

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

5:00 PM + James Drummer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

8:15 AM + Jean & Woody Carpenter

11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

9:00 AM + Fred Kulczak

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

9:00 AM + Ann Wainwright

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

9:00 AM + William H. Boeshore, Sr.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

9:00 AM + William L. Kroft, Sr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

5:00 PM + Rick Stefanovich

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2016

8:15 AM – People of the Parish

11:15 AM + Joe Behe

+indicates - deceased

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

SICK OF THE PARISH – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers.

Susan Goughnour, Fred & Yvonne Staub, Kenneth Williams, Don & Roxey Myers, Helen & Laverne Lawrence, Keira Slonaker, Polly Renaut, John Feiser, Dorothy Schlaline, Doris Pohlman, Marilyn Drummer, Maria Maxwell, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Theron Menges, Bob Kline, Alice Williams, Kathleen Krepps, Carl Ramskow, Brenda Freed, Micheline Starcher, Louise Peters, Amanda Hucks, Shannon Duff and Joyce Topper.

IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Donald Holst, grandfather of Shannon Walter and George Francisco, brother of Carmelita Garcia who died this week.

Also, pray for the repose of the soul of Richard Harkenrider of our parish who died this week.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near."

This week's Gospel continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Today we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

FAMILY CONNECTION

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled. Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation.

PARISH WEBSITE HAS MORE PARISH INFORMATION, CALENDAR AND ACTIVITIES. VISIT WWW.IHMPARADISE.ORG.

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Dec. 17-18

5:00 PM Mass: Harrison, Landon & Ella Smith

8:15 AM Mass: Lauren Wicker, Joseph & Mary Murphy

11:15 AM Mass: Brielle Baughman, Margaret & Clare Mailey

Coordinator is Lori Kuhn.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Dec. 17-18

5 PM MASS – Mary Margaret Thorne

8:15 AM MASS – Jeanne Maysilles

11:15 AM MASS – Jess Socrates

Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Dec. 17-18

5:00 PM: Bertie Kuhn, Steve Hoffman, Dan Landis, Steve Signorello, Sam Spiese

8:15 AM: Liz Kohler, Kim Leese, John Maysilles, Jeff Siefert, Carol Stroud

11:15 AM: Andy Altobelli, Carmelita Garcia, Bonnie Hensel, Lorrie Nagy, Leland Steinke

Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES – Anyone who would like to memorialize a loved one with Christmas flowers for our Church may do so by filling out the envelope and placing it in the collection basket. These envelopes are found at all exits of the Church. All envelopes must be returned no later than Dec. 18th.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

3rd Sunday of Advent

1. Please mark your calendars for our **parish Penance Service on Tuesday, December 20th**. Starting at 7pm that evening, we will begin with a short prayer service, followed by the opportunity for Reconciliation. There will be many priests hearing Confessions that evening. I encourage each of you, especially if it's been a while, to come to Reconciliation as a means of preparing yourself spiritually for Christmas. You'll find guides to making a good Confession on the confessional (reconciliation room) door or on our parish website (www.ihmparadise.org).
2. Please see today's bulletin as well for a list of all the **area Penance Services** during Advent. If you are not able to join us here on Dec. 20th, there are lots of opportunities for you to go to **Confession** in preparing for Christmas. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is truly an important way we can make of ourselves a beautiful Christmas present to the Lord Jesus.
3. Also, please see today's bulletin for more information on the **weekday Advent prayer services**, which are sponsored by the Abbottstown-East Berlin churches (ministerium). This year's theme is *Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah*.
4. **From the daily devotional, Jesus Calling:** "Stay ever so close to Me, and you will not deviate from the path I have prepared for you. This is the most efficient way to stay on track; it is also the most enjoyable way. Men tend to multiply duties in their observance of religion. This practice enables them to give Me money, time, and work without yielding up to Me what I desire the most—their hearts. Rules can be observed mechanically. Once they become habitual, they can be followed with minimal effort and almost no thought. These habit-forming rules provide a false sense of security, lulling the soul into a comatose condition. What I search for in My children is an awakened soul that thrills to the Joy of My Presence! I created mankind to glorify Me and enjoy Me forever. I provide the Joy; your part is to glorify Me by living close to Me."

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. — *Deuteronomy 6:5*

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

— *Colossians 3:23*

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. — *Psalms 16:11*

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – "I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you." Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Father Brian Wayne at (717)657-4804 ext. 282 or email frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT LUNCHESES – Our theme this year is the Hebrew Prophets writing on the Coming of the Messiah. All lunches are Noon on Wednesday's in Advent.

Dec. 14 at Trinity Lutheran with Rev. Judy Clark
(Micah 5:2)

Dec. 21 at Zwingli UCC with Rev. George Scott
(Isaiah 9:2-7)

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES –

Dec. 12th – Immaculate Conception, 7 PM

Dec. 17th – St. Joseph the Worker, 10:30 AM

Dec. 18th – St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg, 6 PM

Dec. 19th – St. Aloysius, Littlestown, 7 PM

Dec. 20th – Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7 PM

Dec. 21st – St. Joseph, Hanover, 7 PM

CONGRATULATIONS ABIGAIL SELL! This past month, the children of Annunciation School in McSherrystown created Christmas cards for Bishop Gainer's 2016 Christmas Card Contest. He was looking for talented artists to illustrate the COVER of his annual Christmas card. He was looking for students to portray the real reason for the Christmas season, an interpretation of the birth of Jesus Christ as seen through the student's eyes. **We are pleased to announce that Abigail's Christmas scene artwork for Grades 6-8 has been selected by Bishop Gainer to illustrate his Annual Christmas Card for 2016.**

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how VERY GRATEFUL we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. During the week of Dec. 4, 2016 we sold \$1940 for a profit of \$97.00 .

CHURCH DECORATING

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday, December 23rd @ 9:45 AM. We welcome anyone able to come and "give us a hand." Come and join us, as together we strive to get our beautiful Church ready to celebrate our Savior's birth!

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS – Put the date, **JANUARY 27, 2017** aside to MARCH FOR LIFE. Join us to fill a bus and join in a peaceful March for Life in Washington, DC. Cost is \$10 per seat, includes a box lunch. Pickup at IHM at 7 am. We have the bus, and you wanted to go last year! Here is your chance to March for Life. We need you to sign up, we need to have the seats sold by the end of December. If you can't go, please consider to donate a seat with a contribution. Many young Catholics would be able to go. There are forms on the ledge behind the last pew. Please fill out the form and enclose your check and drop it in the collection basket. Any questions, please contact Steve Signorello at 253-5924 or John Schlaline at 699-4534.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS NEEDED - Our Parish is in need of several more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, **especially for the 8:15 AM Mass**. This ministry plays an important role assisting Father in distributing Holy Communion to our parishioners at Mass on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation. Please call Father if you feel God is calling you for this ministry. You must 18 years of age or older, a practicing Catholic and a member of our parish.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – We warmly invite women from around the Diocese to join us as we gather at the Diocesan Center for our third Prayer Shawl Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The program, hosted by the Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Organization Commission, will include Mass, prayer, knitting/crocheting, fellowship and lunch. You are welcome to attend even if you are a beginner and would like to be part of this time of fellowship and sharing. While the program is free, advance registration is required so that we can arrange a comfortable work area and plan for lunch. Please call Kathy Kokoski at 717-448-8899 or Deb Black at 717-514-8815 or email at kakoko120@comcast.net or mvdb01@verison.net. Please register early as space is limited. **Deadline is Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.**

STEWARDSHIP MISSION – As you go about your Christmas shopping, stop by our Resource display to find a gift to nurture faith and devotion to Christ for all your family and friends. There are inspirational books, small booklets, and talks on CD on a wide variety of topics – something for everyone! Tuck something in with your Christmas card or present – this is an easy way to share your faith. All materials are offered for free; however, your generous donations help to support the mission of Stewardship: A Mission of Faith and Lighthouse Catholic Media to bring these resources to more parishes and “feed hungry hearts”.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME – Travel with Father Timothy Marcoe on Proximo Travel's Rome, Assisi, Padre Pio & Shrines of Italy pilgrimage. Where: Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Lancia, Loreto, San Giovanni Rotondo, Pietrelcina, Monte Cassino. Trip Dates: Sept. 9, 2017 through Sept. 19, 2017. Cost is \$4000.00 airfare and ALL included. To register, please contact 855-842-8001 or 508-340-9370. You can also register online at www.proximotravel.com.

FERTILITY AWARENESS AND NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING – Have you heard of Fertility Awareness? What about Natural Family Planning (NFP)? Fertility Awareness is a way of following God's plan for achieving or avoiding pregnancy by using a woman's signs of fertility to determine the fertile and infertile times of her cycle. Approved by the Catholic church, Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning

enables couples to avoid pregnancy by practicing abstinence during the fertile time of the woman's cycle, while avoiding putting artificial hormones and devices into a woman's body. Come to a very special presentation at St. Joseph the Worker parish in Bonneville on Dec. 15th from 6:30 to 8 PM. Dr. Luis Garcia, a medical doctor in York, will present on basic Church teaching regarding sexuality and NFP, and then explain various forms of NFP and the science behind them. Couples will then have the opportunity to learn a bit more about the specific model of NFP that is best suited for their family. Advance registration is not required, but for further information, please call St. Joseph the Work parish office at 717-334-2510.

HELLO GOD

Hello God, I called tonight to talk a little while
I need a friend who'll listen to my anxiety and trial.

You see, I can't quite make it through a day on my own ..
I need your love to guide me, so I'll never feel alone.

I want to ask you please to keep my family safe and
sound.

Come and fill their lives with confidence for whatever
fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face each hour throughout
the day,
And not to worry over things I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home and listening to my call,
for giving me such good advice when I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one that answers every
time,
I never get a busy signal, never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening to my troubles and my
sorrow.

Good night, God, I love You, too, and I'll call again
tomorrow.

THANKS TO

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WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS – We are happy to welcome the following new parishioners to IHM Parish:
Michael & Keegan Woods, Abbottstown
Jessica & Marcelo Sanchez & family, Spring Grove

AERO ENERGY PLAN – For each parishioner who is or becomes an Aero customer, IHM receives up to 3 cents per gallon of oil or propane. This is an excellent way to help your parish! If you are not already registered with Aero Energy for this program, please call Aero Energy at 888-480-1271 and sign up for the House of Worship Program. Any questions, please call Anita in the parish office.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

It's that time again when we are looking for our children (ages 4 and up) to participate in our Children's Choir at the 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be held on the following Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:15 PM --- December 4th, 11th, and 18th. If your child/children are interested, please call or email Sister Rosanne by Thursday, December 1st.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT – We here at IHM have several pieces of medical equipment for parishioners to borrow when needed. They include: crutches, walkers, commode boosters, shower chairs, a cane and a wheelchair. Also, a parishioner has items that are no longer needed and if someone would like to have them, please contact the parish office for more information. They include 16" wheelchair, walker, SpOx fingertip meter, toilet seat side rails, toilet seat lifts, automatic blood pressure meter, shower chairs, bathtub handrail, short bedrail, women's depends L. There are also two items for sell; a bathtub lift and a Go-Go electric scooter.
Call Anita in the parish office at 259-0611, ext. 5.

HIPPA LAWS – Please note that HIPPA (health care privacy laws) prevent hospitals from automatically notifying the parish office when you are in the hospital. Therefore, we ask you to please give consent (permission) for the parish office to be notified. If you would like Fr. Marcoe to know of your hospitalization, please inform the parish office before going into the hospital OR once hospitalized, ask the nurse or hospital chaplain/pastoral care staff person to notify the parish.