

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord

7:30 A.M. PRIEST'S INTENTION

9:30 A.M. PRIEST'S INTENTION

11:15 A.M. PRIEST'S INTENTION

Monday, December 26th—St. Stephen, first martyr

8:00 A.M. GASPERO & FILOMENA CIARLONE—Domencia Ciarlone

Tuesday, December 27th—St. John, apostle & evangelist

8:00 A.M. BETH DONGHIA—Claire Flemming

PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Please Note Schedule Change

Wednesday, December 28th—The Holy Innocents, martyr

7:00 A.M. LOUIS MARASCO—Laura & John Kozak

8:00 A.M. KEVIN KAUFMAN—Sue Kaufman

Thursday, December 29th—The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

7:00 A.M. MARGARET McNALLY—Pat & Judy Donahue

8:00 A.M. ELIZABETH ANNETTE ROBERTSON—Patsy Joe Gibney

Friday, December 30th—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:00 A.M. ROSE LESZCZYNSKI—Cindy Leszczynski

8:00 A.M. JOHN & DOROTHY CARR—Brian Carr

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 P.M. DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE PETTINATO FAMILY—G. Carl Pettinado

Sunday, January 1st—The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God

7:30 A.M. PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

9:30 A.M. MARGARET ROBERTSON—John Robertson

11:00 A.M. JOSEPH DeSANTIS—Msgr. DeSantis

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



At Christmas we turn our attention to an only Son and the beginning of a young life. The gospel from John, however, brings us up a bit short. We measure “beginning” by our human standards and what we know and understand. John urges us to reflect on “In the beginning” in much longer terms—going all the way back to creation, before time.

There the Word already had divine life and was already one with God. And this Word who was with God from the beginning would come to dwell with us on earth so that we might encounter this Light and see divine glory. Through this birth of God in human flesh, we who accept the Light are empowered to be “born . . . of God.” His birth is our rebirth. His birth into humanity is our rebirth into divinity.

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The Rectory and Parish Center will be closed on Monday, December 26th.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Sirach 3:2-7; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

ALTAR SERVER'S SCHEDULE

December 26th through December 27th

8:00 A.M. Kristy & Jeremy Bell

December 28th

7:00 A.M. Erica & Grace Gleason

8:00 A.M. Kristy & Jeremy Bell

December 29th through December 30th

7:00 A.M. Thomas Paolini, Benjamin Muir

8:00 A.M. Chiara & Mia Huber

December 31st/January 1st—The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

5:00 P.M. The Bell Family

7:30 A.M. Brian Cibulsky, Elyse & Gehrig Vogel

9:30 A.M. Allison & Adam Sichler, Erik Bjorken

11:00 A.M. Noelle & Mariselle Parisi, Roman Ciervo

BANNS OF MARRIAGE III

Conor Larkin (SH) & Emily Sutherland (SH)

† MEMORIAL SOCIETY †

The following has been enrolled in Sacred Heart's Memorial Society:

Richard G. Grab

By: Steven & Mary Razzano

CANDLE OFFERINGS

Blessed Virgin Mary

Special Intention

Special Intention Steve Konopelski—Tom & Tina Coleman

Special Intention Betty Higgins—Tom & Tina Coleman

Special Intention Jean Paolini—Tom & Tina Coleman

St. Joseph—In Memory of:

Chris Gibney—Patsy Jo

Special Intention Joseph Stricek- Sacred Heart Choir

God's Blessings on Msgr. DeSantis—Sacred Heart Choir

God's Blessings on Joseph Oros—Sacred Heart Choir

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On behalf of Monsignor DeSantis, Father Karpyn, Deacon Kase, Monsignor Sarzynski, and our entire Staff, we would like to extend our wishes for a most Blessed Christmas to all of our parishioners and their families. We would also like to thank our many volunteers for the remarkable work they do throughout the year to make our parish a vibrant and welcoming haven in service of our Lord and one another. God Bless Us!

BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sacred Heart will be hosting a Benefit Christmas Concert on January 8th at 3 PM. The concert will benefit the John Paul II Center for Special Learning and will feature several local parish choirs as well as our own choir. A free will offering will be taken. A small reception will follow the concert. Please come to hear the sounds of the season as well as help raise funds for John Paul II!

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

This Week In Our Parish

Monday, December 26th
Rectory & Parish Center Closed
 Tuesday, December 27th
 8:30 A.M. Adoration Begins—Chapel
 8:30 A.M. Newsletter Mailing—Wachter
 6:45 P.M. Classical Choir—Church
 10:00 P.M. Adoration Ends—Chapel
 Wednesday, December 28th
 7:30 P.M. Contemporary Choir—Church
 Sunday, January 1st

Happy New Year!

PRO-LIFE AD 2012

Sign-ups for Life Ad will occur at the fundraising desk in the narthex of the Church after all the Masses on December 31st/January 1st and January 7th/8th. This pro-life ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, January 22nd, the 39th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Sponsors will be asked to contribute \$6 for individuals or \$12 for couples or families. Your names will be displayed in the ad under our parish name. Proceeds from the Life Ad support Mary's Shelter/Home, an alternative to abortion for pregnant women in need of housing and care. Last year, Life Ad raised \$11,800 for Mary's Shelter/Home. The deadline for donations is Monday, January 9th. Thank you for taking a public stand against the tragedy of abortion.

EVENT SUPPORTING RETIRED SISTERS

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters invite you to an evening of fun, food, and games on February 11th from 7 to 10 PM at the McGlenn Conference Center. \$75 per person and registration required. All proceeds will benefit their retired sisters. For more information contact Sr. Maria at (484) 334-6815 or purchase tickets online at www.bfranciscan.org.

HGA'S CASINO NIGHT

On Saturday, February 18th at HGA School Social Hall and Gym. Doors open at 4:30 PM—Event begins at 5:30 PM. Cost: \$35 per ticket—*Limited Time Special: Purchase your ticket before December 31st and pay only \$30.*

Treat yourself to a night of fun, a great meal and wonderful desserts. Enjoy casino games of Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Roulette, Dice Games and great door prizes. Adults only—21 years or older. Babysitting will again be offered, for a small fess by the Cadette Girl Scouts of Troop 1003 on the 2nd floor of the school. Tickets are available at the Rectory (610) 921-2729 and at HGA Regional School Office (610) 929-4124 through February 12th.

SHOPS & SCRIP NEWS

There will be NO SHOPS sales at Mass over the Christmas and New Year holiday weekends. The first SCRIP order after the holidays will be placed on January 9th. SHOPS office will reopen at school on Tuesday morning, January 3rd.

| Dec. 31/Jan 1 | Celebrant | Lectors | Extraordinary Ministers | Extraordinary Ministers | Cantors |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 5:00 P.M. | Msgr. Sarzynski | John Hutta | Jerry Yoder | John Hutta | G. Parisi |
| 7:30 A.M. | Jesuit Priest | Mary Ann Kase | Mary Ann Kase | | A. Orlando |
| 9:30 A.M. | Msgr. DeSantis | Vince Parisi | Mary Lou Parisi | Vince Parisi | |
| 11:00 A.M. | Msgr. DeSantis | Georg Spaeth | Ralph & Margaret Hueske | Roseann Tice | L. Bitetto |

LET US PRAY

In your charity, please pray for the priests of our diocese, and in particular this week, remember:

- ✠ 26 December—Rev. Paul L. Rothermel
- ✠ 27 December—Rev. Deogratias Rwegasira
- ✠ 28 December—Rev. Msgr. Edward R. Sacks
- ✠ 29 December—Rev. Edwin J. Sanders
- ✠ 30 December—Rev. Joseph P. Sanders
- ✠ 31 December—Rev. Msgr. Edward W. Sarzynski
- ✠ 1 January—Pope Benedict XVI

Also, please pray for...

...the following persons who are serving our Country in the Armed Forces:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st CPO Sean Adams | LT Laura Nevel |
| CW3 Joseph Zalewski | Col. Lawrence Strobel |
| Cor. Timothy Jones | Major Bernard W. Mann |
| 2 nd Lt. Michael Rodick | Capt. Kirstin Strobel |
| Raymond Konopelski | Capt. Chris Gebbia |
| Dr. Justin Bremem | Max Bremer |
| Staff Sgt. Jason Miller | 2Lt Nicholas W. Strobel |
| SFC Patricia Gunning | SPC Sarah Sensenig Harrison |

Please call the rectory if there are changes, deletions, or additions

2012 WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

Educating Young People in Justice and Peace is the theme of Pope Benedict's XVI's 2012 Message for the World Day of Peace, celebrated on January 1 each year. The message affirms the role of young people in working for justice, peace and the common good and urges public policymakers to create institutions, laws, and environments that allow young people to flourish. The full text of the message is posted each year in mid-December at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_an.htm or call the Office of Pro-Life Activities and Social Concerns (610) 8900 x244.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown welcomes families to volunteer as friendly visitors for the new Neighbors Helping Neighbors project, which serves older adults living in Berks and Southern Schuylkill Counties. This can be a rewarding opportunity. Please contact Catholic Charities at (610) 376-7144 or lfavinger@allentowndiocese.org for information to make on or more friendly visits.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We wish to thank
ESTERBROOK PHARMACY
 for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin.
 Please patronize our sponsors