Dalbey Family
Stutz Family
Hebson Family
G. McVicker
Niles & Cuda Family and Friends
Vincent DeWitt
Delores Seiberlich
Joseph & Elizabeth Tarszowicz
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Donald C. Boyce & Children
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Joseph & Clara Patt
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Russell & Edith Kitchum
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Eric & Tina Kreisler Family

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Parish Prayer List



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Susan Cleveland, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Michael Liebner, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommicco, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, and Brenden Young.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.