



St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church Wyalusing

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Extends a Warm Welcome to All

*Happy
Advent!*



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
Closed Christmas Day
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Come, Lord Jesus

Lord, let us see your face. We have come so close to the coming of Christ; it is as through we can stand the waiting no longer. We want to see God's face.

And what is that face like when it comes? It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God taking flesh, in the womb of a virgin, that most disparaged of creatures in Jewish culture.

It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God being born in an obscure village, Bethlehem, "too small to be among the clans of Judah."

It is the face of God become poor, the all-powerful God present in the meeting of two insignificant women, far from the worldly centers of power.

Christmas happens. Christ comes, but in strange ways and surprising circumstances. Many of us miss the coming of Christ because we expect him where and when he is not.

God has to "make us turn in a different direction" so that we can find Christ in poverty (Bethlehem) and in the poor and outcast (Mary and Elizabeth).

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 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 25TH

MONDAY

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

ISAIAH 52:7-10

HEBREWS 1:1-6

JOHN 1:1-18

DECEMBER 26TH

TUESDAY

ST. STEPHEN, THE

FIRST MARTYR

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

6:8-10, 7:54-59

MATTHEW 10:17-22

DECEMBER 27TH

WEDNESDAY

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE &
EVANGELIST

1 JOHN 1:1-4

JOHN 20:1A & 2-8

DECEMBER 28TH

THURSDAY

THE HOLY INNOCENTS,
MARTYRS

1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

MATTHEW 2:13-18

DECEMBER 29TH

FRIDAY

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE
OCTAVE OF THE

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 JOHN 2:3-11

LUKE 2:22-35

DECEMBER 30TH

SATURDAY

SIXTH DAY WITHIN
THE OCTAVE OF THE

NATIVITY OF THE

LORD.

1 JOHN 2:12-17

LUKE 2:36-40

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

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

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

JANUARY 3rd – WEDNESDAY, MASS AT 5:30 PM

JANUARY 3RD- WEDNESDAY, JOINT FINANCE & PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 PM

NO CCD CLASSES DECEMBER 24TH OR DECEMBER 31ST

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

AND

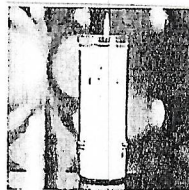
THOSE ENTRUSTED IN OUR PRAYERS FOR HEALING: John Armitage, Donna Elchin, Glenn Layaou SR., Suky Burgess, Kelly Kulsicavage, Father Jose Friend, Sinu, Joe Friery, Joyce Hussong, Irene McMahon, Grace George, Marian Miller, Ray Tenasco, Fred Storey, Stephanie McDevitt, Barbara Bodine, Cathy Stienbaugh,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

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

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Will burn in loving memory throughout the entire month in December 2023 for:
Douglas and Rita Cogswell and James and Alice Armitage. Please remember them

In your prayers.



*The Sanctuary Lamp
The light that
symbolizes the
Eternal Sacrifice*

MASS SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF DEC. 24TH - JAN 1ST

| | INTENTION | OFFERED BY |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 th Sunday, 6:00 PM – SM SS Peter & Paul Sunday, 4:00 PM & 10 PM | Our Parishioners | Father Jose |
| Christmas Day, Dec. 25 th Monday, 11:00 AM – SM SS Peter & Paul Monday, 9:00 AM | Our Parishioners | Father Jose |
| Wed., Dec. 27 th | NO MASS | NO MASS |
| Friday, Dec. 29 th 12:00 Noon | Repose of the Soul of Rita Peed | Larry & Marilyn Burke |
| Saturday, Dec. 30 th 6:00 PM | Repose of the Souls of Leo & Rose Hatton | Hatton Family |
| Sunday, Dec. 31 st 11:00 AM | Repose of the Soul of Victoria Rayappan | Kilmer Family |
| Monday, Jan 1 st 11:00 AM Mary the Holy Mother of God | Repose of the Soul of Gene Ball | Kilmer Family |

MINISTRY

Lector Schedule
Mon., Dec. 25th
Connie Whren

Sat., Dec. 30th
6:00 PM
Bill Prichard

Sun., Dec. 31st
11:00 AM

Eva Weaver

Mon., Jan 1st

LouAnn Kilmer

SERVERS

Mon., Dec. 25th
Trowbridge's

Sun., Dec. 31st
Neuber's

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF 12/17/2023

Loose 215.00

Offertory Env 2,407.00

Dues 10.00

Immac Concept 75.00

Christmas 600.00

Flowers 50.00

All Saints 10.00

Total Offering to Parish
General Fund

\$3,367.00

Additional Acct Depo

Cemetery 17.00

Building 45.00

Total 62.00

NAT'L COLLECT DIOCESAN OFFICE

Care of Priests 10.00

Retire Religio 22.00

Human Dev. 10.00

Total 42..00

TOTAL DEPOSITS

\$3,471.00

OUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Monthly Financial Obligations - \$4,000.00

General Collection December 16th & 17th - \$3,367.00

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.

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 at 570-721-0872 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com to get started. Classes will be held in Wyalusing.

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 12/22/23

PARISH GOAL: \$10,000

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS: \$10,205.00

BISHOP BAMBERA'S 2023 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Contemplate the Greatness of God's love in the simplicity of a Crèche.

Brothers and sisters, the good news and blessing of Christmas is that God has already provided us a way forward with hope if we are wise and humble enough to embrace the message of Bethlehem and the birth of his Son.

May we pray during these cherished days for peace in our troubled world, especially in the Holy Land where our Prince of Peace was born. May we open our hearts to the grace of God and the great mystery of salvation won for us through the simple story begun in a cave in Bethlehem that continues to be the world's true and lasting reason for hope!

With gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Bishop and with prayers for a holy and blessed Christmas for you,. Your family and all you hold dear, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING 2023



IN HONOR OF:

John & Ellen Armitage Family Harry Weaver

Rouse Families & Children Clare Bortis

Michael & Ann Marie Kusmierz, SR

IN MEMORY OF:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cogswell Family | Alvin & Viola Brink | Louise Wildrick |
| Armitage Family | Fred Brink | Jack Fenton |
| Guiffre Family | Stabinsky Family | Casiuk Family |
| Arey Family | Maryovich Family | Griswold Family |
| Norman & Doris Kunkle | Walter Family | Joseph & Mary Crawford |
| Patricia Gushka | Martin & Dorothy Stoddard | James Belcher SR |
| Nicholas Gushka | Gerald & Jean Burke | Rose Marie Belcher |
| Irene Gushka | James & Blanche A. Finan | Larry Terascavage |
| Irvin Duffy | Richard Bedard | John & Helen Terascavage |
| Virginia Duffy | Hiram & Gertrude Stoddard | Catherine D. Bride |
| Helen Terascavage | Lahman & Darleen Stoddard | Ralph Bride |
| Mary Jane Tompkins | Rouse Parents | Robert Brown |
| Barb Lines | Waldron Parents | Ruth Brown |
| June Kinney | Rose Polomski | Ben Bride |
| Darwin & Mary Jones | Polomski Family | Pitcavage Family |
| Joseph & Cassie Yanuicz | Hayes Family | Latoski Family |
| David & Lena Jones | James & Eleanor Smith | George & Catherine Juenger |
| Ann Marie Jones | The Harvat Family | Bernice Weaver |
| Chet & Helen Suszko | The Malone Family | Virginia Sperlazzo |
| Ignatius & Geraldine Ciprich | George & Jenella Ryan | Ginny Fly |
| Julia Wiernuse | George Ciprich | Henry & Beatrice Gilespe |



HORIZON OF HOPE

The Fourth
Sunday

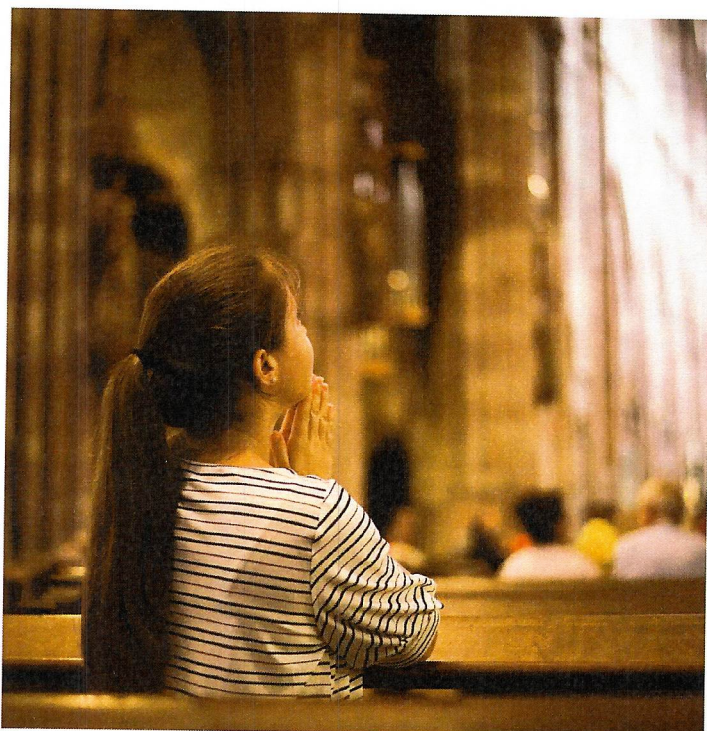
Son of the Most High

Luke 1:26-38

Mary said “yes” when Gabriel announced she had been chosen to be the mother of the Savior, even though she had no real idea of what lay ahead. She was willing to accept God’s plan for her life.

We think of the coming of Jesus as the greatest and most joyful event of history, but in this week’s Gospel, we are told that Mary was “greatly troubled” when she saw the angel. Despite her misgivings, however, Mary accepted her destiny, saying, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

When we hear God’s call in our lives, we may feel a bit uneasy or unprepared. Mary’s story reminds us that when we say our “yes” to God’s plan, we too will be given the strength and the courage to follow through. In these final days before Christmas, let us renew our commitment to accepting God’s plan for our lives. Let us remember Saint Paul’s admonition, “in all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thes 5:18), and rest in the words of the angel Gabriel, “nothing will be impossible for God.”



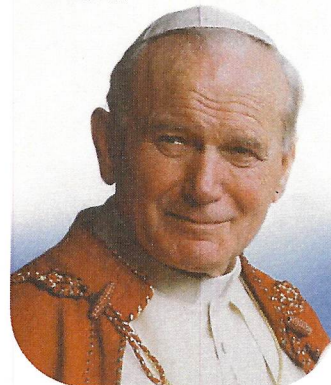
Photos: Adobe Stock and Shutterstock.com

POINTS TO PONDER

- Is there something in my life I am resisting? How can Mary’s example help me become more accepting of God’s plan?
- What can I do this last week of Advent to prepare myself for the mystery of Christmas?
- What habits or attitudes have I developed this Advent that I would like to take with me for the rest of the year?

“The liturgy of Advent ... helps us to understand the fullness of the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, we must understand that our whole life should be an ‘advent,’ in vigilant expectation of the Christ’s final coming.”

— Pope Saint John
Paul II



CNS Photo



SIGNS OF THE SEASON

The Angel Gabriel

The word “angel” means “messenger.” Angels figure prominently in the Christmas story, but only one of them is named: Gabriel. In fact, Gabriel, whose name means “God is my strength,” is one of only three angels named in the Bible (Michael and Raphael are the other two). Gabriel is present in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament he appears to the prophet Daniel, and in the New Testament he appears both to the Blessed Virgin and to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist.

ADVENT PRAYER *Come, O Lord!*

“I delight to do your will, my God; your Law is in my inner being.” — Psalm 40:9

Mary, help us to accept God's will for our lives, as you accepted the call to become the mother of the Savior. Bless us this holy season to live and love by following your son, Jesus.

FAMILY FOCUS Christmas Tree

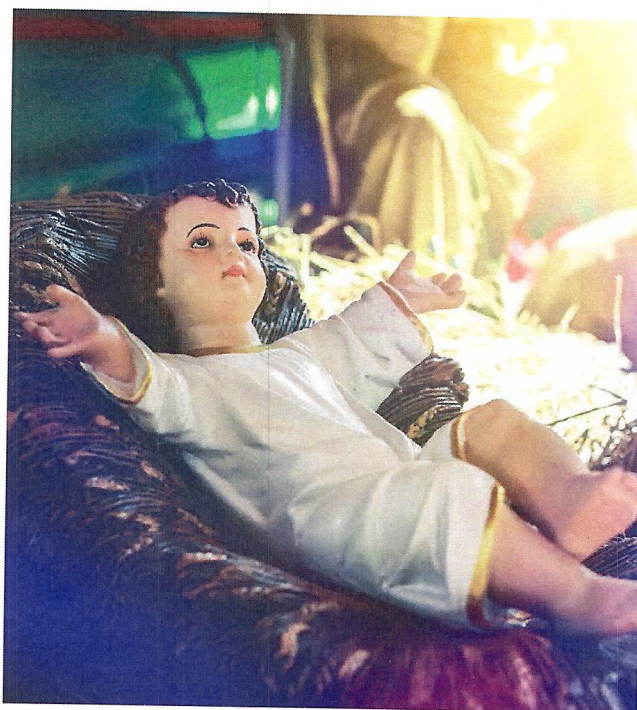
Decorating the Christmas tree used to be a Christmas Eve activity. While that isn't always practical, putting up a tree can still be a major celebration. As you bring out the ornaments, tell the stories behind some of the family favorites. Let each member of the family choose a favorite and hang it in a special place. When the tree is completely decorated, bless it with holy water and give thanks for family and friends, and especially for the great gift of Jesus.



Photos: Adobe Stock and Shutterstock.com

Catechism CONNECTION

“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons’ (*Gal 4:4-5*). This is ‘the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God’ (*Mk 1:1*): God has visited his people. He has fulfilled the promise he made to Abraham and his descendants. He acted far beyond all expectation — he has sent his own ‘beloved Son’ (*Mk 1:1*; cf. *Lk 1:55,68*).”
— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 422



THE NATIVITY SCENE

The first Christmas crèche was set up in a cave in Italy by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. When people from the village came to see the manger with hay, an ox, and a donkey, St. Francis spoke to them about the newborn babe in Bethlehem. Take time during this Christmas season to visit the Christmas crèche in your parish church. Pray to the baby Jesus for your special intentions.