

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23rd - 3:30 p.m. - Anna Skimski
Sunday, December 24th- 10:30 a.m. - Franciszka
Waskiewicz

Envelopes can be found today on the altar rail for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season. Each plant is \$12.00. **PLEASE PRINT NAMES LEGIBLY.**

Until further notice students of the Polish Language Class will have off the second Saturday of each month.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) They will be available at St. Catharine of Siena Rectory during their business hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

Christmas Confession Schedule:

Wednesday, December 20th -
6:00-7:00 p.m. - Church

Schedule for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve. - 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - 10:30 a.m.

There will be no New Year's Eve. or New Year's Day Masses at Saint Mary's.



Christmas Schedule

Confession Schedule

Monday, December 18th & Tuesday,
December 19th

4-5 & 7-8 p.m. - Chapel

Wednesday, December 20th -
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Saint Mary's

Christmas Masses

Christmas Vigil - 4 p.m. - Church & 4:00
p.m. - Chapel

7:00 p.m. & 12 Midnight-

* Incense - Church Only

9:00 p.m. - Saint Mary's

Christmas Day - 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*

Incense - Church

10:30 a.m. - St. Mary's

Solemnity of Mary - Mass Schedule

New Year's Day -

8:00 - Chapel *

&

10:30 a.m. - Church

***Please note** that Solemnity of Mary is incorrect in the Christmas letter schedule. The 8:00 a.m. Mass will be in the Chapel on Perkiomen Avenue.

"I warmly welcome all Catholics 'home for Christmas.' No matter how long since your last visit, your spiritual home awaits you ready and waiting to welcome you home! I invite all my brother priests, deacons, religious, and practicing Catholics, through their example of holiness, perseverance, and joy, to be a source of encouragement to their brothers and sisters away from their spiritual home, and to invite one inactive Catholic back home for Christmas. Please know of my prayers for a blessed and Merry Christmas to you and your families!"

Bishop Alfred A. Schlert

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 61:1-2, 10-11: Isaiah has been sent to proclaim glad tidings to those in need. He rejoices in the Lord who will prove that he is the God of justice and peace.

1 Thes 5:16-24: Paul admonishes that Christians should rejoice. He prays that the Christ-bearer will be free from any semblance of evil, but rather will grow in holiness.

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28: John the Baptist is the forerunner of Jesus. He gives witness to Jesus by his preaching.

Today' Message - John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await His coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

VOICES IN PRAISE REHEARSAL-9 a.m.- Knights' Rm
CHILDREN'S LITURGY- during the 10:30 Mass
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY – 4:30 p.m. – Parish Center
CUB SCOUTS MTG. – 6:00 p.m. – Social Hall
MT. PENN PILGRIMAGE- m. - Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION-after 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.
ULTREYA - 7:30 p.m. – Social Hall
GUITAR CHOIR – 7 p.m. - Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

RCIA- 7 p.m. – Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

PREP (LEVELS 6-8) 6:30 p.m. –School
PREP (LEVELS 1-5) 6:45 p.m. - School
LEGION OF MARY – 6:30 p.m. – Parish Center

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

“SIENA STITCHERS” – 10 a.m. – Gathering Area
YOUTH CHOIR- 5:30 p.m. – Church
K OF C MTG. -7:30 p.m. – Knight's Rm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

With the holidays approaching Catholic Charities is in need of donations to fulfill the requests they receive from the people in need of help. Please consider taking an envelope from our [Angel Tree](#) and sending in your contribution. The information is inside the already addressed envelope. God bless you for sharing and making their holidays a bit brighter.



47th Annual Carol Pilgrimage at the Churches in Mount Penn - The Pilgrimage begins at 7PM tonight at Pennside Presbyterian, 253 North 25th Street, Mount Penn, proceeds to

Faith Lutheran, Trinity UCC, and St. Catharine's RCC. Advent candles are lit at each Church, as prayers are offered and carols are sung. Nativity figures join the procession with each stop along the way, and each Church presents special music. Refreshments follow the event at St. Catharine's school cafeteria. The public is invited.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 Didyoung-Wright Family
8:00 Earl Heintz

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 Rickert, Verbosh, Platko Fam.
8:00 Blanche Garrett (1st Ann.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30 Fr. Joseph Curtin
8:00 Nila Garcia-Romero

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30 Antonio Cornista
8:00 Deacon Jack DeTurck

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30 Regina McGinley
8:30 Domenica Miller & Kevin Boyer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 Sara & Peter Salino
4:30 Cortney Kelly

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 James L. McGinley
9:00 Nila Garcia-Romero (1st Ann.)
10:30 Chrissy DeLuca
12:00 Carmen Romero (5th Ann.)

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. – Living and Deceased of the Parish (Church)
4 p.m.-Living and Deceased of the Parish (Chapel)
7 p.m.-Living and Deceased of the Parish (Church)
Midnight-Living and Deceased of the Parish (Church)
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 –CHRISTMAS DAY
8 a.m.-Living and Deceased of the Parish (Church)
10:30 a.m.-Living and Deceased of the Parish (Church)

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent
	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday	Saint John of Kanty, Priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING . . . memory writes on every page of the calendar. A support group offering caring presence, strength, and wisdom meets two Mondays a month at St. Catharine's of Siena Church, Mt. Penn 19606, at 7 PM. To register call 610 370-1174.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/18	Father Joseph Whalen
Tuesday 12/19	Father Robert Wiesenbaugh
Wednesday 12/20	Religious priests
Thursday 12/21	Father George Williams
Friday 12/22	Father George Winne
Saturday 12/23	Father Robert Yankevitch
Sunday 12/24	Msgr. David Yenushosky

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Give a Gift to Your Marriage This Year - Couples that use Natural Family Planning have a divorce rate of less than 5%. The Creighton Model of Fertility Care is 99.5% effective in avoiding pregnancy and up to 80% effective in helping infertile couples achieve pregnancy. To schedule an introductory session and learn about the GIFT of NFP go to www.fcsbc.setmore.com or contact creightonmodel@gmail.com.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, LCPL David Ermentrout, Second Lt. Morgan Hissick, Lt. Anthony Bennett, Tom Bristol, Danny Bristol, Spc. Erin Pawlik, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Senior Airman Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, Tech. Sgt. John V. Nowotarski, III, Peter Hinsey, Thomas Bristol, Col. Patrick Sullivan, Second Lt. Joshua Kline, Captain Kevin Madary, Sgt. First Class Andrew Spies, Major Jeffrey Brizek, Warrant Officer Gregory Van Horn, Major Jeffrey Van Horn, Lt. Cdr. Allison Rosati Martin, Command Master Chief Marie Rosati France, Lt. Brandon Daughtry, David L. Busch, Zachary Deissler, Amy & Gregory Boland, Lt. Col. Adam Sawyer, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Sola, Lt. Mathew Stuber, Sgt. Nathan Essig & Lt. Cdr. Brian Blair. Please contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or email them to dsitler@comcast.net. Please call with addresses of military to Terri Mueller at 610-779-1766.

Women's Heart Attack & Disease Survivors Support Group Monthly Meeting for any woman who's had a HA or suffers from Heart Disease and lives in or around Berks Cty, PA is welcome to join. Where: St. Ignatius School – meeting room “C”, 2710 Saint Albans Drive, West Lawn, PA 19609, When: January 11, 2018 @ 7:00 and every second Thursday thereafter. For more information email: HeartSisters111@gmail.com. Chrissy - 484-955-4372 & Bev - 610-781-5557

Weekend Mass Schedule

December 23rd - 4:30 p.m. (Church)

Lector - Roseanne Uhrig

Voices in Praise

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers – O. Chiarelli - M. Griffin - R. Griffin

December 24th - 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector– Melissa Woodard

Altar Servers -J. Dempster - E. Oscar - S. Stankiewicz

December 24th - 9:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Vincent McDevitt

Youth Choir

Altar Servers - G. Reed - R. Stoudt - K. Swavely

December 24th - 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - John Vogel

Cantor - Kim Kostival

Organist- Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - D. O'Hara - H. Paris - J. Howard

December 24th - 12:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Mike McCarthy

Cantor– Mollie Ziembra

Organist - Joe Schwartz

Altar Servers - A. McElderry - G. McElderry - M. McElderry

ALTAR SERVERS LIST - WEEKDAYS

Week of December 18th - 23rd

8:00 a.m.– E. Fernandez & D. Schmehl - (Mon- Wed.)

8:00 a.m. - K. Kintzer & A. Nguyen - (Thurs-Sat)

8:30 a.m.. - K. Kintzer & A. Nguyen - (Friday Only)

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

December 24th - 4:00 p.m.. (Church)

Lector - Amanda Dooley

Youth Choir - Kate Bobb

Organist - Joseph Schwartz

Altar Servers - E. Wright - S. Wright - C. Wright - J. Bobb

December 24th - 4:00 p.m.. (Chapel)

Lector - Mary King

Cantor - K. Kostival - M. Feeney

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - S. Hodgson - R. Hodgson - K. Hodgson

December 24th - 7:00 p.m. (Church)

Lector - Kathy Brent

Cantor - Jay Yohn

Organist - Joseph Schwartz

Altar Servers - J. Davis - B. Davis - S. Cortes

December 24th - 12 Midnight (Church)

Lector - Elizabeth Edmunds

Voices in Praise Choir

Cantor - Carol McDevitt

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - J. Albert - D. Gombar - M. Feeney - M. Pawlik

December 25th - 8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector– Paul Essig

Cantor - Mollie Ziembra

Organist– Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - E. Simms - = J. Konopelski - P. Kopecky

December 25th - 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Cris Marbella

Guitar Group

Altar Servers - A. Kline - P. McCullough - D. McAdams

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven”

“a time to be born...”

Recently Baptized:

Please pray for our sick :

Recently added : Wayne Gillmor, Jim McGinnis, Jennifer Devlin & Becky and Chuck Drennen

& our soldiers in harm's way:

Paula Abel, Anita Adamo, Stella Albrecht, Jeannine Ambrosi, Sue Ambruch, Tony Angello, Anthony Antonucci, Tara Arnold, Beverly Bansner, Kathy Barnes, Denny Bastian, Kailee Baxter, Melanie Bechtel, Debi Bennett, Harrison Bergstresser, Jan Bertolet, Sandy Bibbo, Stella Bickleman, Nicky Biondo, Karen Bird, Christine Blair, Kim & Michael Blair, Catherine Blanchard, Christina Boehning, Agnes Bohner, Linda Brent, Susan Brennan, Maria Briand, Robin Briand, Frank Broga, Kathryn Brubaker, Robert Bryden, Renee Brzostek, Emily Buelow, Renee Burns, Marvin Bush, Jeannine Caffrey, Ronald Calabrese, Neil Carroll, Nancy Cassidy, Bob & Patty Cavallino, Brianna Chery, Mark Christ, Marilyn Clifford, Nancy Ciccone, Donna Cocchia, Michael Conrad, Lisa Costello, Jeannie Crass, Audrey Crilley, Joan Cronan, Alexa Cupitt, Ryan Curley, Larry Curtin, Robin Cuzner, Yvania Dawson, Tony DeAngelis, Charles De Naples, Julie Denunzio, Melissa DeWees, Gretchen Dialectus, Paula DiBuilda, Arthur Dietrich, Jr, Carmela Donato, Mildred Donnelly, Kate Doughton, Father Michael Drury, Dick Dunn, Gina Ebricht, Dorothy Eisenhart, Lu Ann Eyre, Peter Fanticone, Jack Farrell, Josie Farrell, Jared Fenstemacher, Pearl Fillman, Devonna Fisher, Jennifer Flook, Laurie Flynn, Frances Ford, Jane Fordyce, John Fordyce, Al Franckowiak, Margaret Frisbee, Kim Furtow, Shelley Fox, Anna Mae Gantert, Donna Gentry, Grace Gerace, Pat Gerace, Joseph Gierschick, Jr, Frank Gill, Margo Girardi, Kathy Glaser, Larry Glaser, Johanna Goheen, Albert Gombar, Claire Griffith, Ruth Guyah, Jacob Hafer, Tom Hafer, Warren Haggerty, Jeanne Goodwin Hall, Beverly Hannahoe, Richelle Harbst, Eva Hare, Maria Harp, Leann Harris, Debbie Heberling, Jason Heckman, William Hedl, Robyn Hefferan, Diane Herbein, Emory Hilton, Melissa Himmelberger, Ethan Himonitis, William Hinkle, Donna Hofmann, Mark Holtzman, Siegfried Hosey, Robert Hough, Allison Howard, John Hull, Genevieve Iswalt, Catharine Jagielski, Erick Jefferson, Steven Julian, Brian K, Dorothy Kaisoglus, Blake Kauffman, Andrew Kazmierczak, Alex Kelso, John Kiedeisch, Carolyn Kilyk, John Kirsch, Joyce Kleckner, Marilla Kleinsasser, Mary Klick, Barry Kline, Sr, Benjamin Kline, Jean Kline, Ginny Koch, Helen Koehler, John Kogut, Mary Kolakowski, Mary Konopelski, Jack Kuhn, Dolores Lamp, Jeffrey Lamp, Tracy Larish, Mike LaScala, Vanessa Leaizer, Daniel Leiby, Harry Logan, Stephen & Genevieve Luskie, Kelly Lynch & family, Julia Marason, Megan Marino, Angela Marroccoli, Anna Mastandrea, Charles Mathews, Mary Ann Matthews, Chris McCarron, Coral McConnell, Jacob McCue, Teagan McDonnell, Rita McHale, Dorothy McGill, Ainsley McLain, Edward McKeane, Abbie McKinney, Rosemary McNish, Arthur Mengel, Susan Mertz, James Minner, Jacob Mower, Goup Toy Moy, Gertrude Moyer, Thomas Muchanic, Gordon Newmoyer, Bill Norquist, Bernie Nowotarski, Evelyn Oquendo, Anna Ospina, Anna Paone, Gabriella Paone, Landon Paul, Melly Pimentel, Pat Pinto, Donald Pisker, James Pisker, Anne Poserina, Potts Family, Sharon Prechtl, Mary Price, Kathleen Rainey, Thomas Joseph Rainey, Lori Rears, Roger A. Reto, Rosemary Rice, Agnes Roach, Lynn Roberts, Barbara Rowe, Catherine Rudy, Mary Ryan, Elizabeth Fassig, Joann Sacco, Anne Schaeffer, Mary Schalk, Gladys Schell, Ann Schweitzer, Robert Senick, Beth Serafin, Tom Shaaber, Garth Shannon, David Sharpley, Sr., Earl Sheetz, Dawn Siderowicz, Janet Smith, Patricia Smoyer, Tyson Snader, Susan Sneddon, Mike Spear, Mark Speece, Julie Staber, Christopher Starr, Maureen Steimetz, Pam Stribbling, Maria Stubblebine, Annabelle Stump, Ken Styer, Earl Suchomelly, Cullen Sullivan, Gerry Sullivan, Carolyn Taraba, Hilda Thomas, John Tittle, Joe Tomalis, Wendy Tustin, Donald Ulrich, Jane Valeriano, Alan Wachowicz, Sherry Wainwright, Patty Wagner, Mark Walter, Marie Weber, Charles Wettstein, Amber White, Frank White, Annetta Wilson, Leo Woelkers, Ann Marie Zawislak, Bob Zeiler, Sr. & Bob Zeiler, Jr.

...and a time for peace ...a time to die: *Walter Kerber; Ted Zaorski*, (father of Paulette Nawa); *Julia Vicente*, (mother of Milton Vicente) & *Jim Kowalczyk* To have someone from your family enrolled on our prayer list, please call the Parish Center. Names will be listed for one month unless the office is notified that the condition continues and prayers are still requested. Parishioners who are sick or hospitalized, in a rehabilitation facility or at home wishing to receive the Holy Eucharist may call the Parish at 610-779-4005.

Berks Catholic News

Saints Shoot Out and Cheerleading Clinic- December 27, 2017- For Boys and Girls Grades K-8. Offensive moves for guards and forwards, dribbling moves, shooting, shooting off the dribble, shooting off the pass, and shoot out contest. Please go to the Berks Catholic Website for a registration form. www.berkscatholic.org

Open House- January 28, 2018 2-4pm: A terrific opportunity to meet faculty, administration and current students. Our clubs and activities are on display to give you a glimpse into what we are about. Open House is an exciting and unique experience seeing the Berks Catholic community come together.

Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations are being accepted for the **Central Catholic, Holy Name, and Berks Catholic Hall of Fame Class of 2018**. To nominate, please send name of athlete, a brief explanation of athletic accomplishments, school attended, and year of graduation to Berks Catholic Athletic Director, Bill Hess, at bhess@berkscatholic.org.



St. Catharine CYO and Youth Ministry Skating Party & Canned Food Drive SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2018

Our CYO and Youth Ministry is sponsoring this event. Open to all children in preschool thru 12th grade in our parish. **Admission/Skate Rental:** \$5 w/Canned Food Donation (\$8 without) **Time:** 1:45-4:00 - **Location:** Body Zone Sports Complex

Canned Food donations will be made to local food pantries. Please RSVP to Shaun & Heather Keperling at keperling@ieee.org

Youth News



(Picture) "Side by Side" - Successful five week study called "Alteration the Mystery of the Mass Revealed".

Senior High School Youth Retreat Feb 23-25. Registration is going on now! Space is limited for this special experience led by teens, for teens, just like you, from both our parish and St. Benedict's parish. The annual retreat will again be held at beautiful Camp Manatawny in Douglasville. Cost is \$50 (nonrefundable) and covers, lodgings, food, and supplies. This year's theme is the "Beatitudes". Don't miss it! Permission slips available at the youth table in the gather area of church and on the parish website (www.scsreading.org). Questions please contact Deanna Stratton at 610-406-0452.

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth of the parish will be serving meals at Kennedy House Soup Kitchen on January 6th and 7th. If you are interested in helping or donating an item, please contact Julie Wright at prtyof10@ptd.net.

50 Plus News

MEETINGS

JANUARY 3, 2018: NEW YEARS CELEBRATION with members to bring appetizers and snacks to share – cookies and coffee. Speaker: Lisa Lorah - Benefits of **Encore**

FEBRUARY 7, 2018: Valentine Day Celebration. Cupcakes and coffee
Speaker: Pat White – 2018 trip schedule & pictures from Vermont

March 7, 2018: St. Patrick Day Celebration, wear your Green. Cake and coffee. Entertainment: Harold Graeff from Timeframe – 4 Men to sing for us, Irish songs & other music

APRIL 4, 2018: SPECIAL EVENT - Everybody's Birthday Celebration. Victor Emmanuel's restaurant, more information to follow

2018 TRAVEL PLANS

Pat will have the travel plans for 2018 from April to November at the February meeting. Call **Pat White 610-582-1437** for trip information

We always welcome new members and encourage guests to join us at any of our meetings. Our meetings are held at 1:00 P.M. on the first Wednesday of every month at St. Catharine's Social Hall on Route 562, 4975 Boyertown Pike in Exeter Township, dues are \$5.00 per year. **ALL ARE WELCOME**



Congratulations to Henry & Patricia Hart who celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary on December 16th. Many more years of health and happiness!

LIFE AD CAMPAIGN of 2018

Please demonstrate your support for the **Life Ad 2018 Campaign** sponsored by the Catholic Community of Berks County by signing your name to St Catharine's list of supporters. This Life Ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Monday, January 22, 2018, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States.

Your donations not only publish this Ad but also provide financial support to St. Mary's Shelter/home. If you are unable to donate at this time, Please consider giving us your signature support. It is important to raise the awareness that many people support the homeless pregnant woman. Thank you for taking a public stand against the tragedy of abortion.

Please PRINT name clearly. We can only use the following Examples: John Smith, John and Mary Smith or The Smith Family.

Name: _____

Donation: _____ If you are making a donation by check,

Please write it to "Life Ad Campaign 2018". Thank you.

Parish Nurse News: Look into some new and healthy routines for your day. Yoga helps to build balance and strength, important components that improve both back strength and circulation! (bcbsil.com, Feb. 2016)