

# THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

## PASTOR

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

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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>



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 24, 2023

**"And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace... Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out in a loud voice: 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'"**

Micah the prophet tells us the Lord is reaching out to us. We are now at the edge, recalling the great event of salvation, as He comes to us. Advent draws to a close as we celebrate the Savior's birth. But wait!

We meet the third critical person of advent in Mary's visitation to Elizabeth. How frequently we pray the 'Hail Mary', but do we realize we are reciting the very words of scripture? Our prayer is quoting the gospel of Luke. The question of Mary's relative can be ours today – 'Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?' On this eve of Christmas may I ask, 'Who am I that the Savior should come to me?' The answer - I am loved, chosen and blessed by God with those around me.

'Come Lord Jesus.'

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

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 9:00 AM*

People of the Parish

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023**

**St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

NO MASS

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023**

**St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

NO MASS

**Thursday, December 28, 2023**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

NO MASS

**Friday, December 29, 2023**

**St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr**

NO MASS

**Saturday, December 30, 2023**

**Vigil for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

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

Sean Allison

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 5:30 PM*

Anna Williams

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

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

Health of Sue Berger

*HOLY CROSS CHURCH @ 10:45 AM*

Charles Snukis

### **Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Christmas Office Hours**

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

## **New Year's MASS SCHEDULE**

The Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary, January 1<sup>st</sup> is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be no vigil Masses on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

New Year's Day 9:00 AM Holy Cross



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



### **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**

Every so often the fourth week of Advent consists only of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This is one of those years. For three weeks we have been encouraged to use this season to prepare for the Jesus' coming. Now it's time for the procrastinators to begin! But, seriously, the fact that this Sunday falls on Christmas Eve is a wonderful opportunity for us all. On this day, may the word of God we hear and the Eucharist we share inspire us to prepare a home in our hearts for the Lord.



Sanctuary Candle in memory of  
Sean Allison  
Requested by: Family

### **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 28<sup>th</sup>. The Historical Society will have refreshments and a commemorative book for this event can be purchased.



### **Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest**

Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Prizes will

be given.

### **Second Collection**

This week's second collection will be for the building fund. Next week's second collection will be for the Heat and Energy.

### **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.

### **Thank You to All Work Party Volunteers...**

For helping get the church ready for Christmas! We could not do this without YOU! The decorations are beautiful.

**COLLECTION REPORT AND MASS ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> IS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO PRINTING DEADLINE.**

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

**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 3** Parish breakfast @ ICC Hall 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**March 16** 1<sup>st</sup> 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** 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at SCA 10:45 AM

**May 5** 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at HC 10:45 AM

**June 10 – 13** 1<sup>st</sup> week of Boot Camp  
**June 24 – 27** 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Boot Camp

### **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.



## **PIEROGI SCHOOL BEGINS**

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Peelers 5:30 PM

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – Makers/Pinchers

9:00 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME



## **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

**Calling all children (Age Groups: 5-7,  
8-10, 11-14)**

Put your artistic abilities to good work by participating in the St. John Neumann Regional Knight of Columbus Council *"Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest."*

*Here are the Rules*

1. *Children can find blank poster paper in the rear of both Parishes.*
2. *The contest is open to ALL Children of St. Clare of Assisi and Holy Cross Parishes.*
3. *"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" must be on the front of the poster.*
4. *Don't forget to also place on the back of the poster – your NAME & AGE, your phone number, and what parish you belong to.*
5. *Posters can be dropped off at either rectory no later than January 7<sup>th</sup>.*

## **Prayer for Priests**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.

Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

*Santa at the Manger*

*By Jack Wojcik*

*Blessed old Saint Nicholas*

*In Bethlehem he stopped.*

*T'was on the first of Christmases*

*When to his knees he dropped.*

*For before this giving man,*

*In a cold dark stable,*

*Was the Baby Jesus Christ*

*Lying in a manger.*

*While kneeling in the love of Christ,*

*Nicholas felt a season.*

*Full of Peace and Joy and Love*

*And Jesus is the Reason.*

*In memory of Jesus' Birth*

*Good Christians now all give*

*A sign of Peace of Joy and Love*

*To everyone who lives.*

*Now to celebrate Christ birth*

*From worries we take pause*

*To fill each child's heart with joy*

*St. Nick's now Santa Claus.*

*As we picture Santa there*

*Quiet by the Manger*

*We have all together now*

*Child, Spirit and Savior.*



## Altar Server Mass - Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

**11:00 AM - Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown**

All altar servers throughout the diocese are invited to attend this special Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert. This Mass is to bless and thank all those serving in this important ministry. Participants are invited to bring and vest in their parish's altar server robes. A reception for altar servers and their families will be held after the Mass.

### NATIVITY HAPPENINGS

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.**

#### Tour of the Churches

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## 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 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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[www.stjohnneumanncouncil14009.org](http://www.stjohnneumanncouncil14009.org)

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