



MASS INTENTIONS
Sunday, Dec. 17 : † *Kylinn Gilmore* – George Crouse
Sunday, Dec. 24: † *Katie, Gabe, & Carmie* - Family
Christmas Masses: † *flower envelope intentions*

LECTOR SCHEDULE			ALTAR SERVERS	
Dec. 17	12 noon	T. Kerstetter	A. Tarantella	P. Tarantella
Dec. 24	12 noon	C. DeMarte	L. DeMarte	T. Tarantella

MEMORIAL CANDLES		Dec. 1-14, 2023	
Church Sanctuary	† <i>Katie Himmel -Family</i>		
Chapel Sanctuary	† <i>Max Engle –Friend</i>		
Blessed Mother	† <i>Jack Hanobic – Wife & Family</i>	† <i>Kylinn Stone Gilmore – Mom</i>	Special Intention
Saint Joseph	† <i>Christopher Perry – The Hanobics</i>	† <i>Ed Brezovic – The Himmels</i>	† <i>Charles Maxwell Jr– Janet Stone</i>

IN OUR PRAYERS♥

Jennifer Sauter, John “Tink” Green, Sandy Francis, John Laubscher, Kay Hirlinger, Connie Shope, Deanna Dare, Donald Felty, Bill O’Neill, Karen Tomko Strobel, Susan Nelson, Thomas Packer, Bill Leary Jr., Melinda O’Neill-Lewis, Bart Pickering, Katherine Huggler, Gayle Jenkins, Elaine Charcalla, John Kapp, Ron J. Long, Ruth Donnell, Vera Hough, Jeane Bressler, Grace DeSanto, Grace “Susie” Kisko, Liz Kalafut, Arnie Burrows, Brenda DeJoice, Caleb Leone, Adam Smith, Joyce Winkleman O’Brien, Chad Willard, Connie O’Toole Conrad, Kevin Dwyer, Denise Colvin, Frank Morton, Sue Sette, Mary Tripp, Estefan Nevarez, Merle Prebble, Larry Conly, Shawna Weaver, Kathy Jo Kalafut, Ben Moser, Kasey Knauff, Ruby Prebble, Chris Howlett, Willy Dressler, Joey Herridge, Anna O’Neill, Terry O’Laughlin, Mike Fantazier, John Tarantella, Lynn Anderson, Lisa Myers, Ed McGuire, Danielle Luzier, Kathy Smith, David Moore, and Emma Christner

WEEKLY SCHEDULE Collection Counters: Mary, Louie, & Ann			
MONDAY 12/11			
TUESDAY 12/12	Communion Service	8:30 AM	Chapel
	CDA Party	6:00 PM	Lisa’s
WEDNESDAY 12/13			
THURSDAY 12/14			
FRIDAY 12/15			
SATURDAY 12/16			
SUNDAY 12/17	CCD grades: K-7, 9-11	10:45 AM	Rectory
	Mass	noon	Church

December 10, 2023
CHURCH OF
SAINT JOSEPH

925 Huron Avenue • Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-0172 • stjosephrenovo@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.stjosephchurchrenovopa.org



MASS TIME

Sunday: 12 noon

CONFESSION:

Sunday: 11:35 – 11:55 am
Wednesday by appt.



COMMUNION SERVICES

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)
First Friday: 6:00 p.m. (Chapel)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9 am - 2 pm
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 9 am - 5 pm
Thursday: 9 am - 2 pm
Friday: Closed

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of the family of God, our mission is to joyfully share the good news, reconnect with lapsed Catholics, and warmly welcome them back into the fold. We are dedicated to serving as positive role models for the youth in our parish, exemplifying the richness of the Catholic Faith. Through the pillars of prayer, education, hospitality, outreach, and stewardship, we aim to open our arms wide, embracing all who seek to be a part of our vibrant faith community.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Joseph Orr.....*Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Heiser.....*Deacon*
Alison Heiser.....*Secretary/DRE*
Terry O’Laughlin.....*Finance/Sacristan*
Louis Roteigliano.....*Design Specialist/PR*

SICK CALL

Please notify the office when a parish member is in the hospital or cannot attend Church and wishes to receive Holy Communion at home.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Call the church office to schedule an appointment.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

If you wish to become a member of the parish, please reach out to the parish office. Additionally, if you are relocating from the parish, kindly inform us. Active membership, demonstrated through registration, practicing stewardship, and regular participation in the Sacraments, qualifies individuals to serve as godparents or sponsors. As a Church community aspiring to be faithful disciples and responsible stewards, contributing our time, talent, and treasure is vital for the collective well-being.

NORTHERN DEANERY RAFFLE

Our car raffle tickets would make great Christmas gifts for everyone on your Christmas list. We have Christmas cards available to include with your raffle tickets to give as a gift or stocking stuffer.

For just \$10 per ticket, participants have the opportunity to win one of four thrilling prizes. Starting in January, we will have an early bird drawing each month of 5 winners. Each winner will receive five replacement tickets for the one ticket drawn, and the seller listed on the ticket will receive a check for \$50!! This year, you can accept cash instead of the prize.

- 1st Prize is a \$30,000 Car Voucher or \$25,000 cash
- 2nd prize is a Houseboat Vacation or \$1,500 cash
- 3rd Prize is a Seven Springs Excursion or \$750 cash
- 4th Prize is a Yeti Cooler Package or \$200 cash

MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH COOKBOOK

Reprint of the 1991 Italian & American Parish Cookbook
(Over 175 pages of Italian, American, and other nationality recipes)
Can be purchased for \$20.00 (Cash or Check) at the Mount Carmel Parish Office, 806 11th Street, Altoona 16602

* To purchase a cookbook, please contact the parish office 570-923-0172. We can assist you in placing an order and arrange for convenient pick-up for interested parishioners.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ADVENT SCHEDULE – UPDATED

December 13 at 7 PM - North Bend Methodist – Pastor Dutch Rinker
December 20 at 7 PM - St. Joseph Catholic Church – Pastor John Baney

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sue Morgan, a dedicated volunteer custodian at the rectory, for her exceptional commitment to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment. Sue goes above and beyond in ensuring that classrooms and bathrooms are always in tip-top shape, contributing significantly to the overall well-being of our community. Her thoughtful efforts extend beyond routine maintenance, as she has taken it upon herself to enhance the aesthetics of the building. From new curtains in the kitchen to charming decorative touches throughout, Sue's creative spirit has truly transformed our spaces. We want to express our deepest appreciation for Sue Morgan—she is a genuine life-saver whose contributions make a lasting and positive impact on everyone who enters our rectory. Thank you, Sue, for your unwavering dedication and the warmth you bring to our community.



Everyone is invited to help decorate our church for Christmas after Mass next Sunday, December 17th. Please join with your fellow parishioners in this wonderful way to get into the Christmas Spirit.

As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, we are thrilled to announce a heartwarming addition to our Christmas Eve Mass this year. The talented students of our Religious Education program will be spreading the spirit of the season by performing a selection of beautiful Christmas carols just before the start of Mass.

There is something truly magical about the voices of children raised in song, and we believe their performance will add an extra layer of warmth and meaning to our Christmas Eve gathering. Make sure to arrive a little earlier than usual on Christmas Eve to witness this heartwarming performance. Let the angelic voices of our Religious Education students set the stage for a Mass filled with the true spirit of Christmas.

This Christmas

- This Christmas, mend a quarrel.
- Seek out a forgotten friend.
- Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust.
- Write a love letter. Share some treasure.
- Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.
- Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
- Keep a promise. Find the time.
- Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy.
- Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
- Disregard envy. Examine your demands on others.
- Think first of someone else. Appreciate.
- Be kind; be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
- Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice.
- Decry complacency. Express your gratitude.
- Go to church. Welcome a stranger.
- Gladden the heart of a child.
- Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
- Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again.

WELCOME

Welcome to all, especially visitors and guests, who have come to worship in our Church today! No matter how long you plan to be in the neighborhood, please consider St. Joseph’s your parish home. Call the parish office, 570-923-0172, to schedule an appointment with Father Orr to register.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

GOSPEL MEDITATION

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.
It’s nothing new, of course. In Jesus’ day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you’re free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark’s gospel, “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” It’s not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word “gospel” was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God’s son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It’s time to follow him and be truly free. This week let’s refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let’s rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors. ~ Father John Muir ©LPi □

† Our Gifts to God †
Sunday Offering: Dec. 3, 2023

Regular Collection:	\$ 2,320.00	
Monthly:	255.00	Votive: \$ 61.00
Children	5.00	Christmas Flowers: \$450.00
	\$ 2,580.00	

Thank you for being good stewards.

Exciting News!

Indulge in the holiday spirit with our freshly restocked selection of delightful candy bars, perfect for spreading cheer as stocking stuffers! ✨

For just \$1.00, treat yourself or a loved one to the sweet satisfaction of a delicious chocolate bar (peanut butter, roasted almond, crisp rice, and milk chocolate)

Not only will you satisfy your sweet tooth, but you'll also be contributing to the enhancement of our festival equipment and supplies.

Visit the rectory during office hours to grab your chocolatey delights and support our cause. Every purchase goes a long way in making our festivities even more spectacular. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Thank you for sweetening the season with your support! 🎁

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to memorialize a Christmas flower in honor of a deceased loved one, please take note there is a special envelope in your offertory box. Extra envelopes will be provided in the back of the church. Please return them by Monday, December 18th in the collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Your new offertory envelopes will be in the back of the church. Please pick yours up and your neighbors or friends. Please contact the parish office if you do not see a box with your name. Thank you!