

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



December 10, 2017 2nd Sunday of Advent

Eagerness. Today's readings combine to tell a story of eagerness—enthusiasm, zeal, wholehearted dedication. Eager anticipation is not a surprising topic for the Advent season, but very surprising, perhaps, is what our readings urge us to be eager about: the cleansing of sins. Isaiah tells God's people to cry out loudly, proclaiming that the Lord will come with power to comfort them and forgive all their sins. Saint Peter inspires us to "be eager to be found without spot or blemish." In Mark's Gospel, people from all over stream to the Jordan, acknowledging their sins and repenting. John the Baptist preaches the mighty power of the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Today's readings wake us up, reminding us how great God is. May we eagerly seek the powerful peace that God's forgiveness brings.

St. Mary of the Assumption – www.stmarysherman.org



MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Mary of the Assumption Parish is a Welcoming Faith Community
Dedicated to Building God's Kingdom by Worship
and Through Education, Love, and Service to All.*

Parish Office

Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 2:30PM
Phone: 724-285-3285 Fax: 724-285-4715

Pastor

Fr. Ward Stakem, OFM, Cap.
saintmaryinhermanfr@zoominternet.net

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Mark Pattock, OFM, Cap
solankowy@yahoo.com

Director of Religious Education

Barb Moran - 724-285-3285

Preschool Teacher

Amy Pettinato- 724-285-3285

821 Herman Road
Butler, PA 16002

Church Secretary/Bookkeeper

Mrs. Linda Green
saintmaryinherman@zoominternet.net

Bulletin News - Hope Montgomery
stmarybulletin@zoominternet.net

Facilities Manager

Frank Huncheck
francishuncheck@yahoo.com
Capuchins in residence at the Friary
Fr. Gary Stakem,
Fr. Albert Alexandrunas, Br. Joe Day
Fr. Victor Kriley
724-282-1485

Sunday Masses

Saturday 4:30 PM Sunday 9:30 AM

St. Joseph

Saturday 6 PM Sunday 8 AM & 11 AM

Daily Masses

Monday - Saturday 8 AM

St. Joseph

Monday - Saturday 9 AM

Holiday Masses

9 AM & 7 PM

Saturday Confessions

12:00 - 1:00 PM 3:45 - 4:15 PM

St. Joseph

Saturday 11 AM - Noon

Christmas Caroling



Thank you to everyone who came out for Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 2nd. It is always extremely appreciated by everyone who was visited by the carolers and a fun time was had by all.

Addresses For Clergy And Religious Related To Our Parish

Fr. Mark Carter, OFM Cap.
Saint Francis Friary
2905 Castlegate Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Fr. Eric Gauchat, OFM Cap.
Our Lady of the
Mountains Friary
300 1/2 East Oldtown Road
Cumberland, MD 21502

Sister Mary Providence Kriley, CDP
Sister Mary Kriley, CDP
Sister Frances Marie Kriley, CDP
Sisters of Divine Providence
9000 Babcock Boulevard
Allison Park, PA 15101

Fr. Lester Knoll, OFM Cap.
Borromeo Seminary
28700 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092

Fr. Jim Kurtz, OFM Cap.
Our Lady of Peace Parish
1000 Third Avenue
Conway, PA 15027

Fr. John McCloskey, OFM Cap.
St. Joseph Friary
2935 Kingston Road
York, PA 17402

Sister Nancy Schnur, CDP
St. Michael Convent
436 Center Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

Fr. Michael Stumpf
St. Mary of the Mount Parish
403 Grandview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15211

Fr. Albert Alexandrunas, OFM Cap.
Br. Joe Day, OFM Cap.
Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM Cap.
Fr. Mark Paddock, OFM Cap.
Fr. Gary Stakem, OFM Cap.
Fr. Ward Stakem, OFM Cap.
St. Mary of the
Assumption Friary
821 Herman Road
Butler, PA 16002

Part Time Maintenance Position

We are in need of a part time maintenance person for St. Mary Parish effective January 1st. Responsibilities include overall maintenance of facilities and equipment; shovel, plow & salt in the winter and mow, trim & prune in the summer. Hours are flexible and estimated at 20-25 hours per week. Must complete all Diocesan clearances. If interested, contact the parish office.

**ST. MICHAEL,
THE ARCHANGEL,**

DEFEND US IN BATTLE...

Pray for those in the military:

Alec Cottage, Jimmy Adley, Jordan Cottage, Trevor Cottage, Greg Haney, Bo Haney, Josh Oesterling, Nate Oesterling, Jack Haney, Brandon Bauer, Matthew McCandless, Brad Fetters, John Heinzl, Stephen Konyha, Joshua Huncheck, Devin Michel, Garrett Fend, Nicholas Cottage, Dustin Michel, Matthew Marra, Nicholas Cypher, Ricky Hoffman, Ryan Jackman, Russell Bauer

**Immersed In Four Sundays Of Advent
Grace**

The seasons and celebrations of the Church are intended to offer us a richness and fullness of grace. Though there are some minimal requirements, we are followers of Jesus Christ—who certainly did not do anything in a minimal fashion. Since our Baptism makes us members of Christ's Body, we are also called to live his breadth of God's presence in our lives.

Every day on the Church's calendar has its own graces to bestow on us. We hear different scripture readings, sing a different responsorial psalm, and pray different prayers. For the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil Mass for Christmas, all of these are completely different from one another. To miss either Mass is to deprive yourself of God's blessings. Of course, I realize that everyone has household schedules to keep. You are lucky to be ahead of the game by realizing this calendrical conundrum now, so that you can prepare and plan well ahead of time. If you are accustomed to attending one of the Christmas Eve Vigil Masses, perhaps this is the year to attend Mass on Christmas Day itself.

You may think that spending two to three hours in church on this particular Sunday, or even on Sunday/Monday, is a lot, but then consider the other things that we willingly spend two or three hours on each day. For some it's often (too often) TV, for others it's time on social media or the internet, for others it's shopping, and so on.

Advent is a beautiful and prayerful time of preparation. I encourage you to immerse yourself deeply in all four Sundays of Advent's wonder and joy. God bless you and God love you.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR LOVED ONES
WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR ILL**

Jim Hoover, Andy Durand, Betty Bell, Joyce Steele, Tim Zendron, Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM, Cap., Art Schnur, Steve Biedenbach, Bill & Anna Cranmer, Jay Rinebolt, Marlene (Michel) Fisher, Jim Schiebel, Frank J. Schmiedlin, Joanie Neigh, Colene Deal, Mary Wagner, Marge Karenbauer, Alice Spinneweber, Lainey Heller, Patricia Green, Christina Salasky, Dorothy Collins, Eddie Zedrick, Nick Miller, Tom Miller, Jeffrey McConnell, Dan Fair, Sharon Rosenbauer, Zach Collins, Sally Ann Bulger, Adam Snow, Babs Schnur, Garnet Kriley

Second Collection On Christmas

The second collection on Christmas day is for Christmas Charities for Children and Youth. Besides supporting this very worthy cause with your generosity, we get the extra bonus of having the Diocese match the amount of our contribution by crediting it toward our Parish Share goal. It's a "win, win" situation.

Children's Choir Practice

We are going to have practice for Christmas Eve Children's choir Sunday, Dec. 10th and Sunday, Dec. 17th from 11AM-12PM. Those students who want to participate who attend CCD need to bring a note from their parents, so they can be excused from their CCD class.



Christmas Eve mass is at 6PM on Sunday, Dec. 24th. The kids will need to be there by 5:15PM.

Extra Opportunities For Confessions

Leave The Light On will be on Wednesday, December 13th from 6-9PM at St. Mary's. Every church in the diocese will be offering confessions on this day. Also, St. Mary's and St. Joe's in Cabot will be having confessions at both Churches from 7-9PM on December 20th. There will not be a penance service this year.

The St. Mary's Library Has New Books!

With winter coming and it getting darker earlier, cozy up and read a good book. The library is located across from Father Ward's office. Due to Safe Environment regulations the doors will be locked during Preschool. If you would like to get a book during those hours please stop by the office for a key. Come check it out.

CALENDAR

December 10, 2017

Children's Choir Practice From 11AM-12PM.

December 13, 2017

Leave The Lights On- Confessions From 6-9PM.

December 17, 2017

Children's Choir Practice From 11AM-12PM.

December 17, 2017

K Of C Pancake Breakfast.

December 19, 2017

Packing Food Baskets.

December 20, 2017

Confessions From 7-9PM At St. Mary's & St. Joe's In Cabot.

Food Baskets

Our cupboard is very LOW. I have decided instead of asking for items, I will tell you what is IN our food cupboard. We are packing December 19th for 5 families. ON OUR SHELVES ARE: 2 cases of children's cereal, 1/2 case of mashed potatoes, 1/2 case of stuffing, 1/2 case of cake mixes. We have a case of the following spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, and we are on the last case of beans and peaches. Thank you for assisting, we could not supply what we do without help. ~ Pam

Holy Hours At St. Pauls

Holy Hour for Peace: Monday, December 11th at 7PM. Prayers for Peace, Vocations, On Mission for the Church Alive, Novena Prayers of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rosary, and Benediction.

Divine Mercy Holy Hour: Tuesday, December 19th at 7PM. Prayers for Family Healing, On Mission for the Church Alive, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

Christmas In Song

At St. Joe's in Cabot on December 17th at 4PM in the Church. Includes dramatic readings, songs, and refreshments.



Child Protective Services

**DIocese VICTIM HOTLINE
NUMBER: 1-888-808-1235**

**Butler County 724-284-5156
Allegheny County 412-473-2000**

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Men's Scripture Study- Wednesdays @ 9AM - Marian Hall

Women's Scripture Study-Wednesdays @ 9AM - Library

SFO - Wednesdays @ 7PM - Marian Hall

Legion of Mary - Thursdays @ 9AM

Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet At St. Mary's

We will pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for family members who have left the Catholic Church, or who have quit going to Church altogether every Tuesday from 1-2PM at St. Mary's of the Assumption. This started on December 5th.

Mass Times For The Fourth Sunday Of Advent & Christmas Masses At St. Mary's

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday, December 23rd at 4:30PM & Sunday, December 24th at 9:30AM.

Christmas: Sunday, December 24th at 6PM & 10PM and Monday, December 25th at 10AM.

Rockin Christmas Concert At St. Andrews

The "Rockin Christmas" concert featuring the CCM band St. Andrews Cross will be held on Friday, December 22nd, at 7PM at St. Andrew Church. The show is free and is appropriate for all age groups. A free will offering will be taken. A wine and cheese social will follow.

Trade For Freedom

December 11th from 3-5PM at St. Wendelin Parish Hall. Trade for Freedom, is a partnership that brings you handcrafted products by women from Nepal and India. You may pay with cash, check or credit card. You may also shop online at <https://tradeforfreedom.com/>.

On Mission For The Church Alive!

Advent is our annual time of anticipation and expectation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and, ultimately, at the end of time. During this season we make many preparations so that we can be ready to meet the Lord. We prepare our hearts through prayer and reconciliation to be a fitting place of welcome for Jesus to dwell. We also prepare our homes as places of warm hospitality to welcome neighbors and strangers alike with a loving and generous heart. This Advent, we also find ourselves anticipating the changes that will soon be upon us as part of the On Mission for The Church Alive! initiative. How are you preparing for the new realities in our parishes? Will your heart meet these changes with resistance or with the resolve to do what it takes to foster new life in your community and help grow the Church? Take some time this Advent to prepare the way of the Lord as he comes to make us and our Church ever more alive!

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN
8 AM RONALD PASSARELLI
4:30 PM MARY ANN ORLOSKI (HUSBAND BOB)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 AM PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY'S

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

ST. DAMASUS I, POPE
8 AM BOB RUEDIGER (CHARLOTTE)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
8 AM LIVING & DECEASED OF THE ALFRED & MARY SPOHN FAMILY (MIKE & LIZ SPOHN)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

ST. LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR
8 AM CHARLES & OLIVE DOUGHERTY (MIKE & LIZ SPOHN)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
8 AM RON PASSARELLI

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

8 AM RICHARD MEISSNER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

8 AM MARGARET NEBEL (AGNES TOMSEY)
4:30 PM RITA MICHEL (FAMILY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 AM PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY'S

FINANCIALS : DECEMBER 3, 2017

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory: | \$ 3,831 |
| Candles: | \$ 38 |
| Parish Share: | \$ 1,873 |
| Utilities: | \$ -0- |
| Flowers: | \$ 92 |
| All Saints: | \$ 3 |
| Retired Religious: | \$ 10 |
| Christmas: | \$ 5 |
| Parish Share Goal: | \$50,810 |
| Donations Collected: | <u>\$43,484</u> |
| Balance Due: | \$ 7,326 |
| ATTENDANCE | 317 |

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 11:

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or
any readings from the Common of The Blessed
Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Wednesday, December 13:

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14:

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15:

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 17:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Liturgy

| | Eucharistic Ministers | Readers | Altar Servers |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dec. 16 Saturday 4:30 PM | 1. Patty Gall 2. Gina Stutz B. Linda Green C. Derek Spahn | Patty Jackman | Claire Nebel Victoria Nebel |
| Dec. 17 Sunday 9:30 AM | 1. Brad Marra 2. David Lis B. Kip Collins | Matt Hagaman | Brady Collins Nicholas Collins |

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Dec. 11 Betsy Bauer, Carole Oresick,
and Candy Williams

Dec. 18 Tom & Linda Angert,
and John Lorenz



Delores Spinneweber
Nickel