

**Saint Mary's News**  
**Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, December 8th - 8:00 a.m. - Catherine Pieja Cirulli  
Saturday, December 12th - 3:30 p.m. - Walter & Henrietta Dlugosz  
Sunday, December 13th - 10:30 a.m. - Walter LaSota

**Pan z Wami** - We will have fifteen copies available to purchase for \$10.00 each. With Covid restrictions there will be no copies in pews. This would be your personal copy. If you would like to reserve a copy please call Diane at the Parish Center 610-779-4005.

**The Commemorating St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish, Reading, Pa, 1888 - 2016 will be on sale on Saturdays, after the 3:30 Mass, and on Sundays, after the 10:30 AM Mass in the Community Room under the Church - access from the side parking lot. The price of the book is \$15.90 which includes the sales tax. Cash and checks only; no credit or debit cards.**

Confessions will resume to the normal time starting the first weekend of Advent. Saint Mary's will be held on Saturdays from 2:45 p.m. till 3:15 p.m. in the Church.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - TUESDAY, DECEMBER  
8TH  
**ST. MARY'S - 8:00 A.M.-CHURCH**

For more Masses see Saint Catharine's schedule.

**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 13th, for the Retirement Fund for Retired Religious.

There will be a Latin Mass next Sunday, December 13th, at 12:30 P.M. in the Church. Reconciliation at noon.

**Christmas Confession Schedule**

***Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> -***

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

***Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> -***

***2:45-3:30 p.m. - Saint Mary's***

***Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> &***

***Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>***

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

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

***Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> -***

***6:00-6:45 p.m. - Saint Mary's***

**Christmas - Mass Schedule**

***Christmas Eve -***

***3:00 p.m. - Shemanski Stadium***

***5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.***

***& 10:00 p.m. - Church***

***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***

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Is 40:1-5, 9-11:** Make ready the way for the Messiah. Make known the Good News, for God is near.

**2 Pt 3:8-14:** There is no counting of time with God. He does not want anyone to perish. We await a new heaven and earth, relying on the justice of God.

**Mk 1:1-8:** John the Baptist announced the coming of Jesus. John called for repentance and promised that the Messiah would baptize in the Holy Spirit.

**Today's Message:** As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

PREP LEVEL 7 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Social Hall

CUB SCOUTS - 5 p.m. – Social Hall

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – After 8:30 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

RCIA - 6 p.m. – Parish Center Basement

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

HSO POINSETTIA SALE – Social Hall

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

PREP LEVEL – 7 – 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Social Hall

HSO POINSETTIA SALE – Social Hall

CUB SCOUTS CHRISTMAS PARTY- 5 p.m.- Social Hall

**WINTER IS COMING!** St. Vincent de Paul will again be collecting and distributing items to the children of Reading. Please place new or gently used clean hats, mittens, scarves, and boots in marked bins in the gathering areas in the Church. We will collecting now through – February 28.

*We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Captain Steffen E. Lis, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Lance Corporal Connor A. Soja, Corporal Kadan C. Soja, Staff Sgt. Brian Perrotto, 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, Staff Sgt. 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. 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.*

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30 Lucille Miller

8:30 Ken Higo

6 p.m. Jim & Eleanor McGinnis – VIGIL MASS (Church)

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Church)

6:30 Special Intentions of Mary Arnold (Church)

8:30 Rev. Joseph Curtin (Church)

9:30 Linda Byerly (Chapel)

7 p.m. Joanne Skopek (Church)

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30 Sara & Peter Salino

8:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:30 Peter J. Shepos

8:30 Alois & Rosa Sager

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:30 Joseph, Maryann & Mary O'Donnell

8:30 Earl Heintz

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

8:30 George & Helen Pauley

4:30 Sandra Rambo (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:30 Jesse Arnold (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

9:00 Rose Castagna (24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

10:30 Nora Graham O'Connor & Winifred Graham

Meara

12:00 Steve Bibbo

### Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

#### Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14;

2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

#### Monday

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14;

Lk 5:17-26

#### Tuesday

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1,2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

#### Wednesday

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10;

Mt 11:28-30

#### Thursday

Our Lady of Loreto

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;

Mt 11:11-15

#### Friday

Saint Damasus I, Pope

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

#### Saturday

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, Rv 12:1-6a, 10ab;

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

#### Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;

1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

Monday 12/7	Rev. Msgr. Joseph R. Sobiesiak
Tuesday 12/8	Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski
Wednesday 12/9	Rev. Jason F. Stokes
Thursday 12/10	Rev. Michael J. Stone
Friday 12/11	Rev. Jerome A. Tauber
Saturday 12/12	Rev. James P. Thomas
Sunday 12/13	Rev. Frank J. Timar, M.S.C.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Due to the Holidays, all information for the bulletin must be received in our office as follows: **December 20th, 27th and January 3rd by Friday, December 11th by noon!** *Information for the bulletin can be emailed to [dsitler@comcast.net](mailto:dsitler@comcast.net).*

**Support elderly religious** - A parishioner writes, "As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and forever grateful." Show your appreciation for senior Catholic sisters, and brothers, and religious order priests who have made a positive difference in so many lives. **Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.**

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.

**OFFICE NOTES:** Please help us to keep your records updated by calling the parish office with any changes in your marital or family status, change of address or phone, etc. This is more than a one step process and we want to do everything possible to make sure your records are kept accurate. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Please email [dsitler@comcast.net](mailto:dsitler@comcast.net) with any changes or call Diane at 610-779-4005.

STABON MANOR is a local Personal Care Home located in the City of Reading. They are a Social Security building that houses 150 low income residents with healthcare issues. We are reaching out to local business and churches looking for donations of food, candy, personal hygiene products, clothing, sleepwear, slippers or anything you believe our residents would enjoy. We are asking for help to give our residents the best holiday season. We would ask that any perishable donations would be made as close to December 24 as possible. Please call 610-373-2272 during the hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Ossa's Corner**



**Ossa loves her doggie bones!**





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: Sophia Olivares

Karin Acuna, Anthony Antonucci, Marie Bassler, Becky Batastini, Melody Bechtel, Anthony Blass, Paul A. Bomba, Michele Boucher, Kathy Brendlinger, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Marvin Bush, Nancy Cassidy, Della Chmielewski, Larry Curtin, Charles DeNaples, Arthur Dietrich Jr., Roseanne Dougherty, Gina Ebright, Charles Elchlepp, Geraldine Gamby, Randy Gensemer, Ken Green, Christine Gubernot, David J. Gulati II, Roberta Hedl, Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, John Heft, Brian Heim, Patricia Herber, Michael Hivner, Winnie Kerns, Mary Kolakowski, Rosemarie Kovacs, David A. Lellig, David C. Lellig, Alma Lonergan, Daniel Lonergan, Charles Loose, Charles E. Mathews, Daniel Matz, Richard Matz, Cindy McConnell, Jacob McCue, Jr., Mary Rita McFadden, John Mercadante Jr., Cathy Motznik, Charles Mountz, Ruth Mountz, Bill Nelson, Jerome Nigh, Stella Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Angelo Porcaro, Michael Poserina, Sharon Prechtel, Lorraine Ransom, Annalise Robinson, David Samsel, Anne Schaeffer, Barry Scheirer, Gloria Schmeck, Greg Schwartz, Vincent Skimski, Tyler Skoczen, Margaret Smith, Harv Snyder, Veronica Stoss, Andy Strangarity, Kim Trois, Alan Wachowicz, Aiden Watkins, Frank White, Sylvia Willey, Leo Woelkers, Bernette Wrobel, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Ann Marie Zawislak, Mary Ann Zimmerman. **A time to die:** **Gordon Newmoyer**, (father of Kiersten Reto, grandfather of Dominic, Michael & Julianna Reto); **Clara "Jane" Sroka**; **Bogdan Janiszewski**, (husband of Cathy Janiszewski & father of Patrick, Peter & Andrew Janiszewski) & 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.

**The Church Store** remains closed due to diocesan guidelines regarding the COVID situation. As a result, we have the **2021 Sunday Missals and Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)** available at the Parish Center. Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors can pick up their Missals in the Priests' Sacristy at the Church.

**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.

**HELP SUPPORT EXETER AREA FOOD PANTRY** by donating hygiene products ( shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant etc. ) This collection will be on an ongoing basis. A collection bin will be located in the back of the Church. INFO: Phil or Bonnie 610-779-6045.

#### THE TRIBUNAL DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN 610-434-3200

Do you know your Tribunal? The Tribunal is a group of specially qualified priests, deacons and lay persons. Their responsibility is to come to the help of persons who are the victims of unfortunate marriage situations. When a divorce occurs, the Catholic Church is always caught between two tensions. One is the unbreakableness of the bond of marriage. Jesus Himself said: "What God has joined, man must not divide." This is God's law. It cannot be broken by human intervention.

On the other hand, the Church must be concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people involved. Can they be helped? Was this a true marriage? Even though the parties went through a Catholic marriage ceremony, was there some weakness in the consent of one or both of the persons involved?

The annulment procedure is designed to study the history of the marriage and why it failed. It does not affix the blame. If the marriage is found to be invalid both parties are free.

If you could be helped, or have a friend or acquaintance who might be helped, please suggest that they call your parish priest or the Tribunal Office. The Tribunal will be happy to forward an application. Have no fear. All interviews are private. There are no confrontations.

## **50+ CLUB NEWS**

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**

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, I AM VERY SORRY TO SAY, WE WILL BE CANCELLING ALL MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2020.**

The **dues** paid by members in 2020 will carry over to **2021**. Hopefully we will be able to resume our meeting in February of 2021.

We hope all of our members and families are staying safe & that we will see each other in the near future.

Any MEMBERS who have saved **Redner's tapes** for the club, would you please mail them to:

**Trudy Oliver – 886 Fernleigh Place, Reading, PA 19606**

### **2020 TRIPS**

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we will be cancelling ALL of the scheduled trips for 2020.**

CONTACT: **Pat White 610-582-1437** for any information concerning the trips.

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 NORMALLY 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.**

## **LETTER FROM** **MSGR. JOSEPH SMITH:**

Dear Parishioners:

During the pandemic, I decided to write and publish a hardbound book entitled "Stories of My Life." Some are biographical, some funny, some scary, some inspiring, all of them interesting and true. Originally, I intended the book for family and close friends. As it began to take shape, I decided to offer it as a fundraiser to St. Joseph's Parish and to St. Catharine's Parish, Reading. I have served these parishes for a total of fifty years. I will pay the entire cost of publishing and printing the books. For those who would like to order a copy of the book (**the cost is \$20.00**), please put your name, address and phone number & check (**payable to Saint Catharine's**) in an envelope and mark it: **"For Msgr. Smith's Book,"** and place it in the collection or mail it to St. Catharine's Parish Center. Your timely return of your order will let me know how many books to have printed.

Msgr. Joseph Smith

(We will put a notice in the bulletin when your book is ready for pick-up.)

### **Registration is open for the 2021-2022 School Year!**

Please contact Nicky Smith for information on how to **Be A Saint** and how Berks Catholic prepares young men and women to **Be College and Life Ready**. All inquiries are confidential. [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org) or 60.374.8361 ext. 244.

### **Berks Catholic Christmas Vespers**

Berks Catholic High School invites you to celebrate the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with our **Virtual Christmas Vesper Prayer Service** on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 4:00 P.M. The pre-recording our annual Christmas Vespers Celebration. will be a live premiered at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 20, 2020. Please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-WBryoFdAufViUzt7BVP-w>

### **Employment Opportunity**

Berks Catholic High School has an opening for a part time maintenance person. Please email [aeinolf@berkscatholic.org](mailto:aeinolf@berkscatholic.org) for more information.