

## MASSES / SERVICES

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 19</b>
9:00 AM	Irene Minetola
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 20</b>
9:00 AM	Harry Hofelich Jr.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 21</b>
9:00 AM	Anna Kaufmann
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 22</b>
7:00 PM	Dorothy Folajtar
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 23</b>
9:00 AM	Josephine Palmieri
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve</b>
4:30 PM	People of the Parish
9:00 PM	John Kochan
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 25 - Christmas</b>
8:00 AM	Catherine DeAngelo
10:00 AM	Thomas Kelly

ADORATION is in the Chapel one hour before daily Mass.

## READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:	Isaiah 7: 10 – 14
Responsorial Psalm:	24
Second Reading:	Romans 1: 1 – 7
Gospel:	Matthew 1: 18 – 24

Parish Regular Events (call for updates)

**Adult Choir** – Wed (Sept to May) times as scheduled  
**Baptism Class** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning by appointment  
**Bible Study** – Wed (Sept to May) 10 am in LMR\*  
**Breakfast Club** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun (Nov to Apr) 8 – 11:30 am Hall  
**Children’s Choir** – contact Music Director for info  
**Friendly Visitors** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs (Sept to May) 2 pm LMR\*  
**Prayer Shawl** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Quarterly 2 pm LMR\* call  
**PREP** – Mondays (Sept to April) 6 pm School  
**RCIA** – Tuesdays (Sept to April) 7 pm LMR\*  
*\*LMR = Parish office large meeting room 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.*

## OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

Josie Levine	Judy Emery
Astrid Zelko	Fernando Colon
Bob Hartzell	Sheila LeBlanc
Kathy Wiesner	Lucy Mellinger
John Gallucci	Ruth Yousseff
	Phyllis Laky

\*NOTE: If you are admitted to the hospital or ER, please call the parish if you want a priest to visit. Names will be **removed after three months** and may be resubmitted at that time.

## TO THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS



We welcome you to Mass each weekend. If you wish to receive Holy Communion and find it difficult to join the Communion line, please let the ushers know and an Extraordinary Minister will bring communion to you. Low gluten hosts are available; prior to Mass go to the sacristy so the celebrant will know to prepare the host.

Call our parish office at 610-266-0695.

Emergency and need a priest? After hours use ext. 399 for the emergency mailbox.

Please visit us at: [sercc.org](http://sercc.org)



[https://www.facebook.com/St-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Elizabeth-Catholic-Church-119061511442084)

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## INTENTIONS



The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for  
**Kathleen Hartsock** requested by  
*her mother Hilda Koetting*

The Bells will ring this week for  
**Howard Sweeney** requested by  
 Maria Sweeney.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who have died, especially  
**James H. Hughes and Michele Cole**, who  
 passed away this year. May their souls and the  
 souls of all the faithful departed, through the  
 mercy of God, rest in peace.



## RCIA

All are welcome to attend the Rite of Christian Initiation classes held on Tuesdays each week at 7 pm. Call for details 610-266-0695 ext. 208. The topic for **Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** will be

Prayer ~ Prayer Life ~ Advent Stories

## ADVENT



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

## PASTOR'S NOTES

The gospel account we heard today rushes the scene along - an angel comes to speak with Joseph in a dream, tells him why and how Mary conceived, and Joseph did as he was commanded. It sounds neat and tidy but think about the anguish about what to do and the prayers he must have uttered continuously to discern what was best. Joseph is described as a righteous man and faithful to the observance of the Law. Another way to understand righteousness is to be in right relationship with God.

Surely Joseph's righteousness created in him the habit of listening and searching for God's direction, a habit that we too create by setting aside time for prayerful conversation with God and feeding on God's Word in Scripture. Joseph's relationship with God gave him the courage to believe in the miracle that Mary shared with him, and that the angel of God explained.

Common to the annunciation accounts, in both Matthew and Luke is the angel's statement, 'Do not be afraid.' Of course, it would be quite natural to experience fear and uncertainty when the world seems to turn upside down and inside out as it did for Joseph and Mary. The angel's words probably sounded ridiculous; of course, they were afraid! But deeper than any fear, in any age, is the radical trust that God allows us to have if we are willing to take that leap, to say yes, and to be obedient.

The underlying truth of our lives as Christians is captured in the name pronounced in Isaiah and in Matthew: Emmanuel. God is with us! This truth is the source of our identity, the reason for our hope, the birthplace of our courage, the motive for our actions, and the antidote for our fears.

'God is with us' is the truth that takes us from the Advent wreath to the manger, from the crib to the cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb where we realize that life and light and love always have the final say. In these final days of Advent, may we offer to God our thanksgiving for this time of preparation and anticipation, and make it a priority to ask for the grace of a faith that trusts that God's presence is real, and God's presence is enough.

God bless you, Fr. Stan

Prepare

"BEHOLD I AM SENDING MY  
MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU;  
HE WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY."  
MATTHEW 11:10

## DEACON'S THOUGHTS

At Christmas, God is asking of us what He asked of Mary and Joseph – complete trust in His plans. He wants each of us to help Him save His world again! He richly rewards those who say “Yes!” and accept His plans for their lives. It's even more incredible that Jesus the God man, in turn, entrusted His life to Joseph and Mary. Again, God entrusts the success of His plans to those who can love enough and sacrifice their plans for His own.

Advent has been all about getting ready to agree to let Joseph and Mary use our hearts for a manger. From there, Jesus can help our poor country and our poor world to rebuild His kingdom. He needs our witness, our courage in speaking His truth, and sharing His love. He so wants us to be part of a much larger Advent, when all those prophecies we heard read in the last few weeks will be brought to fulfillment. If we can only give a simple, unqualified “yes” as Mary and Joseph did, some amazing things may happen through us in the world we live in.

## UPDATE SCRUMPTIOUS PARISH BREAKFAST



*Please note the price increase for adults due to supply costs.*

We will serve our monthly Breakfast Buffet on Sunday, January 8 from 8:30 – 11:30 AM.

Come and fill-up on all your favorites of bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, pancakes, Danish, juice and coffee – all for **\$10.00/adult** and **\$5.00/child**. Children 3 years and under are free.

## PREP CORNER

**PREP – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechist:**

**Mrs. Pam Silverthorn**



Pam Silverthorn is excited to be this year's fifth-grade teacher for PREP. Mrs. Silverthorn has been a member of the parish since 2015 and worked as the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at St. E's for 3 years.

Currently, Mrs. Silverthorn is a reading specialist at Zephyr Elementary School. She has been a teacher for K - 8 in both the public and private schools since 1999, has taught VBS, and will soon be an FCS teacher at the NCC youth program. Her pride and joy are her two children, Roberta (15) and Gabriel (12). You may have seen them as altar servers at 10 a.m. Mass. Joel, Pam's husband of 16 years, is a lector for St. E's and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade PREP teacher at Assumption. The Silverthorn family values community service and Pam is an active member in many community activities. Being involved in these activities helps the family stay together into their teen years. Two quotes come to mind showing how Pam feels about her faith: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). The second is the more that is given to you, the more is expected of you.

## MONTHLY BREAKFAST SPONSORS NEEDED



To help offset the cost of the breakfast, we ask for a monthly sponsor. Are you able to sponsor one of our upcoming monthly breakfasts? **To sponsor a full breakfast, we ask for \$500. If you cannot give the full amount 50% (\$250) or even 25% (\$125) would be helpful.** If you can help in any way, please contact the parish office at 610-266-0695 ext. 208

## Christmas at St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2022 Christmas Schedule

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm

#### Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am and 10:00 am

### New Year's Masses

#### New Year's Eve

Saturday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:30 pm

#### New Year's Day *Solemnity of Mary*

Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 am and 10:00 am

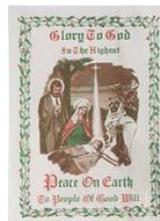


## WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Invite someone home to Mass this year. Neighbor, friend, child or spouse... make them all feel welcome. Everyone is invited!



## OPLATKI – CHRISTMAS WAFERS



Christmas Wafers are now available at the parish rectory during office hours. Wafers are \$5 per pack which includes five wafers in each package. Oplatki is a long-standing Christmas Eve tradition. It 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.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

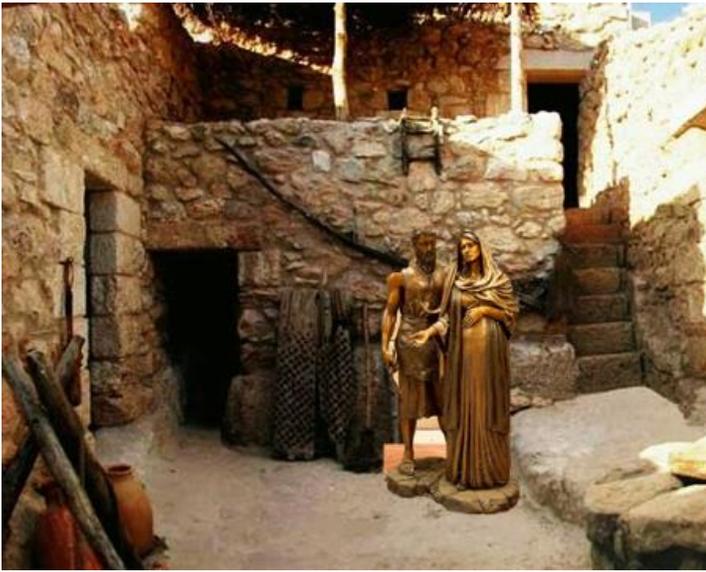
Merry Christmas for a school family! Complete or partial sponsorship of a student can make a difference in a student's ability to attend Saint Elizabeth Regional School. Sponsorship opportunities, which combine faith with learning, create a well-rounded and prepared student. As an **"Angel of the Lord Sponsor,"** you provide financial support to families who desire the spiritual, moral, and intellectual growth fostered by a Catholic, faith-based school. Choose from any three levels of support:

- **Phanuel Angel:** Donate Any Amount
- **Seraphim Angel:** Donate a Half Year of Tuition (\$1,850)
- **Uriel Angel:** Donate a Full Year of Tuition (\$3,700)

Send donations to Mrs. Kimberly Kocher, Principal St. Elizabeth Regional School, 431 Pershing Blvd, Whitehall, PA 18052 Thanks for your support!

*Journey with Us this Advent*





### Bingo Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>

St Peter's Church Social Hall, 4 South 5<sup>th</sup> St, Coplay  
 \$15 admission gets 2 boards (4 Faces) \$5 book specials  
 Chips and daubers available for purchase  
 Doors open at 1 pm and bingo starts at 2 pm.  
 Food available for purchase  
 MASKS OPTIONAL  
 Items for the food pantry greatly appreciated.

### ENROLL TODAY FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!



### Outstanding academic opportunities in a faith-filled community!

Scan the QR code to take a saved to S: Drive virtual tour of our campus!

Love what you see? Call or email to schedule an in-person visit!  
 Contact Cara Meskill, Director of Admissions at 610-437-4601 x148  
 or cmeskill@acchs.info. Financial aid and scholarships are available.



### Academic Success. Catholic Values.

301 N Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102  
 (610) 437-4601 | [www.acchs.info](http://www.acchs.info)



Allentown Central Catholic High School

### OUR COMMUNITY



#### Catholic Educator Retreats

The Office of Evangelization and Formation is hosting a series of Catholic Educator Retreats throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Retreats are open to all Catholic educators, parents, Catechists, Directors of Religious Educators (DRE), Youth Ministers, Catholic teachers teaching in Catholic or Non-Catholic Schools. Call 610-866-0581.

#### CYO Coaches Clinic

All CYO coaches are required to take a coach's clinic within one year of starting to coach for a CYO program in the Diocese of Allentown. These clinics provide an overview of insurance requirements, sports medicine, coaching the child with special needs, and the integration of our Catholic faith and CYO. Clinics are held throughout the year in the Diocese. Each clinic is held from 9 am to 12 pm, with check-in beginning at 8:45 am. The registration cost is \$25 per participant.  
<https://register.allentowndioocese.org/cyo-clinics/>

#### Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

A retreat and intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after having an abortion will be held on February 10, 11 and 12. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter the process of healing. You can experience God's compassion and forgiveness.  
 For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, 610-435-1541, ext. 373 or email [carolswavely@ptd.net](mailto:carolswavely@ptd.net) Registration must be done prior to February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Bus Trips



**My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish, I'm In Therapy-** March 30th. Show, plus \$25 slot play at Tropicana in Atlantic City. \$82, bus leaves at 9:30 AM.

**Million Dollar Quartet-** Thursday April 13. Hunterdon Hills Dinner Theatre. \$120 pp, bus leaves at 10 AM.

**Patsy Cline Tribute Show-** May 24th at Penn's Peak luncheon show. \$90 Bus leaves at 10 AM.

**The Jersey Tenors, From Sinatra to Vali to Figaro...Forgettaboutit!** June 22 Show, plus \$25 slot play at Tropicana in Atlantic City. \$97, bus leaves at 9:30 AM.

**Moses-** July 12th at Sight and Sound Theater with Shady Maple buffet. \$143, leaves at 8 AM, returns at 6

All Checks made payable to St. Joseph the Worker Church and mailed to Sue Mueller 5211 Wagon Wheel Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078. For reservations or more information call Sue (610) 392-2957 or email [suemueller45@gmail.com](mailto:suemueller45@gmail.com)

Find trip info at [www.stjwchurch.org/bus-trips](http://www.stjwchurch.org/bus-trips)