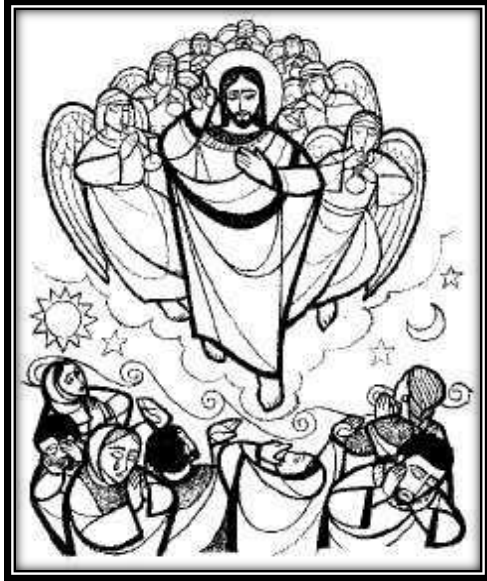
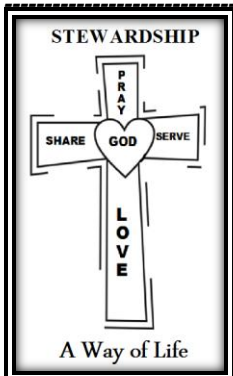


**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 2, 2018**



**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an "in-between time." From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah—the fulfillment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime. In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realization that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realization had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realized that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified. What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.



*"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28)* We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your

relationship with Jesus. It's never too late. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,734 ; Parish Maintenance: \$454. Thank You! Expenses: \$3,635.94 (Salaries, Utilities, Oil, Office Supplies, Water, Sewer, Sanitation). 296 Parishioners attended mass. **Please pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
MINERSVILLE, PA**

[www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org](http://www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org)

Rectory Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
Phone: (570) 544-2211 Fax: (570) 544-2317 E-Mail: [ssk1905@verizon.net](mailto:ssk1905@verizon.net)

**SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST WELCOMES ALL**

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, ethnicity, etc.; you are Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved and Respected at Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish!

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR: Sr. Meg Cole (610-332-0442 x2019)**  
**VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Wendy S. Krisak (Direct: 1-800-791-9209)**

**WEEKDAY MASS AT 8:00 AM (unless indicated otherwise)**

- MON** – Anna Hudock by Jack Hudock
- TUE** – Intentions of Anna Patinka and Maryann by Family
- WED** – Stiney and Anna Gober by Daniel and Anna Mae Clark
- THU** – Captain David Boris by Daniel and Anna Mae Clark
- FRI** – Living and Deceased Members of Parish Memorial Society  
7:00 PM – Stanley Graf, Jr. by Barbara, Mary Beth, Evelyn, and Maureen
- SAT** – 9:00 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners  
4:00 PM – Andrew Botek by Wife, Bertha
- SUN** – 8:30 AM – Deceased of Rose Family by Kuehn Family  
10:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MASSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**THE WEEKLY CALENDAR:** *To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 2 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM. Make a good Confession before Christmas!

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** May Christ, Creations Lord and Judge, bestow His life-giving love on **LUKE GERALD EBERSOLE**, son of Travis and Allison, who will be Baptized after today's 10:30 AM Mass. **GOD BLESS LUKE GERALD AND HIS FAMILY!**

**FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC):** Jesus told us to ask the Harvest Master to send laborers into his harvest. May the prayers of our participating families bear fruit. Thanks to **LINDA ROTHERMEL (8:30 AM)** for hosting the FPC for vocations. Sign up for March and April in Church vestibule.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

**ADVENT CHARITIES:** 1) **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY:** We need ALL TYPES OF PASTA AND SAUCES to feed the needy of our area. Call 570-544-2739. **Volunteers, especially men, are needed for God's Bountiful Table.** 2) **BIRTHRIGHT'S GIVING TREE:** A special tree has been placed in our Church's Sanctuary in front of the pulpit. Ornaments on the tree list items needed by mothers and children in want in our county. **Please buy or make these items and return your gifts UNWRAPPED to the Church by December 16.** Your gifts will be given to Birthright of Frackville to be distributed during the Christmas Season. **(We thank GERALD and JANICE LEONARD for the beautiful Advent Giving Tree given in memory of their parents, JOSEPH and THERESA LEONARD.)**

**PRO-LIFE REFLECTION:** John the Baptist, while still in the womb of Elizabeth, recognized Jesus in the womb of Mary and leapt for joy. This Advent season may we recognize Jesus as our Savior and be open to his joy, peace, and love.

**ADVENT VOTIVES:** (1) **SANCTUARY:** IMO Veronica Novack by Family. (2) **ALTARS:** **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; For the health of Judy Graver by Helen and CoCo; IMO Joseph Dallago by Family; In honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and thanks for graces. **DIVINE MERCY:** In thanksgiving for favors received; IMO Aldona Butler by Ed; Intentions of Catherine Barton (Birthday) by Alicia Poslosky. (3) **BEFORE: ST. ANTHONY:** Intention of Lucy Barnetsky. **ST. ANNE:** For All those I love, living and deceased, by Stella Gottschall. **ST. LUCY:** Special Intention by Father Leo. **ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention. **ST. FRANCIS:** For the health of Waldo by Helen and CoCo; Special Intention. **ST. THERESA:** IMO Helen O'Connor (Birthday) by Daughter, Mollie and Family. **REREDOS NICHE:** For the Health of Eleanor Scarbinski by Father Leo. **SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II:** Intentions of Father Leo. **ST. PETER:** Intentions of Andrew Makara (Birthday) by Alicia Poslosky; Intentions of John Poslosky (Birthday) by sister, Alicia. Call 570-544-2211 for votives.

**BLESSING OF CHOCOLATES:** For our Parish children at our weekend Masses to honor St. Nicholas, Patron Saint of Children, whose Feast Day is December 6. **GOOD ST. NICHOLAS PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!**

**SPECIAL CYO MASS:** Our parish children and their coaches will attend today's 10:30 AM Mass. We thank our coaches for all the good they do for our children. God bless everyone involved in our Catholic Youth Organization! **THANKS FOR CARING ABOUT OUR PARISH CHILDREN!**

**GIFT CARD BINGO:** Doors open 11:30 AM; Bingo starts 1:00 PM. Nativity BVM High School. Gift cards from various businesses and restaurants, food and refreshments. Call Diane (570-294-0551) for information.

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER:** 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, St. Patrick Church. Cost: Adults \$8; Children \$3.50. Eat-in or take-out. Call 570-622-1802 for more information.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL MURPHY JEWELERS BINGO:** Doors open 11:00 AM; Bingo starts 1:00 PM. St. Nicholas Hall, Primrose. \$25. Call 570-527-0899, 570-544-2800, or 570-544-4581 for tickets. Benefits St. Nicholas School.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 – CHRISTMAS VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Continues today until completed. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) to add someone to our sick call list. We will try to visit all parishioners in local nursing homes before Christmas, God willing.

**BIBLE STUDY MEETING:** 2:00 PM, Parish Center. Studying Liturgy for the Second Sunday in Advent. This will be the last Bible Study until after the New Year. Call Arlene (570-385-0248). Everyone welcome!

**CHRISTMAS MAILING:** You will be receiving in the mail this week a Christmas Schedule and a letter requesting your support for the Retired Religious of our country. Please hold on to the Christmas Season schedule of Masses and Confession. **Prayerfully consider a donation to help our Retired Religious. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 – ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:** 1) 6:00 PM, Good Shepherd Building. 2) **ANNUAL CHILDRENS' ST. NICHOLAS DAY PARTY:** Magic show and refreshments, 6:30 PM, Good Shepherd Cafeteria. **All Parish children and Parish volunteer workers' grandchildren are welcome to meet St. Nicholas!** 3) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 4) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 5) Our C.R.E. is Miss Novack(570-544-2211).

**HOLIDAY SIP AND SHOP:** 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Providence Place, Pottsville. Wine tasting with Red Shale Winery, over 40 vendors, hors d'oeuvres, pictures with Santa, Chinese Auction, live radio broadcast. A shuttle will be running to and from JFK swimming pool.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE:** 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

**ST MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' BUS TRIP: FREE DAY IN NEW YORK CITY:** Cost \$45. Departs: Quandel's Minersville 6:30 AM; Giant in Cressona 6:45 AM; New York City 6:00 PM. Call Julie (570-544-5231) or Millie (570-628-5413) ASAP for information.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 – "SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT" CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 7:45 AM. Make room for Confession in your busy schedule!

**EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR:** Following today's 8:00 AM Mass, there will be Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life from our Parish and Diocese.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** Mass is at 7:00 PM (Vigil), and 9:00 AM. Confessions are fifteen minutes before both Masses.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 3:30 PM. Prepare for Advent by making a good Confession!

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

**THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC):** DAVE and KAREN SIMINITUS FAMILY (4:00 PM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or sign-up in the Church Vestibule. We need volunteers for March and April! **THANK YOU!**

**NATIONAL RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION:** *Help religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders! Please support today's diocesan second collection!*

**SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE:** (1) **FUEL:** Your contribution will help defray the cost of heating oil for all parish buildings. (2) Check your Envelope Boxes for the envelopes you might have missed. Thank You!

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**MINISTERS AT MASS FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Botek Family	Theresa Kroznuski	Gloria Paltanavage	Olivia Osborne Erica Osborne
SUN 8:30 AM	Kuehn Family	Abigail Adams	Deacon Henninger	Connor Schwalm Scott Schwalm
10:30 AM	Parishioners	Mary Ann Harrison	Jamie Kuehn	Kaitlyn Koury Nolan Plesnarski

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**COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**DECEMBER 12 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, the Parish St. Vincent De Paul Society prepares and serves a walk-in meal from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fr. Anthony J. Ricapito Annex for those who are in need. **Delivered meals are available for people with disabilities ONLY.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484).

**DECEMBER 13 – MONTHLY ROSARY:** 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

**DECEMBER 14 – MINERSVILLE AREA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** **Its purpose is to provide economically disadvantaged individuals with food during the Christmas Season and into the New Year. All monetary donations can be mailed to The Minersville Area Food Drive Committee, 529 Lytle Street, Minersville, PA. Non-perishable food items are still very much needed and would be appreciated. For information, contact Chairman Edward Butler (544-2739).**

**DECEMBER 15, 16 – BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI:** All children are invited to bring the infant Jesus figures from your family Nativity scenes for a special blessing at all weekend Masses, December 15 and 16, Gaudete Sunday.

**DECEMBER 16 – ADVENT COMMUNITY CONFESSIONS:** 3:00 PM, Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church. Prepare spiritually for Christmas by making a good Confession for Christmas! There will be at least 4 Confessors!

**DECEMBER 19 – HOLIDAY FOOD SALE: Homemade frozen pierogi (\$7 per dozen) and homemade frozen fresh kielbasa (\$8 per two pound link). Pick-up is 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM today at the Parish Center. PRE-ORDERS ONLY. Call NOW, Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (570-544-2211). PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS EARLY!**

**ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' ADVENTURES! YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR RESERVATION! JULIE(570-544-5231), MILLIE(570-628-5413).**  
**DECEMBER 10 – SANDS-BETHLEHEM CASINO:** Cost \$25. There will be an opportunity to see the Christmas City Lights in their glory and visit Historic Holy Ghost Church in South Bethlehem!

**MAY 13-17, 2019 – CAPE COD AND BOSTON:** 5 days, 4 nights, \$659 per person, double occupancy includes: 4 Nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, National Shrine of Divine Mercy, evening of entertainment, Tours of Provincetown, Chatham, Boston and Quincy Market, Plymouth and Plymouth Rock, Historic Sandwich, Hyannis area, including Kennedy Memorial and Main Street, Hyannis Harbor Cruise with view of Kennedy Compound, Cape Cod Canal visitor's center, Foxwoods Casino, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, All taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND VOTIVES: We would appreciate your Floral Memorials (\$10) and Votive Memorials (\$5) for the adornment of our Church during this coming Christmas Season. Envelopes for your floral memorials can be found in your Sunday Envelope boxes. Please return them ASAP. Make arrangements for Vigils at your earliest convenience by calling the Rectory (570-544-2211)**

**2019 ADULT CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES:** All 2019 adult envelopes can be found in the last pew on the BVM side of the church. Please take yours and help us deliver those of our shut-in (home-bound) parishioners. If there are any concerns with your envelopes, please call 570-544-2211.