

## Saint Mary's News

Next Weekends Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 28th - 3:30 p.m. - Josephine Szyszputowski

Sunday, December 29th- 9:00 a.m. - Marek Starosciak & Monika Kochmanski (Polish Mass)

Sunday, December 29th - 10:30 a.m.- Leon & Stella Zerkowski

### Schedule for Christmas Masses:

**Christmas Eve - 9:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day - 10:30 a.m.**

There will be a Polish Mass next Sunday, December 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the Church.

**Commemorating St. Mary's:** We are initiating an effort to create a book commemorating St. Mary's. It will consist of a history of the parish, examples of parish life, and a complete photographic record of St. Mary's Church. As a considerable effort is involved in this effort, we would like to get an idea of how many people would purchase a book in a price range of \$10 - \$15. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of St. Mary's. If you would have an interest in purchasing the book, please sign the sheet or email your interest to Carl Gethmann at [cagethmann74@gmail.com](mailto:cagethmann74@gmail.com).

### 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*



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 Wehr, Msgr. Treston, Deacon Fry, Deacon Stapleton & Deacon Schneider.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Is 7:10-14:** The words of the prophet spoken to the king are applied to the birth of the Savior.

**Rom 1:1-7:** The Messiah is a descendant of David according to the flesh and the Son of God according to the Spirit. His salvation is for all humankind.

**Mt 1:18-24:** Emmanuel means God is with us. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

**Today's Message:** Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us," risen from the dead. He us the king of glory.

### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. – Church

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – After 8 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.

GRIEFSHARE – 7 p.m. – Parish Center

ULTREYA – 7 p.m. – Social Hall

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

VOICES IN PRAISE – 9 a.m. – Church

**Parish Nurse News - Feel the beauty and love of the season. Breathe it in! Relax and revel in it! See it in others! Smell the holiday greens in Church! Cherish the cool, crisp air outside and the wonder of the stars on a clear night! Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!**

**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 2019 must be received by Sunday, December 29th, 2019** to be included on your statement. Thank you for your generosity during the past year. If contributions are received after December 29th they will be applied to your 2020 statement.

**NOCTURNAL ADORATION DEVOTIONS** will be held at Holy Rosary Church on 3rd & Franklin Sts. The Devotions will be held on First Friday, January 3rd. **Please note that starting in January, the new time is 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.**

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:30 Elsie Davis

8:00 Nancy F. Hertzog

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 Anna Sajdak

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

4 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Chapel)

7 p. m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

12 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

#### WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00 Fernando Cuesta

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 James Mack- **(Chapel)**

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 Sean Wertman

4:30 Frances Hracho (9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:30 Salvatore Corso (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

9:00 Michael Fura

10:30 Angela Parzanese

12:00 Carmen Romero (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### Scripture Readings for the Week of December 22, 2019

#### 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

#### Monday

##### Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;

Lk 1:57-66

#### Tuesday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27

and 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Vigil:** 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

#### Wednesday

##### Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

**Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13;

Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7;

Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** 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

#### Thursday

##### Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,

16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

#### Friday

##### 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

#### Saturday

##### Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8;

Mt 2:13-18

#### Sunday

##### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

Monday 12/23	Rev. Allen Hoffa
Tuesday 12/24	Rev. Richard Huber
Wednesday 12/25	Rev. John Hutta
Thursday 12/26	Very Rev. Augustine Idra, A.J.
Friday 12/27	Rev. Edward Ifkovits, S.J.
Saturday 12/28	Rev. Francis Iroot, A.J.
Sunday 12/29	Rev. Guency Isaac



Do you have a relative, friend, neighbor or colleague who has been away for a while? Please let them know that the door is always open and a

seat is always available at our church. All are always welcome at St. Catharine of Siena and St. Mary. How wonderful would it be for someone to return home for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord!

**The poor can never take a holiday.** Please remember them by your contributions in the poor boxes. **The "Poor Box"** is located at the main entrance of the Church. The money is used by the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help the needy families of our parish. Thanks to all those who have been using it.

**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.

**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](mailto:dsitler@comcast.net). Please call with addresses of military to Terri Mueller at 610-779-1766.

**Next Weekend's Mass Schedule**

**December 28th - 4:30 p.m. Mass**

Lector - Mary O'Leary  
Cantor - Mollie Ziemba  
Organist - Dave Kostival  
Altar Servers - S. Robinson - J. Howard - C. Nguyen  
Eucharistic Ministers - Michele Boucher - Lorraine Simon

**December 29th - 7:30 a.m. Mass**

Lector - Jim Keane  
Altar Servers - E. Simms - K. Swavely - C. Kominick  
Eucharistic Ministers - Joanne Loeper & Steve Gribb

**December 29th - 9:00 a.m. Mass**

Lector - Barry Hannahoe  
Guitar Group  
Altar Servers - M. Woodward - M. Griffin - N. Barbera  
Eucharistic Ministers - Cassie Sedlack - Mary Murphy - Ed Smith

**December 29th - 10:30 a.m. Mass**

Lector - Amanda Drinker  
Voices & Praise Choir  
Organist - Dave Kostival  
Altar Servers - M. Pawlik - A. Renninger - N. Lamp  
Eucharistic Ministers - Diane Luchetta - Maria Post - David Drezek

**December 29th - 12:00 p.m. Mass**

Lector - Jim Snyder  
Cantor - Jay Yohn  
Organist - Dave Kostival  
Altar Servers - B. Davis - J. Davis - B. Truong  
Eucharistic Ministers - Milton Vincente - Edrie Watson - Helen Veet



**Become Part of Our Church Family** **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's & Saint Mary's 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 HEROICUS 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.



**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 Batastini, 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, Jerome Nigh, Anna Nowotarski, Joann Patty, Melly Pimentel, Stella Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Angelo Porcaro, Sharon Prechtel, Lorraine Ransom, Nada Rathkey, David Samsel, Loretta & 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 Vilardo, 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: & 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.**



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

**Our Mission: A Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teachings, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.**

**CAT I – The Creed.** An overview of fundamental Catholic teachings based on the founding Symbol of our Faith. This course provides catechists with a foundation in the basic tenets of the Catholic Faith, and is a good starting point leading to further study. The course is highly recommended for Catechists; but everyone is invited to learn more about what it means to say, *I believe...* This course will be presented **Online** by **Cassie Boccardi** and is scheduled from Monday, January 6 to Sunday, February 2, 2020. Cost: \$35. Register at [www.allentowndiocese.org/icf](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/icf)

\*ICF Courses are meant for any adult Catholic looking to grow deeper and learn more about the Faith. There are no prerequisites for these courses.\*

## 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 4, 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 1, 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 7<sup>th</sup> to Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.



This summer, the Senior High Youth Group will attend a Steubenville Youth Conference on the Campus of St. John's University in New York City. This event is open to students graduating grade 8 – students graduating grade 12. The dates for this energizing weekend are July 24—26, 2020. This weekend is filled with talks from nationally renowned speakers and music leaders as well as amazing experiences to be with our Lord in Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. Cost is \$100 and includes housing and meals at the conference as well as coach bus transportation. Check out the website [www.steubenvilleconferences.com](http://www.steubenvilleconferences.com) to learn more about this amazing weekend.

**The deadline to register for the Steubenville Youth Conference is January 5, 2020.** Permission Slips can be found on the youth website [www.scsyouth.weebly.com](http://www.scsyouth.weebly.com). Permission slips and payment can be mailed to Mrs. Zambito at St. Catharine's School 2330 Perkiomen Avenue Reading, PA 19606



### Youth Group News

**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](http://www.scsyouth.weebly.com) Register now to reserve your spot. You will not be disappointed!

### Upcoming Youth Group Events

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](http://www.scsyouth.weebly.com)