

Saint Mary's News

Mass Schedule

Schedule for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve - 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 26th - 3:30 p.m. - Irene Goodman

Sunday, December 27th - 10:30 a.m. - Leon & Stella Zerkowski

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.

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.](#)

Christmas Confession Schedule

Monday, December 21st & Tuesday,

December 22nd

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

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

Wednesday, December 23rd -

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



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

2 Sm 7:1:5,8b-12,14a,16- David wishes to build a temple to house the tables on the Law, but God speaks to him, promising to exalt and secure the House of David forever. The Lord will bring peace.

Rom 16:25-27 - God has revealed his plan of salvation through the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is made known to all people that they may believe and obey.

Lk 1:26-38 - Gabriel speaks to Mary, announcing that she who is a virgin shall conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to a son. Mary agrees to God's request.

Today's Message - David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise forever.

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 2020 must be received by Sunday, December 31st, 2020 to be included on your statement. Thank you for your generosity during the past year. If contributions are received after December 31st they will be applied to your 2021 statement.

BERKS CATHOLIC'S NEWS

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 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** tonight 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>

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:30 The Wright & Didyoung Families

8:30 Antonio & Josephine Cornista

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30 Mary Margaret Morrissey (100th Anniversary)

8:30 Deceased members of the Curtin, Kroener, Wagner, & Gantert Families

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:30 Charles & Patricia Stofanick

8:30 Christine Jenkins

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

8:30 Lillian V. Denaro

3:00 p.m. - Living & Deceased of the Parish (Shemanski Stadium)

5:00 p.m. - Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

7:00 p.m. - Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

10:00 p.m. - Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 Living & Deceased of the Parish (Church)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

8:30 Max Curtin

4:30 Richard Heins

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

7:30 Russell & Josephine Magazzu

9:00 Michael Fura

10:30 Armstrong & Cornista Families

12:00 Carmen Romero (8th Anniversary)

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2020

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday

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

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;

Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday

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

Friday

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

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

Saturday

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

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

8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Sunday

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3;

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9;

Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,

17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/21	Rev. Joseph Tobias, MSC
Tuesday 12/22	Rev. Eric Tolentino
Wednesday 12/23	Rev. Andrew Torma, MSC
Thursday 12/24	Rev. James Torpey
Friday 12/25	Rev. Msgr. James Treston
Saturday 12/26	Re. James Ward
Sunday 12/27	Rev. Msgr. Robert Wargo

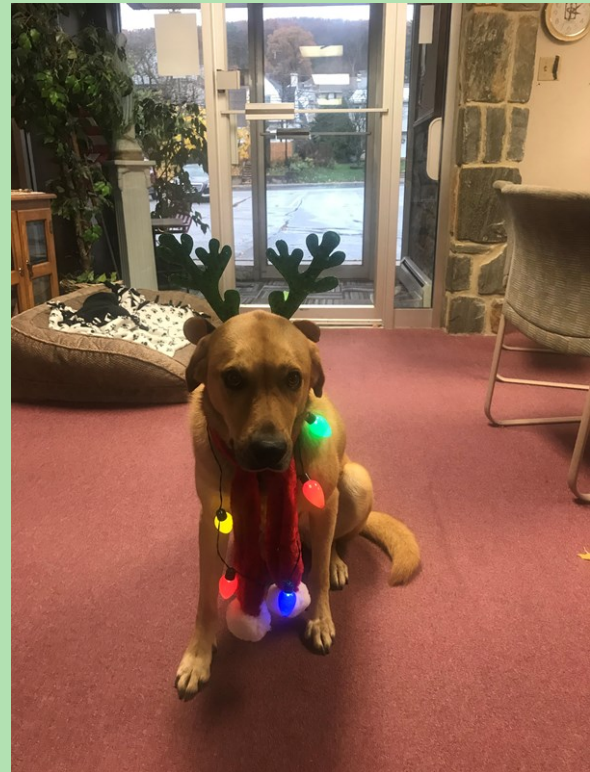
WINTER IS COMING! St. Vincent de Paul will again be collecting and distributing items to the children of Reading. Please place new or gently used clean hats, mittens, scarves, and boots in marked bins in the gathering areas in the Church. We will collecting now through – February 28.

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. Please call with addresses of military to Terri Mueller at 610-779-1766.

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.

Life After Loss Group is continuing to meet year-round at several churches. We will have a "Loss of Spouse" Saturday Workshop on 1-23-21 from 1 – 3 PM. Call 610 370-1174 or email (no texts) judyacameron@comcast.net to register for these free seminars.

Ossa's Corner



Ossa wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas" & would like you to meet her new cousin "Luna." She is Father Wehr's puppy!



FOURTH 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:

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: Rita Burkey; & Anna Paone & 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.

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 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.

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.)