

THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

PASTOR

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



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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 Frye

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

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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

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 10, 2023

"Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet it is written: 'I send my messenger before to prepare your way': a herald's voice in the desert crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path.' Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins...One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal strap. I have baptized you in water, he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

We meet John the Baptist, the second principal figure of advent, exhorting us to take seriously the need for preparing for the Lord in our lives today. We begin with ourselves, making sure that with the Lord's help, that we are living the life of grace, His plan and gift for us. We seek His gift in the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

While we become preoccupied with Christmas preparations, how sad that we sometimes fail to prepare ourselves, or fail to encourage others to join with us in what really matters, our readiness to discover anew the presence of Christ. John's reference to Isaiah provides the direction that we all need - make ready, clear the path. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

Our Parish as a School of Prayer

Monday, December 11, 2023

St. Damasus I, Pope

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 6:00 PM

Rose Marie Wargo

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Florence Bound

Thursday, December 14, 2023

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM

Madeline Meeske

Friday, December 15, 2023

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM

Mary Anne Salak Family

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Vigil for Third Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 4:00 PM

Thomas & Teresa Maley

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 5:30 PM

Helene Thomas

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Albert Dillman

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 10:45 AM

Gerald Fink

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

Second Monday in January at

St. Clare from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

(January 8th)

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

"Make straight His paths," Isaiah cried out, prophesying that the LORD would come to rescue and comfort the people of God. Centuries later, Mark quotes this call at the very beginning of his Gospel, presenting John the Baptist as the prophet who took this to heart, preparing the way for the Lord. Now, two millennia later, during this season when we prepare for the Lord's coming into our lives and into our hearts, how can we "make straight his paths"?

Second Collection

This week's second collection will be for Heat and Energy and Retired Religious Fund. Next week's second collection will be for Heat and Energy.



Sanctuary Candle in memory of Eleanor Ryan

Mass Attendance for December 3, 2023

4:00PM at SCA.....	184
5:30PM at HC.....	99
8:30AM at SCA.....	163
10:45AM at HC.....	94

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Week of 12/3/2023
Contributions - Sunday Envelope	\$ 5,280
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving	\$ 226
Total Plate	\$ 5,506
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 5,673
Total Contributions	\$ 121,797
YTD Budget to now	\$ 130,479
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (8,682)
OTHER COLLECTIONS	
Building Fund	\$ 107
Candles	\$ 34
Heat & Energy	\$ 485
Cemetery	\$ -0-



Rest In Peace
John Houseknecht

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please avail yourself to the confession schedule for Christmas.

St. Clare of Assisi

Wednesday, December 13th – 4PM to 4:45PM

Wednesday, December 13th – 6PM to 7PM

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

Holy Cross

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

Tuesday, December 12th - 6:30PM

Sunday, December 17th – 10:00AM -10:30AM

Community Penance Service

Wednesday, December 20th – 7:00PM

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	9:00 AM	Holy Cross

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

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

December 15 Make a Kissing Ball @ HC Parish
Center 6:00 PM

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

December 17 Bambinelli Sunday
Christmas Pageant @ Holy Cross
Parish Center 2:00 PM

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

Bible Study

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



Happy 90th Birthday to
Elaine Koval.

**Let's have fun and be creative
with a joint Parish Event**

Kim from the Front Door will
instruct us on how to make a
Kissing Ball for Christmas with
live greens.

Join us on **Friday, December**

15th 6:00 PM Holy Cross Parish Center. Cost is
\$40.00.

Please bring a pair of gloves to protect your nails and hands (you will be working with live greens) Snacks, finger food, drinks and BYOB are welcome.
RSVP to the rectory by December 13th.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister? We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers to provide Communion to local nursing homes. Training will be provided. If interested please notify the rectory.

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

Breakfast – December 10th (community service)

Church Decorating – December 16th (parish service)

Christmas Pageant – December 17th

Next Sunday, December 17th, ALL our children from both parishes are invited to take part in this year's Christmas program/pageant at 2:00PM in our Holy Cross Parish Center in New Philadelphia, followed by a party and a visit from Santa Claus. All children are encouraged to join us from kindergarten and up.

We will have practice at Holy Cross Parish Center this Sunday from 2:00PM – 4:00PM and on Wednesday December 13th from 6:00PM – 7:30PM. Costumes will be distributed at practice. Any questions contact Dottie Frie



A Big Santa Bag-Full of Thank You's



It looked like a small army decended on the rectory, church, and grotto last Saturday! Thank you to the parishioners who came to decorate for Christmas and construct Bethlehem for the Living Nativity in conjunction with the tree lighting.

Tony Klazas Sr.	Tony Klazas Jr.
Rich Menchey	John Burka
John Ebling	Shawn Garrity
Nancy Whitaker	Cathy Guzick
Michael Durant	Mary Ann Durant
Patti Pryce	Donna Zelinsky
Denise Maley	Athena Zelinsky
Nikki Doran and boyfriend Danny	
Joe & Diane Melincavage	
Dottie & Jack Frie	
Peterine & Jack Wojick	

A shout Out to parishioner Michele Price for the great job in coordinating the Town Tree Lighting!



Not a Fire Call nor a Rescue

A special thank you to Bruce Hart who was on his roof the other day and thought our cross looked funny. With the of Fire Chief Frank Uhrin and the Tower from the Alert Fire Company, we discovered some bolts ripped out of the cross causing it to lean. The roofers have been called. An easy fix. An accident avoided!

Got Oplatki?

Oplatki are thin wafers of unleavened bread baked between two plates engraved with Nativity scenes. Derived from a Latin word meaning 'sacred bread,' the sharing of Oplatki with family before Christmas Eve dinner is a non-sacramental foreshadowing of the sacramental Eucharistic meal to follow with the family attending Christmas Mass.

The message behind this Polish custom is one of love and family unity. Christmas Wafers are available in the rectory for a donation of \$3.00 per pack of 4 wafers.

RECEIVE A PLENARY INDULGENCE BY PRAYING BEFORE A NATIVITY SCENE

This year, Catholics will be able to receive a plenary indulgence from Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to Feb. 2, 2024, the feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by praying before a Nativity scene in a Franciscan church

(<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256087/catholics-can-receive-a-plenary-indulgence-by-praying-before-a-nativity-scene>). On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the faithful gathered at the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, to honor the beloved Italian saint and celebrate the 800th anniversary of the approval of the Rule of St. Francis (1223) and the creation of the Nativity scene in Greccio. As part of the celebration of this Franciscan Centenary, the Conference of the Franciscan Family asked Pope Francis for the approval of this plenary indulgence. (CNA)

PREPARING MEALS FOR OTHERS THEIR WAY OF GIVING THANKS IN ST. CLAIR

Robert Tiley and Robert Bednar come from two different Episcopal parishes, but they have one thing in common: making Thanksgiving dinner enjoyable for as many people as possible. A small army of volunteers from four Episcopal churches – Holy Apostles, Trinity, St. John's and St. James in Schuylkill Haven – donated their time to prepare the dinner. St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church, and St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Frackville also pitched in. St. Clare donated 27 turkeys, while parishioners at St. Joseph baked 67 pumpkin pies. (Republican Herald)

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.

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!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

1st Annual Schuylkill County Special Olympics/St. Joseph's Center Christmas Shopping Extravaganza

Saturday, December 9th from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning

302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven

35+ Vendors (Wineries, Crafters, Artisans, Direct Sales Vendors)

Food and Drinks at the Concession Stand

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www.stjohnneumanncouncil14009.org



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