

Mass Intentions

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Monday, December 15: Advent Weekday

8:00 am (GS) Stanley & Victoria Skonieczny by Tom Skonieczny

Tuesday, December 16: Advent Weekday

8:00 am (GS) Mary & Frank Kokoski by Elmo Mariani Family

Wednesday, December 17: Advent Weekday

8:00 am (SJ) Ray Kurash by St. John the Baptist CCM

6:30 pm (GS) Stanley, Victoria & Bernie Skonieczny by Barb

Thursday, December 18: Advent Weekday

8:00 am (GS) Bufalini, Svedok, Kovach & Andrews Families by Helen Bufalini

Friday, December 19: Advent Weekday

8:00 am (SJ) Jimmy Mitro by Aunt Mary Ann & Uncle Bernie

8:00 pm (GS) Marian Prayer Group Mass

Saturday, December 20: Advent Weekday

4:00 pm (SJ) Vigil - For the Living & Deceased of our Parishes

5:30 pm (GS) Vigil - Alan Berger by Mary Ann Sasinovich

Sunday, December 21: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am (GS) Edward & Anne Segeleon by Family

9:30 am (SJ) Mary Lou Gaughan by Frank Thomas

11:00 am (GS) John Kubicki by daughter, Carol

Readings for the Week of December 15, 2014

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER

Bread and Wine

John Moss (SJ) by John & Doretta Moss

James Simon (GS) by Family

Blessed Mother Shrine Candle

James Simon (GS) by Family

Holy Family Shrine Candle

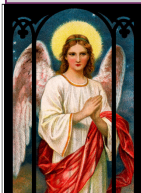
Frank and Jane Wagner (GS) by Family

Holy Trinity Shrine Candle

Richard Bufalini (GS) by Wife, Helen

Sanctuary Candle

Galant Family (GS) by Family



2015 Good Samaritan Calendars

THANK YOU to Kasper-Hahn and John Syka Funeral Homes who donated our beautiful *my father's love* Catholic Art Calendars. We thank you for your generosity.

Diocesan Annual Second Collection

December 25, 2014

Christmas Charities for Children and Youth



Good Samaritan
Saint John the Baptist

724-266-6565
724-869-2280

Our Advent Journey



This Sunday, we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday. Instead of the traditional purple vestments, the priest is dressed in rose-colored vestments as a sign of our joyous anticipation of the coming of Christ.

Gaudete Sunday gets its name from the Latin word for "Rejoice." In the old days, instead of an entrance hymn, an *entrance antiphon* was sometimes recited as the priest processed to the altar. The entrance antiphon for *Gaudete* Sunday is taken from the letter to the Philippians:

*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice!
Indeed the Lord is near.*

Philippians 4: 4-5

Christmas is just around the corner. There are many, many things yet to be done. It can be a time of great joy, but also a time of incredible stress as we watch the days speed past. If we are not careful, the stress can be compounded by a feeling of being overwhelmed by all the things yet to be done. It's a dangerous combination that often allows the devil to bring out the worst in us if we are not careful. The second reading from 1 Thessalonians this weekend gives the antidote to holiday stress:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God... May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you... be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When I do wedding rehearsals, the couples are often anxious about all the details. Before ending the rehearsal, I tell them that they should relax and drink in every precious moment and every face they see on their wedding day because it will all pass in a blink. It is all in God's hands.

With all we have left to do, it may seem counter-intuitive to stop long enough to spend some time with the Lord, but that is *exactly* what God is calling us to do during Advent. Especially, as we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday, steal away a few quiet moments to drink in all that the season has to offer. Stop and smell the pine wreaths. Find time to drive through the neighborhood and look at the Christmas lights. Take along a little one if you can, and let them help you recall the awe and wonder of being a child at Christmas. Our Advent journey is nearly ended. Don't waste the precious moments that remain. Drink it all in, and don't forget to thank God and Rejoice! **Father Joe**

The Church Evangelizing! Facilitator Training:

Volunteers needed to facilitate the discussion of Bishop Zubik's pastoral letter and attend a two hour facilitator training session. Training sessions: January 17, 10 am-noon at St. John Neumann, Franklin Park; January 24, 10 am-noon at St. Patrick, Canonsburg; January 24, 2-4 pm at St. Gregory, Zelienople; February 7, 10 am-noon at St. Paul Seminary. ***The Church Evangelizing!*** is more than a letter. It is a movement to be a closer friend to Jesus and to introduce our friends to Him. During the Lenten season we will focus on the themes of evangelization and missionary discipleship. We encourage the faithful to gather in small faith sharing groups to read, reflect on, and discuss Bishop Zubik's recent pastoral letter *The Church Evangelizing!* For more information, contact: Michel Therrien, STL, STD Secretary of Evangelization and Catholic Education. Email: mtherrien@diopitt.org. Office phone: 412-456-3156

RETRouvaille - SAVE OUR MARRIAGE

This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. The next Weekend begins January 16, 2015. Please call for confidential information at 412-277-3434 or see <http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>

Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held January 23-25, 2015 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women and men struggling with abortion's aftermath. Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh co-sponsor this retreat. To register or for more information, call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348. Registration information is also available at www.ccpgh.org.

OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers)

Oplatki are available after Masses from the ushers or at the Parish Office. Donation is \$1 for an envelope of 2 wafers.

Ambridge Area Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on Merchant Street on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

Celebrate the holidays! Visit merchants for giveaways and promotions, take your kids to the park, and visit hot spots for fun activities. Gift wrapping at 11:00 am; free carriage rides from 1:00-3:00 pm. Join us for *Christmas in the Park* at PJ Caul Park from Noon-3:00 pm. AACC contact info: 724-266-3040, Email: ambridgechamber@gmail.com. AACC Website: ambridgechamberofcommerce.com.



**A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
PRESENTED BY THE CCD STUDENTS
GOOD SAMARITAN & ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2014
FOLLOWING THE 5:30 PM MASS
AT GOOD SAMARITAN PARISH**

The following Mass Intentions were fulfilled by Fr. David Scharf at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel.

<u>Intention</u>	<u>Offered by</u>	<u>Date of Offering</u>
Joseph Zielinski	Family	8-30-14
Joseph Salopek	Family	9-6-14
Edward Rygalski	Henry Magdalinski	9-20-14
Johanna Lench	Margaret & +Vincent Svegal	9-29-14
Emercine Narkovic	Tillie Benkowski	9-30-14
Anna Rigano	Louise Vochko	10-6-14
David Barnes	Betty & Jeff Deceder	10-7-14
Betty Simon	Patty & Rich Helbig	10-8-14
Joseph Zielinski	Family	10-9-14
Wilma Quigley	Jeff Dudderar	10-10-14
Margaret Kowalski	Michele & Dennis Foley	10-16-14
Carmela Aloe	Sarah & Dominic DeLugi	10-24-14
Joseph P. Duke	Joan Matia	10-25-14
Guy Cafarelli	M/M Oscar D'Angelo	10-27-14
Jenny Teny Hamilton	Shelly & Steve Babin	10-31-14
Helen Bova	Jan Bova	11-9-14
Louise Szymoniak	Charlotte Paliani	11-10-14
George Mott	Irene Morelli	11-11-14
Vincent Ombres	Mary J. Minnici	11-12-14
Louis Guido	Dee Polidora	11-14-14
Virginia Rossi	Lorraine Economos	11-15-14
Harry Kaye, Sr.	Family	11-5-14
Dolores Jamery	Ben Lewis	11-13-14
Dr. Rodney Altman	Loraine Grant	11-21-14
Richard Bartosh	David J. Prusick	11-25-14

**Don't be alone or hungry this Christmas.
Spend the day with us!**

21st Annual FREE Christmas Day Dinner

Thursday, December 25 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm.

Held at: Beaver Falls High School, 1701 8th Avenue. Hosted by: Christian Assembly CARE Outreach Ministry, 724-846-3751. Everyone is welcome! **Donation & volunteers are needed for the FREE Christmas Dinner.** **What is needed?** *NEW* items of clothing, toys, toiletries, domestics, cosmetics, etc. The items do not need to be wrapped. Also, monetary gifts are greatly appreciated to purchase whatever is not received. Last year, over 1,300 people spent the day with us and enjoyed a wonderful meal and a great time of fellowship. Please help us to continue this wonderful outreach! Hope to see YOU!

You are invited again this year to bring an ornament and place it on our tree, even if you cannot make it to the lighting service.



**Good Samaritan Memorial Tree
will be decorated & blessed
this Sunday, December 14th**



After the 11:00 Mass, refreshments will follow.
The Tree will remain until Epiphany.

All are welcome to add Christmas ornaments in memory of beloved ones. Ornaments may be personalized with names and pictures, but should be weatherproof. Please do not bring heirloom ornaments because they are on display outdoors.

Pancake Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Hosted by Family Ministry and Holy Name Society



Crafts and visit with Saint Nick

Saturday, December 20th at 10:00 AM

Saint John the Baptist Church Social Hall in Baden

Cost: \$6.00 per person. \$20.00 per family

Adult Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of adults attending: _____

Number and ages of children attending: _____

1. _____ Age: _____

2. _____ Age: _____

3. _____ Age: _____

4. _____ Age: _____

Please return registration to Saint John the Baptist or Good Samaritan

BEFORE DECEMBER 15

SAINT JOHN'S CORNER ✠

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE BY MONDAY, DEC. 15
Please return all gifts (with ornament attached) by the 15th to the parish office. Thank you!

PIEROGI DEC. 19 This will be a very busy week for pierogi sales! Many volunteers are needed to make things run smoothly. **Can you help?** Volunteers are needed on **Thursday, Dec. 18, ALL DAY and Friday, Dec. 19, ALL DAY.** There is a particular need for Friday volunteers to help with packing pierogi and washing dishes and pots beginning at 1:00 PM. Hope to see you!

PIEROGI CUSTOMERS: You may begin calling in orders on **Thur., Dec. 18, at 1:00 PM. 724-869-9758**
Thank you for your patronage!

CHURCH DECORATING Volunteers are needed after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 21, to help with Christmas decorations. We would appreciate your assistance. All are welcome!



OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers) See an usher for Oplatki; \$4.00 per pack. Each pack contains 3 white & 1 pink wafer.

THERE IS NO PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S IN DECEMBER.

FRIENDSHIP RIDGE CHRISTMAS DAY VOLUNTEER REQUEST: Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day at Friendship Ridge at 10:00 AM. Volunteers are needed to escort residents to and from Mass beginning at 9:15 AM. Liturgical cantors and instrumentalists are also welcome. If you can assist, or for further information, please call Father Bill at 724-775-4111, X234. Thank you and God bless you.


ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Prepare for the coming of Christ in your heart by taking advantage of the sacrament of Penance this Christmas

Monday, December 15 7:00 pm **Our Lady of Peace**
Tuesday, December 16 7:00 pm **St. John the Baptist**
Monday, December 22 2:30 pm **Good Samaritan**

Communal Penance Service designed for penitents to be present from the beginning until after individual confession. There will be priests available at each session.

RECONCILIATION

 Before 6:30 pm Mass on Wednesdays
12:00-12:30 pm on Saturdays at Good Samaritan
1:00 -1:30 pm on Saturdays at St. John the Baptist

✠IN SYMPATHY:

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Louis Marsilio, Jr. and Eva Hertneky. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Good Samaritan	
Weekly Offering, December 7, 2014	\$8,644.80
St. John the Baptist	
Weekly Offering, December 7, 2014	\$2,826.00

MASS SCHEDULE

GOOD SAMARITAN ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

4:00 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass	St. John the Baptist
5:30 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass	Good Samaritan
9:30 pm	Musical Prelude	St. John the Baptist
10:00 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass	St. John the Baptist
11:15 pm	Singing Traditional Carols	Good Samaritan
Midnight	Christmas Mass	Good Samaritan

CHRISTMAS DAY

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2014

8:00 am	Christmas Mass	Good Samaritan
9:30 am	Christmas Mass	St. John the Baptist
11:00 am	Christmas Mass	Good Samaritan

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2014

4:00 pm	Vigil Mass	St. John the Baptist
5:30 pm	Vigil Mass	Good Samaritan

NEW YEAR'S DAY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

9:00 am	Mass	St. John the Baptist
10:30 am	Mass	Good Samaritan

+UPCOMING EVENTS+

Monday, December 15

5:15-6:45 pm CCD - Grades 1-5

Tuesday, December 16

6:00 pm (GS) Ladies of Charity (JH)

7:00 pm (SJ) Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 17

6:30 pm (SJ) Choir Practice

7:15 pm (GS) Mary Bible Study Session 8 (SJH)

Thursday, December 18

7:00 pm (SJ) Mary Bible Study Session 8 (**Note:** SJH@GS)

Friday, December 19

(SJ) Last Pierogi Sale before Christmas 724-869-9758

11:00 am (GS) Mary Bible Study Session 8 (SJH)

7:00/8:00 pm (GS) Rosary/Mass - Marian Prayer Group

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am-2:00 pm (GS) Christmas Bake Sale (JH)

10:00 am (SJ) Pancake Breakfast with Saint Nick (Hall)

5:30 pm (GS) After Mass, Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21

9:00 am-2:00 pm (GS) Christmas Bake Sale (JH)

9:00 am (GS) CIC/TEEN RCIA (SJH)

9:30-11:00 am - CCD Grades 6-8 (GS)

6:30 pm (GS) RCIA (SJH)