Saint Peter Church

4 South 5th Street • Coplay, Pennsylvania 18037

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Mission Statement

We, as a Catholic parish under the patronage of Saint Peter, are a Eucharistic family, centered in prayer and worship, dedicated to self-sacrificing stewardship, and journeying together, Spirit-inspired, to the heavenly Kingdom.

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin
PASTOR EMERITUS: Rev. Msgr. William E. Handges
PERMANENT DEACONS: Thomas Reimer, Maurice Kelly
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mrs. Lina Abi-Samra
PARISH ACCOUNTANT: Mr. Michael Leshko
DIRECTOR OF REL. ED.: Mrs. Linda Johnson
DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR:
Ms. Wendy Krisak, Direct Telephone 1-800-791-9209
Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org
DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE:
Ms. Pamela Russo, MSW, MS 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

DAILY: 8 A.M. *(No morning Mass Thursday & Saturday)*
Saturday Evening: 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Holy Days Vigil: 6:30 P.M.
Holy Days: 8:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

PENANCE:

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 P.M.
During Advent and Lent, Communal Penance Services are celebrated. Arrangements can always be made by appointment.

BAPTISM: Contact the rectory for an appointment. Baptism is scheduled on Sunday after the 10:30 A.M. Mass at 11:30 A.M. Parents may be required to attend a preparatory instruction in the rectory.

MARRIAGE: Couples should contact the parish priest at least 1 year but no later than 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. The normal day for weddings is Saturday between 10 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Notify the rectory when someone at home becomes seriously ill, or weak on account of old age, so that the person might receive this Sacrament.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: The priests and Eucharistic Ministers perform this service monthly. Notify us when someone wishes to be visited.

HOSPITALIZED: Alert us whenever someone has to be hospitalized, especially when their admission is an emergency. The parish identification number at each of the Valley hospitals is #171.

PARISH REGISTRATION: New members should make an appointment with the pastor at the rectory. Any change of an address, notify the rectory.

HIGH SCHOOL: Allentown Central Catholic, 4th & Chew Sts., Allentown 18102 (School Office: 610-437-4601)

ELEMENTARY:

Good Shepherd Catholic School
Mrs. Susan Parker, M.Ed. Principal
1300 Newport Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-9171

CCD PROGRAM: Classes conducted at the Holy Apostles Catholic Education Center, 3008 Ruch St., Whitehall. The program is from September to the end of April. These classes are necessary for eligibility to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Contact Mrs. Linda Johnson at 610-261-0144

Rectory: 610-262-2417 Fax: 610-262-2652
Web Address: www:stpeterchurchcoplay.com • E-mail: info@stpetersrccoplay.com

Sunday December 13th : Third Sunday of Advent
Is 61:1-2a,10-11; 1Thes: 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28
8:00AM- *Holy Name Society*
10:30AM- *Francis Wechsler, Sr.*

Monday December 14th: St. John of the Cross Priest & Doctor of the Church
Nm24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21;23-27
8:00 AM- *Joseph Alban III*

Tuesday December 15th: Advent Weekday
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
8:00 AM- *Robert Brennan*

Wednesday December 16th: Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8,18,21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23
8:00 AM- *Joseph Weber*

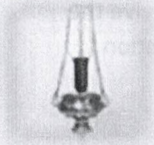
Thursday December 17th: Late Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17
No Morning Mass

Friday December 18th: Late Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
8:00AM- *Alois and Hermine Bodisch*

Saturday December 19th: Late Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Vigil Mass
4:00 PM- *Kathleen Broderick*

Sunday December 20th: Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00AM- *Altar and Rosary Society*
10:30AM- *Frank and Mary Sinkovits and son William*



Sanctuary Lamp
Will burn in memory of
Frank and Mary Klepeiss

Back to Church with Caution

Please continue to wear masks during Mass use hand sanitizer & maintain social distancing. ***DO NOT*** *leave your used masks in the pews*

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800.276.1562

Stewardship Corner
December 6, 2020
$5998 plus Online Giving $569

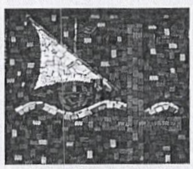
Please continue your weekly or monthly giving to our parish. Your contributions are vital in order for us to meet our obligations. If unable to attend Mass kindly send your envelopes through the mail or drop them in the rectory mail slot. I thank you for your kind and generous response

Monsignor Martin

Flame of Love *Tuesdays Rosary and Benediction in the church 6-7:30 PM*

Lucky Calendars 2021
Last opportunity for a great Christmas Gift!!!!

Calendars will only be available until 12/28/20. Please call the office at 610.262.2417 during business hours to make your purchase.



Online Giving

****Start giving online today! ****

Visit our parish website at
https://www.stpeterchurchcoplay.com

- *Click on the online giving link*
- *Create an account.*
- *Schedule your recurring gifts.*

Advent Confession Schedule
Saturdays 3:00-3:45
Tuesday, 12/15..... 5-6PM
Wednesday 12/16..... 11-12Noon; & 6:30-7:30PM
Friday 12/18..... 8:30-9:30AM
Monday 12/21..... 4-5PM

Patience and Hospitality

Mass Readings: Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 / John 1:6–8, 19–28

Learning from John the Baptist

The Old and the New: Last Sunday, we heard of Isaiah's prophecy and Mark's account of Saint John the Baptist. Like a good mother, the Church sometimes repeats herself. As such, we hear again from the Prophet Isaiah this Sunday, but we are given John's account in the Gospel. As with every Sunday, we can see a rapport between the Old Testament and Gospel reading. The heavily messianic text of Isaiah 61 is presented, in which the Scriptures speak of anointing, being sent, and doing the works of the kingdom of God. In the Gospel passage, the Baptist engages in a back-and-forth with some Levites. He will not allow himself to be boxed in. He instead points his interlocutors to someone who is coming after him and who is greater than him.

Our Response: In the repeat introduction of John the Baptist, we can learn many lessons. In particular, the Baptist, as the last of the Old Testament prophets, is fulfilling his call by instructing us to wait and anticipate the coming of the Messiah. In many respects, Advent is the season of John the Baptist, not only because we are told so much about him, but because we are called to imitate him in his patience and in his openhearted hospitality to the coming of the anointed Savior. In the second reading, Saint Paul exhorts us to be "preserved blameless" as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. With this admonition in mind, how can we nurture the patience and hospitality of John the Baptist in our own hearts today?

Images: Adobe Stock

PRAYER

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."
~ Luke 1:46

O long-awaited Messiah,
You come to us in our need.
You bless us. You raise us up.
Guide us as we wait for you.
Bless us with patience and hospitality,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR REFLECTION

Our fallen world tells us to live only for ourselves. The Prophet Isaiah proclaims that the Messiah will serve the poor and forgotten. John the Baptist modeled this way of life, as he prepared the way of the Lord. How can I make straight the way of the Lord in my life?

Saint Lucy

December 13

Saint Lucy was a young Sicilian maiden who lived in the late third/early fourth century. Her father was of Roman nobility, but he died when she was young. Following a respected custom among Christian young woman at that time, Lucy patiently waited for the return of the Lord, and she consecrated her virginity to God. Hence, she distributed her wealth to the poor. Eventually she was accused of being a Christian, which was a capital crime in ancient Rome, was tortured, and killed. In her torture, Lucy's eyes were plucked out, but they were later miraculously restored. Because of this divine action, Lucy is the patron saint of eyes and of those with eye troubles. In our own faith, we can learn a lot from Lucy's perseverance, patient waiting, and bravery. This Advent season, we ask Saint Lucy to pray for us that God will open the eyes of our hearts as we wait for him.

Images: Adobe Stock

DAILY LIVING

"Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray." ~ St. Louis de Montfort

"Make straight the way of the Lord."
— John 1:23

FAMILY FOCUS

On this Third Sunday of Advent, the Church encourages us with the inspiring image of John the Baptist. The holy man called us to repentance and to preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Like him, we must nurture a patient waiting and open hospitality in our hearts. We are invited to have a joyful hope in our hearts. This is why the Church also calls today Gaudete Sunday, which refers to a Latin command that means, "Rejoice!" This special Rejoice Sunday marks the middle of the Advent season and a shift in focus. Now, as we rejoice, we turn from patient waiting to active kindness and hospitality.

Today we light a rose candle. The color rose represents hope and joy. As we light the third candle, let's think of the following:

- What greater acts of kindness can I show to my loved ones?
- How can I broaden my heart to be more hospitable to others?
- How can I imitate the witness of John the Baptist in my life?

CATECHISM CONNECTION

When the Church celebrates the *liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 524

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Lost and Found

A key chain with a grey rope rosary, three keys and a Giant card was found on premises. Please call the office at 610.262.2417 to claim it

Cookie Sale

To Combat World Hunger

This weekend we will be having a second collection to benefit this amazing cause. Thank you for your generous donations and for your support of this organization that feeds children in the U.S. and overseas

R.C.I.A. INFORMATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a way of welcoming, forming and initiating new members into the Church. It is a process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for those who were baptized Catholic but have yet to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. For more information call Msgr. Martin

*TIS THE **SEASON** FOR THE*

GIVING TREE

The Program this year is only accepting gift cards to places that sell baby items. Please donate to brighten someone's Christmas!

Starting November29th you may drop them off in the collection baskets in an envelope labeled Gift Card or in the mail slot at the rectory.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" Proverbs 19:17

Catholic Charities Ecumenical Kitchen

Due to insufficient funds we had to suspend our Meals to Go Program. We are in need of monetary donations to purchase food. Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities, (Ecumenical Kitchen in the memo line) On December 16th we will be hosting a Christmas Party at the Chew St. Community Center and we are in need of volunteers who have completed all background checks. Please call Edith Burga at 484.784.8109

Good Shepherd Catholic School

We are now accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 school year. We offer full day Preschool and Pre-K programs as well as K- grade 8. To schedule a tour or for info please contact Mrs. Lauri Tripaldi, Advancement Director, at 610.262.9171 or mrstripaldigscs@gmail.com

Join us for Mass every Friday at Queenship of Mary Church at 9:15AM

We are HIRING! If you are interested in teaching and have the proper credentials, please call 610.262.9171 or email Mrs. Parker at mrsparkergscs@gmail.com

Holy Apostles RE

Hours 3-8PM Mon-Thurs

Regular classes all grades

Confessions, grades 3-8, on Dec. 14 & 16

Christmas Break 12/24-1/1~ classes resume Jan. 4th

First Communion Parents Mtg 1/7 St. Peter Church 6:30PM

We are in need of 8th grade teacher & substitutes please contact the office if interested at 610.261.0144

Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative

We are looking for volunteers with full Diocese of Allentown Volunteer clearances to help with our new food pantry located at St. John the Baptist Church Whitehall, in the Christ the King Cafeteria. Contact Shari Noctor at 484.225.0358 or WhitehallCoplayHunger@gmail.com

RETROUVAILLE

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins 2/12-14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. for info or to register visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call215.766.3944 or 800.470.2230. All inquiries are confidential

Third Sunday in Advent

O God, eternal Majesty, whose ineffable Word the Immaculate Virgin received through an angel & became the dwelling-place of divinity, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by her example we may in humility hold fast to your will!

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