

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

~ December 23, 2018 ~

The Advent Plea... Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior. Is 45: 8

Mass Intentions

Monday ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 PM John T. and Elizabeth Geldon by Family

7:00 PM Woody and Mike Witcoskie by Family

10:00 PM Kimmy Gillow by Mom and Dad

Tuesday ~ Christmas Day

10:00 AM Mom and Dad Zelasko & Mom and Dad Benner by daughter Charlene (Zelasko) and son Allen Benner

Wednesday

No Mass

Thursday

No Mass

Friday

No Mass

Saturday

No Daily Mass

5:00 PM Mary Linsenbigler by son Michael and wife Melissa

Sunday

8:00 AM Helen Johnson and son Billy Gontzar by Family

9:30 AM Richard Rutledge by Donald Keretz, Sr.

11:00 AM Vern Faulkner by Paul and LouAnn Suborits

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First Reading: Mi 5: 1-4a... (The Messiah from Bethlehem)
Micah speaks of the glory of Bethlehem, a lone town among the people of Judah. From Bethlehem shall come forth the promised one who shall stand firm and strong in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 80... (Turn to the Lord)
"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

Second Reading: Heb 10: 5-10... (Doing God's Will)
Jesus said the sacrifices, sin offerings and holocausts did not delight the Lord. But he has come to do the will of God—to establish a second covenant.

Gospel: Lk 1: 39-45... (The Visitation)
Mary went to visit Elizabeth who was also blessed by the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth greeted Mary: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Monday: Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Is 9: 1-6; Ps 96: 1-3, 11-13; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98: 1-6; Heb 1: 1-6; Lk 2: 1-14

Wednesday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6: 8-10; 54-59; Ps 31: 3-4, 6-8, 16-17; Mt 10: 17-22

Thursday: St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
1 Jn 1: 1-4; Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

Friday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1: 5-2: 2; Ps 124: 2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2: 13-18

Saturday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
1 Jn 2: 3-11; Ps 96: 1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2: 22-35



Monday, Tuesday: December 24, December 25

~ ALTAR SERVER ~

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 PM K. Fitzgerald – B. Fitzgerald – S. Fitzpatrick

7:00 PM L. Colarusso – J. Herman – K. Marakovits

10:00 PM L. Skrincosky – S. Fleissner – P. Fleissner

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 AM V. Dadlani – R. Nowak

~ CANTOR ~

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 PM T. Zawadzki

7:00 PM P. Sandt

10:00 PM J. Mertus – A. Devaney
(Choir Mass)

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00 AM E. Gilkeson

~ LECTOR ~

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

(Is 9: 1-6; Ps 96: 1-3, 11-13; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14)

4:00 PM B. Kincaid

7:00 PM J. Gosztonyi

10:00 PM A. Carlin

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

(Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98: 1-6; Heb 1: 1-6; Lk 2: 1-14)

10:00 AM J. Kalata

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~ Saturday, Sunday: December 29, December 30 ~

~ ALTAR SERVER ~

5:00 PM S. Fleissner – P. Fleissner

8:00 AM K. Marakovits – V. Dadlani

9:30 AM L. Skrincosky – Z. Shay

11:00 AM L. Colarusso – J. Doncsecz

~ CANTOR ~

5:00 PM T. Zawadzki

8:00 AM J. Mertus

9:30 AM M. Skrincosky (Choir Mass)

11:00 AM J. McKeon

~ LECTOR ~

(Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Ps 128: 1-5; Col 3: 12-21 or 3: 12-17)

5:00 PM B. Slavoski

8:00 AM T. Zawadzki

9:30 AM R. Fleissner

11:00 AM S. Stofanek



~ Saturday, Sunday: December 29, December 30 ~
(CONT'D)

~ EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS of COMMUNION ~

5:00 PM M. Kluk – M. Witcoskie – A. and C. Benner
8:00 AM G. Mayrosh – R. Pavelko
9:30 AM T. Fitzpatrick – P. Donlan – E. Melendez
11:00 AM G. and M. Harmanos – R. Jacobs

~ GREETER ~

5:00 PM M. and F. Wiedl
8:00 AM Fleissner Family
9:30 AM Dezubay Family
11:00 AM M. Miranda

~ FOOD/GIFT CARD ~

5:00 PM D. Scanlon
8:00 AM J. and J. Kilpatrick
9:30 AM J. Keretz
11:00 AM J. Salabsky

~ MONEY COUNTER ~

K. Figueroa – M. Vanya
Mary and Regina Fitzpatrick

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Liturgical Ministries

~ Monday, Tuesday: December 31, January 1 ~

~ ALTAR SERVER ~

4:00 PM L. Skrincosky – J. Herman
10:00 AM L. Colarusso – R. Nowak

~ CANTOR ~

4:00 PM M. Skrincosky
10:00 AM S. Berdux

~ LECTOR ~

(Nm 6: 22-27; Ps 67: 2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4: 4-7)

4:00 PM B. Farley
10:00 AM J. D. Angelo

Prayer for Our Priests

Eternal God, please bless our priests, who represent you on this earth. Make them more greatly aware of the grace that you pour out through them when they minister the sacraments and help them to fall more deeply in love with you after each and every Mass that they celebrate. Please strengthen our priests, who shepherd your flock, when they are in doubt of their faith, that they may be examples of your Truth and guide us always on the path to you. We ask these things of you our Eternal Priest. Amen.



A time of war, and a time of peace: We pray for those that serve in our military: Michael O'Donnell; Jarrett Buchanan; Blair Holva; Nick Massari; John Flannigan; Joe Owens; Rob McGuire; Joseph Salmento; David Principato; David Colarusso, Jr.; Paul K. Browne, II;

Anthony T. Browne; LCpl Timothy F. Cassidy; Mark McNulty, Jr.; Josh Brueningesen; Sgt. Jared Steirer; Senior Chief Ian Hudak

Almighty and ever present God, creator of life and author of peace, guard the brave men and women serving now in our military services. Watch over each and every one. Protect them as they discharge their duties. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights and lives of those imperiled by injustice and evil. Encourage them as they encourage one another. May the power of Your love and the presence of Your Holy Spirit enable the troops who are now serving away from home to return safely. Amen.

Home of the Free because of the Brave... Thank you!!

Diocesan Victim Assistance Co-ordinator:

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak M.A., NCC, LPC;
Direct Telephone (NOT CONFIDENTIAL): 1-800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Co-ordinator:

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., MS, LMFT; Telephone: 610-332-0442 ext 2019

Diocese of Allentown Protection of Youth Policy:

www.allentowndiocese.org



Parish Upcoming Events

December:

- 24: Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 10:00 PM
- 25: Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 AM
- 29: Knights of Columbus "5th Sunday Rosary": Before 5:00 PM Mass
- 30: Knights of Columbus "5th Sunday Rosary": Before All Masses
- 31: New Year's Eve Mass: 4:00 PM

January:

- 1: New Year's Day Mass: 10:00 AM
- 3: Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 PM ~ Church
- 6: Youth Group Meeting: 7:00 – 8:30 PM ~ School Meeting Room
- 7: CCD Resumes: 5:00 – 6:00 PM ~ School
- 9: Sacred Heart Prime Time Meeting: 1:00 PM
~ Father King Memorial Hall ~
- 10: Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 PM ~ Church

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► ► You are invited to a special event *"The Master Craftsman: God's Amazing Plan for Teens (and their Parents)"* co-sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. Join us for a faith-filled evening with nationally-recognized speaker Scott Anthony, as he helps us see the Truth of God's guiding hand in our lives. We encourage teens in grades 9-12 and their parents to attend! After this evening, you and your youth will look toward the future with a newfound sense of hope. The event will take place on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center (1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103).

This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided. Visit www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman to register for this event. For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Francesca Frias at Frias@allentowndiocese.org.



Please pray for our sick, for all those homebound, in the hospital or nursing homes and especially those who care for them. We also ask prayers for those not listed and those we are not aware of that are ill.

Donna Miller, Joan Szemenyei, Joseph Ludrof, Susan G. Tinschmidt, David Cap, Lisa Dreher, A.J.

Shuck, M. and D. Shuck, Anthony Viera, Bev Russell, Hank Straub, Albina DaSilva, Andrew Filbert, Christopher Brennan, Bill White, Jessica Hewitt, Joan Raymond, John and Charlotte Rzepiela, Lori Watts, Jacob Jarvis, James and Janet DeVaney, Beth Coleman, Mary Saraceno-Wright, Dorothea Saraceno-Atherholt, Alice Bennett, Mary Lou Schuler, Joe Field, Louis A. Gray, Gail Schneider, Molly Weidemoyer, James Lankford, Karen Hegedus, Patrick McBride, Betty McNulty, Jane Schreiber, Ron and Irene Rutkowski, Jamie Heston, Terry Macripo, Patrice Schwartzman, Leona Oberholtzer, Colleen Pinzon, Ronald Mitch, Sanford Kravett, Jack Sharkey, Jack Herczeg, Grandson, Pat Moulton, Sheri Radzelovage, Janet Zambo, Geza Vegh, William Duane, Neal Lamana, Loretta Scurato, Theresa Mitchell, Jean Field, Emerson Davenport, Kaitlyn Whitebread, Gina Teel, Nonna Frances, Charlotte Gazzana, Russell Gazzana, Rebecca Wasniewski, Larry Muzyka, Heather Mowery, Corporal Seth Kelly, Teresa Yatko, Fritz and Pat Warminsky, Betty Balogh, Carmela Azzolina, Walter Fry, JoAnn Connors, Mary Hasencz, Frank Donchez, Carol Jacob, Manny and Dorothy Martinez, Ann Lester, Kathleen Angelozzi, Dorothy Fekula, Emma Fogel, Irene Nagy, Jackie Swartley, Bobby Ricks, George Treisner, Paul Micci, Mike Podhayny

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One Solitary Life... Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Many centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever sailed; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

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Gospel Alleluia Verse... Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. Lk 1: 38

The *Gospel Alleluia Verse* recalls the words that Mary spoke in response to the angel's invitation to become the mother of God.

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Story of the Nativity... Sacred Heart Adult Choir will be presenting their annual Christmas Cantata prior to the 10:00 PM Solemn Christmas Eve Liturgy. Beginning at 9:20 PM, on Monday, December 24th, the Choir will be presenting "Story of the Nativity," a Christmas Cantata with narration and song. All are invited

to this beautiful tradition of the parish as we sing, reflect, pray, and celebrate the joy of the Newborn Prince of Peace.



The Gift of God's Son... A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel. Is 9: 5

May the Joy of Christmas and the Peace which the Birth of the Savior brings into the world, be in your hearts forever. May God richly bless you and your family this Christmas!

Fr. Bob
Deacon Hugh Carlin
Deacon Joe Juhasz

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▶▶▶ **Bulletin Announcements** ◀◀◀

Deliver to the Rectory office or email to sacredheartrectory1936@gmail.com by 12 noon on Thursday (that is, ten days prior to the publication of the bulletin).

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Oh Holy Night

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available at the Rectory.... The Christmas wafer is symbolic of the bread that our Lord shared with the two Emmaus disciples when He was "known to them in the breaking of the Bread." Oplatki is broken and shared with your loved ones on Christmas Eve

with a solemn, yet jubilant, prayer of family and unity being "One in the Spirit, One in the Lord."

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▶▶ Save the Date! **The 2019 Catholic Scout Activity Weekend** will be held at Camp Trexler - Settlers April 26-28th, 2019 - so mark your calendars! We'd love to have you join us for a FUN-Filled weekend that includes all meals and a Saturday Vigil Mass! You don't have to be working on a religious emblem to join us. All Catholic Scouts are welcome. Visit us at www.adccos.org/bsr.htm for more info.

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~ Christmas Schedule ~

• **Mass:**

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve
4:00 PM; 7:00 PM; 10:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day
10:00 AM

Monday, December 31: New Year's Eve ~ 4:00 PM
Tuesday, January 1: New Year's Day ~ 10:00 AM



Sanctuary Lights... Candles can be lit for 7 days (Saturday to Saturday) on the High Altar of the Tabernacle, Blessed Mother Altar, St. Joseph Altar, St. Anthony, St. Jude, and Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sanctuary Candles can be lit for any intention, death remembrance or anniversary, birthday, wedding anniversary, thanksgiving for blessings from God, for those who are ill or having

surgery, or any special intentions which someone would like special prayers for. To have one of these Sanctuary Lights lit, drop a little note in the collection basket marked "Sanctuary Lights". A donation of \$12.00 is asked. The intention will appear in bulletin, unless directed not to.

High Altar of the Tabernacle:

- ✠ In Loving Memory of my husband, Jim Reinhart
By: wife Rosie ~ Merry Christmas
- ✠ In Loving Memory of my father, Jim Reinhart
By: son James, Lynn and Tyler ~ Merry Christmas
- ✠ In Loving Memory of my parents, Stephen and Mary Blatnik
By: daughter Rosie ~ Merry Christmas
- ✠ In Loving Memory of my husband, James Fitzpatrick
By: Mary

Blessed Mother Altar:

- For Healing of Body, Spirit, Soul, Mind and Heart of my Adult Child
- ✠ In Memory of Jean-Paul Joseph Danier-O'Connor
- ✠ In Loving Memory of our Dad and Brother
~ Merry Christmas, Marlene and Dave
- ✠ In Loving Memory of my husband Woody and son Mike
~ Merry Christmas, wife Joanne and Mom
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Mom and Dad Rutkowski
~ Merry Christmas, daughter Joanne and Family
- ✠ In Loving Memory of Mom-Mom and Pop-Pop Slaybecker
By: grandchildren Jude, Charleah and Patrick

Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- ✠ In Loving Memory of our father, James Fitzpatrick
By: Terence, Denise, Regina and Patrice

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Flowers on the Altar of the Blessed Mother for the weekend of December 15/16 were In Loving Memory of Robert Henninger.

~ from Maggie & Henninger Family

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▶▶ Sunday, December 9th, Weekly Envelope: \$6,700 ◀◀

God Bless You and Thank You for your generosity!
Your contributions are deeply appreciated!

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▶▶ Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™ March 22-24, 2019. An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. For registration information contact: Sr. Meg Cole 1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free) 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019 projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org. Deadline for Registration is March 14th. For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org



Sacred Heart Memorial Society...

Those who are enrolled in the Memorial Society will have their names written in a special book. The Memorial Book will be on display by the St. Joseph Altar. An intention will also be included in the Sunday petitions for those enrolled in the Memorial Society. All donations from the Sacred Heart Memorial Society will be

used for the purchasing of items needed to celebrate the Sacraments. Suggested offering is \$20.00. A contribution to the Sacred Heart Memorial Society has been made:

- ✠ In Memory of my husband Joseph Forte
By: wife Margie Forte
- ✠ In Memory of my father Joseph Forte
By: son Leonard Forte
By: son Joseph and Leslie Forte
By: son David and Karen Forte
By: son Daniel and Sharon Forte

- ✠ In Memory of Joseph Forte
By: Barbara Holva and Cynthia Rissmiller

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'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

(Source unknown)

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His Hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" My head hung in shame!

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and this sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after ALL!