

Saint Mary's News

Next Weekends Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 7th - 3:30 p.m. - Deceased Members of The Wulkiewicz Family

Sunday, December 8th - 10:30 a.m.- Frank Wojciechowski

Attention: Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive Communion please call the office at 610-779-4005.

SCHOLARSHIPS – During 2020, the Polish-American Board of Education of Berks County (PABEBC) will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. As of 2019, the organization has awarded 321 scholarships totaling almost \$700,000. A reunion of scholarship recipients is being planned in conjunction with the PABEBC annual scholarship awards dinner to be held at the Inn of Reading on Saturday, April 25, 2020. If you were the recipient of a scholarship please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you know someone who was a recipient of a scholarship please share this information with him/her. In addition, we would like to compile information about the activities of our scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients should visit our Facebook Page at Polish American board of education Berks County or our website at www.pabeberks.com.

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 8, for the Retirement Fund for Retired Religious.

There will be a Latin Mass next Sunday, December 8th, at 12:30 P.M. in the Church. Reconciliation at noon; Social after Mass.

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.

Saint Catharine of Siena School Board - There will be two positions available on the St Catharine of Siena School Board starting next year. Please consider serving on this important ministry. Parents who have students in the school as well as individuals who do not have children in the school are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be 21 years old. Selected candidates will have orientation in March 2020 and are asked to serve a 3 year term beginning in September 2020. Please email the school [@mkraycik@scsreading.org](mailto:mkraycik@scsreading.org) for an application. The deadline to submit an application is December 17, 2019.



Christmas Confession Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st
3:30-4:15 p.m. - Church

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st
2:45-3:15 p.m. - Saint Mary's

Monday, December 16th &
Tuesday, December 17th

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

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

Wednesday, December 18th
6:00-6:45 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

Is 2:1-5: In a vision the prophet sees the promise of salvation being fulfilled. The Word of the Lord is personified; He shall Judge. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Rom 13:11-14: -The apostle urges us to come out of the darkness of sin into the protective light – Jesus is the light.

Mt 24:37-44: We must always be prepared for the coming of Christ for no one knows the day or hour. Even though we are prepared, His coming will be unexpected; we must not be caught off guard.

Today's Message: Let us give thanks for the great feast prepared for us in which God's glory is revealed.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. - Church

BAPTISMS – 1 p.m. - Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

GUITAR PRACTICE – 7 p.m. – Church

SVDP – 7 p.m. – Parish Center Basement

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – 8 p.m. – Parish Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

50 PLUS BOARD MEETING – 10 a.m. Parish Center Basement

RCIA - 6:30 p.m. - Parish Center Basement

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

50 PLUS CHRISTMAS PARTY – 12 p.m. - Crowne Plaza

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

PREP LEVEL 1-7 – 6:30 p.m. - School

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

SIENA STITCHERS – 10 a.m. – Church Gathering Area

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 7 p.m. – Parish Center Basement

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – 7:30 p.m. – Knights Room

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Social Hall

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. – Church

YOUTH GROUP MEETING – 6:30 p.m. – Upper Room

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: SPC Specialist Mackenzie Adame, Private First Class Connor A. Soja, Lance Corporal Kadan C. Soja, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, LCPL David Ermentrout, Captain Morgan Hissick, Captain Anthony Bennett, Tom Bristol, Danny Bristol, Sgt. Erin Pawlik, Commander Daniel M. Simon, Staff Sgt. Michael Porcaro, Staff Sgt. Zak Ribble, Tech. Sgt. John V. Nowotarski, III, Senior Airman Timothy 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, Zachary Deissler, Amy & Gregory Boland, Lt. Col. Adam Sawyer, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Sola, Lt. Cdr. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:30 Platko, Rickert & Verbosh Families

8:00 Charles J. Chiarelli

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:30 Bill Carter

8:00 Thomas Stuck

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:30 Catherine Duggan

8:00 Cecelia & Julian Ustaszewski

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

8:00 Helen Long

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30 Owen A. Holbrook

8:30 Richard Heins (6th Anniversary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 Ken Higo

4:30 John S. Bankert, Jr. (10th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 Special Intention

9:00 Nicholas Mesisca

10:30 Catalina & Harley Hayward

12:00 William & Margaret Bollendorf

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 1, 2019

Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Monday

Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9;
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Parish Nurse News - Be sure to get enough sleep as you begin your holiday preparations! We know that getting 7 to 8 hours of sleep is optimal, at least 8 hours if you work the night shift. Consider a special prayer for our police and healthcare providers and other specialty persons who work to keep us safe and healthy at all times around the clock!

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/2	Rev. John Frink
Tuesday 12/3	Rev. Kevin Gallagher
Wednesday 12/4	Rev. Daniel Gambet
Thursday 12/5	Rev. Joseph Ganser
Friday 12/6	Rev. Angel Garcia-Almodavar
Saturday 12/7	Rev. Andrew Gehringer
Sunday 12/8	Rev. Robert George

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Due to the Holidays, all information for the bulletin must be received in our office as follows: **December 22nd, 29th and January 5th by Friday, December 13th by noon!** Information for the bulletin can be emailed to dsitler@comcast.net.

NEEDED: CUSTODIAN (PART-TIME): Catholic Senior Housing and Health Care Services, Inc. (CSHHCS) is a non-profit provider of affordable housing and healthcare services for seniors. We have an immediate opening for a part-time Custodian at our senior apartment buildings in Reading and Laureldale. Valid PA driver's license and the ability to respond to emergency calls on a rotating schedule including evenings and weekends, is required. Prior facility janitorial/custodian experience required. We offer competitive wages and a great work environment. Please send resume to: Catholic Senior Housing & Health Care Services, Inc., 1200 Spring St., Bethlehem, PA 18018; Email: resumes@cshhcs.org.

22nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR will be sponsored by Women's Club of Exeter Township, Sunday, December 8th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00, available at Boscov's East, Exeter Community Library and Effie's Restaurant.

The cold weather has arrived! Please check your closets for children's clean, gently used or new warm hats, scarves, mittens or boots. St. Vincent DePaul will distribute these to needy children in Reading. Bins will be at exits through the winter.

The Catholic Woman's Club of Berks County is holding their Christmas luncheon and meeting on Sat. Dec. 14 at Chef Alan's in West Reading. Lunch begins at 1230. For more information and reservations, please call Fran at 610-621-8699 by 12/7.



The Annual Mt. Penn Christmas Pilgrimage will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019. The Pilgrimage ends at our SCS Chapel. Help is needed to decorate the Chapel on

Saturday, December 14, 2019 after the 8:00 AM Mass. It usually takes about 1 hour. Please join us as we prepare to welcome our community (and Baby Jesus) to our Chapel.

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

December 7th - 4:30 p.m. Mass

Lector - Melissa Scollick

Cantor - Unavailable at press time

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - H. Keperling - T. Keperling - G. Donato

Eucharistic Ministers - Mark Abramowicz & Michele Boucher

December 8th - 7:30 a.m. Mass

Lector - Doug McAdams

Altar Servers - N. Lamp - S. Robinson - K. Nguyen

Eucharistic Ministers - Joanne Loeper & Mike Balla

December 8th - 9:00 a.m. Mass

Lector - Roxanne Richardson

Guitar Group

Altar Servers - P. McCullough - R. Stoudt - C. Kominick

Eucharistic Ministers - Mary Murphy & Mary Anne & Mike McCarthy

December 8th - 10:30 a.m. Mass

Lector - Amanda Luckenbill

Voices & Praise Choir

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - E. Oscar - A. Devlin - B. Truong

Eucharistic Ministers - Judy McMahon & Myra & Bill Headen

December 8th - 12:00 p.m. Mass

Lector - Mary O'Leary

Cantor - Unavailable at press time

Organist - Dave Kostival

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

Eucharistic Ministers - Michel Boucher - David Drezek - Milton Vincente

The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at the Santander Arena on Thursday 12 December. The Solemn Mass will be celebrated in the evening beginning at 6:30PM 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. Margaret Church and continues at St. Joseph 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.

Berks Catholic News

Registration is open for the 2020-2021 School Year!

Please contact Nicky Smith for information on how to Be A Saint and about preparing young men and women to Be College and Life Ready. All inquiries are confidential.

nsmith@berkscatholic.org or <mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org> or 60.374.8361 ext. 244 Santa with the Saints- Saturday, Dec. 7th 9-10:30am Please join us to meet Santa, hear stories, play games, decorate an ornament, and enjoy delicious treats provided by the BC Bakers. 9-10:30 in the McGlenn commons of the John R. Post Learning Center.

Berks Catholic Christmas Vespers—Berks Catholic High School invites you to celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with our Christmas Vesper Prayer Service on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 4:00 P.M. at Sacred Heart Church, West Reading. Admission is free and open to the public.

Berks Catholic Open House-Thursday, January 23, 2020 5-7pm.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 & soldiers in harm's way: Anthony Antonucci, Beverly Bansner, Marie Bassler, Becky Batistini, Charles Beatty, Melody Bechtel, Debbie Bennett, Agnes Bohner, Paul A. Bomba, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Marvin Bush, Joseph Capilo, Nancy Cassidy, Mary Christ, Larry Curtin, Joan Davis, Charles DeNaples, Jennifer Devlin, Arthur Dietrich Jr., Susan Dolinski, Roseanne Dougherty, Gina Ebright, Charles Elchlepp, Carson David Evans, Joseph Gierschick, Jr., Luke Gilbert, David J. Gulati II, Roberta Hedl, William Hedl, Jr., Wayne Hedrick, Catherine Hefferan, Robyn Hefferan, Brian Heim, Patricia Herber, Christine Jenkins, Dorothy Kaisoglus, Winnie Kerns, Sharon Kieffer, Mary Kolakowski, Dorothy Kosikowski, Rosemarie Kovacs, Mary Leddy, Albert Lellig, David C. Lellig, Charles Loose, Charles E. Mathews, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Jim McGinnis, John Mercadante Jr., Dolores Miravich, David Moorman, Anthony Myers, Jerome Nigh, Anna Nowotarski, Joann Patty, Melly Pimentel, Stella Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Angelo Porcaro, Sharon Prechtel, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, David Samsel, John Sausen, Anne Schaeffer, Barry Scheirer, Mary Scheirer, Tammy Scrobe, Michael Shadday, Vincent Skimski, Tyler Skoczen, Jane Skoraszewski, Margaret Smith, Veronica Stoss, Andy Strangarity, Sandy Sullivan, Kim Trois, Betty Vilardo, Alan Wachowicz, Chris Wasko, Merritt Weidner, Frank White, Theresa White, Leo Woelkers, Elaine Woudstra, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Edward Zabinski, Ann Marie Zawislak, Mary Ann Zimmerman. **A time to die:** **Stella Albrecht**, (mother of Greg Albrecht & grandmother of Debra Truckenmiller, Stephanie Lineaweaver, Andrew Albrecht & Wendy Bundens & great grandmother of Ryan & Morgan Truckenmiller, Owen & Kara Lineaweaver, Evelyn & Charlotte Albrecht & Riley & Courtney Bundens) & **all victims of war, and the 4,100 daily abortions. Ecclesiastes 3:11**

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.



FOURTH ANNUAL OPERATION MILK AND COOKIES!

Come help us spread some Christmas cheer this holiday season by donating cookies to Operation Milk and Cookies. Any kind or amount of cookies will be greatly appreciated! We will individually package

the cookies and give them out to people in need around the area through organizations including Opportunity House, the Hope Rescue Mission, Kennedy House, and more. 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 Sunday, December 15th from 8:00am – 2:30pm.

If you can participate or you have any questions please email affraney@gmail.com. If you can participate, please include the amount of cookies you can make in the email.

Save the Date!

St. Catharine of Siena presents the 2019 Artisan Showcase and Sale in the Social Hall on December 14, 5:30-8:30. Free admission. Wine sampling, raffle items, and more! (Interested vendors, please contact Amy Chiarelli @ 610-780-9803 or inspirationbeadsbracelets@gmail.com).

School News: Thank you for supporting St. Catharine of Siena School's Annual Fund. If you have not already received a mailing from the school, you should be receiving one within the next few days. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Parish Nurse News - Tips for reducing tension headache pain: Heat pack or ice pack on head or neck, hot shower, plenty of sleep, put stressful tasks on hold. Drink plenty of water! (Principal Wellness Company, www.principal.com/wellness)

50+ CLUB NEWS

The Christmas Party for the 50+ Club will be held on **December 4, 2019 at 12:00 pm**. The board meeting will be held on **December 3, 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

DECEMBER 4, 2019: SPECIAL EVENT - CHRISTMAS PARTY, Crowne Plaza. Choice of meal will be Salmon Picasa, Stuffed Pork Loin and Chicken Cordon Bleu. Great entertainment will be provided by Glenn Miller. Contact: Carol Searfoss 484-236-1016 for more information.

Reservations must be made by November 25th.

JANUARY 8, 2020: NEW YEARS CELEBRATION with members to bring appetizers and snacks to share - Cake and Coffee. Let's play BINGO

FEBRUARY 5, 2020: Valentine Day Celebration with cakes and coffee

Speaker: Pat White – 2020 trip schedule

MARCH 6, 2020: Speaker: Cindy Kauffman, the Manager of the **Pagoda**, she is responsible for the management and development of the Pagoda, Pagoda Cafe and all activities and events at the Pagoda
Cake & Coffee

2020 Trip information will be announced at the **February meeting. Royal Caribbean Cruise to the Bahamas on Anthem of the Sea**, leaves **Feb 7th to Feb 15th**, Balcony-\$840.00, Ocean View-\$748.00 Double Occupancy +\$116.00 Gratuity. This trip is definitely a go, so please call **Pat White 610-582-1437** for more information.

Please call **Rosalie Snyder at 610-779-6562** with the name of members who are sick or have died.

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 at 4975 Boyertown Pike, Rt. 562, Reading, PA.

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.



LIFE AD CAMPAIGN of 2020

Please demonstrate your support for the **Life Ad 2020 Campaign** sponsored by the Catholic Community of Berks County by signing your name to St. Mary's/St Catharine's list of supporters. This Life Ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States.

Please consider giving your support to this important campaign. Your signature raises awareness that many people support the homeless, pregnant woman. Your donation supports the physical and emotional care given to the Mothers and their newborns.

Thank you for taking a public stand against the tragedy of abortion.

*NOTE: Volunteers will be available after Mass the weekends of December 7 & 8 and December 14 & 15 to assist you with your signature information. Look for the signature table in the main entrance of the Church. 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 St Catharine of Siena Parish, Thank you.

Deadline for Campaign, Sunday, December, 22nd 2019

Starting your Christmas shopping this weekend? Golf weekend for him or shopping spree for her - \$\$\$\$? The gift of a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend to each other – **PRICELESS!** For information call 610-449-1859 or www.wwme.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.