



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH, DURYEA

127 Stephenson Street Tel: 570-457-3502

Fax: 570-451-3341 Office Hours: M-F, 8:30-4:30 unless otherwise noted in bulletin

E-mail: rectory@nativityduryea.org

Web: www.nativityduryea.org Nativity of Our Lord Duryea

Rev. John V. Polednak, V.E., Pastor

Deacon André Kabacinski, Parish Deacon

Masses: Daily, M-F – 7:00 am • Saturday (Vigil)- 4:00 pm • Sunday- 8:00 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm

Confession: Daily, M-F~6:40-6:55 am • Saturday- 3:15-3:45 pm, and anytime upon request.



First Sunday of Advent ❖ December 3, 2017

↑↑↑ NOTICE SOMETHING NEW? 150th Anniversary Logo....Celebration

Beginning on this First Sunday of Advent, our Diocese will be celebrating 150 years. Our Diocese of Scranton was originally part of a much larger area, the Diocese of Philadelphia, which included the entire eastern half of Pennsylvania, parts of southern New Jersey, and Delaware, and was cared for by one bishop, quite often riding on horseback. The most famous of these is Saint John Neumann, who sought the division of the large area into several smaller dioceses. This would not happen until several years after his death.



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Advent Wreaths

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but other colors are sometimes used. The purple candles in particular

symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete

Sunday, when the priest may also wear rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now

half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world, the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead, and the light of faith burning each time our Lord comes to us sacramentally in our daily lives.

Questions for personal reflection based on this Sunday's Readings...

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
(1 Corinthians 1:9)

How do you know when you're following Christ and living his teachings faithfully?

What good thing might God be asking you to do right now?

HOLY DAY - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception professes that Mary was conceived without original sin by her parents – Saints Ann and Joachim.



Though some medieval theologians debated this idea, a feast was first approved in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV. 400 years later, on Dec. 17, 1830, St Catherine Laboure claimed to have a vision of Mary as the "Immaculate Conception" – this became the "Miraculous Medal" so familiar to many of us. This renewed interest and discussion on the idea of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Finally, on December 8th, 1854, after consulting with the world's bishops, Pope Pius IX solemnly decreed this teaching as Dogma. We, as Catholics, believe this as an unchangeable Truth of the Church, and celebrate this feast on December 8th.

Friday, December 8th, is a Holy Day of obligation.

Vigil Mass: Wednesday at 4:00 pm,

Holy Day Masses will be at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 7 pm for your convenience.

Please see inside schedule for details.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR AND INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-10, 2017

Mon	4	7:00am 1:00pm	Joseph Russick (30-Day—by Family) Advent Prayer Service
Tue	5	7:00am	Dec'd members of the Runski & Judge Families (by Ann & Cheryl Judge)
Wed	6	7:00am	Joseph Swieboda (30-Day—by Family)
Thu	7	7:00am 4:00pm	For the Intentions of Our Parishioners Dolores Galuska (30-Day—by Family)
Fri	8	7:00am 9:00am 7:00pm	Ione Pagnotti (30-Day—by Family) Gloria Barlik (by Ron and Marie Kishel) Frank Wozniak (by Mary Galuska and Colleen Velehoski)
Sat	9	4:00pm	William Bernard (by Wife, Regina, Daughter, Pat and Granddaughters)
Sunday	10	8:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Mag Balchune, Pat Capitano and Billy & Jason Baclawski (by Martha Balchune) Italo, Marie and Arnold Mascioli (by Shirley and Walter Perhalla & Family) For the Intentions of Our Parishioners
VOTIVE CANDLE OFFERINGS			
Sacred Heart of Jesus		Dec'd members of the Resavy & Witkowski Families (by Lillian Witkowski)	
Blessed Virgin Mary		Edward and Sophie Wascavage (by Ed and Joyce Jones)	
St. Joseph		Carol Mesaris (by Mercedes Butrymowicz)	

Other Activities/Events
This Week:

Sunday –

CCD, 9:45-10:45 am
Women's Society Party, 2:00 pm
8th Gr. CCD, 5:30-6:45 pm

Wednesday –

Children's Choir 5:15pm
Senior Choir, 6:30 pm

FRIDAY – Holy Day of Obligation

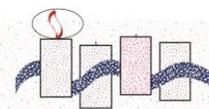
See schedule to the left

Saturday December 9 –

Duryea Boro 3rd Annual Christmas Stroll
5:00-8:00, Main Street, Duryea

Sunday December 10 –

Parish Men's Society Christmas Breakfast
8:30-12:30, SHH



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~ FINANCES AND ONGOING STEWARDSHIP ~

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS for the weekend of November 25-26, 2017

\$3,593 Sunday; \$929 Secondary; \$480.85 Loose; \$662 Thanksgiving; \$139 Thanksgiving Loose; \$929 Christmas Flowers

Online Giving: \$260 Sunday; \$51 Secondary; \$20 Care & Education of Priests; \$110 Christmas Flowers

Our **SECOND COLLECTION** next weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious and Diocesan Priests

LOAVES AND FISHES December: Non-Dairy Creamer

PARISH CAMPAIGN - Please consider making your gift today! Thank you to those parishioners who have responded so far to the next phase of work here at Nativity.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST sponsored by the Nativity of Our Lord Parish Men's Society. The Society invites you to our breakfast next Sunday, December 10, from 8:30am-12:30pm at Sacred Heart Hall. Menu Includes: Scrambled Eggs, Home fries, Kielbasa & Ham, Pancakes, Danish & Beverage. **Tickets: Adults- \$9, Children (5 - 12 yrs)- \$5 (4 & Under)-Free.** Contact: Jef Bauman (570) 881-6006 or Mike Wasko (570) 885-6267. Tickets will also be available at the door.

3rd ANNUAL DURYEA CHRISTMAS STROLL Join us once again for our 3rd Annual Christmas Stroll down Main Street! Help us kick off the Holiday Season with Santa & Mrs. Claus, and our local Businesses and institutions, all on Main Street. An evening of fun is promised with Shopping, Kids Activities, and plenty of Christmas Treats!! There will be live animals including reindeer, horse drawn carriage rides, prizes, baskets, and much more! **Nativity of Our Lord's Senior Choir will be singing on the Main Street, with Holy Rosary School providing a living Nativity, in space provided through the kindness of Joanne and Karen Orlowski.** Come join in the Christmas fun and support our local community.



SATURDAY TRAFFIC CHANGES NEXT WEEK – Attention 4:00 Mass attendees:

On Saturday, December 9th, Main Street Duryea will be closed from Swetland Street to Lackawanna Avenue, and Stephenson Street will be closed from the tracks to approximately the Community Park, from 4:00pm until 8:00pm in conjunction with the Christmas Stroll, for the safety of all involved.

PRISON MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING Back in September, Deacon André started working with Father Mike Kloton at Retreat State Correctional Institute in Hunlock Creek. Anyone interested in hearing about his experiences thus far is invited to attend a meeting on Thursday evening, December 14@ 6:30 in the Library meeting room in the rectory, adjacent to the church. We will discuss how we as a parish can provide support and minister to those in prison. Although the prison is not a place that anyone can just walk in and visit, there are various means that we can provide our support. Anyone is welcome to attend.

WITH PARISH SYMPATHY—Our prayers are requested for Rosemarie Dziewit whose Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday of this week. May the Risen Christ embrace her in His eternal love and peace, and give His comfort and consolation to her family and friends. Our parish sympathy is extended to them in their loss.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS-- Classes resume today (Sunday) at 9:45 a.m. for Pre-K to 7th grade and at 5:30 p.m. for Grade 8 (in the rectory).

All parishioners are invited to the Religious Education Christmas **PAGEANT** on Sunday, December 17, in the Holy Rosary Gym starting at 9:45 am. Light refreshments will be served afterward in the school cafeteria.

The **GIFT CERTIFICATES** that support Holy Rosary and our other Diocesan schools will be available on Thursday from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Holy Rosary Church Hall.

MEMORIAL TREE - If you would like to offer an ornament for the tree, please call or stop by our office during regular business hours. The Memorial Tree will be placed in the church on the weekend of December 16th and 17th. If you have any questions, please call the rectory at 570-457-3502.

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS are available in the church entrance and at the rail near St. Joseph's altar. A \$1 offering is suggested to cover the cost of the books, and shipping.

BLESSED CHRISTMAS WAFERS ((Opłatki)) for use at your Christmas dinners and celebrations will be available after Masses throughout the Advent season. We hope you can keep this tradition alive in your homes. A donation of \$2 is sked to cover the cost of the wafers, and shipping and handling.

PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE after all the Masses on Saturday, December 16, and Sunday, December 17, in the church hall. Homemade cookies of all varieties will be available for purchase right in time for the Christmas holidays. We ask the bakers of our parish to contribute by baking some of their favorite cookies and sharing them with us. If you are able and willing to do this, please contact Lois Hanczyc at 570-457-2482 or 570-313-8188.



**The Intention of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis,
for the month of December**

THE ELDERLY

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

The Season of Advent
lights our way to the Lord



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THANK YOU FROM JUDY LAMBERT

Dear Nativity Parish,

My most sincere thanks to all who wished me well upon my retirement as Coordinator of Religious Education. For all the gifts and tokens of appreciation and kind loving words spoken in my honor, I want to thank you!! To Father John, David Tighe, the choir, Deacon André and the fifth grade participants: the Mass was beautiful! Also thank you to our parish staff and all the teachers and aides whom I have worked with over the years...please know my gratitude to you all!!! To those that prepared and served the reception, it was enjoyed by all!! To my husband and family for all the moral and physical support over these 29 years, thank you!! To all the families past and present, thank you! It is only by the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that I have served you and can only hope I served you well!! May God bless us all.

Sincerely, and with heartfelt gratitude,

Judy

PLACEMENT/SCHOLARSHIP TEST for Holy Redeemer High School. For interest public and private school 8th graders, there will be a placement exam on Saturday, December 9 – 8:30 a.m. Call the Holy Redeemer High School Guidance Office to register for the test at 570-829-2424

STUFF THE STOCKINGS



The 7th grade class and the Student Council of Holy Rosary School are collecting items to stuff stockings for the kids at the Janet Weis Research Hospital in Danville. The items needed are candy, small toys, books, and plush toys; greeting cards are optional. Also, if you can bring in stockings to fill, that would be absolutely great! The goal is to make about 100 stockings for the children. The items and stockings are due to the school by December 4 with delivery made the week of December 11.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS...

MONTHLY STORY HOUR sponsored by Duryea's "My Little Library" on Wednesday December 6th at 6:30 PM at the Duryea Borough Building. The December "celebrity" reader will be the Duryea Boy Scouts reading an original story along with a craft for the kids and a special treat from the Nativity of Our Lord's Women's Society. Also there will be a "surprise" visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring your camera for an impromptu picture with the Santa and Mrs. Claus before they leave for the North Pole to prepare for the big night.

My Little Library can be found in front of the borough building on Main Street and in front of the Community Park on Stephenson Street. It is a "take a book – give a book" for children. Come and enjoy the story hour, a craft and a special visit from our December celebrities Santa. and Mrs. Claus and the Duryea Boy Scouts joined by the Nativity of Our Lord Women's Society.



This Bulletin is printed in Loving Memory of . . .



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Mike Wasko	Vincent & Mary Waszczak and Marion Waszczak Bryk	Helen Yardchik	Margaret Yauk and Romayne Solarchik	Zujkowski, Pribula and Klink Families	Helen and Adam Zuro

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