

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Preparing the Way Today's readings spin an exciting, hurry-up, preparing story. They proclaim that the fast approaching feast of Christmas is a celebration that acknowledges that the story of Christ has not come to an end, that God's concern for us is no less evident, no less real, that it was thousands of years ago. The message of today's liturgy is clear: "Pull out all the stops! Get Busy! Get Ready!"

Making paths straight, mountains low, and all ground level sounds like work only possible for the divine. But there are many hills, crooked paths, and bumpy roads that we encounter in our daily living that, with God's help, we are able to smooth and straighten.

During this time of Advent, while we are especially aware of our time to wait and prepare, be observant of your family, your parish, your community. Who is walking a particularly rough road these days? Whose burden is heavier than usual? You know you have the ability to help. What will you do today to smooth someone's way?

1. What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say "the time is at hand" for the Messiah's return? In what ways are we ready for his return? In what ways do we need more work?
2. What is the darkest place you've ever been? What was your reaction to the light that followed the darkness of this place? How is that experience similar to the darkness of sin and the light of salvation?
3. How are you like John the Baptizer? Have you taken his message to others? Who has brought his message to you?

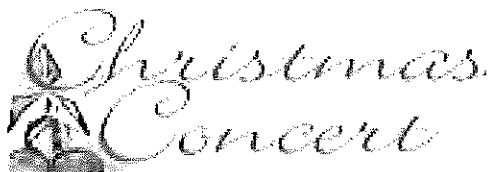
PARISH NEWS

Saturday Mass: December Masses will be held at St. Joseph's. Please continue to watch the bulletin for further notices.

The Lander Family would like to thank everyone for everything they've done for the family during their time of grief. They are grateful and thankful to live in such a great community. Thanks & God Bless, The Landers

(SJP & SMP) If you have a loved one that is in a home or is a shut-in, please call the office if you'd like communion taken to them. Also, if a loved one falls ill, we have no way of knowing until you call our office and let us know. Please be sure to do so. Thank you all!

(SJP) **Scripture Rosary** - A Walk with Jesus and Mary will be prayed every Wednesday during ADVENT at 9a. Come join us!!



*The Clarion Community Choir invites you to come to a Christmas concert of carols from around the world during this joyous season. Come a little early for easier parking. Free, though good will donations are accepted.

*The choir is made up of singers from all around the Clarion County area.

*Place and Time: First United Methodist Church, Wood Street, Clarion, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

PARISH NEWS

Office: Contact the office at St. Joseph with any questions or concerns you may have from either Parish. (814)226-7288. Thank you!

ADVENT PENANCE SCHEDULE 2018

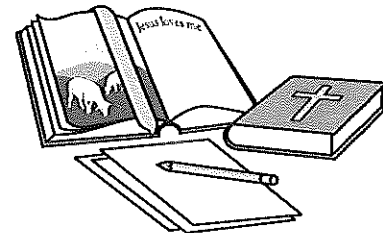
Sunday, December 9th - St. Mary - Crown @ 3p.m.

**Tuesday, December 11th - St. Michael - Fryburg @ 7p.m.

Wednesday, December 12th - I.C. - Clarion @ 7p.m.

Sunday, December 16th - St. Patrick - Franklin @ 4p.m.

**DATE CHANGED



BIBLE STUDY BEGINS January 7, 2019 - The Bible Study will be held every Mon. from 7p - 9p in the Pre-school Library beginning Jan. 7, 2019 through Easter. Cost is \$35 for the workbook and online access. If you wish to join, please call Patti Bauer at 744-8076 by December 17th. And as always, we welcome everyone!

(SJP & SMP) Please note that both Parishes will have their own priests for the upcoming Christmas Season.

SJP Christmas Eve: 5p & 10p, Christmas Day 9a.

SMP Christmas Eve: 5p & 10 p, Christmas Day 9a.

(SMP) On December 23, 2018 at St. Michael, we will be presenting the reading, "The Birth of Jesus", from the Gospel of Luke, along with a nativity scene, at the school at 8:45 a.m. We would like to invite the parishioners from St. Michael and St. Joseph to attend. Following the program, there will be a social gathering and light refreshments.

Liturgy Schedule December 15th & 16th

4:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church

Lector: Judy Wolbert
Euch Min: Cele Schill, Janet Uzmack, Marion Lutz
Altar Server: Kayla & Sara Aaron
Ushers: Chip Wolbert, Greg Ochs, Colin Lander, Ed Baumcratz
Rosary: Mary Banner

7:30 a.m. St. Joseph Church

Lector: Mike O'Neill
Euch Min: Roger & Patti Bauer, Dave Lander
Altar Server: Braden Ochs
Ushers: Dale Gatesman, Brad, Dana, & Luke Ochs

10:00 a.m. St. Michael Church

Sacristan: Casey Rapp
Lector: Mark Baker
Euch Min: Casey Rapp, Dave Smerkar Sr.
Altar Server: Jake Eisenman, Mason Hooper
Ushers: Bern, Brad, Mark, & Josh Beichner
Rosary: Marie Fletcher
R.S. Cleaner: Jackie Lewis

Mass Schedule Dec. 10th - Dec. 16th

Monday, December 10th

7:45 a.m. - (SJP) Robert McWilliams by the family

Tuesday, December 11th

8:30 a.m. - (SJP) Edward George by the family

Wednesday, December 12th

8:00 a.m. - (SMP) Diane Eisenman Moyer by Rose Groner

Friday, December 14th

8:00 a.m. - (SMP) Dorothy Schupp by Donna Guth

3rd Sunday of Advent

Confession is at St. Joseph's @ 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 15th

4:00 p.m. - (SJP) Delmar Lauer by the family

Sunday, December 16th

7:30 a.m. - (SJP) Dave Wolbert by James & Barbara Fiscus

10:00 a.m. - (SMP) Parish Family

Collection Counters December 15th & 16th

SJP: Bridget Collett, Ed Carroll, Steve Hoover
SMP: Eric Schmader, Ray Beichner, Jen Detar

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burning in memory of

SJP: Ray & Ann Judy by Bernie & Deb
SMP: June & Robert Wiant by the family

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Parish Family, All Special Intentions

Service People on Active Duty

Adam Lutz, Diane Ochs, Jayleigh Ochs, Jim Sherbine, Brendan George, Punkie Griebel, Jim Pfaff, Melissa Johnson, Deacon Mike, Cheryl Hockman Rogers, and a special intention

All victims of disasters and violence

If you'd like to add someone, call the office or drop a note in the collection basket.

School News (814) 226-8018

—You can register your children now for the '19-'20 school year.
Call the school for more information. (814) 226-8018.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Joseph's
December 2nd

Sunday Collection **\$3,613**
Loose Collection **\$356**

Special Thanks to all who sacrifice to support St. Michael's
December 2nd

Sunday Collection **\$3,030**
Loose Collection **\$292**

CSA: St. Joseph assessment to Diocese: \$31,342

Parishioners Pledged: \$46,941

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$4,551

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$0

Money towards Steps & Chimney: \$13,209

CSA: St. Michael's assessment to Diocese: \$33,808

Parishioners Pledged: \$49,165

Parishioners Paid to Date: \$45,770

Balance Due to Diocese of Erie: \$0

Money towards Steeple: \$11,962

December 8

YOUR NEEDS AND MY RICHES are a perfect fit. I never meant for you to be self-sufficient. Instead, I designed you to need Me not only for daily bread but also for fulfillment of deep yearnings. I carefully crafted your longings and feelings of incompleteness, to point you to Me. Therefore, do not try to bury or deny these feelings. Beware also of trying to pacify these longings with lesser gods; people, possessions, power.

And my God will meet your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:19

December 9

TRUST ME ONE DAY AT A TIME. This keeps you close to Me, responsive to My will. Trust is not a natural response, especially for those who have been deeply wounded. My Spirit within you is your resident Tutor, helping you in this supernatural endeavor. Yield to His gentle touch; be sensitive to His prompting.

Exert your will to trust Me in all circumstances. Don't let your need to understand distract you from My Presence. I will equip you to get through this day victoriously, as you live in deep dependence on Me. *Tomorrow is busy worrying about itself; don't get tangled up in its worry-webs.* Trust Me one day at a time.

O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you. ~ PSALM 84:12

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” ~ MATTHEW 6:34

—From Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence, by Sarah Young

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Code of Conduct: The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial **Code of Conduct**. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to:

<https://www.eriecd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/CURRENTPolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik, at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1195.

A Christmas Poem

A song was heard at Christmas
To wake the midnight sky
A Savior's birth and peace on earth
And praise to God on high.

The angels sang at Christmas
With all the hosts above
And still we sing the newborn King
His Glory & His Love!

A big thank you to everyone who supported the St Michael Church rosary/jewelry fundraiser! We were able to raise \$695.50 to benefit the roof/steeple project.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, December 16, 2018

(Lec. 9)

- I. Zephaniah 3:14-18a
- II. Philippians 4:4-7
- III. Luke 3:10-18

Liturgy of the Word

Zephaniah presents a vision of a great festival where God's love and forgiveness will be celebrated and his mercy shared with all. Saint Paul reminds the Philippians to be happy and prayerful as they await the return of Christ. John the Baptist proclaims the good news of the kingdom in the Gospel, and challenges his listeners to act with justice and generosity.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Rural Ministry (814) 677-2032 ~ 7 Pulaski St., 16301
Sister Tina Geiger, RSM ~ Sister Marian Wehler, OSB
srtinag@gmail.com or marianwehler@yahoo.com

24 Hour Emergency

Pregnancy (814) 459-3103
Community Counseling (814) 793-6602

The Gospel of Luke, "Jesus the Compassionate Savior" Chapters 1-11 by Stephen Binz has begun and will be held twice a day for your convenience: 10:15am - 11:45am and 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Future dates will be: Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th, & Jan. 3rd. Books will be provided by Sister Marian & Sister Tina. Questions? Call 814677-2032. All are welcome, and we'd love you to bring a friend!

Sponsor of the Week

Pizza Pub