

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 22nd - 3:30 p.m. - Helena Wlazewska
Sunday, December 23rd - 10:30 a.m. - Bernard Wrobel

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.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI): They will be available at St. Catharine of Siena Rectory during their business hours from 8:00 A M to 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 3 PM on Friday.

The Committee for St. Catharine's Christmas Boutique would like to thank St. Mary's Pierogi Society for making pierogis. The pierogi sale was a sellout!

Saint Mary's Website will not be available until the end of the month. The webmaster is currently working on a fix.



Christmas Confession Schedule

*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

NO ADORATION on December 24, Christmas Eve, December 31, New Year's Eve and any days that the School is cancelled because of snow.

*Welcome "Ossa"
to Saint Catharine's!!*



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zep 3:14-18a: Zephaniah writes that Israel should shout for joy. Her King, the Lord, is in her midst. The Lord is a mighty savior. Israel should not be discouraged.

Phil 4:4-7: Christians should rejoice in the Lord. They should take their prayers and petitions to Him. God will watch over His children.

Lk 3:10-18: John preached a law of sharing. He baptized and admonished all to be just and loving and to pray. John tells the people about the majesty of the Messiah.

Today's Message - Rejoice in the Lord always! Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a Mighty Savior. It is He whom John foretold; it is He who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

The Parish Center will be open until December 21st . The Parish Center will be closed the week of December 24th and will re-open Wednesday, January 2nd. The Parish Center number is 610-779-4005.

Delicate, Ornate, Festive, Beloved - The Christmas wafer commemorates a custom which many centuries old, Oplatek, from Latin, "Oblatum"- Holy Bread- is "Our Christmas Oblation (sm)." Believed by some to emanate as far back as the "manna" of Exodus 16:31, it is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels. **CHRISTMAS WAFERS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH CENTER, AND THEY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT SACRISTAN'S GIFT SHOP.**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

VOICES IN PRAISE REHEARSAL – 9 a.m. – Knights' Rm.
MT. PENN PILGRIMAGE- 7 p.m. - Chapel
YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY - Youth Room
CUB DEN MEETING - 6 p.m. - Social Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION- after 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.
GUITAR CHOIR PRACTICE - 7:00 p.m. - Church
ULTREYA - 7:30 p.m. - Social Hall

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

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 20

SIENA STITCHERS - 10:00 a.m. - Gathering Area
KOC MEETING - 7:30 p.m. - Knight's Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

AHG MEETING - 6:00 p.m. - Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

VOICES IN PRAISE REHEARSAL – 9 a.m. – Knights' Rm.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 Earl Heintz
8:00 Roger Lengel (19th Anniversary)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 Wright & Didyoung Families
8:00 Marguerite Arthur (26th Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 Rickert, Platko & Verbosh Families
8:00 Dr. George Lenyo (3rd Anniversary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
8:00 Thomas Mazza

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30 Deacon Jack De Turck
8:30 Michael Rodgers - (School Gym)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 Sara & Peter Salino
4:30 Joanne Blew (1st Anniversary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 Curtin, Kroener, Gantert & Wagner Families
9:00 Vincent Baro
10:30 Domenica Miller & Kevin Boyer
12:00 Carmen Romero (5th Anniversary)

Readings for the Week of December 16, 2018

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent
	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Monday	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday	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
Saturday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/17	Father John Hilferty
Tuesday 12/18	Monsignor Thomas Hoban
Wednesday 12/19	Father Allen Hoffa
Thursday 12/20	Father Richard Huber, M.S.C
Friday 12/21	Seminarians
Saturday 12/22	Father John Hutta
Sunday 12/23	Father Augustine Idra, A.J.

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.

Anyone wishing to receive Gluten Free Hosts should go to the Celebrant's communion line and indicate to him that you need a Gluten Free Host.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!! - 5th Annual St. Catharine's Men's Retreat! March 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2019.

The birth of the **CHRIST-CHILD** was a sign of hope for this world. Consider attending a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend for hope and rebirth in your relationship! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

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.

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

Weekend Mass Schedule

December 22nd - 4:30 p.m. (Church)
Lector - Todd Tomczyk
Cantor - Michele Feeney
Organist - Dave Kostival
Altar Servers - M. Fernandez - E. Fernandez - M. Schneider

December 23rd - 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Kathy Lavanga
Altar Servers - M. Woodard - M. Griffin

December 23rd - 9:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Rosemary Caffrey
Cantor - Sophia Stankiewicz
Pianist - Kate Bobb
Altar Servers - K. Vagnoni - M. Vagnoni - D. Schmehl

December 23rd - 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Edrie Watson
Voices In Praise Choir
Organist - Dave Kostival
Altar Servers - C. Griffith - N. Griffith - E. Schodowski

December 23rd - 12:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Rose Anne Uhrig
Contemporary Ensemble
Altar Servers - M. Stratton - M. Stratton - K. Amey

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.

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

Name: _____

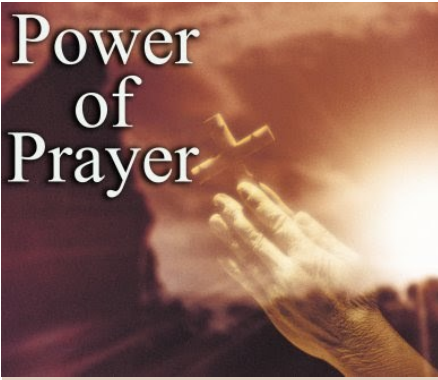
Donation: _____ If you are making a donation by check,

Please write it to "Life Ad Campaign 2019"

Thank you.

Deadline for Campaign: Sunday, December 23, 2018

Power of Prayer



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: *Lilah Reenock*

Please pray for our sick: Stella Albrecht, Anthony Antonucci, Jim Auchter, Beverly Bansner, Melody Bechtel, MaryAnn Beeman, Sandy Bibbo, Agnes Bohner, Paul A. Bomba, Sandy Bradley, Joseph Brahler, Mike Bristol, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Peggie Brzezowski, Marvin Bush, Joseph Capilo, Raymond Cooper, Larry Curtin, Charles DeNaples, Arthur Dietrich Jr., Susan Dolinski, Cathy Duggan, Gina Ebright, Jane Fordyce, Bruce Gerald, Maureen Gibson, Joseph Gierschick, Jr., Joseph Gowel, David J. Gulati II, Kip Hall, Wayne Hedrick, Catharine Hefferan, Robyn Hefferan, Winnie Kerns, Mary Kolakowski, Dorothy Kosikowski, Mike Larsinese, Albert Lellig, Timothy Loeper, Daniel Lonergan, Helen Long, Kelly MacDonald, Charles E. Mathews, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Nicholas Milaneck, 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, 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:** **Stella Grobelny; Josephine Weber**, (sister of Harriet Dombrowski & Dorothy Kulak); **Donald Kriebel**, (husband of Joan Kriebel & father of Joseph Kriebel); **Father Joseph Braudis**, Jr.; **Victoria Roland**, (daughter of Jean Dierolf) & **Mary Lou Moran**.

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.

“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

Berks Catholic News

12/27/18- Saints Shoot Out- For Boys and Girls grades K-8 from 8:30am-12pm

Offensive moves for guards and forwards, dribbling moves, shooting, shooting off the dribble, shooting off the pass, and shoot out contest. Please visit www.berkscatholic.org for the registration form.

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

Financial Stewardship

November 4, 2018

	Actual	Budget
This Year	\$ 22,035	\$ 23,421
Year to date	\$ 367,869	\$ 444,999
Year to date deficit	\$ 77,130	
Last Year	\$ 24,002	

November 11, 2018

	Actual	Budget
This Year	\$ 19,253	\$ 23,421
Year to date	\$ 387,122	\$ 468,420
Year to date deficit	\$ 81,298	
Last Year	\$ 19,588	

November 18, 2018

	Actual	Budget
This Year	\$ 19,893	\$ 23,421
Year to date	\$ 407,015	\$ 491,841
Year to date deficit	\$ 84,826	
Last Year	\$ 20,408	

November 25, 2018

	Actual	Budget
This Year	\$ 19,249	\$ 23,421
Year to date	\$ 426,264	\$ 515,262
Year to date deficit	\$ 88,998	
Last Year	\$ 22,351	

December 2, 2018

	Actual	Budget
This Year	\$ 21,038	\$ 23,421
Year to date	\$ 447,302	\$ 538,683
Year to date deficit	\$ 91,381	
Last Year	\$ 23,693	

A sincere "THANK YOU" to our parishioners and visitors who choose to contribute to St. Catharine's. Your contributions are deeply appreciated

50 Plus News

The Christmas Party for the 50+ Club will be held on **January 9, 2019** at 11:30 am. The board meeting will be held on **January 8, 2019** 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

JANUARY 9, 2019: NEW YEARS CELEBRATION with members to bring appetizers and snacks to share - Cake and Coffee. Let's play **BINGO**. **Please note: The meeting is the 2nd Wednesday, not the 1st Wednesday.**

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**

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. **March 22-24, 2019-** In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For *registration information contact: Sr. Meg Cole, **1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free) or 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019.** projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org
* **Deadline for Registration is March 14th.** For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org



48th 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.