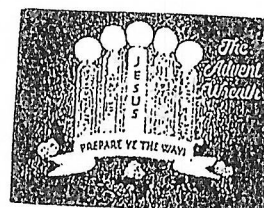




St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church Wyalusing

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*Extends a Warm Welcome to All*



*Mission Statement: We bring together a parish family to worship God, to evangelize the community, to encourage participation of youth and young adults in parish life, to pass on our faith to the next generation, to respect life and be good stewards of God's gifts.*

### PASTOR

Rev. Jose Joseph  
Kuriappilly

### PARISH SECRETARY

Kathy Stoddard

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Tammy Tewksbury

### FINANCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Alice Berger

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED.

Cathy Hagadorn

### CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTOR

Ann Marie Kusmierz

### ADDRESS

245 State Street  
Wyalusing, PA 18853

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri: 9:00-2:00

### PHONE

570-746-1006  
570-746-0389

### FAX

570-746-1852

### EMAIL

olophparish@gmail.co

### WEB

WWW.OLOPHPARISH.ORG

### ADVENT MEDITATION

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 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.

ST. MARY'S SANCTURARY CANDLE WILL BURN IN LOVING MEMORY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE MONTH OF DECEMBER FOR DOUGLAS & RITA COGSWELL AND JAMES AND ALICE ARMITAGE. PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

#### Mass Schedule at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing

Saturday Vigil - 6:00 PM      Sunday - 11:00 AM

Wednesday & Friday - 12:00 Noon

Holy Days: 12 Noon

Confessions: 5:30 PM Sat. & 10:30 AM Sun.

\*\*\*OR AS SCHEDULED INSIDE BULLETIN

#### Mass Schedule at SS Peter & Paul Church, Towanda

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 PM      Sunday - 9:00 AM

Monday- No Mass

Tuesday - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday - 8:30 AM

### READINGS

DECEMBER 18, 2023  
MONDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
JEREMIAH 23:5-8  
MATTHEW 1:18-25

DECEMBER 19, 2023  
TUESDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
JUDGES 13:2-7, 24-25A  
LUKE 1:5-25

DECEMBER 20, 2023  
WEDNESDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
ISAIAH 7:10-14  
LUKE 1:26-38

DECEMBER 21, 2023  
THURSDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
SONG OF SONGS 2:8-14  
LUKE 1:39-45

DECEMBER 22, 2023  
FRIDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
1 SAMUEL 1:24-28  
LUKE 1:46-56

DECEMBER 23, 2023  
SATURDAY

ADVENT WEEKDAY  
MALACHI 3:1-4, 23-24  
LUKE 1:57-66

DECEMBER 24, 2023  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8B-23, 14A, 16  
ROMANS 16:25-27  
LUKE 1:26-38

## PARISH BULLETIN CALENDAR

### COMING EVENTS, MEETINGS, GATHERINGS, ETC.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY: MASS TO END ABORTION, ROSARY AT 11:00 AM & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT BEFORE THE 12:00 NOON MASS

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY & SATURDAY: MASS AT 8:30 AM AT SS PETER & PAUL, TOWANDA

DEC 17th –SUNDAY – CCD CLASS FROM 9:45 – 10:55 AM

DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY – CHRISTMAS EVE – MASS - 6:00 PM – ST. MARY'S  
SS PETER & PAUL AT 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>- CHRISTMAS DAY – MASS – 11:00 AM – ST. MARY'S  
SS PETER & PAUL AT 9:00 AM

JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW YEARS DAY – MASS – 11:00 AM – ST. MARY'S

JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> – WEDNESDAY, MASS AT 5:30 PM AND

JOINT FINANCE & PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 PM

Please Pray for the Faithful Departed AND

THOSE ENTRUSTED IN OUR PRAYERS FOR HEALING: John Armitage, Donna Elchin, Glenn Layaou SR., Suky Burgess, Kelly Kulsicavage, Father Jose Friend, Sinu, Joe Friery, Joyce Hussong, Irene McMahon, Grace George, Marian Miller, Ray Tenasco, Fred Storey, Stephanie McDevitt, Barbara Bodine, Cathy Stienbaugh, Sue Mullen, Mary Salay, Robert Gaumer, Silver Dempsey, Jean Caine, James Perella, Tammy Traguer, Paul & Sandra McIntyre, Keensley Middlecamp, Carmel Buneo.

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF THERE ARE SICK, HOSPITALIZED, HOMEBOUND, OR ANY CHANGES TO THE LIST ABOVE – THANK YOU

### INQUIRING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Do you have questions about God or the Catholic faith? Do you know someone who does? If you are interested in entering the Catholic Church or Receiving Confirmation, or you're just curious about Catholicism, contact Mike Kilmer 570-721-0872 or [mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com](mailto:mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com) to get started. Classes will be held in Wyalusing.



# MASS SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup> – DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup>

	INTENTION	OFFERED BY
Wed., December 20th	NO MASS	NO MASS
Friday, December 22nd <i>12:00 NOON</i>	Repose of the Soul of Richard Bedard	Tina & Paul Poepperling
Saturday, December 23rd 6:00 PM	Repose of the Soul of Lillian Salsman	Kusmierz Family
Sunday, December 24th 11:00 AM	Repose of the Soul of Victoria Rayappan	Kilmer Family
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM	Our Parishioners	Father Jose
Christmas Day, Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM	Our Parishioners	Father Jose

## MINISTRY

Lector Schedule  
Sat., Dec. 23rd

6:00 PM  
Lou Ann Kilmer

Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 AM  
Justin Koblitsch

## SERVERS

Shaffers

## Ministers of Communion

NOT AT THIS  
TIME

## OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Monthly Financial Obligations - \$4,000.00

General Collection December 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> - \$2,660.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our Parish!

## ST. MARY'S OPEN FOR PRAYER

St. Mary's Church is open through the Advent Season from 8 AM – 2 PM weekdays. Please take a few moments to reflect on your love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It may not be easy to get to church on a daily basis but do your best to make additional visits to Him, even for ten or fifteen minutes. These visits will help you to prepare your heart for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus as well as for His Second Coming. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle will surely fill your heart with the necessary grace and peace to navigate this busy season.

PRAYER: Our Lady of Fatima, please help me to commit to additional time visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament this Advent. Inspire my heart to make amends and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners as the Fatima visionaries did. Our Lady of Fatima, please pray for me.

## CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF 12/10/2023

Loose	125.00
Offertory Env	1,720.00
Dues	19.00
Immac Concept	303.00
Christmas	100.00
Flowers	346.00
Total Offering to Parish General Fund	

\$2,660.00

## Additional Acct Depo

Cemetery	25.00
Building	40.00
Total	65.00

## NAT'L COLLECT DIOCESAN OFFICE

Care of Priests	20.00
Retire Religio	51.00
Total	71.00

## TOTAL DEPOSITS

\$2,796.00

### ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

(To be prayed 15 times every day from November 30<sup>th</sup> until Christmas)

HAIL AND BLESSED BE THE HOUR AND MOMENT IN WHICH THE SON OF GOD WAS BORN OF THE MOST PURE VIRGIN MARY, AT MIDNIGHT, IN BETHLEHEM, IN PIERCING COLD. IN THAT HOUR, VOUCHSAFE, O MY GOD! TO HEAR MY PRAYER AND GRANT MY DESIRES, THROUGH THE MERITS OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, AND OF HIS BLESSED MOTHER. AMEN.

### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL- WE HAVE HIT OUR GOAL!!!

Your financial gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps to support the ministries of our local church. We are thankful for all the blessings received from our parishioners in support of all our collections and special needs. May God continue to bless you all.

\*\*\*\* UPDATE AS OF 12/15/23

PARISH GOAL: \$10,000

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS: \$10,025.00

Parish Participation: 47 Families – Thank You!

Thank you to all who have already responded to this Appeal, either to the earlier letter from the Bishop or by kindly participating in our In-Pew Pledges last month. Additional Pledge Envelopes are available in the church, for your convenience; a donation of any amount is welcome, no matter how large or small: drop it in the collection basket, or the mail or go online at: [Dioceseofscranton.org](http://Dioceseofscranton.org), "Giving."

### BISHOP BAMBERA'S REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL!

These well-known words of a famous Advent hymn express the sentiments of these last eight days before Christmas. These are the days in the advent liturgy of the traditional singing of the O Antiphons. We know them as the verses of, O Come O Come Emmanuel. As we make our final preparations for the celebration of Christmas, the Advent liturgy recalls the more immediate events leading to the birth of Jesus: the birth of John the Baptist, the Annunciation to Mary, her Visitation to Elizabeth, the dream of Joseph, and the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. You can watch & share Bishop Bambera's Reflection from the Diocese of Scranton's You Tube Channel.





Meditations for Advent

# HORIZON OF HOPE

The Third  
Sunday

## Make Straight the Way of the Lord

John 1:6-8,19-28

*When the priests and Levites demanded to know who John was, he didn't answer them in the way they wanted. Instead, he quoted Isaiah, saying that he was "the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."*

Throughout this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded that we must be willing to embark on a journey if we want to come to the Faith. God sends John into the desert. The Jews from Jerusalem send priests and Levites to talk to John. The Pharisees send some of their own people to question him. And, finally, John says that the Messiah will be sent after him. Not only that, people had to travel out to the desert if they wanted to experience John's baptism of repentance.

One of the lessons for this Third Week of Advent is that if we want to meet the Lord, we need to be willing to seek him. We must go out into the deserts of our lives with the expectation that we will find Jesus there. However, we must also be willing to "see" him. As John said, "there is one among you whom you do not recognize."

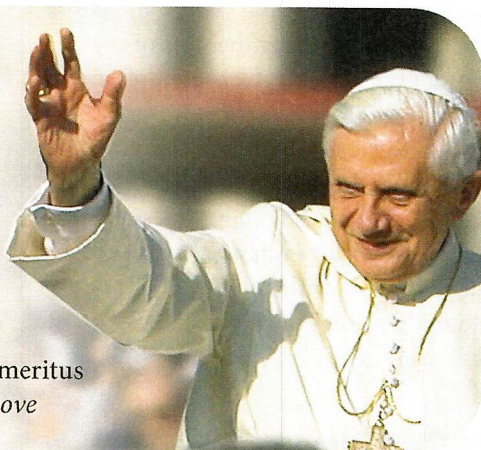
As we begin the final stages of Advent preparation, may we be "witnesses to the light," and may our hearts and minds turn more fully to the coming of the Christ this week.



Thinkstock photos

***"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope."***

— Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI), *Seek That Which Is Above*



Agnus Images

### POINTS TO PONDER

- Where am I in my journey of faith this Advent?
- What are some ways that I can express the joy of Gaudete Sunday with my family and friends?
- What is one thing I can commit to praying about this Advent season?



## ADVENT PRAYER

*Come, O Lord!*

"In joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home." — Isaiah 55:12

*Lord, lead me and I will follow!*

## Catechism CONNECTION

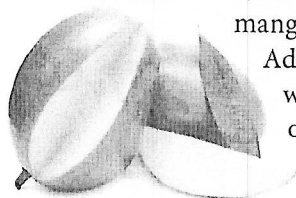
"At the announcement that she would give birth to 'the Son of the Most High' without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith, certain that 'with God nothing will be impossible': 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.' Thus, giving her consent to God's word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 494

## FAMILY FOCUS

# Advent Around the World

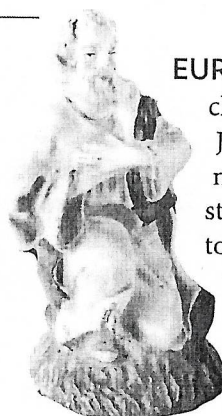
This year, add a little international flavor to your Advent with these family activities from around the world.

**INDIA** Mango leaves are typically used for Advent decorations in India, and instead of decorating pines trees, mango and banana trees are trimmed.



Add a bowl of mangoes and small white lights, which recall the Star of Bethlehem, to your table.

**PHILIPPINES** Advent is marked by attending Mass nine days in a row (called *Simbág Gabi*, "night mass," or *Misas de Aguinaldo*, "gift Masses"), starting on December 16. If you can't make it to Mass all nine days, try to attend at least a few days of daily Mass.



**EUROPE** In Alpine countries, children carry a statue of Saint Joseph to a different home each night during Advent. Carry the statue of Joseph from your crèche to each child's room where it will spend the night and then move on the next day. On Christmas Eve, put Joseph next to Mary in the stable.

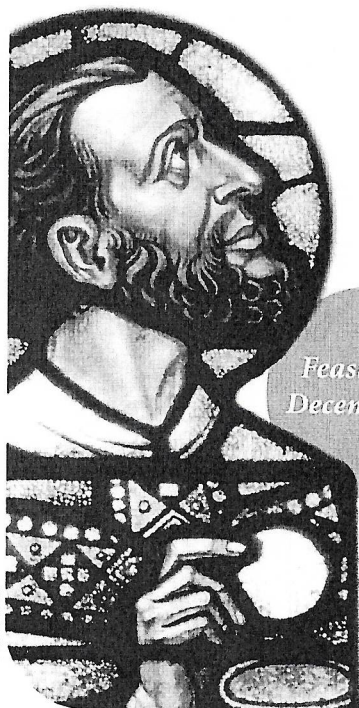
## HEROES OF HOPE

### SAINT PETER CANISIUS

Advent is an ideal time of year to talk about the Faith and invite those who do not believe to consider the mystery of God-made-man in Jesus Christ. It is fitting that we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter Canisius this week, because he was a great evangelist.

A Jesuit preacher during the time of the Protestant reformation, he became a major factor in the restoration of the Catholic Church in Germany. Like Pope Francis, he believed in treating those who disagree with the teaching of the Church with kindness and patience. His devotion to Mary was a hallmark of his ministry, and he is credited with adding the words "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners" to the Hail Mary. *Saint Peter Canisius, pray for us!*

*Feast Day:  
December 21*



## SIGNS OF THE SEASON In the Pink

Deep purple is the liturgical color for Advent — except for the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday. This week the liturgical vestments and the candle in the Advent wreath are a rosy pink to highlight the joy that the Lord's coming is almost here. The name derives from the Latin words of the Introit to the Mass: "*Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete*": "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!"