



Good Shepherd Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 2 & 3, 2017



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK †

Saturday December 2
4:00 PM Catherine & Anthony Yamulla ~ Joe, Judi, & Katie Yamulla

Sunday December 3
8:00 AM Nicholas Cortese ~ Son, Joseph & Diane Cortese

10:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd

Monday December 4
8:00 AM John & Jeanine Viola ~ Lawhon Family

Tuesday December 5
8:00 AM Michael Whitaker ~ Vic & Aggie Platania

Wednesday December 6
8:00 AM Caroline Greco ~ Daughter, Sophia

Thursday December 7
8:00 AM **No Morning Mass**
4:00 PM Ashleyann Temborski ~ Mother, Ann & Daughter, Rhianna

Friday December 8 – The Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM **No Morning Mass**
12Noon Sofia Manfredi ~ Family
5:00 PM Pearl M. Sipple ~ Kringe Family

Saturday December 9
4:00 PM John Joseph Rusnock, Jr. ~ Mother, Joan & Stepfather, Stephen Michalochick and Children

Sunday December 10
8:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd
10:00 AM Mary Lapceovich ~ Donna & Ron Gantz

Stewardship

680 families received envelopes.

Offertory Envelopes for the weekend 11/25:

MASS TIME	NUMBER OF FAMILIES OFFERING	AMOUNT OF OFFERING	ATTENDANCE AT MASS
4:00 PM	76	\$ 913.00	201
8:00 AM	69	\$ 870.00	148
10:00 AM	80	\$2,105.00	263
	Loose	\$ 185.00	
	Total	\$4,073.00	612

Worship

The Tabernacle Candle burns this week in memory of Louis Beltrami by wife, Elaine.

The Rose for Life this week is in memory of **Elizabeth (Betty) Gallagher** by son, Carey and daughter-in-law, Valerie. The *second Rose for Life* this week is in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chura** by sons, Joe & Richard Chura.



The Season of Advent: The term "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* and originally referred to the arrival or coming of the emperor. Vatican II refers to the twofold character of the season: a time to remember the first Christmas and a time to prepare for Jesus' Second Coming at the end of time. The custom of observing Advent probably began in the mid-fourth century with the length of the season varying by locality. Some areas had a long Advent beginning on St. Martin's Day, November 11, while other localities had a brief Advent. At Rome, a four-week period was observed. The purple vestments signify both royalty and repentance. Isaiah is the prophet of Advent who speaks of God visiting, consoling, and redeeming His people. The season of Advent now begins on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew, which occurs on November 30th. Above all else, Advent is a season of prayer.

Thanksgiving Mass: We had a nice attendance at our Thanksgiving Mass. Approximately 70 people took the time to honor God by beginning the day by attending Mass.

Children's Masses: Our 7th grade class will take part in our liturgy today. Mrs. Rudawski is the prime teacher of this class which will be the 2019 Confirmation class. The next children's Mass will be the 10:00 AM Mass on December 17th.

Penance Services: Good Shepherd will have its Penance Service for adults on Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 PM. More details will be in next week's bulletin. St. John Bosco will have its Penance Service on Wednesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM. I will hear confessions some of the mornings beginning the week of December 10th. I will not hear confessions on Mondays or days that a funeral is scheduled. Please keep this in mind.

Faith Formation Confessions: We will have confessions for our students beginning promptly at 4:30 PM on Monday, December 4th. We hope to have an additional priest or two. On Monday, December 11, also at 4:30PM, we will have the confessions for Faith Formation parents. This will run to 5:30PM. These confession times are not open to others. I will decide what to do for Monday, December 18, at the 4:30PM slot depending on the usage of the sacrament for the prior two weeks.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: This solemnity is the patron feast of the United States and a Holy Day of Obligation. The Vigil Mass is at 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 7, and on December 8, Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 Noon and 5:00 PM.

Word

Theme: The "Comings" of Christ in Our Lives: The Gospels of the Advent season alternate between speaking of preparing for the coming of Christmas and Jesus' coming at the end of time. We ourselves prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, His coming into our daily lives, and His coming at the end of time. The Advent readings, which begin a new church year, offer us a variety of themes. Advent is a time of hope and expectation, yet one of longing for God's presence. The first reading today from third Isaiah reflects this yearning for God. Israel longed for a new experience of God after their Babylonian exile. Today's Gospel selection from Mark is the conclusion of Mark's apocalyptic discourse in which Jesus speaks in "end time" language. He exhorts His disciples to be alert and watchful. The Gospel continues the theme of preparedness that was so prevalent in the Gospel of Matthew for the past three Sundays. Mark compares Jesus' absence to a journey by a household owner who delegates his authority to his servants. Mark emphasizes that like a householder, Jesus may return at any time. Biblical watching, according to Fr. John Donahue S.J., the former holder of the Fr. Ray Brown chair of Scripture at St. Mary's, Baltimore, consists of faithful waiting and attentiveness to God's Word and preparedness to meet Him in our everyday lives.

Praying With Scripture:

1. Do you honestly yearn for the experience of God's presence in your life?
2. Try to spend some quiet time in prayer during this hectic season.
3. Consider using the Sacrament of Penance during Advent, especially if you have not gone to it in a long period of time.

Baptism Sunday: December 10th will be the Sunday for baptisms this month. In the past, I have performed baptisms on the Christmas weekend as favors, but I cannot do that this year with Christmas following on a Monday. Don't ask for baptism on December 24th.

Diocesan Annual Appeal: 28 parishes have attained their goal. The Diocese has reached 82% of its goal. Good Shepherd currently is at 91.3% of its \$26,000 goal. To date, Good Shepherd has contributed or pledged \$23,753. We thank all who have donated and ask others who have not and who are capable of donating to do so.

Homebound: (Parishioners Only): Please notify the office if you wish to receive Holy Communion before Christmas. We will try to accommodate you. If you live 10 miles or so from Good Shepherd, we may have to wait until after the holiday season. If I take the call, I would like it to be no later than December 15th because of the heavy Mass and confession schedule. It would be much too difficult to take anything other than emergencies in the 10 days before Christmas.

Retired Religious Collection: This collection will be taken up the weekend of December 9th and 10th. This aids priests, brothers, and sisters who belong to religious communities, not Diocesan priests. Most older members of religious communities worked for peanuts in the past and their communities have difficulty maintaining their health care and supporting them. Envelopes are in your packet.

We welcome Joseph Luksic as our newest member of Good Shepherd Parish.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Sunday, December 24th: 4:00 and 9:00 PM

Christmas Day: 8:00 and 10:00 AM

For those who are uncomfortable in large crowds, avoid attending the 4:00 PM Mass.

Oplatki Wafers: Packs of Oplatki wafers are available on the table in the church vestibule. The cost is \$3.00 per pack of five wafers.

2018 Calendars are on the table in the church vestibule.

FR. CONNELL'S TRIVIA

1. Phillies' greets Richie Ashburn and Robin Roberts appear on 1962 Topps cards of baseball teams in the same city. Can you name what teams they were members of on their 1962 cards?
2. Longtime Phillies executive, Paul Owens, who also filled in as field manager, and actually won a pennant, was nicknamed "Pope." Most people think he got that name because he wielded such power in the Phils' organization, yet he got the name due to a resemblance to a religious leader. Can you name the religious leader?

Last Week's Answers:

1. Willie Stargell, of the Pirates, hit the longest homerun in the history of Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.
2. Greg Luzinski hit the longest homerun in the history of Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

Holy Childhood Missions: The children in Faith Formation are asked to bring in a donation to the missions each Monday in Advent. We call it "Advent Giving" (there are no individual collection boxes this year). Holy Childhood Missions is a national program for children helping children. Any donations will be greatly appreciated by the children in need all over the world. This program also helps our children prepare their hearts for Jesus' coming on Christmas. Thank you and God bless you!

- Submitted by Jean Klinger, Missions Coordinator

Grief Ministry: The newly-forming Good Shepherd Parish grief support ministry will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, December 14, at 9:00 AM** in the Holy Family Room.

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen: On the first Wednesday of each month, Good Shepherd Church donates, prepares, and serves a hot meal at the Hazleton Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. Our volunteers provided 64 people with a Thanksgiving feast of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, cranberry sauce, bread, pumpkin pie, and ice cream sundaes. Each person receives a "take out bag" filled with peanut butter crackers, a pudding cup, a banana, a personal pack of tissues, and some candies. Through the generous support of Father McHugh and our parishioners, we continue to put our Catholic faith into action by serving the needy of the Hazleton area. Special thanks go to our friends at Providence Place who help package the "take out bags" each month. The next lunch will be on **Wednesday, December 6th**. For information on how you can participate in this parish project, please call the parish office. I extend my most sincere thanks to all who support us with your prayers, time, talents, and monetary donations. May you enjoy a blessed and happy holiday season.

- Respectfully Submitted by Dorothy Stoffa Beozzo, Chairperson

Community



The Valley Food Pantry will be making Christmas boxes for needy families in the area. Good Shepherd has been asked to contribute cake mix and frosting for 58 boxes. The local churches have also been asked to help with coffee, flour, and sugar. If you cannot get out shopping and wish to help, checks payable to the "Valley Food Pantry" will also be accepted. **The deadline for contributions is Wednesday, December 13th**. Thank you for your generosity!

Tuesday Night Bingo at Good Shepherd Church starts with our Early Bird game at 6:00 PM. We play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Our regular games pay \$100 each. The kitchen opens at 5:00 PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. We also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to our players (and volunteers).



Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus: Breakfast is **this Sunday, December 3**, at Good Shepherd Church Hall.

The menu includes ham, bacon, sausage, eggs to order, potatoes, pancakes, pastry, yogurt, orange juice, coffee, tea, and chocolate milk. The cost is \$7.00/adult and \$3.00/child. Serving time is from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM.



The Head Start Giving Tree is up and decorated with gift tags. Parishioners are asked to select a tag, purchase a gift, and return the **wrapped** gift and tag by **Sunday, December 17th**. Thank you for your generosity!

Christkindfest: The 19th Annual Christkindfest will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 210 W. Green Street, Hazleton, this Sunday, December 3, from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. There will be the Sound and Light Fontanini Nativity display, the Tannenbaum Tea Room and Tea Shop, visits from St. Nicholas, baked goods, live entertainment, crafts for sale, and an assortment of tricky trays. Everyone is welcome.

Drive-Thru Living Nativity: Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham is presenting their annual Drive-Thru Living Nativity this Sunday, December 3, from 6:00-8:00 PM. "Journey with us to Bethlehem" and visit 14 different scenes. Admission is free.

Advent Evening of Reflection: All are welcome to attend an evening of prayerful reflection and music to help us prepare for the Advent season on Monday, December 4, at 6:30PM in Transfiguration Church, West Hazleton. The theme is "Advent, a Time for Us to Prepare for the Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord."

Drums Crochet or Knit for a Cause: The Drums Crochet or Knit for a Cause Group makes baby hats and blankets for newborn babies of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Greater Hazleton. The meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, December 6**, at **Providence Place** from **10AM - Noon**. The meeting will be held in the sunroom on the 3rd floor. Beginners are welcome. For more information, call 570-788-3746. We hope to see you there!

Free Breakfast: On Thursday, December 14, at 8 AM, please join singer/songwriter Sarah Vienna for a free breakfast at Perkins Restaurant, Route 93, Hazleton. She will share how God is working through her music and Firm Foundations Romania to help the lives of the neglected gypsy children. If you plan to attend the breakfast, please email Jackie at www.faith-ag.com by Monday, December 11th.

Live In Concert: *Christmas With Sarah Vienna* will be hosted by Faith Assembly of God, 34 Fox Manor Road, Hazle Township, on Sunday, December 16, at 6:30PM. For more information, please call 570-459-2410 or visit www.faith-ag.com.

Wigilia: A Polish Christmas Eve Celebration will be held at Capriotti's Palazzo, 1 Banks Avenue, McAdoo, on Sunday, December 17, at 1:00 PM. It will feature a 13-course meatless meal served family style. For reservations or more information, call Olga Morgan at 570-929-2012 or Tom K. at 570-454-4397 by Monday, December 11th. The cost is \$25.00 per person.

The Shepherd's Hands

Fellow parishioners - your generous donations to the Sock Drives these past two years have been VERY appreciated by so many people in need! It is time for the **2017 Sock**



Drive. New socks, especially for men, are now being collected in the bins located in the church vestibule. The sock collection will continue **through this Sunday, December 3**. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity!
- Submitted by Janet Kringe

Members of The Shepherd's Hands group would like to reach out to members of Good Shepherd who are homebound or in a nursing or assisted living facility. If you or someone you know would like a visit and a small gift on **Sunday, December 17, after the 10:00 AM Mass**, please call the parish office at 570-788-3141. Please leave your name, phone number, and address. We are looking forward to bring some Christmas cheer to you.