

# THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. William F. Glosser, V.F., M.A., M.Div.

250 E. Hancock St.

Saint Clair, PA 17970

Office Phone ..... 570-429-0370

Rectory Phone ..... 570-429-0701

Office Fax ..... 570-429-0630

Email: [scassisi@ptd.net](mailto:scassisi@ptd.net) Website: [stclareassisi.weebly.com](http://stclareassisi.weebly.com)

Assumption BVM School ..... 570-622-0106

Nativity BVM High School ..... 570-622-8110

Immaculate Conception Hall ..... 570-429-0302

Saint Joseph Center for Special Learning <https://stjosephctr.com>



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
November 26, 2023

### MASS TIMES

(Please check bulletin for changes)

Saturdays: 4:00 PM @ St. Clare  
5:30 PM @ Holy Cross  
Sundays: 8:30 AM @ St. Clare  
10:45 AM @ Holy Cross  
Tuesdays: 6:00 PM @ Holy Cross  
Wednesdays: 8:30AM @ Holy Cross  
Thursdays: 8:00 AM @ St. Clare  
Fridays: 8:00 AM @ St. Clare

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM or call the rectory to schedule an appointment.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Prospective parents are expected to attend an instruction session. Please call the parish office to make arrangements and schedule an appointment.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Preparations should be made one year in advance to schedule and plan your wedding.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

PREP/CCD classes are offered for our public grade school children. Classes are held Wednesday evenings 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Parish registration is recommended for all individual persons and families who worship regularly and who intend to participate actively in the life of our parish by sharing their time, talents and treasure. Registration is necessary for celebrating Marriage and Baptism, as well as for the issuing of Sponsor Certificates.

**Director of Religious Education** ..... Dorothy Frie

**Parish Religious Education Website** ..... [stcstsprep.weebly.com](http://stcstsprep.weebly.com)

### **Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Mrs. Wendy S. Krisak, MA, MCC, LPC Direct: 1-800-791-9209

**Secretary for Youth Protection** ..... Pamela Russo, MSW, MS  
1-610-871-5200 Ext 2204 [prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service:** If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 1-800-276-1562

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A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

### **HIS WORD TODAY**

by Rev. William J. Reilly, Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe ~ November 26, 2023

**"I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.... 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"**

We bring the church year to a close with the appropriate gospel judgement scene. We will all, each and everyone, meet our just judge, where our every deed will be exposed and evaluated. A recently published book told the story of a priest who met a person, who said that he felt quite comfortable, as he kept the ten commandments. The priest then asked about his concern for Matthew 25, the judgement statement 'I was hungry, thirsty, naked, an immigrant or foreigner, sick...' the corporal works of mercy. As we live them we are going to be judged, not just the ten commandments or the great commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbor. The man replied that he hadn't thought about that. Do I?

## **Our Parish as a School of Prayer**

### **Monday, November 27, 2023**

NO MASS SCHEDULED

### **Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM*

Mary & Ernest Kreydt  
William Zerdy

### **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM*

Helen Thomas  
Florence Bound

### **Thursday, November 30, 2023**

**St. Andrew, Apostle**

*ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM*

Alberta Rudy

### **Friday, December 1, 2023**

*ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM*

Edward Manion & Edward Leininger

### **Saturday, December 2, 2023**

**Vigil for First Sunday of Advent**

*ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 4:00 PM*

Christine Eichinger

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 5:30 PM*

### **Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent**

*ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:30 AM*

Maryann Hozella Cholko

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 10:45 AM*

### **Winter has arrived**

Please note that in the event of inclement weather, that delays or cancels schools and other public activities, the parishes will do the same.

In the event of a school delay for the Pottsville or St. Clair School District, Mass will be delayed the same length of time.

In the event of cancellation for the school districts, Mass will also be cancelled.

Please note one should be concerned about driving conditions and their safety. It is not a sin to miss Mass because of snowy or icy weather. It is better to be safe. In the event of weather over the weekend, Father Bill will do his very best to make it for all Sunday Masses, however if he feels the roads are not safe for his driving, there will be no Mass at New Philadelphia.



### **Eucharistic Devotion**

**First Monday** in December at  
St. Clare from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
(December 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Tuesdays** - Holy Cross following  
6:00 PM Mass to 7 PM.

**Fridays** - St. Clare following 8:00 AM Mass until  
10:30 AM.



**St. Clare of Assisi does have a handicap lift  
accessible from Mill Street with an attendant for  
all weekend Masses.**

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

Today we are given the chance of a lifetime: a preview of what we will face at the end of time, straight from the lips of the One who will come in glory on that day. This is Christ the King, who rules over God's creation. In today's Gospel, Jesus confides to his disciples how he will pass judgment on us all. Keep in mind that it's never too late. Let us take heed so that we may do what Jesus expects from us. Then one day may we inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

### **Change in the Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> due to the Priest of the Schuylkill Deanery having their Deanery meeting in the late afternoon. Mass will be offered at 8:30 AM.



### **Sanctuary Candle**

In Memory of Edward & Elizabeth  
Didjunas

Requested by: Kathleen Didjunas

## **Second Collection**

This week's second collection will be for Heat & Energy. Next week's second collection will be for Christmas Flowers.

## **Retired and Infirm Priests Annual Fund, "Chose, Blessed, Shared"**

Make sure to remember the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift to the Endowment Fund for the Care of Retired Priests. This special fund is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance, and housing and sustenance. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail. These envelopes may be returned in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. For more information visit the website [www.weloveourpriests.org](http://www.weloveourpriests.org). Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of the Diocese!

**Mass Attendance and the Weekly Financial report for November 19, 2023 will be reported next weekend due to the early deadline for the bulletin this week.**



## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

### **St. Clare of Assisi**

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 3:15PM–3:35PM

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - 3:15PM–3:35PM

### **Holy Cross**

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - 6:30PM

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30PM

Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - 6:30PM

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH HOLY CROSS PARISH**

**November 26** New Philadelphia Tree Lighting with Living Nativity 5:00 PM

**December 2** Work party needed to decorate the Grotto and the rectory exterior for Christmas and to assist with any last-minute touches of scenery for the Living Nativity Set that evening.

**St. Clair Tree Lighting with Living Nativity 5:30 PM**

**December 3** St. Nick Shoe drop off

**December 7** Vigil Mass for Fest of the Immaculate Conception at St. Clare of Assisi 6:30 PM

**December 8** Fest of the Immaculate Conception Mass at Holy Cross 8:30 AM

**December 10** Blessing of the Straw  
Shoe Pick up  
Parish Breakfast @ ICC Hall

**December 16** Church decorating at both St. Clare of Assisi and Holy Cross Churches

**December 17** Bambinelli Sunday  
Christmas Pageant

**Work party** needed on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to decorate the Grotto and the rectory exterior for Christmas and to assist with any last-minute touches of scenery for the Living Nativity Set that evening.



Thank you to the daughters & families of Elaine Koval for donating this year's Advent Wreath for the continued good health and 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of their mother. God Bless you.



### **FROZEN UNCOOKED PIEROGI SALE**

Don't forget to stock up on our delicious frozen uncooked pierogi for Christmas while supplies last. \$9.00 per dozen.

Friday - December 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 AM – Noon
Saturday - December 16 <sup>th</sup>	After 4:00 PM Mass
Sunday – December 17 <sup>th</sup>	After 8:30 AM Mass

### **2024 Mass Intention Book**

We will take Mass requests for 2024 beginning Tuesday November 28, Wednesday November 29, and Thursday November 30, 10AM-12PM and 1PM-3PM. **No phone calls** accepted on these three days.

#### **Please remember in your planning:**

! Masses on Christmas and Easter will always be for Living & Deceased Parishioners of the Parish and not individuals or families.

! Masses for Mother's Day are for All Living and Deceased Mothers; and Father's Day are for all Living and Deceased Fathers.

! Request for Masses will be limited to 2 weekdays and one Sunday Mass for a particular individual. Suggestion – combine intentions to include parents or family members.

! Please note that while Fr. Bill will do his very best to celebrate all scheduled Masses, there might be a need to alter them to accommodate diocesan meetings, etc.

### **St. Clair Ecumenical Food Pantry**

Holy Apostles Church is assuming the responsibilities for the distribution of non-perishable food items once a month. There will be a collection box on the front porch of our rectory for any parishioner wishing to donate a canned good or non-perishable food item.

**PLEASE NO EXPIRED FOOD ITEMS.**

### **Servants to All Project**

Our children are participating in a service project for **Servants for All**. Please help them fulfill their goal by bringing to Mass the weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> socks, underwear, and toiletries.

### **Parish Advent Giving Tree**

This year our efforts will benefit Catholic Charities of Schuylkill County. Please take a tag or tags off the tree and purchase the item listed on the tag. The item does not need to be wrapped. It should be placed under the tree by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Items could include diapers, formula, baby wipes, pacifiers, bottles, bibs, onesies, blankets, baby bathtubs, training potties, etc.

### **LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR OUR YOUTH**

#### **Attention: Parents and Children**

Listed below are some ways for you to complete your Parish catechetical requirements. Remember you **must** complete 3 activities before May.

### **DECEMBER**

#### **Upcoming Advent Events**

#### **St. Nicholas Shoes – December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Children are encouraged to bring a shoe with their name to Mass next Sunday for St. Nicholas to fill it on his Feast Day. Children can pick up their shoe filled with treats at the Weekend Masses on December 9 & 10.

#### **Homeless Service Project**

Fr. Bill is looking for children from both parishes to collect socks, underwear, and toiletries. The collection will be at ALL Masses the Weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The children will be responsible for collecting the items and after Mass separating them into boxes. If you are interested notify the rectory or notify Dottie Frie. This will count as one of your Religious Education Activities.

**LIVING NATIVITY** - We are in need of many children to be part of an outdoor Living Nativity, complete with live animals for both locations:

**New Philadelphia Tree Lighting** on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM



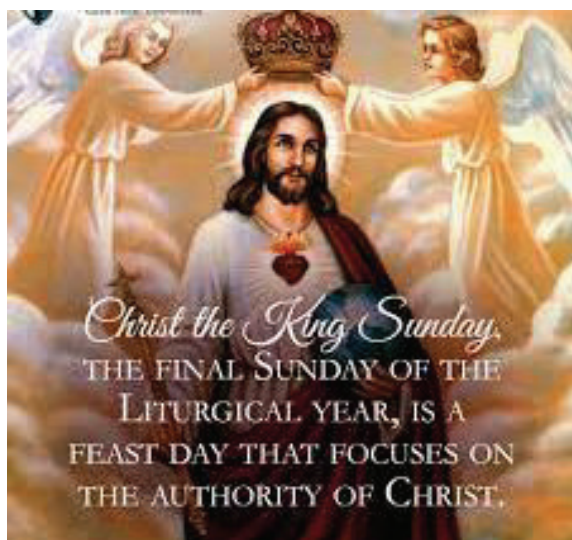
**St. Clair Tree Lighting** on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> Food Trucks @ 4:00 PM; Santa & Tree @ 5:00 PM; Living Nativity @ 5:30 PM.

Our parish children are invited, asked, and encouraged to be part of the Living Nativity Scene at the Grotto. It is our hope to convert the Grotto into the Little Town of Bethlehem and the Manager where Jesus was born. We would certainly appreciate the assistance of adults to help recreate this scene and make this a beautiful experience for the town and our Parish. Please consult Dottie Frie for more information.

**Breakfast** – December 10<sup>th</sup> (community service)

**Church Decorating** – December 16<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Pageant** – December 17<sup>th</sup>



### **Vatican Doctrine Office Reaffirms Catholics cannot be Freemasons**

The Vatican Dicaster for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) released a document on Wednesday reaffirming that Catholics are forbidden from becoming Freemasons. The new document signed by Pope Francis and DDF Prefect Cardinal Victor Fernandez was written in response to a bishop from the Philippines who had expressed concern at the growing number of Catholics in his diocese who are taking part in [Freemasonry](#) and asked for suggestions for how to respond pastorally. (CNA)

### **IS RELIGION GOOD FOR YOU?** **IT'S COMPLICATED, NEW GLOBAL REPORT FINDS**

A new report from Gallup finds that religious people around the world report being more positive, have more social support and are more involved in their communities than those who are not religious. The study, based on [10 years of data](#), also finds the well-being of religious people varies from country to country and is often hard to measure. Even if researchers find that religion is good for you, people who are not religious may not care about its benefits or want anything to do with it. (RNS)

### **ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL NEWS**

Assumption BVM will be holding a Raffle for \$500.00 worth of fuel for the winter months. This fundraiser will directly benefit the school and its students. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Drawing will be held on December 21, 2023. Chances can be purchased from any ABVM family or from the school (school phone: 570-622-0106 or e-mail: [eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net](mailto:eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net)). Thank you for your help in making this Fuel Raffle a success!

### **NATIVITY BVM HAPPENINGS**

The month of November, **Nativity's Green and Gold Club** will be selling Gift Card Calendars. Anyone who would like to donate a \$25 gift card it would be greatly appreciated.

### **St. Clair Historical Society**

On November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM the St. Clair Historical Society will present a free program on Antique toys. Join them in learning what children played with before computers and cell phones.

### **Dine In or Take Out Spaghetti Dinner**

Sponsored by St. Patrick Church

Sunday, December 3

11:00 am to 2:00 pm (or sell out)

313 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville

Spaghetti platter includes pasta with homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread. Cost is \$11 per platter.

Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.



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