



**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

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 **Website:** 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>

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

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

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 or by calling 1-800-276-1562

+++++

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY

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

First Sunday of Advent ~ December 3, 2023

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him... Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands.”

The prophet Isaiah, one of the principal figures for advent, speaks for us, longing for the needed Messiah, not His first coming, but for today. Can I not see that our world needing His presence, desperate to make things better? The God who made us, the potter, needs to refashion us in His image as we live the days of this holy season. He will remake us in His image, by our prayer for all around us, beginning with His reworking who we are and what He wants us to become. ‘Come Lord Jesus.’

Our Parish as a School of Prayer

Monday, December 4, 2023

St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 6:00 PM

Zackus Family

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

St. Nicholas, Bishop

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Diane R. Leinheiser

Thursday, December 7, 2023

**St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Vigil for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 6:30 PM

Joanne Fowler

Friday, December 8, 2023

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Brian Dahm

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Vigil for Second Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 4:00 PM

Charles & Mary Schlottman

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 5:30 PM

Anna Franko & Veronica Sadeika

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Jack Fowler

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 10:45 AM

Edward Bernitsky

Anna Benulis

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 4th)

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

Bombarded with Christmas decorations and music for weeks now, we are undoubtedly already anticipating the celebration of our Savior's birth. But today we are reminded that Christ's coming was not a single one-time-only event. In the Gospel Jesus warns us that he will come again when we least expect. He is referring to the end of the world, but in truth He can also come to us in our hearts at any time: during a traumatic event, in a chance encounter with a stranger, or even through someone who's prematurely spreading the Christmas spirit. May we remain vigilant for our Lord's coming in whatever way or whatever time it may happen.

Second Collection

This week's second collection will be for Christmas Flowers. To memorialize a flower, the minimum donation is \$10. Next week's second collection will be for Heat and Energy.

Holy Day of Obligation
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

St. Clair of Assisi

Thursday, December 7th 6:30 PM

Holy Cross

Friday, December 8th 8:30 AM

Mass Attendance for November 19, 2023

4:00PM at SCA.....167

5:30PM at HC..... 102

8:30AM at SCA.....160

10:45AM at HC.....112

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Week of 11/19/2023
Contributions - Sunday Envelope	\$ 5,256
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving	\$ 356
Total Plate	\$ 5,612
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 5,673
Total Contributions	\$ 112,063
YTD Budget to now	\$ 119,133
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (7,070)
OTHER COLLECTIONS	
Building Fund	\$ 143
Candles	\$ 18
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,171
Cemetery	\$ 29

Mass Attendance for November 26, 2023

4:00PM at SCA.....155

5:30PM at HC..... 102

8:30AM at SCA.....150

10:45AM at HC.....128

Rest In Peace



William E Powell
Christopher Shellhammer

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held Thursday morning after the 8:00 AM Mass. All are welcome.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Week of 11/26/2023
Contributions - Sunday Envelope	\$ 4,015
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving	\$ 213
Total Plate	\$ 4,228
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 5,673
Total Contributions	\$ 116,291
YTD Budget to now	\$ 124,806
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (8,515)
OTHER COLLECTIONS	
Building Fund	\$ 85
Candles	\$ 23
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,108
Cemetery	\$ -0-

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

December 2 St. Clair Tree Lighting with Living Nativity 5:30 PM

December 2 & 3 St. Nick Shoe drop off

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

December 8 Feast 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

December 28 St. Clair Community and Historical Society Tour of the Churches 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Clare of Assisi

Saturday, December 9th – 3:15PM–3:35PM

Saturday, December 16th - 3:15PM–3:35PM

Holy Cross

Sunday, December 3rd – 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Tuesday, December 5th - 6:30PM

Sunday, December 10th – 10:00AM – 10:30AM

Tuesday, December 12th - 6:30PM

Tuesday, December 19th - 6:30PM

Community Penance Service

Wednesday, December 20th – 7:00 PM

St. John the Baptist Church, Pottsville

5-6 priests available

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve	4:00 PM.	St. Clare of Assisi
Christmas Eve	7:00 PM	Holy Cross
Christmas Eve	9:00 PM	St. Clare of Assisi
Christmas Day	8:00 AM	Holy Cross

Help Needed - Breakfast preparations on Saturday, December 9th, ICC Hall at 10:00 AM
Breakfast on Sunday, December 10th, ICC Hall @ 7:00 AM

Retired and Infirm Priests Annual Fund, “Chose, Blessed, Shared”

Thank you to those who have given so generously to the “Chosen, Blessed, Shared” annual fund. If you haven’t given, it isn’t too late to support 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 or in the collection basket at Mass. For more information visit the website www.weloveourpriests.org. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese!

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 9th & 10th any of the following items: 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 17th. Items could include diapers, formula, baby wipes, pacifiers, bottles, bibs, onesies, blankets, 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

Homeless Service Project

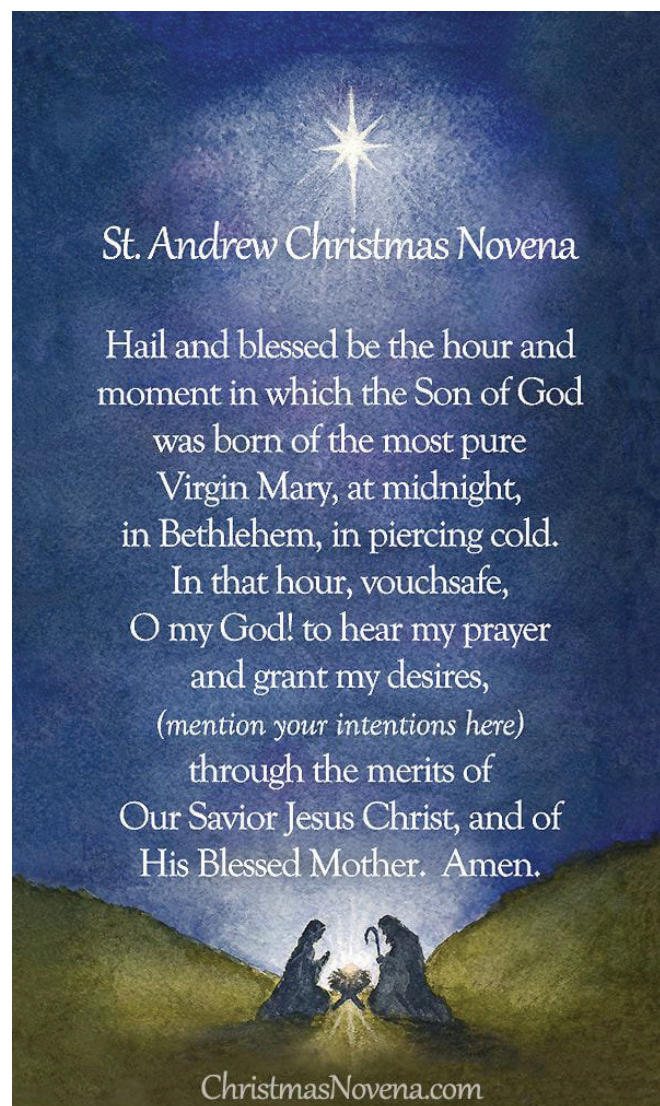
Fr. Bill is looking for children from both parishes to collect socks, underwear, and toiletries. The collection will be at ALL Masses the Weekend of December 9th and 10th. The

children will be responsible for collecting the items and after Mass separating them into boxes. If you are interested notify the rectory or Dottie Frie. This will count as one of your Religious Education Activities.

Breakfast – December 10th (community service)

Church Decorating – December 16th

Christmas Pageant – December 17th



The single prayer of the St. Andrew Christmas Novena is traditionally prayed fifteen times each day, beginning on the feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and concluding on Christmas Eve.

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). Thank you for your help in making this Fuel Raffle a success!

Dine In or Take Out Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by St. Patrick Church

Sunday, December 3rd

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.

St. Clair Historical Society's Christmas Tree

Entry



Stop by the Schuylkill County Historical Society at 305 N. Centre St. Pottsville to **VOTE** for St. Clair's Historical Society's Christmas Tree Entry.

Cast your ballot for the themed tree ***Churches of St. Clair.*** Voting ends January 10th. Each vote is \$1.00 and multiple ballots can be entered on Wednesday thru Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Tour of the Churches

St. Clair Community and Historical Society is hosting a Tour of the Churches from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM on December 28th. The Historical Society will have refreshments and a commemorative book for this event can be purchased.





WOMER'S GARAGE
24 Hour Road Service & Towing
Complete Collision & Mechanical Repair
527 Hotel Street • Pottsville
570-628-5415

St. John Neumann Regional Council 14009
Knights of Columbus, St. Clair
In service to God, Church and Country
MONTHLY MEETING ~ 2ND THURSDAY @ 7PM
229 NORTH MILL STREET • ST. CLAIR
www.stjohnneumanncouncil14009.org

READY.GOV
Don't be afraid...Be Ready

C-WELL OPTICAL
Ray Miske • Optician
Dr. Janine Davis Watkins
Optometrist
109 Pike Street • Port Carbon
570-622-0226
Eye Exams For Any Age!
New Patients Welcome!

SHIMOCK'S
FURNITURE WORLD
selling happiness since 1915
www.shimocks.com
570-373-1531

BLACK FRIDAY
sale
AMAZING PRICES ALL MONTH LONG
NEW LOCATION - MT. CARMEL
121 E. 5TH STREET

WE NEED A WAFFLE LOT OF BLOOD DONORS

American Red Cross

HB
HAHNER BROS. INC.
Since 1939
Roofing & Sheet Metal
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
★ **EMERGENCY SERVICE**
570-622-6150
www.hahnerbroosroofing.com

Providing Quality Orthopedic Care To Our Community For 21 Years

• Board Certified Orthopedic Surgery
• General Orthopedics
• Specializing in Knee and Hip Arthroplasty
• Sports Medicine
570-622-5672
stoudtorthoped.com
Dr. Calvin D. Stoudt
Orthopedic Specialist
700 Schuylkill Manor Road • Suite 1 • Pottsville, PA 17901

welcome to the front door
the front door
flower school & studio
full service florist
570-581-1775
77 coal street
port carbon, pa

EMERGENCY SERVICE
570-622-6150
www.hahnerbroosroofing.com

Please Support Our ADVERTISERS
They Support Our Parish

EVERY CHILD NEEDS SOMEONE WHY NOT YOU? FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED

WE NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH
Loving, caring foster parents.
Extended care & Emergency/shelter homes also needed.
FAMILY & FOSTERING
Open your heart, Open your home, Change a life.
1.800.722.8341
324 N. Centre St., Pottsville **570.628.1050**

KEEP IT CLEAN ~ KEEP IT GREEN

Act now to help end hunger.
In the United States, one in nine people face hunger.
feedingamerica.org
FEEDING AMERICA

ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS SPACE
Join the thousands of professionals and businesses in our network and begin growing sales, driving new client visits and building client retention and name recognition.
800-883-4343

BON Venture

WALTERS
MONUMENT COMPANY
570-645-3415 • www.waltersmonument.com
M-F 9-4, Sat 10-1 • Eve & Weekend Appt. Available
348 E. WHITE ST., SUMMIT HILL, PA 18250
Monuments
Mausoleums
Pet Markers
Community Projects
On-Site Engravings and Cleanings
PADFIELD
Plumbing • Heating • Cooling
205 S. Second St., St. Clair
429-1234
Fuel Oil • Burner Service