



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

December 17, 2023

Reverend Michael S. McCormick, Pastor

800 Mulberry Street, Montoursville, PA 17754

(570) 368-8598 Fax: (570) 368-2912

E-mail: parishoffice@ourladyoflourdesrcc.org

Website: www.ourladyoflourdesmontoursville.org

Facebook ~ Our Lady of Lourdes Montoursville

Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday ~ Office Closed

Fridays 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil ~ 4:00 p.m.

Sunday ~ 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Friday ~ 9:00 a.m.

Thursday ~ No daily Mass

Adoration

Monday ~ 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal instruction offered at

6:30 p.m. on the

third Tuesday of every month.

Call the office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday ~ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday ~ 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Anytime by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arranged at least six months
in advance

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Notify the parish office
whenever someone is ill,
hospitalized, or homebound
wishes to receive Communion.

OCIA (formerly RCIA)

Mondays ~ 7:00 p.m.

Parish Membership

New parishioners are
always welcome
Please call the parish office
to register.

Knights of Columbus

Council 14329

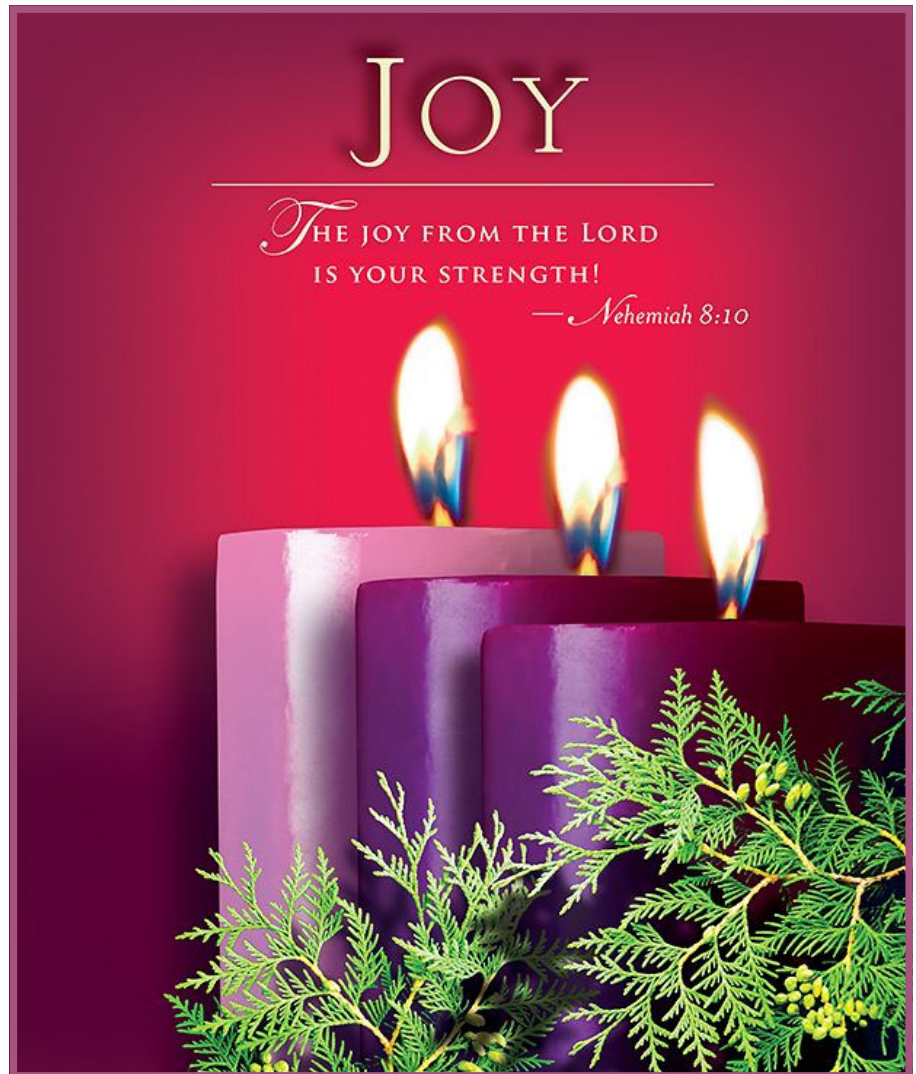
Parish Council

Rita Clayton
Deb Steinbacher
Jamie Wieder
Mary Etta Legarski
Sharon O'Malley
Keith Kuzio
Colleen Brown
Lydia Baylor

JOY

THE JOY FROM THE LORD
IS YOUR STRENGTH!

— Nehemiah 8:10



Mission Statement

We are a Christian Community rooted in Word and Sacrament
striving to fulfill our Baptismal commitment
by following the example and teaching of Christ.
Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we endeavor to pass on our faith,
through the Roman Catholic Tradition, to the next generation
for the greater glory of God.



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This weekend we are celebrating Gaudete Sunday, that cherished moment in the Advent season that fills our hearts with joy and anticipation. Rejoice in the Lord as we approach the celebration of His Nativity.

It is also that time of year when we begin to ask one another, "Are you ready for Christmas?" When anyone asks me that question I always laugh, chiefly because I am both ready and not at all ready. Maybe the gifts are wrapped, the house/rectory is ready to receive guests, and I am well aware that there are less than 10 days until Christmas. I am ready. I will have been to Confession even. So there is that. Yet there is still one thing for which I am never quite prepared. It is the same thing every year.

Each and every year for as long as I can remember, I am surprised by the mystery of the Nativity. Even as a little boy I would stare in wonder at the Nativity Scene. I would tear through the Christmas wrappings with all my youthful zeal, laughing and singing Christmas Carols and songs. Though my stepfather didn't seem to understand, I think my mother did when I would show every gift to the Baby in the Manger. Even the boring socks and sweaters were shown to Him, and I swear He would roll his eyes with me.

That experience still happens every year. I can't take my eyes off of Him. Every present is His Presence. Each gift is His gift. Each wave of Christmas is the result of His drawing near. The air stirs. The heart is softened, The fears, doubts, concerns and sorrows, like breath on a mirror~ simply evaporate~ leaving only Him with me. Gaudete! Rejoice! It's about to happen again.

Fr. Michael



The month of December is devoted to The Immaculate Conception

This Week at Our Lady of Lourdes

Sunday, December 17

- ~Religious Education ~ Grades 1 - 8 ~ 9:00 a.m.
- ~Youth selling homemade candies after each Mass
- ~Youth Mass @ 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 18

- ~Holy Hour/Confessions ~ 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

- ~Evening of Reflection ~ 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 21 ~ Office Closed

- ~Christmas play practice ~ 6:00 p.m.
- ~Choir 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 22

- ~Evening Prayer followed by Confessions ~ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- ~No Religious Education

Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- ~No Holy Hour/Confessions

Offertory Collections (Includes on-line contributions) December 9 & 10, 2023

Loose	\$	564.00
Offertory	\$	6,140.00
Maintenance	\$	300.00
Utilities & Fuel	\$	72.00
Votives	\$	131.00
Religious Education	\$	101.00
Christmas	\$	200.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	823.00
Holy Day ~ All Saints	\$	25.00
Holy Day ~ Immaculate Conception	\$	851.00
TOTAL	\$	9,207.00

Diocesan Collections

Care & Education of Priests	\$	136.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$	933.00
TOTAL	\$	1,069.00

Christmas Flower Envelopes

Christmas flowers may be purchased in memory of loved ones. Envelopes were placed at each entrance of the Church and can be found in your offertory packets.



Collection Counter Schedule

- December 18 ~ Group 1** Darl Simms, Mary Ann Hollenbach, Wendy Marshalek
- December 26 ~ Group 2** Glenda Farrington, Mary McNamara, Carol Everett

Area Advent Penance Services

St. Joseph The Worker ~ Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Play Rehearsal Schedule

Final practice for the Christmas play (which will take place on Christmas Eve at 3:30 p.m.) will be Thursday, December 21 @ 6:00 p.m.



Faith In Action

For the month of December we will be collecting **Hats and Mittens**. Thank you and God Bless!



We continue to collect 16 oz. jars of peanut butter for the Montoursville Back Pack Program. Our goal is to collect 120/month to help the 120+ families in our School District who are in need. Drop off donations inside the Church or the Church office.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 16

4:00 p.m. Isabel Kripp (By Father Michael)

Sunday, December 17 ~ Gaudete Sunday ~ Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. Jerome Mitchell (By Stephen Logue Family)

Monday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Theresa Shank (By Jeans & Brown Families)

Tuesday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Mary Jane Bennett (By Son, David Bennett)

1:30 p.m. (At Valley View) Sara Robinson (By K.O.C.)

Wednesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Sally Johns (By Ann Fegley)

Thursday, December 21 ~ St. Peter Canisius

No Mass

Friday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Charles Follmer (By Mike & Becky Emerick)

Saturday, December 23 ~ St. John of Kanty

4:00 p.m. Eleanor & Louis Mazzante (By Family)

Sunday, December 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. For the health of Nicole Selleck (By Vera McClellan)

10:30 a.m. Sr. Mary Thomas of Sisters of Christian Charity (By St. Mary's High School, Class of 1958)

4:00 p.m. Christmas Intentions

10:30 p.m. Christmas Intentions

Monday, December 25 ~ The Nativity of The Lord

10:00 a.m. Christmas Intentions

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Richard J. Giro.

Giving Tree

The *Giving Tree* will be up until December 18. Thank you to all who have given so generously. God Bless.

Readings For The Week

Monday:	<i>Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-19; Mt 1:18-25</i>
Tuesday:	<i>Jud 13:2-25; Ps 71:3-17; Luke 1:5-25</i>
Wednesday:	<i>Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Luke 1:26-38</i>
Thursday:	<i>S.O.S. 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-21; Luke 1:39-45</i>
Friday:	<i>Sam 1:24-28; Ps 1 Sam 2:1-8; Luke 1:46-56</i>
Saturday:	<i>Mal 3:1-24; Ps 25:4-14; Luke 1:57-66</i>
Sunday:	<i>Is 61:1-11; Ps Luke 1:46-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-28</i>



Advent Evening of Reflection

December 20 ~ 6:00 p.m.

A night of reflection for all volunteers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Catechists, Parish Pastoral Council, Coordinating Team, K.O.C, Youth Ministry Team, etc. The evening will include dinner, and a talk on the Eucharist by Deacon John Bubb. Please RSVP by calling the parish office.



Prayer List for the Month of December

If you or a loved one would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Dave Bonus, Karen Boyle, D. Jane Brown, Margaret Campbell, Gerald Dincher, Diane DeTato, Ann Marie Dorin, Diane Folk, Margie Foulds, Carissa Foulds, Charles Gries, Cliff Hales, Geraldine Hamm, Michael Hook, Mina Hoover, Rosemary "Cate" Legarski, Chuck Ligosh, Kathleen Maiolo, Karen Marlett, Alex Mazzante, Tyler Morton, Mary Myers, Justin Reed (Father's nephew), Nicole Selleck, Isabel Shumbat, Kim Singer, Sofia Steinbacher, Shawn Steinbacher, Staci Stone, Christine Quinn, Carl Ulsamer, Debbie Winterer

Upcoming Youth Event

A youth family movie matinee is scheduled for December 28 @ 3:45 p.m.

Where: AMC Williamsport
Movie: Migration (Animated)
~Rated PG~

Who: All ages
~Come as a family or
~Drop child off and sign
permission slip

Cost: FREE!!

Permission slips are required and can be signed when dropping off your child at the theatre. Questions? Contact Rachel Nolan @ 814-341-6928.

St. John Neuman Regional Academy hosts:

Lessons & Carols
St. Boniface Church
Tuesday, December 19
1:00 p.m.



DIocese of SCRANTON
Women's Retreat
Bold and Beloved
Inspired by the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux
January 26-28, 2024
Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Kara Kardell
Sinner striving for sainthood. Wife and mother of 3.

Fred Shellabarger
Husband, Father, Spiritual Director, Big Kid Who Loves Jesus.

Ministry Corner ~ By Deb Steinbacher

NO ROOM

Advent, as we know, is a time of reflection and preparation for the birth of our dear Savior, who was born into less-than-optimal physical conditions. He was born among animals because there was no room for them at the inn. Ponder that concept in relation to today's "pro-choice" world. Along with all of our prayers and novenas this month, can we all add pregnancy care centers to our lists? While millions of dollars are being gifted to abortion centers, pregnancy care centers are the object of disdain and outright untruths by those who would tout themselves as being pro-choice as long as the choice is the ending of the lives of the pre-born! Eliminating the safety of the pregnancy care centers by eliminating funding, and even by attempts to close them, will also eliminate "choice" for so many who find themselves in what have been dubbed crisis pregnancies. God help us! Let us pray and act so that there will always be "room at the inn" for those mothers who just need support to choose life for their babies! Let us pray that hearts will be changed! Have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!



Oplatki

Christmas Oplatki is a beautiful tradition that you can share with loved ones. The oplatki is now available near the altar. Requested donations are \$3.



Sponsor Of The Week

We sincerely thank **Williamsport West Vet** for being our bulletin sponsor this week. Thank you for your continued support.

Our Lady of Lourdes Diocesan Annual Appeal Update

We're at \$23,657.00 (57% of goal) with pledges and donations from 128 families (19.57%) of the parish as of 12/08/2023. Please prayerfully consider how you might support the campaign and help the parish to reach our goal. Thank you!

<p>WILLIAMSPORT WEST VETERINARY HOSPITAL Peter J. Sikora, V.M.D. Stephanie A. Daverio, V.M.D. David V. Daverio, V.M.D. 3537 W. Fourth St. Williamsport (570) 323-9588</p>	<p>It's MY PARTY STORE 1231 Sheridan Street Williamsport, PA 17701 ph: (570) 666-4915 fax: (570) 666-4954</p>	<p>JUSTIN McCOY FREE ESTIMATES FULLY INSURED  McCOY EXCAVATING LLC Cell Trout Run, PA Office 570-560-0353 570-435-0622</p>	<p>CROUSE FUNERAL HOME Traditional and Memorial Services Cremations and Cemetery Monuments Directors Jeffrey T. and Carl W. Crouse 133 E. 3RD ST., WILLIAMSPORT (570) 322-4706</p>	<p>Quality Air Mechanical Residential • Commercial Industrial Heating • Ventilation Air Conditioning • Plumbing Refrigeration • Piping 24 Hour Emergency Service 570.322.6500 qualityairmechanical.com 76 TERMINAL ROAD MONTOURSVILLE, PA 17754</p>
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