

Saint Mary's News

Next Weeks Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 8th - 8:00 a.m. Leon J. Zerkowski
Saturday, December 10th - 3:30 p.m. - Marek Starosciak
Sunday, December 11th - 10:30 a.m. - Louis F. Filpek
(22nd Anniversary)

The Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County is accepting memberships for 2023. Part of our mission is to promote and to share public awareness and appreciation of our Polish heritage through cultural, educational and social activities. IF INTERESTED, please contact Marilyn Wlazewski, President, at 610-779-5523.



Christmas Decorating - We will be decorating St. Mary's church immediately after the Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. Your help would be appreciated.

Pan Z Wami - 2023 Polish Missals are available at St. Catharine's Rectory. The cost is \$15.00 per book.



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.

His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert encourages the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season. Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days set aside (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday) to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly. There are twelve Ember Days in all. In particular, the Advent Ember Days are a heightened time of expectation and waiting in preparation for Christmas. Fasting and abstinence would follow the current laws of the Church, with abstaining being from all meat, and fasting would be one full meal a day, with the allowance of two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal, and no eating between meals. The Advent Ember Days for 2022 are as follows: Wednesday, December 14, 2022, Friday, December 16, 2022, and Saturday, December 17, 2022. Sant Crux, Lucia, Cineres, Charismata Dia Ut sit in angaria quarta sequens feria.



Advent Confessions

**Mondays 7:00 p.m. - Chapel
December 5th, 12th & 19th**

**All Sundays before Mass
(December 4, 11 & 18)**

6:50-7:20 a.m.

8:50-9:20 a.m.

10:50 - 11:20 a.m.

9:50-10:20 a.m. - Saint Mary's

Saturdays

**2:45 - 3:15 p.m. - St. Mary's -
December 10th & 17th**

**3:30 - 4:15 p.m. - Saint Catharine's -
December 10th & 17th**

Christmas – Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve – 4:00 p.m. – Church
7:00 p.m - Church**

& 10:00 p.m. - Church

9:00 p.m. – Saint Mary's

**Christmas Day – 8:00 a.m. &
10:00 a.m. – Church**

10:00 a.m. – Saint Mary's

Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31st -

4:30 p.m. – Church

**New Year's Day – 7:30, 9:30
& 11:30 a.m. - Church**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 11:1-10: Jesse, the father of David, is the ancestor of the Messiah. All nations will turn to him.

Rom 15:4-9: Remember that the Scriptures are written for our instruction. In Christ, the promise of Scripture is fulfilled.

Mt 3:1-12: John the Baptist calls the people to prepare for the Messiah. He urges a change in lifestyle and calls for repentance.

Today's Message: Reform your lives; live in God's peace so that justice may flourish.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Social Hall

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP – 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Upper Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – following the 7:15 Mass until 8:00 p.m.

CUB SCOUTS – 6:30 p.m. – Social Hall

GUITAR GROUP PRACTICE – 7:00 p.m. - Church

LIFE AFTER LOSS - 7:00 p.m. - Parish Center

CONFESSIONS – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

50+ CLUB BOARD MEETING – 10:00 a.m. – Parish Center

CURSILLO GROUP 6:45 p.m. – Knights' Room

FR. MILLER'S ADVENT REFLECTION – 6:30 p.m. - Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

50+ CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

PRAY THE ROSARY – 6:45 a.m. - Chapel

RCIA - 6:00 p.m. – Parish Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

PRAY THE ROSARY – 7:30 a.m. – Chapel

BAPTISMAL WORKSHOP – 10:00 a.m. – Parish Center

OPERATION COOKIES & MILK DRIVE – 4:00-8:00 p.m.. – Social Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

OPERATION COOKIES & MILK DRIVE - 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. - Social Hall



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa on

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th

From 8:30 – 11:30 AM in the Social Hall

Breakfast for all and child visits with Santa will begin immediately following the 7:30 AM Mass in the Social Hall and will end at 11:30.

The Knights will be offering various scrambled egg casseroles, bacon, sausage, hash browns, toast, coffee, milk, and juice.

A free will offering will be available to cover the cost of breakfast.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:15 John Gilleran & Rickert, Platko, Verbosh Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:15 Owen A. Holbrook (10th Anniversary) & Richard Heins (9th Anniversary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:15 Mary Ann Matthews & Ken Higo (4th Anniversary)

6:00 pm Marie Bassler (Church)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:15 Gerry & Ted Ostrowski & Special Intention – (Church)

7:00 pm Al Lauter (Church)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:15 James K. Evans (11th Anniversary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 Rev. Joseph Curtin

4:30 Josephine Frederick & Anna M. Auchter (42nd Anniversary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30 Sebastiana Imbesi

9:30 David Samolewicz & Jesse & Mary Arnold

11:30 Michael Talarico

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 04, 2022

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

Monday

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 & 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

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

Friday

Memorial of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

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

Saturday

Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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

ADVENT MORNING OF RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN

Father Matthew Kuna will give a Women's Advent reflection on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Saint Mary's in Hamburg. (Free event—open to ALL women). Sponsored by the Women's Society of Giving. 9am Reflection by Father Kuna, followed by time for prayer and confession; 11am Mass. Contact Stewardship and Development: stewardship@allentowndiocese.org or 610- 871-5200.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Monday 12/5	Rev. Allen J. Hoffa
Tuesday 12/6	Rev. John A. Hutta
Wednesday 12/7	Rev. Augustine L. Idra, A.J.
Thursday 12/8	Rev. Francis Iroot, A.J.
Friday 12/9	Rev. Guency Isaac, M.S.C.M.
Saturday 12/10	Rev. Stephan A. Isaac

You're Invited

Father Miller's Advent Reflection
Tuesday's December 6th, 13th & 20th at
6:30 p.m. at the Church.



**MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
6 P.M. – SAINT CATHARINE'S CHURCH**

**FEAST DAY –THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 8TH
7:15 A.M. –CHURCH**

7:00 P.M.– CHURCH

ST. MARY'S - 8:00 A.M.-CHURCH

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE WRAP-UP

The Christmas Boutique has achieved the status of being a premier holiday event in Berks County! This is an amazing accomplishment for the parish, as we had record crowds and revenue during the 2022 event.

The 2022 Christmas Boutique had a gross income of \$ 21,745 and after expenses, realized a net profit of \$ 16,118.84.

This event would not be possible without the help of countless volunteers -many behind-the-scenes- for which we are so ever grateful.

Berks Catholic also provided us with some hard-working students who gave us with much-needed assistance. GO SAINTS!

Thanks also to the many local businesses for their donations for the gift baskets. We especially would like to recognize businesses, Lutz Funeral Home, Bean Funeral Home, Paul W. Essig Plumbing and Heating and Real Estate Agent Dianne Beck for their financial support of the gift baskets.

**Congratulations to the winners of the BOUTIQUE
BONANZA RAFFLE!**

Four Eagle's Tickets: Joe Leap

\$500 Cash: Elaine Sengia

50-inch Smart TV: Bill Flamm

Echo Show 10: Vincent Talarico

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. The Bonanza Raffle realized \$4,394 in entries.

Also, a very special thank you to the Pierogi Society of St. Mary's which spent two days filling and pinching those Polish favorites. They were a huge success and sold out quickly! ***Wielkie dzięki!***

Finally, if any parishioners would like to become involved in the planning of the 2023 event, please email us at SCSChristmasBoutique@gmail.com as this has become a year-long process.

Thanks, and Congratulations to the people of St. Mary's and St. Catharine's parishes!

GRATITUDE

To all who participated in Eucharistic Adoration in October and November, whether you signed up or stopped in to spend some time with Jesus, I wish to thank you all for your dedication and devotion to our Lord! You truly made this time a blessing for all. Remember, you can still continue to attend Adoration every Monday as your time allows and may we all be blessed to participate in the worship of our Lord again next October.

Sue Hissick

SECOND 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: Karin Acuna, Anthony Antonucci, Elizabeth Ashton, Baby Lanzo, Jo Ann Bechtel, Melody Bechtel, Gene Bellus, Michele Boucher, Joanne Bowman, Katie Briggs, Frank Broga, Sophia Broga, Paul Brooke, Marvin Bush, Pauline Cappel, Richard Cunnius, Larry Curtin, Cyril Danko, Tamara Danko, George Dietrich, Janet Dodge, Roseanne Dougherty, Andy Dykie, Martin Eisenhower, Charles Elchlepp, Robert Flipping, Chris Fry, Connie Fry, Geraldine Gamby, Michael Gantert, Todd Gladfelter, Theresa Grabowski, Lydia Griffith, David J. Gulati II, Al Heck, Mary Hedrick, Wayne Hedrick, Robyn Hefferan, John Heft, Theresa Heltzinger, Patricia Herber, Carol Hess, Curtis S. Hill, Jesse Hill, Michael Hivner, Margaret Iuso, Nikki Lyn Kells, Rev. David Kohut, OFM, John Kompa, Rosemarie Kovacs, Dorothy Kulak, Walter LaSota, Darryl Larish, William Lawson, Marniece Lepore, Alma Lonergan, Daniel Lonergan, Jane Lubas, Joan Lubas, Rosemary Ludwig, Joanne Marnell, Angela Marroccoli, Daniel Matz, Cindy McConnell, Peggy McConnell, Mary Rita McFadden, Katherine Miceli, Lannie Milillo, Cynthia Mitchell, Carol Moore, Charles Mountz, Ruth Mountz, Madeline Mullen, Jerome Nigh, Frank Pingitore, Patricia Pinto, Donald Pisker, Michael Poserina, Sharon Prechtl, Chuck Rackie, Lorraine Ransom, Peggy Reid, David Samsel, Barbara Santoro, Anne Schaeffer, Earl Sheetz, Barry Scheirer, Carolyn Schott, Vincent Skimski, Joan Skoczen, Tyler Skoczen, Mary Jane Skowron, Barbara Spatz, Andy Strangarity, Earl Suchomelly, Jan Tomalis, Kimberly Trigstead, Betty Vilardo, Alan Wachowicz, Mark Walter, Aiden Watkins, Frank White, Bernette Wrobel, Noel Yapsuga, Susan Yapsuga, Gerald Young, Ann Marie Zawislak, John Ziemba, Mollie Ziemba, Dan Zielinski, Mary Ann Zimmerman **A Time to die:** **Helen Konkolus; Adele Mills; Bernice Dolinski & Florence Szymborski** & 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.



Sign up to receive text messages concerning weather cancelations for parish liturgical services, and Masses and other events. Please text @9h4ac9 to 81010.

We pray for the Gift of Peace in the world and the safety of those working for peace through the military services, especially: Cpl. Bruce Bogertey, SPC, Alex Heintz, Captain Chelsea Pellicano, Airman Ethan Kosmoski, Ensign Nicholas Tomczyk, Captain Steffan Lis, MD, SPC, Dylan Einfalt, Airman 1st Class Kevin Hodgson, Sgt. Madison Straka, First Lt. Devon Schoonover, Sgt. Mackenzie Adame, Lance Corporal Connor A. 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, 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.

Retirement Fund for Religious - Say thank you to the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who devoted their lives to serving others. The Diocesan Collection date for the Retirement Fund will be on the weekend of December 10th & 11th.

Emergency Vehicle Access

We have been reminded to keep the driveway area immediately in front of the main Church free from parked vehicles. This includes the area under the portico as well as the driveway approaches to and from the portico. Of course, this area will remain available for pick up and drop off, but vehicles should proceed to designated spaces in the parking lot immediately thereafter. Thank you for your cooperation.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Due to the Holidays, all information for the bulletin must be received in our office as follows: **December 18th, 25th, January 1st & 8th by Monday, December 12th by noon! Information for the bulletin can be emailed to dsitler@comcast.net.**



Siena Stitchers have two tables with handcraft clothes for sale. Please place the black envelopes in the Poor Box.

It's that time of year again!



The annual Operation Milk and Cookies drive we be held once again this holiday season. We ask if you could help us spread Christmas cheer to those less fortunate in our community. If you are interested in participating in the drive we ask that you either bake or buy a batch of cookies to donate to our drive so we can deliver them to places such as Mary's Shelter, Opportunity House, Hope and Rescue Mission, and many more! The cookie drop off dates will be: December 10th from 4pm-8pm & December 11th from 7am-2pm at St. Catharine of Siena Social Hall. If you are participating we ask that you email affraney@gmail.com or rachfraney@gmail.com and let us know how many cookies you are planning on donating.

Parish Nurse News - Prepare for the Christmas season with mindfulness in heart and health! Feel gratitude for special gatherings and especially for every day events that we may take for granted. Inner peace, as well as connection with others, is motivating and powerful for mental health and wellness!

SCS Endowment

Please consider contributing to our SCS Endowment Fund—an investment in our future and an affirmation of our many success stories. For more information regarding our endowment fund, please consider contributing @ <https://go.dojiggy.io/scsendowment/Campaign/Details>

To learn more visit <http://www.scsreadingschool.org/scs-endowment-fund.html>

50 Plus News

Please call Maria Bunch, acting President for any 50+ club inquiries. Her phone number is 610 582-4632. You can see us on Facebook for additional information. **Anyone attending the 50+ meeting will be asked to show proof of Covid Vaccination. If an attendee does not have proof of vaccination, he/she will be asked to wear a mask.**

Christmas party, 12/7/22, at the Doubletree, update. The 50+ Club has advised by Doubletree, upon check-in, each attendee's License Plate Number will be required to be eligible for free parking.

Trips for 2023

Wednesday May 17, "Moses", Sight n Sound. Cracker Barrel on your own. \$140.

Thursday June 22, Pines Dinner Theater "Route 66" \$100 per person 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.



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE DONATE BLOOD

December 5th - December 10th

St. Catharine of Siena R C Church is hosting a special blood drive to save lives. Our only source of blood is from blood donors like you.

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER
2745A Leisch's Bridge Road, Reading
(for GPS, use 1047 Old Bernville Road)

SCHEDULE TODAY!

Call **800-223-6667** and mention **Group ID 3164**, visit GIVEaPINT.org, or scan the QR code below with your phone's camera. Be sure to include your **Group ID 3164** under the notes section of the form.



1-800-B-A-DONOR | GIVEaPINT.org

