

THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

PASTOR

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Nativity BVM High School 570-622-8110

Immaculate Conception Hall 570-429-0302

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



Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 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

Third Sunday of Advent ~December 17, 2023

"Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything; retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it."

Living the final days of Advent, Saint Paul offers a game plan for prayer and action. We have heard the prophet speak. We have met John the Baptist and accepted his message of repentance and renewal. What more can be done? It is something we dare not avoid - our personal call to holiness.

Set aside a few minutes each day, look into your heart, see what the Lord sees, thanking Him for His blessings, but also ask help to set aside whatever can block the Lord giving you His peace. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

Our Parish as a School of Prayer

Monday, December 18, 2023

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Joan Harkins

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Robert Stremick

Thursday, December 21, 2023

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM

Charles & Mary Schlottman

Friday, December 22, 2023

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:00 AM

Paul Chekan

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 4:00 PM

James R. Brennan

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 5:30 PM

Jean & Elmer Freeze

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

Sara & Elmer Schleicher

HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 10:45 AM

NO MASS

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent – December 24th

Saturday evening Mass will be at SCA 4:00; HC 5:30 PM

Sunday morning Mass will be at SCA 8:30 AM only.

This is for the Sunday Obligation.

Christmas itself is a separate obligation, therefore all Catholics must go to Mass twice this weekend.

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

Ministry Schedule for Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023 @ 4:00 PM

LIFT: Jack Ketner

Altar Servers: Charlette Rumberger, Maggie Flaminio

Lector: Charlene Corby

Eucharistic Ministers: Joe Corby, Patricia Hale, Tony Klazas

Sunday, December 24, 2023 @ 9:00 PM

LIFT: John Ebling

Altar Servers: Brady Loftus, Jacob Adams

Lectors: Lisa Gasper

Eucharistic Ministers: Anne McCormick, Emily Pun, Marie Balulis

Christmas office hours

The rectory office will close at 12 noon on Friday, December 22nd and reopen on Thursday morning, December 28th @ 9:00 AM.



Sanctuary Candle in Memory of James R. Brennan

Requested by: Wife Peggy & Family

Bible Study

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



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

Special Material Assistance Collection

In addition to the giving tree for the needs of young and expectant mothers, infants and toddlers this weekend we will receive donations of hygiene products and other miscellaneous items.

Adult size underwear and tee shirts, socks especially suitable for winter, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc.

These items will be donated to Servants for All, the homeless shelter in Pottsville.



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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Through this season of Advent, we are called to prepare for the Lord's coming by repenting of our sins, removing the obstacles that make it difficult for us to recognize His approach, and remaining ever watchful for his arrival. But today we rejoice (in Latin, *Gaudete*) because we focus on the knowledge that the One whom we await comes to embrace us, transform us, and redeem us. Gathered together in joy, we look forward, as always, to His coming.

Second Collection

This week's second collection will be for Heat and Energy. Next week's second collection will be for the Building Fund.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please avail yourself to the confession schedule for Christmas.

Community Penance Service

Wednesday, December 20th – 7:00PM
St. John the Baptist Church, Pottsville
5-6 priests available.

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.

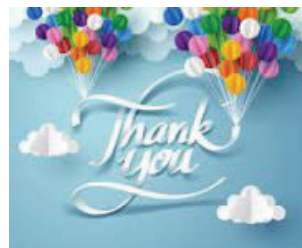
Mass Attendance for December 10, 2023

4:00PM at SCA.....175
5:30PM at HC.....103
8:30AM at SCA.....145
10:45AM at HC.....129

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	Week of 12/10/2023
Contributions - Sunday Envelope	\$ 5,252
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving	\$ 304
Total Plate	\$ 5,556
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 5,673
Total Contributions	\$ 127,353
YTD Budget to now	\$ 136,152
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (8,799)
OTHER COLLECTIONS	
Building Fund	\$ 77
Candles	\$ 50
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,167
Cemetery	\$ 101

Christmas Program/Pageant – December 17th

Join us today Sunday, December 17th as our children from both parishes take part in this year's Christmas Program/Pageant at 2:00 PM at Holy Cross Parish Center.



Thank you to Gary Gorman, Jim Williams, John Ebling, Carol Shandor, Annette Devers, Dottie Frie, Terrie Klinger, Mary Ann Lubinsky, Donna Zelinsky, Joe & Diane Melincavage, Linda Baldinger, Athena Zelinsky, Ashley Gustas, Kenna

& Nolan Corby, Kade Martin and Jocab Adams for volunteering to help make the breakfast a success. A special thank you to **T&E Welding** and **Dee Mart** as our corporate sponsor.

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

December 17 Baminelli 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

February 17 Confirmation Retreat @ Nativity
10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

March 16 1st Penance SCA & HC @ St. Clare of
Assisi @ 10:00 AM

April 14 Meat Bingo to benefit SCA held at St.
Clair Lions Club

April 25 Confirmation @ 4:30

April 28 1st Communion at SCA 10:45 AM

May 5 1st Communion at HC 10:45 AM

June 10 – 13 1st week of Boot Camp
June 24 – 27 2nd week of Boot Camp

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.

WINNER TO GET LOTTERY TICKETS, WHILE DESIGNATED CHARITY TO GET \$500

The 15th \$5,000 Lottery Tickets Giveaway is underway at the Cigar Box in the Coal Creek Commerce Center, St. Clair. Entries are \$10 a chance to win \$5,000 in Pennsylvania Instant Lottery Tickets and holiday themed “A Landmark Christmas” tickets. In addition, the Cigar Box donates \$500 to a charity of the winner’s choice. A drawing to select the winner is set for Dec 24. [Catholic Social Services](#) is among the charities that have benefited from the event. (Republican Hearld)



Caroling, caroling, here we go....

Come Join us for a night of caroling on Monday, Dec 18th at 6:00 PM. Hot chocolate and cookies to follow??

Call Lynn 570-497-6371 for details. Sign up sheet is in the back of the church.

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.

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.



A very special Thank you to Mary Theresa Widel, who donated this statue of Mary with Child to adorn our Sanctuary for Advent. The statue is in memory of her husband Mark.

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.



God's Christmas gift to Morgan and Josh. Congratulations.

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!

NATIVITY HAPPENINGS

Nativity's annual Band & Chorus Christmas Concert will be held on December 21st at 7:00 PM at the school.

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development Office with any enrollment questions.

Open House and Registration: Registration for the 2024-2025 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert at 570-622-8110 with any questions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

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.



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES
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Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Allentown is revitalizing its services to Schuylkill County. These services include assistance to our Veterans, the Soup Kitchen in Pottsville, the needs of the young and expectant mothers, the care of infants and toddlers, adoption and foster care services as well as counseling services. With the impetus of Bishop Schlert Schuylkill County has received a Van to provide services without walls and is in the process of outfitting a food truck to provide hot meals to people in need in parts of the County not serviced by the Pottsville Soup Kitchen.

The Schuylkill office of Catholic Charities is in need of a case manager and volunteers to drive and help distribute hot meals to County residents. They hope to have this service up and running by Easter. Now is the time to gather a cadre of volunteers. Contact Schuylkill Service Office at 570-628-0466.



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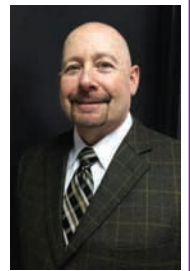
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