

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 29th - 3:30 p.m. - Father David Czaratorynski
Sunday, December 30th - 9:00 a.m. - (Polish Mass) - Maria & Wlodzimierz Sobol
Sunday, December 30th 10:30 a.m. - Stella & Leon Zerkowski

Schedule for Christmas Masses:

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

There will be A New Year's Eve Mass at Saint Mary's at 3:30 p.m. There will be no New Year's Day Mass at Saint Mary's.

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.

Polish Classes will start Saturday, January 5th from 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon at the Saint Catharine's Parish Center.

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers of our Parish Family,

Christmas is a special time for us to give thanks to God for His many blessings to St. Catharine of Siena. As parishioners, you help promote the Gospel with the witness and good example of your lives, and for this, we are grateful in more ways than can be expressed in a letter.

Christmas reminds us to thank you for everything that you teach us about who Jesus Christ is in your lives. We appreciate your good example, your prayers, and your affirming support of our priestly lives. May God bless you for being so generous and cooperative in so many ways to make our parish family the growing community of faith which reflects the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We greet especially our parishioners who are sick, handicapped, or elderly and not able to join us at the table of the Lord each weekend. Thank you for your beautiful example of loyalty to your Catholic Faith and to our Parish Family of which you are a special part.

To those of you who lost loved ones this past year, we want you to know that you are in our prayers and thoughts especially at this time. Our deceased watch over and support us from their heavenly home. May the compassion and healing of our Savior Lord strengthen your family at these holiday times when we feel our losses.

In all our Masses throughout the Christmas Season, we will ask the blessings of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, upon all of you and your families. Again, thank you so much for everything you do for your parish and your priests.

With our love and gratitude,

Rev. Msgr. Domin, Father Rother, Msgr. Treston, Deacon Fry, Deacon Stapleton, Deacon Schneider & Deacon Esposito

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mi 5:1-4a: Micah speaks of the glory of Bethlehem, a lone town among the people of Judah. From Bethlehem shall come forth the promised one who shall stand firm and strong in the Lord.

Heb 10:5-10: Jesus said the sacrifices, sin offerings and holocausts did not delight the Lord. But He has come to do the will of God— to establish a second covenant.

Lk 1:39-45: Mary went to visit Elizabeth who was also blessed by the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth greeted Mary: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Today's Message - From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, He will protect and save us, offering Himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

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.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE - See schedule for Mass Times

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

LEGION OF MARY – 6:30 p.m.. – Parish Center

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

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

NOCTURNAL ADORATION DEVOTIONS

will be held at Holy Rosary Church on 3rd & Franklin Sts. The Devotions will be from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on First Friday, January 4th. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

NO 6:30

8:00 George Mattes

See schedule for Mass times

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

See schedule for Mass Times

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

NO 6:30

8:00 Richard Heins

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

NO 6:30

8:00 Teresa Centeno (1st Anniversary)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

NO 6:30

8:30 Cynthia McMahon (Chapel)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 Salvatore Corso (5th Anniversary)

4:30 Sean Wertman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:30 Frances Hracho (8th Anniversary)

9:00 George Krick

10:30 Rose Haas

12:00 James Kowalczyk

Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018

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
Monday	Morning Mass: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79 Vigil Mass: 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
Tuesday	Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Night Mass: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn Mass: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day Mass: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Wednesday	Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday	Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
Friday	Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Saturday	Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday	Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/24	Father Francis Iroot, A.J.
Tuesday 12/25	Father Guency Isaac, M.S.C.M.
Wednesday 12/26	Father Stephan Isaac
Thursday 12/27	Monsignor David James
Friday 12/28	Father Richard James
Saturday 12/29	Father Dominik Kalata
Sunday 12/30	Father Francis Kaminski, S.J.

A WARM WELCOME HOME to all our young people and others who have come back for the Holidays.

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.

EXETER AREA FOOD PANTRY will continue to accept PERSONAL HYGEINE products and any non-perishable food item on an on-going basis. Bins are located in the back of the church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. For more information, please contact Phil & Bonnie Blankenstein at 610-779-6045.

All contributions for 2018 must be received by Sunday, December 30th to be included on your statement. Thank you for your generosity during the past year. If contributions are received after December 30th they will be applied to your 2019 statement.

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.

Parish Nurse News - Be merry and festive! Celebrate Jesus' birth with a smile and happy attitude. Take one day at a time, enjoy the gift of each day as much as you possibly can! "The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live." Flora Whittemore

Weekend Mass Schedule

December 29th - 4:30 p.m. (Church)
Lector - John Vogel
Cantor - Mollie Ziemba
Organist - Dave Kostival
Altar Servers - H. Keperling - T. Keperling - J. Iswalt

December 30th - 7:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Paul Essig
Altar Servers - J. Konopelski - M. Partsch - B. Troung

December 30th - 9:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Cassie Sedlack
Guitar Group
Altar Servers - N. Lamp - G. Reed R. Stoudt

December 30th - 10:30 a.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Mike Lenhart
Voices In Praise Choir
Organist - Dave Kostival
Altar Servers - K. Nguyen - M. Ream - J. Howard

December 30th - 12:00 p.m. Mass (Church)
Lector - Mike McElderry
Cantor - Jay Yohn
Organist - Dave Kostival
Altar Servers - A. Kline - H. Paris - N. Barbera

NEW IN THE AREA? Please see a Priest or Deacon after a Sunday Mass to register in our parish. We would like to meet you and come to know you. Registration takes only 10-15 minutes of your time.

St. Catharine of Siena Parish Welcomes All - No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc.; you are Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved and Respected at Saint Catharine of Siena Parish.



NOW THAT THE **WINTER** IS REALLY UPON US, WE WANT TO REMIND THE **SENIOR MEMBERS** OF OUR PARISH FAMILY THAT YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO COME TO MASS ON DAYS THAT ARE STORMY, ICY OR BITTER COLD. ONE DAY OF HEROICS COULD LEAD TO MANY MONTHS

IN BED RECUPERATING.

Winter is here! St. Vincent de Paul is again asking for donations of children's hats, scarves, and mittens. Bins will be in back of Church.

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.

*In Jesus, we pray.
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, 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, Toni Formando, Bruce Gerald, Maureen Gibson, Joseph Gierschick, Jr., Joseph Gowel, David J. Gulati II, Kip Hall, Wayne Hedrick, Catharine Hefferan, Robyn Hefferan, Dorothy Kaisoglus, Winnie Kerns, Mary Kolakowski, Dorothy Kosikowski, Albert Lellig, Timothy Loeper, Daniel Lonergan, Helen Long, Kelly MacDonald, Charles E. Mathews, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Nicholas Milanek, Anthony Myers, Patrick Nelis, Louise Pettyjohn, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Sharon Prechtl, 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:** **Sara Pugliese**, (wife of Giacomo, Pugliese, mother of Salvatore Pugliese & sister of Maria DiScala) ; **Jeffrey Kolb**, (husband of Sharon Kolb); **Michael Tylka**, **Dennis Heck**, (brother of Alvin Heck) & **Pat Prutzman**.

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@betksatholic.org

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS, CONTACT PERSONS
AND RESOURCES

Altar Servers – (Father John Rother – 610-779-4005)
American Heritage Girls - (Julia Wright - 610-370-9290)
Bible Sharing Group – (Terry Mscichowski 610-779-0999)
Boy Scout- (Terry Wade - 610-478-1200)
Bereavement Support - (Judy Cameron– 610-370-1174)
Catholic Charities - (610-376-7144)
Catholic Soup Kitchen (Sara Miller 610-404-1590)
Choir- (Dave Kostival – 484-332-8695)
Church Library - (Genevieve Samolewicz 610-779-1660)
Cub Scouts – (Kristen Reinert - 610-888-5595)
Cursillo – (Bill McMahan 610-779-8654)
CYO President – (Kevin Franey - 610-370-5243)
CYO Athletic Director - (Cristina Schmehl- 610-779-1513)
Disability Advocates -(Carol McCullough 610-370-1660)
Eucharistic Ministers-(Donna Weidner 610-779-8283)
Exeter Food Bank - (Phil & Bonnie Blankenstein - 610-779-6045)
Girl Scouts - (Adrienne Evans - 908-872-6105)
Guitar Choir – (Ann DelCollo - 610-777-5234)
Home School Organization- (Janet Decembrino - 610-370-9131)
Knights of Columbus - (Tom Rochowicz –610-779-2851)
Lectors – (John Vogel 610-779-6287)
Legion of Mary - (Joe Akkara - 610-370-5762)
Little Angels – (Heather Keperling - 610-370-2378)
Maintenance - (Carl Andrzejewski (610-779-4005)
Marriage Preparation - (610-779-4005)
Ministers of Hospitality- (Deacon John Stapleton 610-779-4005)
Parish Nurses - mjauman@verizon.net
Parish School – (Mrs. Marcella Kraycik - 610-779-5810)
Saint Catharine's Pre-School – (610-779-5810)
PREP (CCD) – (Coordinator - Marci Zambito,610-779-8535)
Protecting God's Children Coordinator - Marci Zambito - 610-779-8535)
RCIA – (Father John Rother - 610-779-4005)
Religious Store - (Bill Wertz - 610-779-5283)
Saint Vincent de Paul Society- (Carol Cinelli 610-779-3113)
School Board - Michele Weber (610-779-8406)
Scrip – (Cristina Schmehl - 610-779-1513)
Senior Citizen Group (50+Club)- (Carol Buddell - 610-401-0600)
Serra Club – (Bob Wright 610-779-9040)
Siena Stitchers - (Judy McMahan - 610-779-8654)
Youth Choir– Kate Bobb - (610-689-9816)
Youth Group - (Marci Zambito 610-779-8535)
Parish Office- (610-779-4005) ; Fax: 610-779-0859
Church Website - <http://www.scsreading.org/scsparish/wp/>
Saint Catharine's School - 610-779-5810

50 Plus News

The monthly meeting 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

Journey on a 10 Day Pilgrimage with Sacred Heart Parish to Portugal and Spain

Visiting Lisbon, Santeram, Fatima, Coimbra, Porto, Braga, Pontevedra and Santiago de Compostela. Departing October 10th and returning October 19th. Price is \$2,999 per person based on two people in a room. Included in the price: Roundtrip Air from Newark, Superior 3 and 4 star hotels, portorage for one suitcase, breakfast and dinner daily, Wine Tasting in Porto, tour Escort from beginning to end, Deluxe Motor Coach and Driver, Local Guides where needed. All sightseeing and entrance fees as per itinerary, Daily Mass, All overseas transfers airports and hotels and All Assistance at overseas airports and hotels. \$100 Discount if deposit received before January 10, 2019. If that date is missed \$50 discount if deposit received before March 15, 2019. Please contact Bonnie at the rectory for a brochure and more information. Lucille Ferrara will present the trip on Friday, January 4th at 7 PM in the Wachter Room. Come and explore what a pilgrimage to add to your spiritual life!