



Good Shepherd Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



† MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK†

Saturday, December 23

6:00 PM Genevieve Krasko ~ Karen Thomas

Sunday, December 24

8:00 AM Leona Price – Al & Ronnie Olshefski

9:30 AM Stephen Michalochick ~ Wife, Joan

4:00 PM Stefanick Family ~ Linda, Diane & Family

9:00 PM Kristine Roig ~ Daughter, Jennifer Stone

Monday, December 25

8:00 AM Kathleen Carr ~ Joseph & Maureen Umbriac

9:30 AM Patrick & Anna Mae McAfee ~ Children & Grandchildren

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 AM Homebound & Nursing/Personal Care Home Parishioners ~ Parishioners of Good Shepherd

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 AM James Wilson ~ Family

Thursday, December 28

8:00 AM Patrick Donahue ~ Jennifer & Michael Joseph

Friday, December 29

8:00 AM Felix & Christine Kusiak ~ Robert & Lee Kusiak

Saturday, December 30

6:00 PM Michael Shewack ~ Wife, Rose Marie & Children

Sunday, December 31

8:00 AM Health & Blessings for Janet Amentler ~ Barbara Wydock & Family

9:30 AM Lucille & Robert Martin ~ Son, Robert & Kimberly & Family

Stewardship

December 16 & 17: Loose \$876; Offertory \$4,712; Dues \$698; Care & Education of Priests \$47; Holy Days \$221; Christmas \$976; Flowers \$143; Campaign/Human Development \$10; Capital Improvement \$322; Retired Religious \$103; Communications \$15; Peter's Pence \$25 Mass Attendance – 514



The **Tabernacle Candle** burns this week for **Helen Zelenak** by Family



The **Rose for Life** this week in memory of **babies who lost their lives through miscarriage, premature birth and were stillborn** by Good Shepherd Pro-Lifers



Tuesday Night Bingo: Come join us for Bingo at Good Shepherd Church on Tuesday evenings. The kitchen opens at

5:00 PM with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies. Our Early

Bird game begins at **6:00 PM**. **NO BINGO DECEMBER 26, will resume January 2.**

No Faith Formation December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.



The Valley Food Pantry helps those in need. We have been asked to collect items for children: canned pasta, cookies, crackers, and Pop Tarts, in addition to bar soap. If you wish to send a monetary donation, the address is: Valley Food Pantry, PO Box 187 CUCC, Conyngham, PA 18219.

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

2024 Calendars and **Advent Booklets** are on the tables at both side exits of the church.

Mark your calendar: Halupki rolling- **January 13**. We will be rolling Halupki at **9:00 AM**. Come and join us if you can! Thank you.

Signed copies of Father McHugh's poetry book, **Kaleidoscope of the Heart**, will be available for purchase in the church office for \$20.00 during normal business hours.



Have a song in your heart??? We need you in our choir. No experience necessary. Practice on Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 PM.



Combined Ministries Service Project:

Several of our parish ministries are working together on a **"Share the Love"** project to help local women in need. We are asking for donations of gently used purses, travel sized toiletries and any pieces of jewelry you no longer wear. We will gather in January to fill the purses and distribute them to women in need on Valentine's Day. If you have any items you'd like to donate, you can place them in the "Share the Love" box in the vestibule. Thank you!



Throughout Advent, there will be **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** for a half hour prior to **ALL** weekend mass. Please come spend time with Jesus!

Stitches of Love Ministry is a crochet & knitting ministry that donates our work to those in need. We will not be meeting the next two Mondays. We will resume Monday at **1:00 PM (Afternoon)** on **January 8** in the St. Joseph Room. If interested, or for more information, please call the office at 570-788-3141 or email the church at gsch@ptd.net.

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.



This weekend we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent. The gospel message is one that we've heard many times over. An angel appears, Mary is confused, the angel reassures her and eventually Mary says that all important YES!

In just a few hours after the celebration of the fourth Sunday of advent, we will begin our celebration to Christmas season. It all seems to run together. With all that's going I encourage all who are reading this message to take just a few moments of quiet time. Don't let the rush of the season take away from the spirituality of the moment.

On behalf of myself, Father Binesh, Father O'Rourke, and Deacon Jim, we would like to wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas, and a happy new year!

MANDATORY BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the St. Joseph Room at Good Shepherd Church. Please register by calling the Immaculate Conception Parish Office at 570-636-3035 or the Good Shepherd Parish Office at 570-788-3141. Please plan to attend the Baptismal Preparation class well in advance of your baby's birth so that you are aware of all the information necessary to schedule your baby's Baptism.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FROM BOTH PARISHES: If you are an adult and have volunteered for our parish for any event (bingo, picnic, festival, monthly breakfast, lector, extraordinary minister, Messenger of Hope just to name a few), you are invited to a **THANK YOU** dinner at Sands Springs on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, AT 2:00 PM.**

This is an **ADULT ONLY DINNER.** Your spouse (if not a volunteer) is welcome to come at a cost of \$25.00. We so value all of you who work to make our parishes a welcoming community. **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 29TH.** Please clip and fill out the coupon below so that we know how many will be attending. We look forward to seeing all of you on the 7th of January.

Volunteer: _____ FREE

Spouse: _____ \$25.00

Drop in the collection basket or at the office.

OUR SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES OF OUR CHURCHES.



Immaculate Conception Parish
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023



Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



Sat. 12/23 4:00 PM
Buzzy Peters and the Deceased Members of
the Freeland High School Class of '66 by the
Class of '66

Sun. 12/24 11:00 AM
Rose M. Quinn by Virginia Dias

4:00 PM Christmas Eve
Russell and Elizabeth Shupp by Sally and Les
Shupp

10:00 PM Christmas Eve
John Grega and His Wife Emma Grega by
Their Children Jackie and Mary

Mon. 12/25 7:30 AM Christmas Day
Magdaline Kislán by Her Husband Bob

11:00 AM
Colleen Donlin by Her Family

Tue. 12/26 7:00 AM
Henry Kopczynskie, Jr. by John Kopczynskie
and Family

Wed. 12/27 7:00 AM
Anne Marie Ceriani by Walter & Eleanor
Golab

Thur. 11/28 7:00 AM
Anna Marie Kopczynskie by M/M Joseph
Grega

Fri. 12/29 7:00 AM
Peter and Stella Amentler by Janet and John
Amentler

Sat. 12/30 4:00 PM
Bob Hludzek by Mary Ann

Sun. 12/31 11:00 AM
John Grega and His Wife Emma Grega by
Their Children Jackie and Mary



Last Weekend:
Sunday \$3,660; Loose \$245;
Dues \$1,802; Care and
Education of Priests \$20;
Christmas Flowers \$272;
World Mission \$100; Human
Development \$100; Immaculate
Conception \$300; Religious Retirement
\$244; Capital Improvement \$130; Poor
Box \$124

**CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are
in Memory of Bob Hludzik by
Mary Ann**



**OUR SACRISTY CANDLE is burning
this week in Memory of Steve Korol
by JoAnne**



**OUR PARISH HAS A NEW USER-
FRIENDLY PARISH WEBSITE.**

Check us out at:
<http://sites.google.com/view/olichome-freeland-pa/home>

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24th

Immaculate Conception: 4:00 and 10:00 PM
Good Shepherd: 4:00 and 9:00 PM
**St. Patrick's: 4:00 and 6:00 PM (Children's
Nativity Story)**

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25th

Immaculate Conception: 7:30 and 11:00 AM
Good Shepherd: 8:00 and 9:30 AM
St. Patrick's: 10:15 AM

Christmas Seen As Best Time To Pray For Release Of The Holy Souls In Purgatory

What would you want for Christmas if you were in Purgatory? *Heaven.*

You would want to see the Face of Jesus gazing on you with love for all eternity!

During Christmas night, it is believed that thousands of souls in Purgatory are raised up to Heaven...

Christmas Day and not All Souls' Day is when the most souls are released, according to the Blessed Mother of Medjugorje.

It is our duty especially to pray for the souls of our family, friends, and benefactors.

Let us be an advocate by our prayers and turn their pain into everlasting glory.

We invite you to join us with Our Lady and give the gift of Jesus to our Holy Heroes on Christmas Day! Do you realize how many "new intercessors" you will have on Christmas Day by helping to bring about their release? Be Our Lady's merciful ones. Christmas is upon us. Answer the call this Advent. Here are a few suggestions to give "Paradise" to our friends and loved ones for Christmas.

— Double up on your prayers and sacrifices for your departed loved ones.

— Insert the St. Gertrude prayer or your favorite Holy Souls prayer in your Christmas cards.

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, for those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

— Sprinkle Holy Water on the graves of your loved ones and those around the grave when visiting the cemetery during the Holidays. Kneel and pray there.

— Parents, grandparents, guardians, Godparents, teach the children... the eternal rest prayer, how to sprinkle Holy Water for the holy souls, and how to offer up "little things." Bring them to the cemetery. You will have planted the seed of reverence in their hearts and in due time this will manifest itself and assure you of their suffrages at the hour of your death.

— Light blessed candles. The burning candle is a sign of our prayer, a bright silent intercessor for the holy souls.

— Give the Holy Souls the joy of a Holy Mass. Arrange to have Masses offered during Advent. Offer your Mass and indulgences on Christmas Day. The Mass is the most powerful prayer on earth. It is the quickest means to bring the Holy Souls to Paradise!

— Place a special ornament on your tree or wreath in honor of the Holy Souls.

— Recite the eternal rest prayer before and after your meals.

Remember, the Holy Souls are our mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, Godparents, doctors, nurses, priests, and nuns — all who have helped us in this life! Pray for them and the souls most abandoned, closest to Heaven, and the soul most like you! When you are called home, the Holy Souls you released during your lifetime will greet you at the gates of Paradise!

Just think of the power and privilege God has given to us to help Him.

To quote St. Thomas Aquinas, "Of all prayers, the most meritorious, the most acceptable to God are prayers for the dead, because they imply all the works of charity, both corporal and spiritual."

ETERNAL REST PRAYER: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Add your loved ones to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Purgatorial Society and they will be included in the monthly mass. Form on reverse side.

Good Shepherd Church
87 South Hunter Highway
Drums, PA 18222

Sacred Heart of Jesus Purgatorial Society

Our ***monthly masses*** will be offered on behalf of the names enrolled in the society registry on the second Monday of every month.

To enroll your loved ones, simply submit their names below and your loved ones will be permanently enrolled. There is no charge and you are not obligated to become an active member.

I would like to enroll my loved ones listed below:
There is no limit to how many you can enroll. If more space is needed attach a separate paper.



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR THE FORGOTTEN

Dear Lord, as we prepare for Your coming, let us reflect on the journey Your earthly parents took.

They were tired and alone, yet there was no room for them at the inn. There was no one to lend a helping hand.

Lord, help us to recognize those who may need our help or love this Christmas. Let us pray for those who have none. We pray that those without loved ones will still share in the season's blessings. We especially pray for those who feel forgotten and unloved.

Lord, break our hearts for what breaks yours. Help us to see with Your eyes, serve with Your hands, and to give of the talents and treasures You have blessed us with.

We implore You, O Lord, to stretch forth Your paternal arms to anyone feeling the sting of loneliness or pangs of sadness this Christmas season. Please bring them into Your love and peace. Amen.