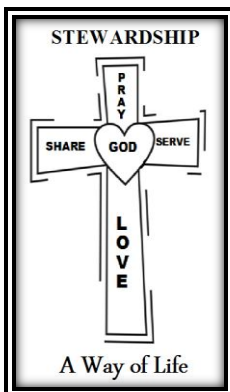


FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018



GOSPEL REFLECTION: We live in an era when we are constantly hearing about the demise of the family and the demise of family values. It seems that the family is under constant attack. Divorce rates are at an all-time high and a huge number of young people are raised in single-parent families, divided families, or blended families. To talk about a "typical" family is increasingly irrelevant. What we are learning to appreciate more and more is the diversity of family experience. Despite all this, there is no disputing the value of the family unit. Family is at the heart of our society; at the heart of our development; and at the heart of our Church. When we stop and think about it, the Holy Family that we honor today wasn't exactly what we might describe as a "typical" family and yet they provide a model for all families. // In today's gospel, we get a snapshot of family life for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph at a time when Jesus was 12 years old. We're reminded that the family was a faithful Jewish family, attending the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem every year. We're also reminded that it is at the Passover celebrations some 20 or so years later that Jesus will be tried and crucified. When Mary chastises the boy Jesus, he reminds her that he needs to be busy with his Father's affairs. Mary and Joseph are confused by this, perhaps forgetting momentarily that Jesus is referring to his heavenly Father. This incident, so often dismissed as background "color" to the gospel narrative, conveys the significant truth that Jesus shared a family relationship with Mary and Joseph, but also shared a family relationship with God, his Father. It reminds us that Jesus called all of us to enter into the relationship he shared with his Father.



"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1) During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and

friends that you love them, frequently. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,606; Parish Maintenance: \$497 (323 Parishioners attended Sunday Mass; 511 attended Christmas mass). Thank You! Expenses: \$8,440.89 (Salaries, Maint. Contract, Oil, Equip. Maint./Supplies/ Repair). **Please pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH MINERSVILLE, PA

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

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 – 4:00 PM – Michael Dudash, Sr. by Son, Michael and Family
- TUE – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners
10:30 AM – Celie and George Miller by Edward Butler
- WED – Joseph Skilbiel by George and Ann Marie Halaburda Wychick
- THU – Scott Renninger by Family
- FRI – Living and Deceased Members of the Parish Memorial Society
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Travis Newton by Garrison, Grady, Irelynn, Grayson
- SUN – 8:30 AM – Stiney Skavinsky (Birthday) by Family
10:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MASSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019

II BANNES OF MARRIAGE: Kayla A. Stickell (St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish) and Devin Heckman (St. Patrick Parish)

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: May Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, take unto Himself **ROBERT KOPINETZ**, a former member of the former St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, who died Wednesday, December 26, and who will be buried from our church Friday, January 4. May Mary, Mother of Our Savior, comfort Robert's family and friends.

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant in a manger. (Lk 2:16)

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM.

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY: Today's feast gives us a chance to celebrate another aspect of the incarnation of Christ: His sharing in the life of a human family. Plan on honoring the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, by attending Mass throughout this coming year as a Family. A special family blessing will be imparted to families at mass today. God bless you, your family, and our entire Parish Family!

FAMILY BLESSING: O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. // Shower your blessings on the families of our Parish who gather each Sunday in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord. AMEN!

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. **RITA SKAVINSKY (8:30 AM)** will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up for March and April in Church vestibule.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Today's gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

CHRISTMAS SEASON CHARITIES: 1) ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: We need ALL TYPES OF CANNED MEATS to feed the needy of our area. Call 570-544-2739. Volunteers, especially men, are needed for God's Bountiful Table. 2) **ANNUAL MINERSVILLE AREA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Donations, both monetary and non-perishable goods, can be made in care of: Ed Butler, 529 Lytle Street, Minersville. Call Ed (570-449-2739) for more information. **Helping the disadvantaged is truly the spirit of the season! THANK YOU!**

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: The only differences between the Herod of old and the "Herods" of today are in the weapons used and the number of victims. Herod used swords and spears to kill the Holy Innocents. Today's Herods use surgical abortion, 'The Pill' and other chemical weapons. And whereas Herod killed a relatively small number of babies, today's Herods have butchered, worldwide, hundreds of millions with no end in sight! Join pro-life today!

BELATED CHRISTMAS VOTIVES: (1) ALTARS: DIVINE MERCY: In honor of Rita Skavinsky by Family; IMO Rev. Joseph Reilly by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Joseph Quirk by Stan and Sally Gober. **REREDOS NICHE:** IMO Charlotte Parry by Stan and Sally Gober. (2) **BEFORE: ST. ANNE:** IMO Mary S. Skavinsky by Family. **ST. ANTHONY:** IMO Dorothy Valentine by Stan and Sally Gober. **ST. BARBARA:** Deceased of Dutcavich Family, IMO Sr. M. Alphonsa, S.S.C., by Gloria Dutcavich (2). **ST. FRANCIS:** IMO Frances Sumoski and Josph Sumoski by Daughter, Bertha Warcola (2); IMO Dave Warcola by Mother, Bertha. **ST. THERESA:** IMO Baby Skavinsky by Family; IMO Clista Hudock by Stan and Sally Gober. **ST. LUCY:** IMO Vera Petkaitis by Stan and Sally Gober. **SACRED HEART:** IMO John Andruchek, Sr.; IMO Joseph and Adelia Andruchek. **SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II:** IMO Magdalene Skavinsky by Family. **ST. PETER:** Deceased of Supsinkas Family and Montello Family by Gloria Dutcavich (2). **ST. PAUL:** For peace on earth and for all religious who served at St. Francis of Assisi Church and School by Gloria Dutcavich (2). **HOLY OILS:** IMO Joanne Pretavage. **INFANT OF PRAGUE:** IMO Anthony T. Warcola by Wife, Bertha. (3) **ST. STANISLAUS BISHOP AND MARTYR MURAL:** IMO Stiney Skavinsky by Family; IMO Marge Homa by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Bill and Linda Herbert by Stan and Sally Gober. **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE:** IMO Michael and Anna Orlosky; IMO Lewis and Theresa Lesnefsky. **NAVE:** For the Health of Ellen Doran by Theresa Schoffstall and Family (2). Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) for votives.

CHRISTMAS SEASON VOTIVES: (1) **SANCTUARY:** IMO Mary and Stiney Sakvinsky by Family. (2) **ALTARS: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** IMO Michael and Anna Warhola by Family; Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; For the Health of Judy Graver by Helen and CoCo; IMO Edward and Elizabeth Siminitus by Family. **DIVINE MERCY:** For the Health of Waldo by Helen and CoCo. (3) **BEFORE: ST. LUCY:** Special Intention by Father Leo. **ST. JOSEPH:** Happy Birthday Dad, Joe Stabinsky, by Sons, Matthew and Kevin; Happy Birthday Pap-Pap, Joe Stabinsky, by Grandchildren, Julia and Andrew. **HOLY OILS:** Intention of Rose Ann by Mother, Rose Marie Skibiell. **INFANT OF PRAGUE:** Intention of Rose Ann by Mother, Rose Marie Skibiell. **NAVE:** IMO Helen Pytko (Birthday) by Dolores Leister; Special intention. **ST. BARBARA MURAL:** IMO Celie and George Miller by Edward Butler; IMO Helen Pytko (Birthday) by Dolores Leister; IMO Donald and Aldona Butler by Edward. For Epiphany votives call the Rectory (570-544-2211).

CHRISTMAS SEASON FLOWERS: We gratefully acknowledge the special bouquet before the BVM Altar IMO Josephine Laudeman by Michelle and Family. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) to arrange floral memorializations.

MONDAY, NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31 – THE VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 PM. **Pastoral Note:** There is no better way of ushering in the New year than by honoring our Blessed Lady for accepting God's call to be the mother of His son and by attending mass. **PASTORAL NOTE:** The Rectory will be closed Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019, NEW YEAR'S DAY – THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Contemporary Catholics can recall a number of names for this day, titles dictated by Church tradition, society, and various popes. It is New Year's Day; it is often still called the Circumcision of Jesus; it has been decreed as World Day of Peace. In the current calendar's preparation, research showed that it is the oldest feast of Mary in our Church. Amidst the echoes of Christmas and the visit of the shepherds, we take time to celebrate Mary. Mass is at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM. **NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS:** Best wishes to all parishioners, friends, and benefactors of our Parish for a happy, healthy, and God-filled New Year. May you follow Mary's example by giving Jesus a dwelling place within yourself and by always seeking to do God's will. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** **SECOND COLLECTION:** INITIAL OFFERING: Your donation of \$5.00 will help defray **THE COST OF 2019 ENVELOPES (\$1,307.34).** **2019 CHURCH CALENDARS:** Can be found in the Church vestibule. Thanks to Butler Funeral Home!

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS: Best wishes are extended to all parishioners, friends, and benefactors of our Parish for a happy, healthy, and God-filled New Year. May you emulate Mary, Mother of God, in giving Jesus, God's Son, a dwelling place within yourself by always seeking to do God's will.

ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 1) No classes today. Classes resume 6:00 PM, Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

2) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 3) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 4) Our Coordinator of Religious Education is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE: 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 – THE FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS: This feast's origins for the local Church can be traced back to the early days of the Diocese and the strong presence of Holy Name Societies, the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), and the Bernadine Community. His Excellency, Bishop Joseph McShea, founding Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, in an effort to increase greater devotion of the Holy Name of Jesus among the faithful petitioned Rome to establish this as a Feast in the Diocese. // Through the particular efforts of St. Bernadine of Siena (20 May), devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus ("Yahweh is salvation") was promoted through the inscription of the monogram of the Holy Name, IHS (an abbreviation of the Greek name for Jesus) and the addition of the name Jesus to the Hail Mary. We will pray the Litany of the Most Holy Name of Jesus after Mass.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 – FEAST OF ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON: 1) We will Venerate her Relic after today's 8:00 AM Mass. 2)

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: There will be Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. Come and pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life from our Parish and Diocese. Spend some quiet time with our Eucharistic Lord.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:45 AM. MAKE CONFESSION A REGULARITY IN THE NEW YEAR!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 – THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN: We will venerate the relic of St. John Neumann at 4:00 PM Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:30 PM. BEGIN THE NEW YEAR BY GOING TO CONFESSION!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 – THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: The Christmas Season continues with yet another view of God in our history. In his very flesh, Jesus is the revelation of God. This is a season to celebrate a baby, but even more the manifestation, "epiphany," of God to the whole world. // Packets containing the gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child, Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (and chalk for the traditional Epiphany Home Blessing) will be blessed at mass. The offering is \$1.00 per pack.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): TERESA MILLER will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). We need volunteers for March and April! THANK YOU!

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT HOMEMADE SPAGHETTI DINNER: 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, St. Patrick Parish Center, Pottsville. Adult: \$8; Children: \$3.50. Eat-in or take-out. Call 570-622-1802 for information.

SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE: **SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE:** (1) **UTILITIES:** Your donation will help pay for light, water, sewer, heating tapes, and the maintenance of all parish heating units, etc.. (2) **Please catch up with any missed envelopes.** Consistent support helps your church meet its financial obligations! **Catch up deadline for 2018 envelopes is January 31, 2019.**

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR EPIPHANY

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Newton Family	Raina Land	Deacon Henninger	Eades Family
SUN 8:30 AM	Skavinsky Family	Elaine Stine	Teresa Miller	Jordan Berdanier
10:30 AM	Parishioners	Marge Walasavage	Sharon Kolenick	Eric Andruchek
				Bella Kuehn
				Gabriel Kuehn

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JANUARY 10 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

JANUARY 13 – THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: ORIENTATION: This Feast proclaims a *theophany*, a revelation and manifestation of the divine Sonship of Jesus by his anointing and appointing to his Messianic office. It is the feast that proclaims the BAPTISM that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God. THE RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER will be celebrated in commemoration of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. **Pastoral Note: Today officially ends the Christmas Season.**

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: School tours, presentations, and displays will begin at 1:00 PM. Members of the entire Nativity community will be available to answer your questions. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome! Call the school (570-622-8110) or e-mail jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions.

FEBRUARY 13 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: 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).

ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' ADVENTURES! YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR RESERVATION! JULIE(570-544-5231), MILLIE(570-628-5413).

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 THANKS: (1) Thanks to Janice and Jerry Leonard for donating the Christmas Trees surrounding our Nativity Scene and in the Church Sanctuary IN MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS, JOSEPH AND THERESA LEONARD. Thank you for your goodness to our Parish! (2) Our volunteer church decorators did a fine job! Thank you for your time and talent. (3) We are grateful to our Liturgical Ministers (Ushers, Servers, Lectors, Special Ministers of the Eucharist, Choir, Organists, Musicians, Tableau Participants and Organizers) and especially to the Liturgical Ministers who re-arranged their personal schedules to help their Parish at Christmas. (4) Thank you to all floral and vigil donors who helped adorn our church at Christmas! (5) We additionally thank past and present parishioners, friends, visitors, and benefactors whose presence enriched our parish's celebration of The Mystery of the Incarnation.