

Saint Mary's News

Next Weekends Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 21st - 3:30 p.m. - Helena Wlazewska

Sunday, December 22nd - 10:30 a.m. - Father Robert Tobolski

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.

LIFE'S TOUGH AT THE PARISH CENTER!



Christmas Confession Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 21st

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

Saturday, Dec. 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 35:1-6, 10: This vision of the Messiah describes His work – not only in restoring health and well-being to the infirm, but also in bringing the mercy and forgiveness of salvation.

Jas 5:7-10: Look to the example of prophets and learn patience under severe hardships.

Mt 11:2-11: Jesus applies the words of Isaiah to Himself. He proclaims the good news of salvation, freedom, and joy.

Today's Message: In the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of His advent.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. – Church
CUB SCOUTS MEETING – 6 p.m. – Social Hall
YOUTH GROUP PILGRIMAGE – 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – After 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.
GUITAR PRACTICE – 7 p.m. – Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

PREP LEVELS 1-7 – 6:30 p.m.– School
LEGION OF MARY – 6:30 p.m. – Parish Center

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

SIENA STITCHERS – 10 a.m. – Church Gathering Area
VOICES IN PRAISE – 7 p.m. – Church
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – 7:30 p.m. - Knights Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

AHG – 6 p.m. – Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. – Church



49th 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 16

6:30 Evelyn R. Armbruster

8:00 Vito Fuoco

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 Helen Faherty

8:00 Roger Lengel (20th Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 Wright & Didyoung Families

8:00 Earl Heintz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

8:00 Ingrid DeFusco (1st Anniversary)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30 Bill Carter

8:30 Sandra Bradley (1st Anniversary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 Deacon Jack DeTurck

4:30 Thomas Mazzo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 Alberto Lutz

9:00 Sara & Peter Salino

10:30 Cortney Kelly

12:00 Stella Broskey Gabelny

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 15, 2019

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10;
Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,
8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17;
Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25

Friday

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday

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

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

Like New! **Free crib and child's table seat.** If any one is interested please call 610-779-4499 any day after 3:00 P.M.

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 12/16	Rev. Francis Grundowski
Tuesday 12/17	Rev. Kevin Gualano
Wednesday 12/18	Rev. Abraham Ha
Thursday 12/19	Rev. Msgr. William Handges
Friday 12/20	Rev. James Harper
Saturday 12/21	Rev. John Hilferty
Sunday 12/22	Rev. Msgr. Thomas Hoban

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 this weekend 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

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 @mkrcyk@scsreading.org for an application. The deadline to submit an application is December 17, 2019.**

Next Weekend's Mass Schedule

December 21st - 4:30 p.m. Mass

Lector - Dottie Bixler

Cantor - Sophia Stankiewicz

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - M. Fernandez - E. Fernandez - M. Partsch

Eucharistic Ministers - Linda Fetterman

December 22nd - 7:30 a.m. Mass

Lector - Paul Essig

Altar Servers - M. Stratton - M. Stratton - B. McNish

Eucharistic Ministers - Vince Essig & Steve Gribb

December 22nd - 9:00 a.m. Mass

Lector - John Vogel

Guitar Group

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

Eucharistic Ministers - Judy McMahon - Jim Snyder - Ed Smith

December 22nd - 10:30 a.m. Mass

Lector - Mike McCarthy

Voices & Praise Choir

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - E. Schodowski - C. Griffith - J. Miller

Eucharistic Ministers - Maria Post - Helen Veet - Ernie Kovacs

December 22nd - 12:00 p.m. Mass

Lector - John George

Cantor - Tracy Scheirer

Organist - Dave Kostival

Altar Servers - M. Feeney - A. Nguyen - J. Dempster

Eucharistic Ministers - Milton Vincente - Michele Boucher

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, Lance Corporal 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.

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley offers hope for married couples experiencing loneliness, boredom, misery, or frustration in their marriage. Couples learn valuable communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Our next program starts **February 22-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA**. For more information, call **215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230**. All inquires kept strictly confidential.



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:

Anthony Antonucci, Beverly Bansner, Marie Bassler, Becky Batistini, Charles Beatty, Melody Bechtel, Debbie Bennett, Agnes Bohner, Paul A. Bomba, Michele Boucher, Gerald Boyer, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Marvin Bush, Nancy Cassidy, Mary Christ, Larry Curtin, Joan Davis, Charles DeNaples, Jennifer Devlin, Arthur Dietrich Jr., Susan Dolinski, Roseanne Dougherty, Gina Ebright, Charles Elchlepp, 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, Sister Mary Cecilia Jurasinski, 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, 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, Margaret Smith, Veronica Stoss, Andy Strangarity, Sandy Sullivan, Kim Trois, Betty Vilaro, Lillian Van Note, Ian Wachowicz, Chris Wasko, Merritt Weidner, Bill Wertz, Frank White, Theresa White, Leo Woelkers, Elaine Woudstra, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Edward Zabinski, Ann Marie Zawislak, Mary Ann Zimmerman. **A time to die:** **David Moorman**, (husband of Edith Moorman); **Paula Matthews**, (mother of Martin Matthews & **Josephine Fink & 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.

Berks Catholic News

Saints Annual Shooting Clinic- December 30, 2019- 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<<http://www.berkscatholic.org/>>

Berks Catholic Open House-Thursday, January 23, 2020 5-7pm
It's a great time to Be A Saint! Visit 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 and learn more about how we prepare young men and ladies to be college and life ready. For more information please contact Nicky Smith at 610.374.8361 ext. 244 or nsmith@betkscatholic.org<<mailto:nsmith@betkscatholic.org>>

Parish Nurse News - Stress can bring on pain, tension headache, upset stomach. Beat the stress as soon as you feel symptoms appearing! Take a walk, watch a funny movie, practice relaxation breathing, rest, think about gratitude and faith. If symptoms persist, consult your family physician or nurse practitioner.



The Parish Center will be open until December 24th till noon. The Parish Center will be closed from December 25th and will re-open Thursday, January 2nd. The Parish Center number is 610-779-4005.

50+ CLUB NEWS

The monthly meeting for the 50+ Club will be held on **January 8, 2020 at 1:00 pm**. The board meeting will be held on **January 7, 2020 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 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

APRIL 3, 2020: **SPECIAL EVENT** - Everybody's Birthday Celebration at Victor Emmanuel's, starting at 12:00 PM, Happy Boombadears to entertain us.

I would like to thank all of the club members that volunteer throughout the year for all of the work you do to help our club. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & Healthy & Happy New Year.

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.**

Youth Group News

Annual Christmas Party and Mt Penn Christmas Caroling - Sunday, 12/15. All Junior and Senior High Youth welcome (grades 6-12). Meet at 5:00pm in the Upper Room for food, fun, and a White Elephant gift exchange. Anyone wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift. After the game we will join the Mt. Penn Christmas Caroling Pilgrimage. We will return to the SCS School cafeteria for cookies and hot chocolate. Please arrange to be picked up by 8:30pm..

Retreat Registration - All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to our 2020 youth retreat on February 21 - 23 at Camp Manatawny. The theme of the retreat this year is "Our Father". This retreat is run by teens from the St. Catharine's and St. Benedict's Youth Groups. Cost is \$50. Registration forms can be found in the back of the church or from the youth website www.scsyouth.weebly.com Register now to reserve your spot. You will not be disappointed!

Upcoming Youth Group Events

December 15 – Christmas party and Caroling Pilgrimage
December 21 – Christmas Party at St. Benedict's
December 29 – Mission Trip Reunion Party
January 12 – Upper Room Meeting
January 24 – March For Life
January 26 – Upper Room Meeting
February 21 – 23 Senior High Retreat
March 28-29 Soup Kitchen Weekend

For More information on these events please go to the youth website at www.scsyouth.weebly.com