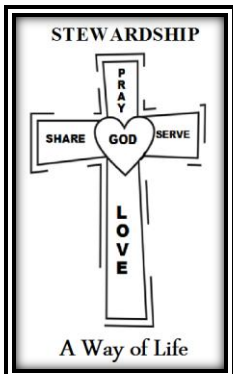


**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT DECEMBER 9, 2018**



**GOSPEL REFLECTION:** The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, "Prepare a way for the Lord." (Often translated as "Prepare the way of the Lord.") The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasizes that John was preaching "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favor. // This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognize our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to "Prepare a way for the Lord" it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts—to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognize God's love if we "Prepare a way."



*"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)* Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we

remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,959 ; Utilities: \$444. Thank You! Expenses: \$6,644.55 (Salaries, Utilities, Oil, Insurance, Altar Wine, Equip. Maint. And Repair). 341 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 – 7:30 AM – Edna Kaskie by Family
- TUE – Stephen Lagaza by Children
- WED – Alphonse Balulis and Frank by Family
- THU – Anna Dobles by Daughter, Carol
- FRI – John Maletz by Family
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Anna Sabadish (1<sup>st</sup> Annv) by Betty Sabadish and Family
- SUN – 8:30 AM – John Consugar by Family
- 10:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

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

**ADVENT EMBER DAYS:** During this Season of Advent, His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert asks the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season. Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days set aside (Wednesday, December 19; Friday, December 21; and Saturday, December 22) to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly. There are twelve Ember Days in all. Traditionally Ernbertide was also decided as a time to pray for priests. Ember Days are no longer included in the Universal Roman Calendar but they are not abolished. On these days, Bishop Schlert is asking for abstinence from all meat products, fasting, and a Holy Hour by the clergy. The People of God of the Diocese of Allentown are encouraged to join in this practice as a sign of healing.

**THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart. (Cf. Is 30:19,30)**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM. Make a good Confession before Christmas!

**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 for the Retirement Fund for Religious.*

**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 DAVE and KAREN SIMINITUS FAMILY (4:00 PM) for hosting the FPC for vocations. Sign up for March and April in Church.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

**ADVENT 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) **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.

**PRO-LIFE REFLECTION:** "If it be necessary to go against the current of what is sometimes being thought and said on all sides, then let us never grow weary of repeating it - All human life must be absolutely respected; in fact, abortion and euthanasia are murder." (Pope Paul VI) Get involved. Join pro-life today!

**ADVENT VOTIVES:** (1) **SANCTUARY:** IMO Edna Kaskie by Family. (2) **ALTARS: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Leona Maletz (Birthday) by Brother, Father Leo; IMO Anna Dobles by Daughter, Carol; IMO Fr. Ignatius Szal (Birthday) by Dennis and Diane Frank. **DIVINE MERCY:** For the health of Waldo by Helen and CoCo; IMO Aldona Butler by Edward; IMO John Maletz by Family; For the Health of Karyn Nazur by Angela. (3) **BEFORE: ST. ANNE:** For the health of Judy Graver by Helen and CoCo. **ST. LUCY:** Special Intention by Father Leo; Happy Feast Day St. Lucy! **ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention. **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention. Call 570-544-2211 to memorialize votives.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 – SANDS CASINO BUS TRIP:** Departs Quandel's Lot 10:00 AM. Departs Casino 5:00 PM. **Holiday treat:** "Bethlehem Christmas Lights" and a stop at the beautiful Church of the Holy Ghost, South Bethlehem. Call Julie (570-544-5231) or Millie (570-328-5413) ASAP for information. **N.B. DAILY MASS IS AT 7:30 AM.**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11 – ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:** 1) 6:00 PM, Good Shepherd Building. 2) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 4) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 5) Our Coordinator of Religious Education is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE:** 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

**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).

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

**"SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT" CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join and for rehearsal times.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 7:45 AM. Make room for Confession in your busy schedule!

**MINERSVILLE AREA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Its purpose is to provide economically disadvantaged 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).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 3:30 PM. Prepare for Christmas by making a good Confession!

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 16 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

**THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC):** FRANK KUCHTA (8:30 AM) 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!**

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

**ADVENT COMMUNITY CONFESSIONS:** 3:00 PM to 4:30 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!

**SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE:** (1) **GENERAL REPAIR:** Your contribution will help defray the cost of general maintenance.

(2) Check your Envelope Boxes for the envelopes you might have missed. Thank You!

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

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Sabadish Family	Nicole Forney	Rosalie Novack	Olivia Osborne Erica Osborne
SUN 8:30 AM	Consugar Family	Sr. Mary Jane	Alicia Poslosky	Connor Schwalm Scott Schwalm
10:30 AM	Parishioners	Marge Walasavage	Deacon Henninger	Kaitlyn Koury Nolan Plesnarski

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

**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!**

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

**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 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 remaining 2019 adult envelopes can be found in the last pew of the church. Please take yours and help us deliver those of our shut-in (homebound) parishioners. If there are any concerns with your envelopes, please call 570-544-2211.

**REMINDERS:** 1) **CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Why not consider giving a friend or family member a 2018 **ADULT SUNDAY MISSAL** (\$5) now available in the Church Vestibule; **NEW CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** (\$29.95 hardcover; \$19.95 soft cover), Rectory 2) **HAPPY NEW YEAR: The Church's New Year began with The First Sunday of Advent. We gratefully acknowledge a New Year's gift, 2019 CHURCH CALENDARS, from Don, Peggy and Christopher Butler of The Butler Funeral Home. We thank them for remembering the parish! Each parish household is asked to take only one.** 3) **CHRISTMAS WAFERS / PLOTKELES / OPLATKI:** Are available in the Vestibule to help you preserve the custom of the Christmas Eve Holy Supper. The offering per pack is \$4.00. Preserve this beautiful religious Holiday Tradition! (The Wafer envelope explains how to observe this custom.)

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDRENS' TABLEAU:** We are in need of children (grades 1 through 5) to volunteer for our 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Nativity Tableau. Create a beautiful spiritual Christmas memory for your child! Call Rosalie Novack (570-544-2172) ASAP.

**2018 DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS:** 1) Mission Sunday: \$782.36; 2) Poverty Relief Fund: \$1,210.75. We are grateful for your generosity. **YOU ARE GOOD PEOPLE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN FOR "THE GREATER CHURCH"!**

**GIFT CARDS TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:** Both Assumption BVM and Nativity BVM sell gift cards to purchase groceries in Giant, Weis, BG's, and Boyer's, to eat in local restaurants and chain restaurants outside the area, and to shop in major and small department stores. These participating stores, eateries, grocery stores, and gas stations donate a percentage of their sales back to the school. Call Assumption BVM (570-622-0106) or Nativity BVM (570-622-8110) for more information.