

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 8th - 8:00 a.m. - Deceased Of Wulkiewicz Family
Saturday, December 8th - 3:30 p.m. - Richard Zaorski
Sunday, December 9th - 10:30 a.m. - Father David Czarotynski

ENVELOPES can be found today on the altar rail for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Each plant is \$12.00. **Please print names legibly.**

There will be a second collection next Sunday, December 9, for the Retirement Fund for Retired Religious.

There will be a Latin Mass next Sunday, December 9, at 12:30 P.M. in the Church. Reconciliation at noon; Social after Mass.

POLISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSN. ANNUAL POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE "WIGILIA" DINNER: Sunday, December 16 at Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Center Avenue. Doors open at 4:15 P.M. Members - \$55; Non-Members - \$65. For more information, contact Henry Pruski at 610-372-1279 after 7 P.M. Deadline - December 10.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help to decorate the Church on Wednesday, December 12th at 9 A.M.



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
7 P.M. -**

SAINT CATHARINE'S CHURCH

**FEAST DAY - SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 8TH**

8:00 & 10:30 A.M. - CHURCH

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MASSES WILL BE HELD AT
THE CHURCH DUE TO THE CONSTRUCTION.**

ST. MARY'S - 8:00 A.M.-CHURCH



Christmas Confession Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd

3:30-4:15 p.m. - Church

Saturday, Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd

2:45-3:15 p.m. - Saint Mary's

Monday, December 17th &

Tuesday, December 18th

4:00-5:00 p.m. &

7:00-8:00 p.m. - Chapel

Wednesday, December 19th

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Saint Mary's

Christmas - Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. -

Church & 4:00 p.m. - Chapel

7:00 p.m. & 12:00 Midnight -*

*Church (*Incense)*

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

Christmas Day - 8:00 a.m. &

10:30 a.m. - Church

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

Solemnity of Mary - Mass

Schedule

New Year's Eve -

4:30 p.m. Church

3:30 p.m. - Saint Mary's

New Year's Day - 8:00 a.m.

& 10:30 a.m. - Church

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jer 33:14-16: Jeremiah reveals the promise of the Lord made to the House of Israel. A shoot from David shall do what is right and just. Judah and Jerusalem shall be safe.

1 Thes 3:12-4:2: Paul prays that the Lord will increase His love among the Thessalonians. In turn they must live a life pleasing to God so that they may progress in the way of perfection.

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36: Jesus tells His disciples that there will be signs for His second coming. The sun, moon, stars, anguish among people, fright—these will warn of His coming. They should watch, pray and stand secure before the Son of Man.

Today's Message - We must be on guard for the Day which is to come when all will be fulfilled. As we await the coming of Christ, let us love one another, observing His covenant and decrees.

Nocturnal Adorations Devotions will be held at St. Paul's Church, on 9th & Walnut Streets. The one hour Adoration will be from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. on First Friday, December 7th. Everyone is welcome to attend!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

VOICES IN PRAISE REHEARSAL – 9 a.m. – Knights' Rm.
 INSCRIPTION SERVICE - After noon Mass - Church
 LEGION OF MARY - 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Parish Center & Chapel
 BAPTISMS - 1:30 p.m. - Church
 YOUTH GROUP - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Upper Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION- after 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.
 GUITAR CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00 p.m. - Church
 SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING - 7:00 p.m. - Parish Center
 BIBLE STUDY GROUP - 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. - Parish Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

50 PLUS BOARD MEETING - 10:00 a.m. - Social Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

50 PLUS GENERAL MEETING - 1:00 p.m. - Social Hall
 PREP LEVELS 1-5 - 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. - School
 PREP LEVELS 6-7 - 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. - School
 LEGION OF MARY – 6:30 p.m. – Parish Center

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

SIENA STITCHERS - 10:00 a.m. - Church Gathering Area
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING - 7:30 p.m. - Knight's Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

VIGIL MASS- 7 p.m. – **Church**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8– HOLY DAY

8:00 & 10:30 A.M. MASSES - Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

VOICES IN PRAISE REHEARSAL – 9 a.m. – Knights' Rm.
 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - 8:00-12:00 p.m. - Social Hall

Please Note: (School Masses) If the school is closed, has an early dismissal or a late start the Mass will be held at the Chapel.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Due to the Holidays, all information for the bulletin must be received in our office as follows: **December 23rd, 30th and January 6th by Monday, December 17th by noon! THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS! Information for the bulletin can be emailed to dsitler@comcast.net.**

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:30 Michael Rodgers

8:00 Dennis Bastian

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

8:00 Spencer Leddy

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:30 Michael Conway

8:00 Joseph Hughes (1st Anniversary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

8:00 Owen A. Holbrook, (5th Anniversary)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30 James Kowalczyk (1st Anniversary)

8:30 For the Intentions of Frank & Ann Mazurkiewicz - (School)

7:00 Richard Heins (5th Anniversary) - **Church**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:00 Special Intention– **Church**

10:30 Daniel P. McDevitt - **Church**

4:30 Chester & Dorothy Sychterz - **Church**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 Alois & Rosa Sager

9:00 Raymond T. Kase

10:30 Michael Talarico

12:00 Greg Griffith (1st Anniversary)

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2018

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday	Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Saint Nicholas, Bishop Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Saint Nicholas, Bishop Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



St. Catharine's is looking for a volunteer to join the Church cleaning crew on the 3rd Saturday of each month. If interested please contact the rectory at 610-779-4005.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/3	Bishop Alfred Schlert
Tuesday 12/4	Bishop Emeritus Edward Cullen
Wednesday 12/5	Monsignor John Grabish
Thursday 12/6	Father James Greenfield, O.S.F.S.
Friday 12/7	Father Eric Gruber
Saturday 12/8	Father Francis Grundowski
Sunday 12/9	Father Kevin Gualano

Parish Nurse News - Great advice! If you smoke, quit! It's one of the best things you can do for yourself. Quit now for all the right reasons, your health, your family, and especially your future! (bcbsil, Oct. 2018. <http://bit.ly/20z5Mul>)

Parish Nurses Group will be offering blood pressure screenings before and after all the Masses at the Church on Saturday December 8th and Sunday December 9th.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: SPC Mackenzie Adame, Pvt. Connor A. Soja, Pvt. First Class Kadan C. Soja, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, LCPL David Ermentrout, Lt. Morgan Hissick, Captain 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, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Brizek, Warrant Officer Gregory Van Horn, Major Jeffrey Van Horn, Lt. Cdr. Allison Rosati Martin, 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.

SIENA STITCHERS always welcomes newcomers. Whether you are an experienced needle worker or would like to learn, come join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:00 A.M. at the Church. Hand-made items will be for sale at the Church exits beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Money will go to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Winter is coming! St. Vincent de Paul will again have bins to collect new or gently used Children's hats, gloves, scarves, and boots.

STABON MANOR is a 160 bed Social Security community. They are currently seeking assistance to help their residents have a joyous holiday season. Any donations such as Christmas gifts, gift cards or monetary gifts would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Cortes at Stabon Manor at 484-955-4384.

Weekend Mass Schedule

December 8th - 4:30 p.m. (Church)

Lector - Helen Veet

Cantor - Mollie Ziemba

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - K. Swavely - B. Davis - J. Davis

December 9th - 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Melissa Woodward

Altar Servers - K. Kintzer - C. Wright - S. Wright

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

Lector - Vince McDewitt

Guitar Group

Altar Servers - J. Howard - S. Robinson - E. Schodowski

December 9th - 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Chris Marabella

Voices In Praise Choir

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - E. Nguyen - C. Nguyen - M. Partsch

December 9th - 12:00 p.m. Mass (Church)

Lector - Gretchen Wentling

Cantor - Bryan Scollick

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - C. Wasielewski - S. Wasielewski - A. Gillner



**THIRD ANNUAL
OPERATION MILK**

& COOKIES

Please help us spread some of Christ's love this holiday season! A group of sophomores at Berks Catholic

would like to bring some Christmas happiness to people in our community, but we need your help. When you bake (or buy) Christmas cookies this year, please consider donating an extra batch to **Operation Milk & Cookies**. We will package the cookies in individual containers and take them with milk to people in need in our area through organizations including Opportunity House, Mary's Shelter, Hope Rescue Mission and Kennedy House, on December 23rd. If we all work together, we can give hundreds of people the same treat Santa gets on Christmas Eve to show that we are all thinking of them! If you can help, please drop off any kind or amount of cookies at the St. Catharine of Siena Social Hall- 4975 Boyertown Pike, Reading, PA 19606 on Saturday, December 15th from 3:00pm - 6:00pm or Sunday, December 16th from 8:00am - 2:00pm. Please let us know you can participate so that we know how many people we can serve... If you plan on donating or have any questions, just e-mail affraney@gmail.com or call (610) 207-1981. Please leave your name, the type of cookies, amount of cookies, and if you will be able to drop them off at the Social Hall. If you forget to call, please feel free to just drop off the cookies on either day. We will be there! **Thank you** for your generosity and **Merry Christmas!**

Prayer For Healing

Lord, You invite all who are burdened to come to you. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with your compassion for others. Touch my heart with your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim your praise. Teach me to reach out to you in my need, and help me to lead others to you by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in body and spirit that I may serve you with all my strength. Touch gently this life which you have created, now and forever. Amen

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

“a time to be born...

Recently Baptized:

Please pray for our sick: Stella Albrecht, Anthony Antonucci, Jim Auchter, Beverly Bansner, Melody Bechtel, MaryAnn Beeman, Sandy Bibbo, Paul A. Bomba, Sandy Bradley, Joseph Brahler, Emily Bristol, Mike Bristol, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Marvin Bush, Joseph Capilo, Raymond Cooper, Larry Curtin, Charles DeNaples, Arthur Dietrich Jr., Susan Dolinski, Cathy Duggan, Gina Ebright, Jim Farrell, Jane Fordyce, Maureen Gibson, Joseph Gierschick, Jr., Joseph Goyal, David J. Gulati II, Wayne Hedrick, Catherine Hefferan, Robyn Hefferan, Winnie Kerns, Mary Kolakowski, Dorothy Kosikowski, Mike Larsinese, Albert Lellig, Timothy Loeper, Daniel Lonergan, Kelly MacDonald, Charles E. Mathews, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Nicholas Milaneck, Anna Mae Murphy, Anthony Myers, Patrick Nelis, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Sharon Prechtel, Pat Prutzman, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, Steven Robinson, Anne Schaeffer, Ann Schweitzer, Margaret Scott, Vincent Skimski, Ed Skoczen, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Gabrielle Smith, Eugene Sock, Chris Starr, George Stenavage, Andy Strangarity, Kent Styer, Sandy Sullivan, Paul Teske, Charles Vozella, Alan Wachowicz, Frank White, Theresa White, Leo Woelkers, Susan Yapsuga, Ann Marie Zawislak.. **a time to die:** Msgr. Dennis Hartgen; Richard Stratton, (father of Mike Stratton, & grandfather of Maggie, Molly, Martha, Monica & Mary Stratton)

To have someone from your family enrolled on our prayer list, please call the Parish Center. 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 High School Upcoming Events

1/24/19- Step Up Day

8th graders spend the day at Berks Catholic and get a real feel of what it's like to Be A Saint, please contact Mrs. Smith for more information. 610.374.8361 ext.244

1/27/19- Open House

It's a great time to Be A Saint!

Come see our new John R. Post Learning Center which features a new STEM Lab, expanded, cafeteria, new classrooms, college and career counseling suite and collegiate style learning commons. Come experience the energy of our community. For more information please contact Nicky Smith at 610.374.8361 ext. 244 or nsmith@betkscatholic.org

Retirement Fund for Religious - Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others — educating the young comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retired Religious help to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to next weekends second collection.

Upcoming Youth Events - SAVE THE DATE!!!

Senior High Youth Retreat – February 22, 2019 – February 24, 2019 Registration information coming soon!

Youth Group Mission Trip

The Senior High Youth Group has the opportunity to travel to Charlotte, NY with Group Mission Catholic Workcamp. This opportunity gives us a chance to live out Roman Catholic social teaching by serving low income, elderly, disabled, or veterans with much needed home repairs. Group Mission Catholic Workcamp is led by trained Catholic youth ministry professionals, Capuchin Franciscan brothers and priests. All programming is designed to connect teens' service activities to their relationship with Jesus. To learn more, check out www.groupmissiontrips.com The trip will be July 21, 2019 – July 27, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$200 (fundraising opportunities will be available) and is open to 2019 graduated 8th graders – 2019 graduated seniors. Space is limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 and signed permission slip will reserve your spot. Permission slips can be found on the youth website at www.scsyouth.weebly.com

50+ CLUB NEWS

The Christmas Party for the 50+ Club will be held on **December 5, 2018** at 11:30 am. The board meeting will be held on **December 4, 2018** at 10:00 am. Please call Carol Buddell, President of the 50+ Club at 610-401-0600 with any questions or concerns. You can see us on **Facebook** for additional information.

MEETINGS

DECEMBER 5, 2018: CHRISTMAS PARTY, Crowne Plaza, **11:30-3:00**, lunch served at **12:00 noon**, Entertainment provided by Tony Farina, Cost: \$25.00

JANUARY 9, 2019: NEW YEARS CELEBRATION with members to bring appetizers and snacks to share - Cake and Coffee
Let's play **BINGO**

FEBRUARY 6, 2019: Valentine Day Celebration with cakes and coffee
Speaker: Pat White – 2019 trip schedule

March 6, 2019: St. Patrick Day Celebration, wear Green.
Members to bring their favorite **MEATLESS SOUP**

APRIL 3, 2019: SPECIAL EVENT - Everybody's Birthday Celebration
More information to follow.

Attention all members: Dues for must be paid before the April meeting. If not, your names will be removed from the membership list.

2019 TRAVEL PLANS will be announced 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

Advent Supplies and 2019 Sunday Missals are now available in the Church Store. Included with the Advent supplies are candles, wreaths, calendars, and the "Little Blue Books" - daily meditations for the Advent/Christmas season. **Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)** are also available at the church store. The Christmas Wafers and 2019 Sunday Missals can also be obtained at the Parish Center.

LIFE AD CAMPAIGN of 2019

Please demonstrate your support for the **Life Ad 2019 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 Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 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.

NOTE: Volunteers will be available after Mass the weekends of December 1st & 2nd and December 8th & 9th to assist you with your signature information. For an added convenience, you may mail your information to the parish center or drop it in the collection basket. ***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 2019"
Thank you.

Deadline for Campaign: Sunday, December 23, 2018

YOUTH CHOIR - Students in grades 5 -12 are invited to sing at the 7:00 P.M. Mass on Christmas Eve. There will be just one rehearsal, Thursday, December 20 from 4:00 – 6:00 at the Church. Please e-mail Kate Bobb loves-2sing@hotmail.com call 610-689-9816, if you can sing with us!

The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at the Santander Arena on Wednesday 12 December. The Solemn Mass will be celebrated in the evening beginning at 6:00PM followed by the fiesta. (Las Mañanitas begin at 4:30AM.) The official novena, organized by the Guadalupe Committee, and prayed in churches, will be held on December 4-7 at St. Paul Church and continues at St. Peter Church the evenings of December 8-11. The novena is celebrated in Spanish. Unless advised otherwise, all evening services will begin at 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to honor the patroness of the Americas.

Lifeline of Berks County is in need of Similac Advance formula and wipes. We would greatly appreciate any formula or wipes that you are able to donate to us for our clients.

New Altar Schedules have been emailed. If you didn't get one please call the office at 610-779-4005.