

DECEMBER

SAINT ELIZABETH PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PREPARATION PREP (CCD)

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Holy Father's Missionary Prayer for December –

Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

The Angelus

Three times a day the bells ring in honor of the Incarnation. It is the Christian call to prayer.

The *Angelus* is a prayer practice rich in doctrine and devotion. This practice commemorates the mystery of the Incarnation by reciting certain versicles and responses with three Hail Marys and a special concluding prayer. It used to be recited morning, noon and evening. The church bells rang--three tolls for each of the invocations and nine for the concluding prayer.

The Angelus traces its beginnings to the thirteenth century. In that era bells were often inscribed with the angelic salutation.

The morning prayer was recited to commemorate Christ's resurrection; at noon, Christ's passion; and in the evening to recall the Incarnation, since St. Bonaventure taught that the angel's visit to Mary came at evening.

There is a renowned painting by Jean-Francois Millet entitled the Angelus. It depicts a man and a woman standing in a field. They are farmers. He holds his cap reverently as he stands with bowed head, and she in a white cap and long blue apron over her dress clasps her hands as a prayerful look sets her face. They pause in prayer near the end of the work day. At the woman's feet is a basket of potatoes, and at her far side rests a wheelbarrow full of empty sacks. At the side of the man is a pitchfork spiked upright in the ground. The breaking clouds are blushed with light as birds flit in the twilight. The viewer can almost hear the bells ringing in the spire of the church in the distant right of the painting.



Millet recorded that impression to show the quiet peace of twilight, the rosy glow of sunset engulfing the fields, the church bells filling the evening air, and the devout attitude of the peasants. Surely he succeeded. When his agent, Sensier, first saw the picture on Millet's easel, the painter turned to him and asked, "Well, what do you think of it?"

"It is the Angelus," replied Sensier. "Yes," Millet said with satisfaction. "Can you hear the bells?"
Eventually, *The Angelus* found its way into the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The Prayers of the Angelus

The Angelus

During the Easter Season, this prayer is replaced by the Regina Coeli.

- V The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
All Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death.
V Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R Be it done unto me according to thy word.
All Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death.
V And the Word was made Flesh.
R And dwelt among us.
All Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death.
V Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
V Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

<http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/the-angelus.html>

See YouTube: [Angelus](#) 21 Mar 2007 singingsisters

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Saturday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

It is a Holy Day of Obligation!

Mass times are 7:00 PM Friday, December 7.

9:00 AM on Saturday, December 8.



What is Advent?



In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and thus refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to the Second Coming at the end of time. <http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Advent.htm>



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

CONFESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Grades 3 – 8: Please practice the form for confession and examine your conscience in advance of class to make a good confession.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday from 3:30 – 4:15 PM.
Sunday, December 16 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

FORM FOR CONFESSION

Upon entering the confessional, you greet the priest;

Good evening, Father.

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been since my last confession. My sins are:

Here mention sins.

When finished:

For these and all my sins, I am heartily sorry.

The priest will speak with you, give the penance, and ask you to say an Act of Contrition.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Priest will give you absolution.

I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Make the sign of the cross while the priest blesses you.)

You answer: **Amen. Thank you Father.**

**Why not
start now!**



Advent began Sunday, December 2, 2018!

Advent Books were given out to each of our students on Monday. Please take time to read and pray daily with your child.

STAY AWAKE AND PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!



Prayer Services Planned!

Our 7th grade PREP will be planning for our Christmas Prayer Service held on Monday, Dec. 17 at 6:15 PM.

All parents and families are welcome and urged to attend and pray with us!

Monday, December 17 – Christmas Prayer Service – hosted by 7th grade PREP

Monday, January 28 – Pro-Life Mass – hosted by 6th grade PREP

Monday, March 18 – St. Joseph's Prayer Service – hosted by 5th grade PREP

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18:20*

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Sacrament of Penance:

- Continue to pray to know your prayers, memorize the 10 Commandments, and practice examination of conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Penance.
- Our first gathering for “Children’s Liturgy of the Word is scheduled for **Sunday, January 20 at the 10:00 AM Mass**. All children receiving their 1st Penance in January are expected to attend.
- On **Monday evening, January 21** we will have a First Holy Communion Meeting for parents and children **at 6:00 PM in church**, followed by First Penance practice. We will finish by 7:15 PM. Parents are welcome to stay for the practice.
- The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation will be celebrated for our youngsters on **Thursday, January 24 at 6:00 PM**.



Confirmation:

Students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Wednesday, February 20 @ 4:30 P.M. with Bishop Edward Cullen at St. Mary’s Parish in Catsauqua.**
- Mass of Enrollment is on **Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the 10:00 AM Mass**. All Confirmation candidates are expected to attend with their signed form. You will have reserved seating in the front of the church.
- You are strongly encouraged to have your child attend Youth Ministry events now and continue throughout high school since this will be one of the few outlets readily available for them to continue in their faith journey.



- **Sponsor Eligibility forms** are due Monday, January 7, 2019
- **Service Hours** must be completed by February 4, 2019.

Service Hours available:

Sunday, December 9 – Sell poinsettias with the Youth Group – 8:30 – 11:30 during parish breakfast

Friday, December 14 – Christmas caroling at the Lehigh Valley Zoo – 6-8 PM. Free Admission for singers.

Sunday, January 13 – Help at parish breakfast – 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Sunday, January 26 – Help serve at spaghetti dinner – time TBA

Sunday, February 10 - Help at parish breakfast – 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Please contact Mrs. Spieker about serving. dirreled@sercc.org or 610-266-0695

- **Confirmation Interviews** are tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2019.
- **Please note:** 8th grade PREP classes will continue after Confirmation and go until April 15. Please discuss this obligation and commitment with your child now. Unfortunately, it has been “assumed” that PREP ends with 8th grade Confirmation. There is still leaps and bounds to learn and we really never stop discovering and learning about the wonders of our God!

"The future starts today, not tomorrow."

"Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." Saint Pope John Paul II

December Progress Reports – Progress reports will be handed out to the children on Monday, December 17 for you to view and discuss with your child. If for any reason you do not receive a copy from your child, merely contact me and I will e-mail or mail you a copy. Together we are striving to bring the knowledge and faith of our Lord and His Church to each of our children.



FIGHTING HUNGER – ONE STEP AT A TIME!

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

January 14 & 28 will be our annual soup collection for the Food Pantry in Whitehall. Please plan to send in a can or two of your favorites. (Please no tomato soup.)

Thank you for the food items you sent to class. Your generosity made it possible for 12 Thanksgiving baskets and 12 bags of food to be prepared for people very thankful to receive them.



Altar Servers

We will be starting altar server practice in December through February. The students who signed up to join this wonderful ministry will be taken out of class for a short while most Mondays to learn the art of serving. Thanks to Father Pendzick and Deacon Mike for setting time aside to train our children.

PARKING - Please **do not park** at the curb on Monday pick-up nights. This creates a dangerous situation for all the children and parents who are crossing the street and may not be seen because of parked vehicles blocking the view. **EVERYONE NEEDS TO PARK IN THE PARISH PARKING LOT FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL.** I greatly appreciate your cooperation and consideration in this matter.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

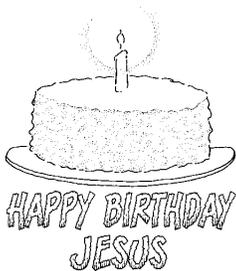
It's that time again! In case of inclement weather, please watch for an announcement of cancellation on the usual local stations. I will try to get the message announced as soon as possible.

Rule of Thumb: If the Whitehall-Coplay School District has cancelled classes or has an early dismissal, we will not have class.



WFMZ – TV Note: Schedule delay or closing information will be listed on WFMZ website and not on Channel 69 (except for extreme weekend weather conditions).

If possible, I will also e-mail you and send you a text through REMIND. If you have not signed up yet, I urge you to! Text @stelizprep to 81010



CHRISTMAS BREAK

There will be no Religious Education Classes on Monday, December 24th or 31st. Religious Education Classes will resume on Monday, January 7, 2019. Enjoy the holiday break!

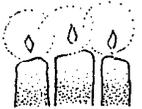
Poinsettia sale

Thank you for your poinsettia orders to support our Youth Ministry. Please remember to pick-up your order on either Friday, December 7 from 1 – 4 at the parish office or on Sunday, December 9 during the parish breakfast from 8:30 – 11:30 AM in the parish hall.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to: Dominic, Justin, Lia, Kerigan Lee, Aiden, Noah, Jada, Lindsey, Robert, Killian, Giovanni and Mrs. Emery!

Happy Birthday 

May our dear Lord bless you on your special day with his grace!

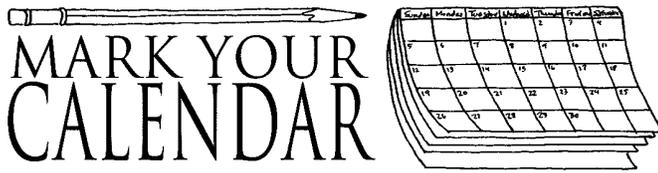


Special Thanks!

Thanks to our wonderful parent helpers who have volunteered to be classroom aides, assist with class & PREP projects, treasure give-aways and in various other ways. **We would especially like to thank: Deacon Mike Meder for being there to assist with EVERYTHING!**

We would also like to thank:

Miss Alexia Arevala, Mr. John Bogucki, Mrs. Tracey Corteen, Mrs. Zuzana Hawkes, Mrs. Jisha Jose, Miss Kera Kulp, Mrs. Dawn Tehonica & Mrs. Marianne Wied



DECEMBER

3	Monday	Class - <i>(Fr. Pendzick teach 8th grade)</i>	6:00 – 7:30 PM	(Adoration)
8	Friday	Feast of the Immaculate Conception-HDO-Mass 12/7 @ 7:00 PM		
10	Monday	Class	6:00 – 7:30 PM	
		<i>Confessions during class for grades 3 - 8</i>		
17	Monday	Class – <i>Progress Reports issued</i>	6:00 – 7:30 PM	
		<i>Christmas Prayer Service (6:15) – Hosted by 7th Grade</i>		
24	Monday	NO CLASS	A Blessed Christmas to All!	
31	Monday	NO CLASS	Christmas Break	

JANUARY

7	Monday	Class <i>(Fr. Pendzick teach 8th grade)</i>	6:00 – 7:30 PM	(Adoration)
14	Monday	Class	6:00 – 7:30 PM	
21	Monday	NO CLASS	<i>Martin Luther King Holiday</i>	
21	Monday	<i>Sacrament of Holy Eucharist Parent Meeting & Pen Prac. in Church 6:00 PM</i>		
24	Thursday	<i>First Reconciliation Grade 2 6:00 PM Parish Sacrament</i>		
28	Monday	Class	6:00 – 7:30 PM	
		<i>Pro-Life Mass (6:15) – Hosted by 6th Grade</i>		

Did you misplace or need an extra copy of our monthly newsletter? You can find it on our parish web site at: <http://www.sercc.org/>
Click on “Religious Education News” for our monthly newsletters!

**HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY TIME WITH YOUR FAMILIES.
MANY BLESSINGS ARE SENT YOUR WAY
DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.**