

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

A special remembrance will be made at Mass for:

Monday, December 4	<i>St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i>
8:00 AM	Valeria Koons
8:30 AM	Adoration
Tuesday, December 5	
8:00 AM	Joseph Heidenwolf
Wednesday, December 6	<i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>
9:00 AM	Cindy Dell'Aguzzo
Thursday, December 7	<i>St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>
8:00 AM	Vito & Adelina Finelli
8:30 AM	Novena to Our Lady Undoer of Knots
Vigil	7:00 PM Bernadine Lobb
Friday, December 8	Immaculate Conception
9:00 AM	Cindy Dell'Aguzzo
12:15 PM	Irene Rzeznik Anointing Mass
Saturday, December 9	<i>St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>
4:30 PM	Harry J. Parker
Sunday, December 10	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
8:00 AM	Ray & Colette Semler
9:45 AM	Robert Martin
11:30 AM	Marie & Bill Bonstingl

To access current & past bulletins visit www.sercc.org
 You can also visit us on Facebook – St Elizabeth Catholic Church

Pray For Our Sick

Please pray for the well-being of the following people:
Karl Bauer, Donald Benner, Maguerite Boccardi, Luisa Ciciliot, Jim Coombe, Sophie Friedman, Rosalie Hammon, Gino Iannelli, Maria Klueber, Mary Ann Kulhamer, Frank Pazgan, Pat Richardson, Jim Susko, Leo Weber.
Please let us know when your loved one is better, so their name can be removed. Also, names will be removed after three months unless we are informed of their continued need for prayer.

The Sanctuary Candle burns
 this week in memory of
William and Marie Bonstingl
 requested by
Ken, Linda Snyder and family



your potter's hands shaping and molding us.

Great giver of all that is, show us how much we have received through your abundant generosity. Satisfy our restless hearts with the assurance of your love for us, that we will grow to desire

Readings for Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1 – 5, 9 – 11 / 2
 Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85:9 – 14
 Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8 – 14
 Gospel: Mark 1:1 – 8

Please pray for our Holy Father, bishops, priests and these deacons serving in the Diocese of Allentown on each designated date.

December 4	Rev. Michael J. Stone
December 5	Rev. Jerome A. Tauber
December 6	Rev. Joseph F. Tobias
December 7	Rev. Eric N. Tolentino
December 8	Rev. James M. Torpey
December 9	Msgr. James A. Treston

Diocesan Safe Environment and Victim Assistance Update

Please note the correct extension for the Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J. Her number is now 610-332-0442, extension 2019. The Victim Assistance Coordinator's (Wendy Krisak's) phone number is a Direct Phone number (NOT CONFIDENTIAL) 1-800-791-9209.

For more information about these services please contact the Diocese of Allentown directly. 610-871-5200

Mandated Reporter On-site Training

The Diocese of Allentown requires that all identified mandated reporters complete an online training course through www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu. This applies to all Diocesan, Parish and School employees, regardless of whether the individuals have direct contact with children. It also applies to all volunteers where a volunteer has direct contact with children. If an individual would prefer a class:

Tues. Dec 12th at 5:30 pm at the Safe Environment Office-Bethlehem.

To register for one of the trainings, call 610.332.0442 (x2016) and leave your name. When registering at the location there is a \$5 fee.

Shower for the Unknown Babe

St. Catherine of Siena will host a baby shower on Wed. Dec 13th 7 pm at the Parish Activity Center 18th & Turner Sts, Allentown. Attendees are asked to bring items to benefit Mary's Shelter.

- Diapers and wipes
- Baby wash, Lotion and Diaper Cream
- New baby clothing (up to 2T)

Prayer, entertainment and light refreshments will be provided.

PASTOR'S CORNER

I absolutely love videos of surprise visits home from those who have been gone a long time. Frequently it is military personnel returning home to a loved one. When I was on vacation this past summer with my family I couldn't wait to see how my puppy, Dusty, would react when I got home. She went crazy! Jumping around excited to see me as I was to see her. And that was just a week!

What do you do when someone you love very dearly and miss very much has been gone a very long time but promises to return soon? Do you ignore their absence, or do you anticipate their return and send them messages to let them know how much you long to be with them again? Jesus' parable about the long-expected return of the Master to his household brings this point home.

Wealthy landowners often left their estates in the hands of their trustworthy servants and stewards. This gave them freedom to travel, trade, and expand their business ventures. They expected hard work from their servants and rewarded them accordingly. Good servants would eagerly anticipate their master's return by keeping the house and estate in good order. Jesus doesn't tell us in his parable whether the servants were ready to receive the unexpected return of their master. Were these servants excited or anxious about their master's return? The watchful servants, no doubt, looked forward to the future because they knew their master would be pleased and would reward them for their vigilance and hard work. Disaster, however, awaited those who were unprepared because of carelessness or laziness.

The Lord Jesus expects us to watch in great anticipation for the most important event of all - his return in glory at the end of this present age! The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Lord when he shall judge between the nations.

The Advent season reminds us that we are living in the end times. The end times begin with the first coming of Christ and it culminates in Christ's second coming on the Day of Judgment. Jesus spoke of his return in glory at the close of the ages as an indisputable fact.

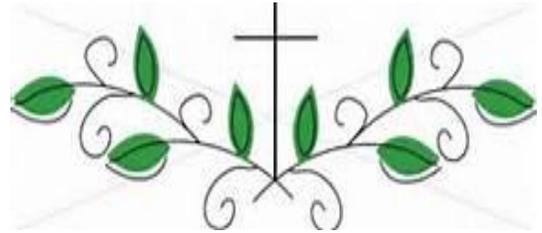
While the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is for certain, the time of his appearance is not yet disclosed. The Lord's day of visitation and judgment will come swiftly and unexpectedly. Jesus warns his listeners not to be caught off guard when that day arrives. Do you earnestly pray for the coming of God's kingdom - both now and at the end of the world?

The kind of watching the Lord has in mind is not a passive "wait and see what happens" approach to life. The Lord urges us to vigilance and to active prayer that his "kingdom may come" and his "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". We are not only to watch for Christ, but to watch **with** Christ. The Lord wants us to have our hearts and minds fixed on him and his word. He wants us to be

ready for his action and work of grace in our lives and in our world.

The season of Advent is a time for rousing our minds and hearts for the Lord's coming. As his servants we watch for his will - continually seeking him. Servants of the Lord rouse yourselves! Be vigilant, be alert, be "watchmen" for the Lord pointing the way for his coming.

God Bless You! - Fr. Pendzick



Prepare ye the way of the Lord.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

We welcome the following candidates who have come to study and learn about the Catholic Faith through the RCIA process: **Ryuta Amaike, Bruno Benthein, Colleen Potocnie, Amanda Sheehan and Bill Vandergrift.** We ask the people of our parish to pray for them as they journey to the Easter Vigil. We will formally welcome them at the Rite of Welcome on Sunday, December 10th during the 11:30 Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration

Our next *Day of Eucharistic Adoration* will take place in the Chapel on **Monday, Dec 4th** after the 8:00 am Mass and will conclude at 5 pm with Evening Prayer.

MINISTRY NEWS



St. Elizabeth Music Ministry

Presents

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols"

under the direction of Gary Stokes

Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 5 pm

Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken

Prayer Shawl Ministry Final Honoree

The ideal woman is capable, gentle, and compassionate. She does not seek her own glory but works quietly behind the scenes. Loving and compassionate, she works tirelessly to advocate for those in need. Such a woman is **Marie Signarovitz**. As a twin, she experienced the close ties of family early on. Aunt Marie arranges annual family picnics and strives to attend all the functions of her nieces and nephews so they experience the love of extended family. A nurse for over 40 years, Marie provided solace and caring to those who were ill and hurting. Now retired from nursing, Marie is still offering her services. She spends hours each day on the phone offering comfort, information or just a listening ear to those who are hurting. The community of St Elizabeth has greatly benefited from the efforts of Marie and her sister, Ann Baran. Together they started the parish nursing program at St. Elizabeth. They launched several programs and ministries to meet the needs of our parishioners. Among these many ministries is the Prayer Shawl Ministry which celebrates its 10th year anniversary. Marie sought out knitters to create the handmade laps, shawls and blankets. She enlisted individuals who would deliver the prayer shawls to the recipients. She organized regular meetings for the prayer shawl ministry so that the participants could experience the comradery and spirituality from praying, creating and giving of their handiwork. Without her endeavors, the recipients of over 1,600 prayer shawls would not have experienced the love and prayers of the St. Elizabeth community. Thank you, Marie, for all you do.

The Sacrament of Confirmation Prayer Partners Needed



On **Thurs, March 1, 2018** at 4:30 pm, Bishop Alfred Schlert, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our parish Confirmandi. To assist our candidates in their preparation, we call upon our parishioners to pray for them and encourage them. Please consider being a prayer partner by praying for them each day and later writing a congratulatory note that can be given to them on their Confirmation day. *Please contact Mary Spieker at the parish office if you'd like to be a prayer partner. 610-266-0695 or e-mail at dirreled@sercc.org.*

St. Elizabeth Music Ministry

A great big thank you to all who purchased nutroll for Thanksgiving. It was our biggest sale ever! Just want to let you know that we'll be selling nutroll again on December 10th at the breakfast in the Parish Hall. No need to pre-order; just come over and pay us a visit.

Volunteers needed to deliver Christmas gifts



Prayerfully consider volunteering to deliver Christmas gifts to our parishioners who live in assisted living and nursing home facilities, and those

who are homebound. Gifts can be picked up by Thursday afternoon (noon to 3 pm), Dec 7th or Friday, Dec 8th (8:30 to 3 pm). Please contact Pat at 610-393-8107 if you can offer some of your precious time to deliver these gifts to our shut-ins. Thank you.

Share the joy this Christmas!

Adopt a family in need and help spread the Christmas Spirit! If you and your family are able, please consider adopting another parish family in need of Christmas Christian charity. We will give you some general information about a family and ask you to purchase a gift for each of the children. You can drop off the wrapped gifts at any time before December 17th. We will make sure the family receives the gifts before Christmas. Contact Mary Spieker at the parish office for more information. 610-266-0695 or dirreled@sercc.org



SEAA Meat Bingo

The St. Elizabeth Athletic Association wishes to thank the following businesses and families for helping to make our first meat bingo a terrific success for our youth sports:

Meats Provided by Kotsch's Market

Sponsors

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gilbert Funeral Home, Inc. | Albarell Electric, Inc. |
| Ruff Sports | Bishop Photo |
| Brubaker Funeral Home | Kohut Funeral Home |
| American Club of Coplay | |
| American Legion Post 367 Whitehall | |
| American Legion Post 215 Catasaquaque | |

Raffle Donations

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hickory Grove Greenhouse | 4 ferns |
| Kotsch's Market | gift cards |
| Stone Crab Restaurant | gift cards |
| Woody's Sports Bar | gift card |
| Joe Mascari's Carpets & Rugs | area rug |
| Emanuel Family | pearl necklace |
| Giancinto Family | Wegman's gift card |
| Reightler Family | Pampered Chef items |
| Salazar Family | Christmas Centerpiece |

Helpers/ Kitchen

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Erika Shak | Mindy Brosious |
| Donna Hines | Diane Eddinger |
| Joanny Glover | Scott Fogel |
| Mick Dee | Anthony Shak |
| St. Elizabeth Cheer Squad | |

GOLDEN AGERS

Dec. 13th – American Music Theatre bus trip to the Christmas Show “**Home for the Holidays**”. Price is \$88. Bus will leave church parking lot at 10 am, lunch at Shady Maples then theatre for 3 pm show. Call Irene at 610-264-3721.

Trips for 2018:

March 14th Hunterdon Hills Dinner Theatre - "**Steel Magnolias**" - Price \$89 includes bus, dinner and show. Bus leaves church parking lot at 10 am. To book this trip call Charlette at 484-264-7723.

June 13th Sight & Sound - Lancaster, PA. - "**Jesus**" Price \$113 per person – Lunch at Shady Maples and 3 pm show. Leave church parking lot at 10 am. To book this trip call Irene at 610-264-3721.

ST. ELIZABETH REGIONAL SCHOOL

Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser

Our annual scrip is an excellent way to purchase something for that “Hard to buy for” individual. A large variety of store and restaurant cards will allow you to find something that fits your Christmas shopping list needs.

Orders must be turned into school by Dec 1st along with the payment. Make sure your name and phone number are on the order form. For your convenience you can postal mail them to the school, drop them in the collection basket, stop by the school or parish office or send them in with your student. Checks should be made payable to St Elizabeth Regional School. We may not accept late payments. Pick up is estimated to be Dec 15th at school between 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. If you have questions call 610-264-0143.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market). Sat, Dec 9th, 11 am to 5:30 pm at St. Joseph Church, 526 North Street, Jim Thorpe. Free admission. Food, baked goods, new and used Christmas crafts and ornaments, basket raffle, and garage sale. Live Nativity at 1 pm and 5 pm. Concert at 2 pm in the church, Joyful Music of Advent and Christmas, by organist Michael Seroka and members of St. Joseph Parish Choir, followed at 2:45 pm by a tour of the Church building's visual artwork and architecture led by Fr. Francis Baransky. Vigil Mass at 4 pm. For more information: 570-325-3731.

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

St. Mary's Bingo

Dec 10th at 1 pm St Mary's will host a bingo. Doors open at 11:30. Kitchen will be open and take out is available. Bingo includes 50/50 specials, cash prizes, board games and tear off tix. Call 610-264-0332 for more information.

The Salesian Center Advent Course

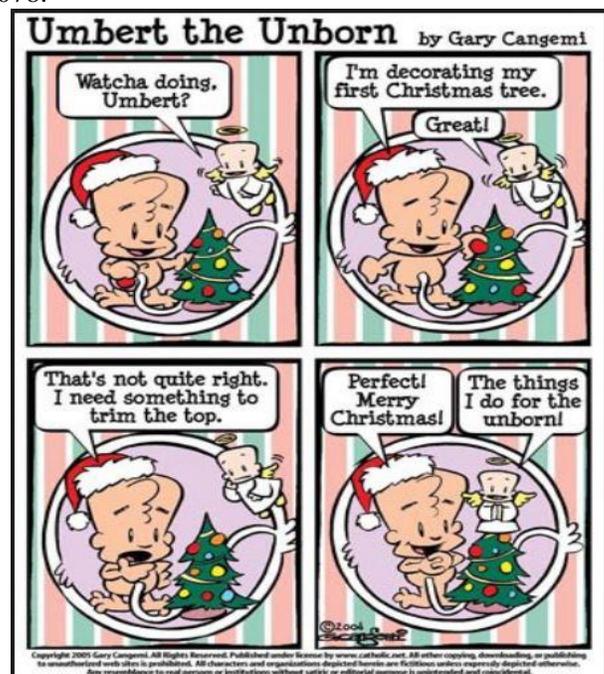
Join others in the community and around the world who seek spiritual enrichment during the upcoming season of Advent. This online non-credit course is FREE and open to everyone...registration is easy! Work at your own pace. Let us join together for this journey, discovering how it can be lived out beautifully in the simplicity of Salesian Spirituality. Look for the Advent icon www.desales.edu/salesian or contact Lore McFadden at Lore.mcfadden@desales.edu 610-282-1100 x 1244

Holiday Mass of Remembrance

On Saturday, December 16th at 1 pm there will be a special Holiday Mass of Remembrance at St. Ann Church, Emmaus to celebrate the lives of our departed loved ones in the midst of the busy holiday season. All are invited to honor your deceased beloved by adding their name/s in the special Remembrance Book from 12:15 until 12:50 and then celebrating Mass, which will begin promptly at 1 pm. Deceased will be prayed for and their names read during mass. For further information, please contact Anmarie at 610-965-9355.

Right To Life March

St. Joseph the Worker is hosting a bus to Washington on Friday, January 19, 2017. Bus leaves parking lot after 6:30 am Mass and returns approximately 9 pm. Call 610-392-2957. Cost is \$10. Please mail to and make check to Sue Mueller, 5211 Wagon Wheel Dr., Schnecksville, 18078.



Oplatki – Christmas Wafers

Christmas Wafers are now available at the parish office. Wafers are \$2.00 per pack for five wafers per package.



Oplatki is a long standing Christmas Eve tradition among Catholic families from Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The Oplatki tradition is a beautiful way to enhance your family's spiritual Christmas experience. The

Christmas eve devotion, including prayers and history are on the back of each envelope.

Advent Wreath

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (*Rejoice*) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.



- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

Anointing Mass

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:8

All who are infirmed, anticipating surgery, or suffering from mental or terminal illness are welcome to attend a special Anointing following the Feast Day Mass of the Immaculate Conception at St. Elizabeth's on Friday, December 8th. Mass begins at 12:15 pm.



ADVENT GIVING TREE



The "Advent Giving Tree" is an opportunity to celebrate the Birth of Jesus by giving gifts of baby items to the babies who will be born this coming year. Please choose a gift tag from the tree in the vestibule, purchase the needed item, and bring the UNWRAPPED gift to Church by Sun, December 17th. Donations will be given to Mary's Shelter and Catholic Charities. Many thanks and blessings for your kind donation to those less fortunate.

SEAA Sign Ups

Early bird baseball/softball signups will be accepted from Wednesday 12/6/17 thru Wednesday 12/20/17.



Registration forms have been sent home in the VIP folder with all St. Elizabeth School students and emailed to all PREP students. Take advantage of savings!

Winter sports pictures will be held on Wednesday evening, January 10, 2018 for all basketball teams and cheerleaders.

December Parish Breakfast

We will serve our monthly Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, December 11th from 8:30 – 11:30 am! Come and fill-up on all your favorites of bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs,



home fries, pancakes, Cheesey Tator Tots, Danish, juice and coffee – all for only \$7.00/adult and \$4.00/child, children 3 years and under are free. The special this month is Lourdes' delicious rice pudding! *Treat your favorite Advent Angel!* We are very

grateful for this month's sponsor, **Coringrato Insurance Agency.**

Christmas at St. Elizabeth of Hungary 2017 Christmas Schedule

A Festival of Lessons and Carols – Sunday, Dec 3rd, 5 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
Monday, Dec 18th from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec 24th, 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm

Christmas Day
Monday, Dec 25th, 8:30 am and 11:00 am

New Year's Masses

New Year's Eve
Normal Schedule
Sunday, Dec 31st, 8:00 am, 9:45 am and 11:30 am
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (transferred to Dec 31)

New Year's Day
Monday, Jan 1st, 8:00 am

It Takes A Village

The old saying goes that it takes a large number of people to join together and make a village function...the same can be said for a parish. On a weekly basis we have over seventy parishioner volunteers at Masses serving as Altar Servers, Cantors, Extra-Ordinary ministers, Greeters, Lectors, Ushers and Children's Liturgy. Add to that the thirty choir members and you have over one hundred people who volunteer each weekend alone.

During the rest of the week we have the altar guild that cleans the church and cares for the altar linens, the bulletin folders, the counters and the church decorators, approximately another twenty people each week.

The daily receptionists add another five volunteers and then there are the scores of people who help with special events such as: parish breakfast, grounds crew, vacation bible school, parish festival, basket social, RCIA, PREP, youth ministry, baptism team, blood drive, friendly visitors, grief support group, prayer shawl ministry and school.

With the upcoming Appreciation Dinner we want to take this opportunity to thank as many volunteers as we can.

So to the over three hundred people who help keep St. Elizabeth running each week...

THANK YOU

We couldn't do it without you!!

*And to those who are looking for a place to feel needed and appreciated ...
.with all the amazing people and talents parishioners bring to the parish
.... come join us.*

If you can spend five minutes holding a door open or hours helping with the festival there is some ministry that can use and needs your attention.