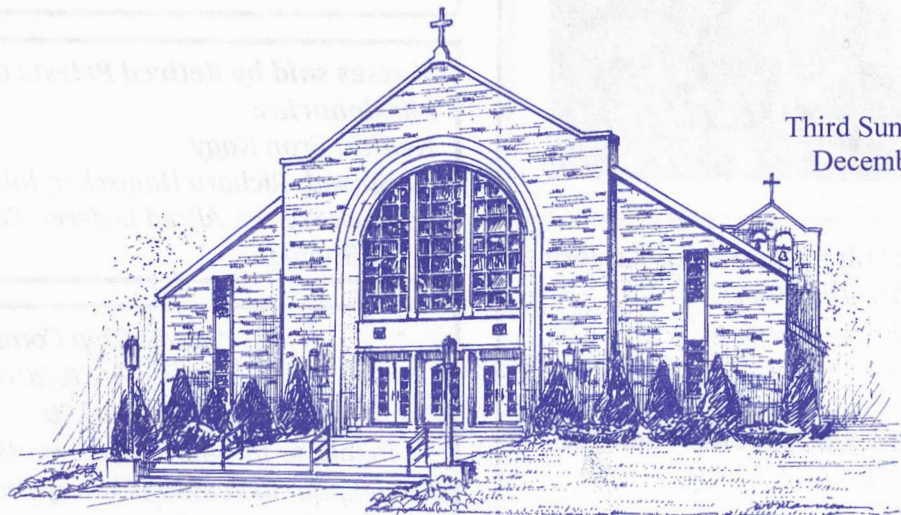


Saint Peter Church

4 South 5th Street • Coplay, Pennsylvania 18037



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

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:
Sr. Meg, S.S.J.M.S., LMFT 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019

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.

ANOIDTING 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)

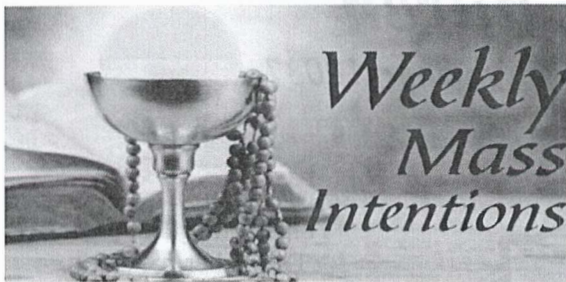
ELEMENTARY:

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 Dec. 15th: third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

8:00AM- Altar and Rosary Society

10:30AM- Mike Baver

Monday Dec. 16th: Late Advent Weekday

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

8:00 AM- Graham Briggs

Tuesday Dec. 17th: Late Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

8:00 AM- Frank Recker

Wednesday Dec. 18th: Late Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

8:00 AM- Mr. and Mrs. Ignatz Stangl

Thursday Dec. 19th: Late Advent Weekday

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

No Morning Mass

Friday Dec. 20th: Late Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM- Richard Brennan

Saturday Dec. 21st: Late Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17-9a, 10-13

Vigil Mass

4:00 PM- Ida & Joseph Moravek,

Antoinette Bandel (Anniversary)

Sunday Dec 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM- Michael Yaroma

10:30AM- Frank & Mary Sinkovits and Son William



Sanctuary Lamp
Will burn this week in memory of
Frank and Mary Klepeiss



Masses said by Retired Priests and Missionaries:

Health: Fran Nagy

Deceased: Richard Hamscher, John Szerencits, Stephen Steirer, Alfred Lederer, Carol Iacobelli, Anne Brennan

Stewardship Corner

December 8, 2019

\$7703.00

Thanks to those who have made a commitment during our increased offertory process. May our renewed stewardship be to the honor and glory of the Lord



Flame of Love Tuesdays- Rosary and Benediction in the Chapel from 6-7:30PM~ No Flame of love on 12/17/19

Bible Study Thursdays 6:30PM in the Heritage Center. No Bible Study on 12/26/2019

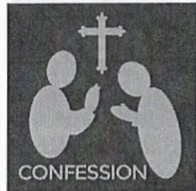
Lucky Calendar- 2019 SOLD-OUT~~All sellers need to return the calendars to the office ASAP please~Thank you to all who helped make this fundraiser a success.

Cookie Trays to Combat World Hunger After all services, buy a \$15 cookie tray and feed 375 starving Children. Our church is selling cookie trays to support The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger. These cookie trays make wonderful hostess gifts and affordable gifts for friends and colleagues. The cookie trays are only \$15 each and have 24 cookies, chocolates, and are beautifully gift wrapped. Last year's sale provided food for 4/2 million children as part of Cross Catholic Outreach's school feeding program in Haiti. Over 57 tons of trays of cookies have been sold so far. Please buy a tray or two.

Office closing The office will be closed for Christmas on 12/24-12/26. We will reopen on the 27th of December.

Whitehall-Coplay Free Community Meals

Saint Peter will be hosting the free Community Meal on January 5, 2020. We are asking our parishioners for monetary donations in lieu of food items to help defray some of the costs of the meal. If you are able to help, please put your donation in an envelope labeled Community Meal. You may drop off your donation in the Sunday Collection Basket or at the rectory



Advent Confession Schedule

Monday, 12/16 5-6PM

Tuesday, 12/17 11-12Noon
6:30-7:30PM

Wednesday, 12/18 8:30-9:30AM
6:00-7:00 PM

Friday, 12/20 4:00-5:00PM

School News



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

12/16 Red & Green Dress Down Day

Gift Card Sales 5-7PM

12/17 Christmas Program 9:30 & 6:30

12/19 No Extended Care ~ 9:15 Mass

12/20 Christmas Breakfast/ Pajama Day~ 11:30 Dismissal

ALLENTOWN CENTRAL CATHOLIC H.S.

12/16-Jr. Gingerbread House decorating contest 5:3-8:30

12/18 Student Council Meeting

12/20 Casual Dress Down Day~Christmas Extravaganza

HOLY APOSTLES RELIGIOUS ED

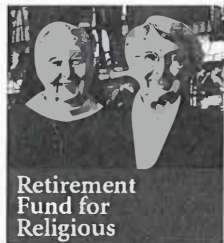
Regular classes all grades

12/16-18 Confessions Gr. 3-8 at Holy Apostle Ctr.

12/23- 1/2 Christmas Break

1/2 First Communion Parents Mtg. 6:30 PM St. Peter

Area Events



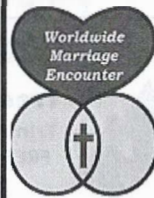
Support Aging Religious "Thank You hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us", says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation

to last week's collection.

Whitehall- Coplay Hunger Initiative Free Community Meal
on Tuesday, December 17th from 4-6:30PM at Whitehall Bible Fellowship Whitehall, PA 18052 610.434.8661

St. Mary's in Catty is looking for a part-time maintenance Person. 15 hr./week please send email of interest to kim.stmarys122@gmail.com

St. John the Baptist 924 N. Front St. Allentown will have their Meat Bingo \$11/15 games. Christmas Ham as special prizes. Doors open at Noon. Bingo begins at 1PM Refreshments available. Questions call Bill 610.432.3505



The birth of the CHRIST-CHILD was a sign of hope for this world.

Consider attending a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend for hope and rebirth in your relationship For info call 610-449-1859 or

www.wwme.org.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING



Remember to take a tag(s) from our Giving Tree located in the main vestibule. Donations will be sent to Catholic Charities. Please drop off your unwrapped gifts in the boxes, and gift cards

may be dropped off in the collection basket. The wonderful generosity of our parishioners is greatly appreciated by all those in need.



Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Retrouvaille of

Delaware Valley offers hope for married couples experiencing loneliness, boredom, misery, or frustration in their marriage. Couples learn valuable communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Our next program starts February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, called 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

"Simple faith is both the cause and the effect of Wisdom in our Soul. The more faith we have, the more we shall possess Wisdom. The more we possess wisdom the stronger our faith. Without seeing, without feeling, without tasting, and without flattering"

St. Louis Marie De Montfort



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CHECK IT OUT TODAY!

Awaiting Emmanuel

An Encounter with Christ

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11

Do you know what to look for?

John the Baptist wasn't sure. He thought Christ would arrive in a big way, like a king, and with fire, as he told his followers in last week's reading (see Mt 3:10, 12). But Jesus hadn't brought wrath, nor ax, nor winnowing fork.

He asked Jesus, by way of his disciples, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:3).

Jesus responds by pointing out how the miracles and works he has performed have fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah (see Is 35:5–6). Those are pretty clear signs of the one who is to come. But what do we have today to help us see Christ?

"Jesus is not a personage from the past; he is a person living today," Pope Francis said in his Easter Vigil homily on April 20, 2019. "We do not know him from history

books; we encounter him in life."

Today begins the third week of Advent, known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, and we light the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath. "Rejoice in the Lord always. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4,5).

What an amazing thing to celebrate!

Christ is alive, even now. We are awaiting Emmanuel, recall-

ing with joy his arrival as a humble infant and preparing with hope for the Second Coming. At the same time, we can keep watch for him in the daily acts of kindness, the miracle of life, and the beauty of his creation all around us.

Let us see Jesus in *all things* — in all of creation.

When you come to know Christ, you can find him amid the sadness, hurt, and evil that still exist in the world today. And you can live out the joy of his promise that he will come again.



Rejoice and Be Glad

"Go up onto a high mountain, / Zion, herald of good news! / Cry out at the top of your voice, / Jerusalem, herald of good news" (Is 40:9). "Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, / break forth into song, you mountains / For the LORD comforts his people / and shows mercy to his afflicted" (Is 49:13). "Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! / Shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem! / Behold: your king is coming to you; / a just savior is he" (Zec 9:9).

Nor should we forget Nehemiah's exhortation: "Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD is your strength!" (Neh 8:10).

POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ Where, in your daily life, is it more challenging to see Christ alive and at work?
- ▶ In what ways do you serve as a sign of Christ in the world today?
- ▶ Where did you see Jesus today?





Meet St. John the Baptist

Even while John the Baptist questioned whether Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus in return offered his friend the highest praise.

Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist, Jesus said (see Mt 11:11).

So who was this man whom Jesus held in such high esteem? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives us some background: “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” [Jn 1:6]. John was ‘filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb’ [Lk 1:15] by Christ himself, whom the Virgin Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth thus became a visit from God to his people [Lk 1:68]” (717).

John became a prophet, drawing

large crowds to hear his preaching about the coming of Jesus. He was baptizing followers at the Jordan River when Jesus arrived and asked to be baptized. John believed himself unworthy to do this, but Jesus insisted. When Jesus arose from the water, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove. Those present then heard a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 3:17).

Soon after, John was arrested for criticizing King Herod’s marriage to his brother’s wife, Herodias. Angered by John’s disapproval and wanting to avenge her mother, Herodias’s daughter took advantage of Herod’s offer to grant a wish and asked for John’s head on a platter. John was beheaded in prison.

Keeping Watch *Together*

Signs of Jesus are all around. Consider these ways to grow more aware, as well as to bring evidence to others.

- Make it a habit after dinner to list the ways you or your family saw Christ in a person or a situation today. Be specific!
- Put technology to work. Set a reminder several times a day on your phone, laptop, or tablet to stop and consider what signs you might have seen in the world around you. If you spot something that calls to mind Our Lord, take a photo with your smartphone or jot a few words in your notes app.
- Look for the spaces in which Jesus’ love is needed and bring it. Defuse tension in angry circumstances. Offer the benefit of the doubt. Hold the door longer for the slower person walking behind you. Pick up trash or tidy a public space. Handle someone else’s chore for them.



An Advent Prayer

Jesus, thank you for your magnificent works that heal and bring hope. I’m opening my heart to the good news and great joy that you offer. May I provide an encounter of Christ to everyone I meet! Amen.

