

+MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK+

MONDAY - December 23

8:00 A.M. - Ralph Musto - Lucia Krucyzski

TUESDAY - December 24

5:00 P.M. - Children of the Parish

8:00 P.M. - Henry Matheis - The Prado Family

WEDNESDAY - December 25: Merry Christmas

8:30 A.M. - Stella Ciba - The Staff

10:30 A.M. - For All Parishioners

THURSDAY - December 26

8:00 A.M. - Ernest & Mattie Wolf - Marge & Andy

FRIDAY - December 27

8:00 A.M. - John H. Wubbel - The Family

SATURDAY - December 28

8:00 A.M. - Maureen Keller - Our Lady's Guild

5:00 P.M. - Regina Keiter - Husband, Tom

SUNDAY - December 29

8:30 A.M. - Lucy Padon - Son, Ruben

10:30 A.M. - Judith Thompson - Husband, Robert

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

Monday Adoration & Confessions, 5:30 P.M.
 Tuesday Christmas Eve
 4:30 P.M. Carols by Cont. Choir
 5:00 P.M. Christmas Family Mass
 7:30 P.M. Carols by Traditional Chr.
 8:00 P.M. Christmas Mass
 Wednesday .. Merry Christmas
 8:30 A.M. Christmas Mass
 10:30 A.M. Christmas Mass

FUTURE HAPPENINGS IN THE PARISH

Dec. 31 Eve Mass for Holy Day, 5:00 P.M.
 Jan. 1 Holy Day of Obligation
 Masses at 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
 Jan. 2 Knights of Columbus
 Jan. 3 First Friday of the Month
 Jan. 5 Family Bowling Day
 Jan. 8 Our Lady's Guild
 Jan. 13 Events Committee

MESSAGE FROM FATHER RICH: I'm writing this week's message from my hospital room. All the while I'm thinking what will the doctor tell me, what will I have to do, and how long will I be here. Then I look out the window, see the snow, and think of Christmas. How Joseph and Mary were told "no room in the inn." and had to stay in a stable to give birth to Jesus Christ. Then later having to flee the country because Herod wanted to do harm to Jesus, and how does this last – a lifetime -as we continue to celebrate that birth for two thousand years and counting. We all have ups and down, acceptances and rejections, but also have a whole lot of love to get through it all and beyond. Celebrate the joy, peace and love of Christmas. We gave out over two hundred gifts from the "giving angel tree," put out a number of food baskets for needy families, and received a number of monetary gifts specifically used for families in need. Spend Christmas with you family, enjoy a meal together, exchange presents and extend family visits and traditions. Then go a little further. Invite neighbors who are alone or elderly and take them to lunch or out for coffee. Check on a family member who hasn't been in touch. Share Christmas greetings to everyone you meet: family, friend and strange

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP

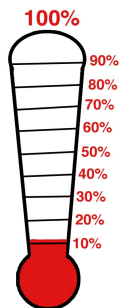
Sunday Collection - \$ 5,799.00
 Second Collection -\$ 2,236.00
 Special Envelopes - \$ 266.00
 Online Giving - \$ 1,960.00
 Total Collection (12-15-2024) - \$ 10,261.00
 Envelopes used - 204

Thank you for Your Support & Generosity!

PRAYER REQUEST

THE SICK: Juliana Farrell, Ines Masucci, George Westdyke, Lynn John, Charlie Martinelli, Clara Kittle, Michael Franks, Melanie Reynoso, Evelyn Sheehay, Carmen Neuwirth, Giavanna Sciabicca, Tracy Pelonero, Janusz Kasperek, Bob Young, Robert Geffers, Larry and Gae Oliveri, Frank Cabrera, Mike Merola, Rose Alfano, Dominick Andriola, Hayley Rogers, Carmella Calderone, and Lorna Anderson.
LORD, HELP THEM IN THEIR TIME OF NEED.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL: We're inching closer but we're still a way off from our goal of \$52,345. Could you help us out? Presently, we have received gifts or pledges from 175 families and have attained 82% of our goal or \$43,232.00. Please consider making a pledge or a donation to the Appeal. Let's work together and do our part to serve the needs of so many in our diocese and our church.

(Extra forms are available on the table in the Narthex.) God Bless You!

CHURCH TRIVIA: For Catholics, it is important to recognize that the Christmas tree is neither a sacramental nor part of the Liturgy. There are no rules as to when to set up and take down; however, some Catholics prefer to respect the season of



Advent and wait until closer to Christmas to decorate a tree, enjoying it during the Christmas season that draws to a close on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is on January 12, 2025 this season. The history of the Christmas tree can be as hard to untangle as tree light. St. Boniface cut down the sacred oak tree of the thunder-god Thor around 725, at Geismar, Germany, without being struck down, leading to the conversion of many to Christianity. Others points to the miracle or morality plays of the 11th through 16th centuries, specifically the "Paradise Play," about Adam and Eve, which was performed on Christmas Eve, and featured to fir tree decorated by apples (the forbidden fruit) and wafers (the Eucharist), which was sometimes surrounded by candles. Decorating trees in wintertime can also be traced to Christmas celebrations in Renaissance-era guilds in Northern Germany and Livonia, a medieval territory that includes present-day Estonia and Latvia.

NEW TRIVIA QUESTION: The popular Christmas song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which occurs from the Nativity until Epiphany, has hidden meaning. What is the secret message behind this traditional song and what does the Partridge in a Pear tree and twelve drummers drumming represent?

"I NEED ALL ETERNITY TO LOVE THEM." Jesus confided these words to Gabrielle Bossis referring to us. By spending time with God, we get vital graces and limitless love. God want to spend all eternity with us.

Can you give five minutes to Him today.

"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people."
Psalm 125: 1-2

JANUARY 1st IS THE FEAST OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD: It is a Holy Day of Obligation, a day giving special honor to Mary. We are obliged to attend Mass on this day. Our schedule is Tuesday, December 31st at 5:00 P.M. and Wednesday, January 1st at 8:30 and 10:30 A.M. No better way to start the New Year then by receiving the Eucharist.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI) are available at the Church office. This Christmas wafer is broken and shared at the Christmas Eve Meal wishing and praying for good health and happiness in the new year. It is a beautiful tradition used to spread Christmas joy and peace.

ELIJAH VOCATIONS CUP: This a special opportunity to pray for an increase of vocations in the Church. We need priests and sisters. Our prayer may just be what is needed to inspire someone to say 'YES' to God's call. The cup is available every weekend. The sign up book is on the Information Booth. All materials, Elijah Cup, Prayers for each day, and a space to share your thoughts are included. Sign up for a week and ask God to inspire someone to be priest.

PARISH FAMILY BOWLING: How about a winter afternoon of bowling with family and friends! On Sunday, January 5th from noon to 5:00 P.M. is our Parish Day at Mountainhome Bowling center in Canadensis. Open to our Parishioners only. Bowl a few games, enjoy some refreshments, try your luck at a few contests, and have a great day Hope to see you there! Young, Old and in Between!!

MR. Z'S, WEIS MARKETS & SHOPRITE (in Brodheadsville) REGISTER TAPES: We continue to save these register receipts and get cash donations from the market for them. There is a basket by the bulletin board in the Narthex for them. It's a great parish fund raiser and it doesn't cost anything.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!!

We, the Office Staff, want you to know how much we appreciate the greetings, cards and gifts we have received from so many wonderful friends and members of Our Lady of Victory. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year. You are in our prayers.