

MASS INTENTIONS

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016

9:00 AM + Fr. Lou Ogden

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

9:00 AM + Ray Gambrell

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

9:00 AM + Bernadette Miriello

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2016

9:00 AM + Dolores Schuhart

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 2016 – CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM + Msgr. Robert Gribbin

8:00 PM – People of the Parish

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2016 – CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM + Ann Wainwright

+indicates - deceased

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 62:11-12 / Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

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.

Please welcome the following into our parish community through the **Sacrament of Baptism**:
Rocco Michael Devita, son of Rocco and Alesha DeVita.

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothed in the first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child. . . and shall name him Emmanuel (God with us)."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another. Spend time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God.

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Dec. 24-25

5:00 PM – Aaron Oravitz, Bob & Luke O'Brien

8:00 PM – Jakob, Ben & Sadie Wicker, Tyler Raubenstine

10:00 AM – Autumn & Madi Kuhn

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Dec. 24-25

5:00 PM – Pat Renaut

8:00 PM – Betsy Miriello

10:00 AM – Andy Hershey

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Dec. 24-25

5:00 PM – Jen Gentile, Syndia Helmers, Pat & Randy Slonaker, Janet Todt, Amanda Wicker

8:00 PM – Mat & Holly Robinson, Dan & Barb O'Brien, Mary Margaret Thorne

10:00 AM – Dianne Giampietro, Midge Stokes, Elaine and Mitch Walton, Claire Wentz

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

4TH Sunday of Advent

1. Please mark your calendars for our **parish Penance Service** on **Tuesday, Dec. 20th**. Starting at 7 PM 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 the remaining **area Penance Services** during Advent. If you are not able to join us here on Dec. 20th, there are just a few additional opportunities for you to go to **Confession** before 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 about our final **weekday Advent prayer service**, which have been sponsored by the Abbottstown-East Berlin churches (ministerium). This year's theme is *Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah*.
4. A special thank you also to those of you who supported our **Angel Tree** project this year; to the Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) for organizing it; and to everyone for your extra generosity and kindness in general!
5. With regards to our celebration of **Christmas Masses** this year here at IHM, I would like to ask us as a parish to take the following to heart. We all know that people who do not usually come to other Masses here will be present for our Christmas liturgies. Therefore, in light of the newborn Messiah, who in His mercy is always generous, compassionate, and understanding, let us treat our guests in a similar way. Let them have "our" usual pews. Go out of your way to welcome them to our parish. And be happy that they have joined us for this one special feast. This is how we make the love of Jesus real, so that maybe they'll want to come back.
6. Speaking of Christmas Masses, **please note the schedule for December 24th and 25th**. On Sat., Dec. 24th, there will NOT be Confessions. Instead, there will be Masses at 5 PM and 8 PM. And on Sun, Dec. 25th, there will NOT be the usual Sunday Mass schedule. Instead, there will only be ONE Mass at 10 AM.

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

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. 11, 2016 we sold \$1730 for a profit of \$86.50.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT LUNCHEES – 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. 21 at Zwingli UCC with Rev. George Scott (Isaiah 9:2-7)

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES –
Dec. 19th – St. Aloysius, Littlestown, 7 PM
Dec. 20th – Immaculate Heart of Mary, 7 PM
Dec. 21st – St. Joseph, Hanover, 7 PM

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!

COOKIE SALE FOR WORLD HUNGER – Many thanks to all those who supported the "Cookies for World Hunger" to help Cross International's Hunger Relief Fund provide meals in Haiti and Nicaragua. Our parish sold 135 trays of cookies which will provide at least 50,625 meals !

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.

RUTH'S HARVEST – Anyone who would like to help pack backpacks for Ruth's Harvest should meet at the Fire House in Abbottstown on Tues., Dec. 20th, 10 AM.

THANKS TO

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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”.

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

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.

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 mvd01@verizon.net. Please register early as space is limited. **Deadline is Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.**

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME – Travel with Father Timothy Marcoe on Proximo Travel's Rome, Assisi, Padre Pio & Shrines of Italy pilgrimage. Where: Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Lanciano, 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.

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE! All women of the parish are invited to attend the District Council of Catholic Women's Annual Lenten Retreat on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church on 5125 Grandview Rd., Hanover. The presenter will be Father Ryan Fischer. The retreat is from 12 Noon to 3 PM with a half hour break for refreshments and fellowship. This event is offered at no charge but a freewill offering is welcome. **NO PRE-REGISTRATION** is necessary. Please put this Lenten event on your calendar now and invite your friends to join in. We look forward to seeing you!

