



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2018



† MASS INTENTIONS †

Sat.	12/15	4:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Batcha and Ceriani Families by JoAnne & Barbara
Sun.	12/16	7:30 AM	Jean Iben by Her Husband John and Daughters
		10:30 AM	Mike Bobby by His Wife Pat and Family
Mon.	12/17	7:00 PM	Frances Kislak by the Leo Decowski Family
Tue.	12/18	7:00 AM	Christine Yanek by Pat Ceol and Family
Wed.	12/19		NO MASS
Thur.	12/20	7:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Balas Family
Fri.	12/21	7:00 AM	Elizabeth Hrabovecky by Her Daughter Joyce
Sat.	12/22	4:00 PM	Theresa A. Falatko by Robert A. Falatko and Family
Sun.	12/23	7:30 AM	Jeffrey "Zeb" Kopczynskie by Dan Kopczynskie and Family
		10:30 AM	For the People



Last Weekend:

Sunday \$4,164.25; Dues \$609.00; Human Development \$2.00;
 Christmas Flowers \$147.00; Religious Retirement \$806.00;
 Immaculate Conception \$970.00; Poor Box \$248.97



CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are in Memory of the Deceased Members of the Batcha and Ceriani Families by JoAnne & Barbara

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Monday, December 17th, at 7:30 PM in the rectory.

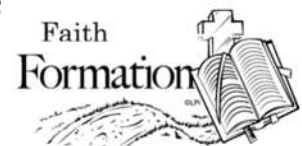


CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE - Your Christmas gifts were distributed on Saturday. What a wonderful day! Everyone was so grateful to have gifts to put under the tree. Sincere thanks to everyone who bought a gift or gift card. You truly helped to make someone's Christmas morning brighter!



FOOD PANTRY DONATION for December is Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa. Next distribution is Tuesday, December 18th.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: On December 9th, the 8th grade class was informed of a Mandatory Retreat for Confirmation. This retreat will take place March 15th and 16th, 2019 at the Bear Creek Camp. A parent meeting will be announced.



Faith Formation will not have class on December 23rd and 30th. Happy Holidays! Classes will resume on January 6 at 9:00 AM.

There will be a First Grade Parent Meeting on Sunday, January 6th, at 9:00 AM in the rectory. At least one parent per student must attend this meeting.

******MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK** will include a mass on Wednesday, December 26th, at 7:00 AM.



I knew it was going to be a tough day. I had been "tapped" out for the Order of the Arrow in the Boy Scouts in the summer of 1970. We would do service projects all day with only a small amount of food. This was done to help build character - we were to give of ourselves. There were moments that day that I wanted to give up. It was just too hard. An older scout helping us that day noticed my dismay. He said one word to me - **PERSEVERE!** The work did not get any easier, but my attitude did. Later that evening there was a ceremony that helped explain all we had done and why we did it. This third week of Advent challenges us to **PERSEVERE**. Keep going.....the real meaning of the season will be revealed in a beautiful ceremony at Mass on **CHRISTmas** eve.



A VIEW FROM THE PEW, A FEW WORDS ON ADVENT

Advent is often swallowed by the commercialization of Christmas. I know that's a worn-out phrase, but we often forget that like Lent this is also a time of spiritual preparation, a journey. The first candle on the wreath is lit and we are to **PREPARE** for the birth of Christ. How are we to accomplish such a goal, through **FORGIVENESS**. Not only by asking God for forgiveness, but we must also forgive others, have mercy. When the second candle is lit maybe it's a good time to let go of our anger and grudges. The third week of Advent is marked by a rose-colored candle. When lit, it is a sign that the journey is almost over, but we must **PERSEVERE** and not just give in to the secular season and forget what **CHRISTMAS** is about. Finally, as the fourth candle is lit, and the journey is almost complete, we still have time to look inward, did we **RENEW** our faith? Which Christmas will we be prepared for, the **HOLY DAY** or the holiday?

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the Valley Country Club on Sunday, January 6th. At 2:00 PM. Menu choices are Chicken Cordon Bleu or Stuffed Flounder. Cost is \$30. Reservation deadline is December 27th.



CHRISTMAS CARD ADDRESSES for Fr. Zavacki, Fr. Matthey, Fr. Greskiewicz and Fr. Gavitt are:

Rev. Richard A. Zavacki
St. Luke's Villa
80 Northampton St. Rm 109
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-3035



Rev. Joseph J. Matthey
Rev. Joseph Greskiewicz
Villa St. Joseph
1600 Green Ridge St.
Dunmore, PA 18509-2102



Rev. J. Duane Gavitt
134 S. Washington St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-2901



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY with Deacon Jim will be held at St. Patrick's on Wednesday, December 19th, at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES came last week and picked up all of the toiletries that you so generously donated to help the homeless in our area. They couldn't believe how many toiletries we had. Special thanks to Paula Gallagher and Mary Lloyd for sorting and bagging the toiletries. Thanks to all who helped make this

collection a success!