



**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. 15-31, 2023
Church Sanctuary	† <i>Elizabeth, Alice, &amp; Susan</i> -Mary, Jeanne, & Marjorie			
Chapel Sanctuary	† <i>Elizabeth, Alice, &amp; Susan</i> -Mary, Jeanne, & Marjorie			
Blessed Mother	† <i>Jack Hanobic – Wife &amp; Family</i>	† <i>The Gilmore Family– Janet</i>	<i>Class of 1976</i> – Cathy Himmel	
Saint Joseph	† <i>Mattioli Family</i> – Janet	† <i>Mark Morocko</i> – The Kurutz Family	† <i>Charles Maxwell Jr–</i> Lisa & Jack Houser	

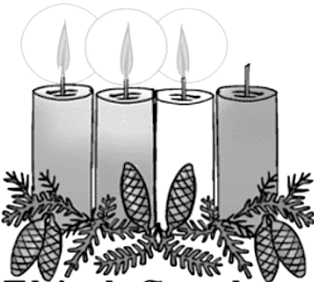
**IN OUR PRAYERS♥**

*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, 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: Margie & Ann
<b>MONDAY</b> 12/18				
<b>TUESDAY</b> 12/19	Communion Service	8:30 AM	Chapel	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 12/20				
<b>THURSDAY</b> 12/21				
<b>FRIDAY</b> 12/22				
<b>SATURDAY</b> 12/23				
<b>SUNDAY</b> 12/24	Mass	noon	Church	

**December 17, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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.

**Sunday, December 24th ~ Christmas Eve**

- 4:00 PM – St. Joseph
- 7:00 PM – St. Agnes, Lock Haven
- 10:00 PM – Immaculate Conception, Lock Haven

**Monday, December 25th ~ Christmas Day**

- 9:30 AM – St. Agnes, Lock Haven
- 12:00 Noon – St. Joseph



**A Heartfelt Thank You to Mike Fedele and Carl Gentzyel:**  
**Our Furnace Heroes**



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to two exceptional individuals, **Mike Fedele** and **Carl Gentzyel**, for their selfless dedication and hard work on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Their tireless efforts played a crucial role in rectifying a challenging situation and ensuring the success of our evening. When the unfortunate news struck that our rectory's furnace was leaking, panic set in as we were scheduled to host several priests for dinner that very night. Uncertainty loomed over us, but thanks to the incredible generosity of Mike and Carl, our worries were eased.

Without hesitation, Mike and Carl volunteered to tackle the furnace issue, committing their entire day to resolving the problem. Their determination and expertise were truly commendable as they worked tirelessly for over 10 hours, striving to restore warmth and comfort to our beloved rectory.

In addition to Mike and Carl's invaluable contributions, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to **Lisa Houser** for providing a delightful meal for the priests. Lisa's culinary talents brought joy and comfort to our gathering, enhancing the sense of fellowship among us. Also, she brought plenty of food that we could serve Carl & Mike for their hardwork. It felt almost miraculous — no matter how many indulged, there remained an ample surplus of delectable food.

A special acknowledgment also goes to **Mary Rathmell**, who selflessly volunteered to set up, serve, and clean up after the priests. Mary's dedication ensured that the evening's events unfolded smoothly, despite the unexpected challenges we faced.

As the evening progressed, the priests enjoyed a delightful meal, blissfully unaware of the temporary temperature adjustments in the dining room. By 8:00 pm that night, Carl and Mike had worked their magic, and the furnace was once again operational. The rectory was restored to its cozy warmth, thanks to their expertise and commitment.

In times of adversity, it is the strength of community and the willingness of individuals like Mike Fedele and Carl Gentzyel that truly shine. Their actions exemplify the spirit of generosity and selflessness that makes our community strong and resilient.

To Mike, Carl, Lisa, Mary, and everyone who played a part in making December 6 a success, we express our deepest gratitude. Your kindness, teamwork, and dedication have left an indelible mark on our hearts and reinforced the bonds that make our community a wonderful place to call home.

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

Monday/Late Advent Weekday Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25  
Tuesday/Late Advent Weekday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday/Late Advent Weekday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday/Late Advent Weekday Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
Friday/Late Advent Weekday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday/Late Advent Weekday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66  
Sunday/Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25- 27; Lk 1:26-38

December 17, 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We’ve never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we’ve never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John’s Gospel we hear: “There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.” The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God’s promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist’s spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let’s commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

† Our Gifts to God †  
Sunday Offering: Dec. 11, 2023

Regular Collection:	\$ 2,022.00
Monthly:	205.00
Children	11.00
	\$ 2,238.00

Votive: \$ 72.00
Christmas Flowers: \$245.00

Thank you for being good stewards.

CANDY BAR SALE

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. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

2024 CALENDARS

Free 2024 calendars are available in the back of the church donated by Maxwell Helt Funeral Home. They list all solemnities, feasts and memorials of the liturgical calendar as well as the, the days of fast and abstinence, and the holy days of obligation. Every Catholic household should have one. Thank you to Maxwell’s Funeral Home for sponsoring St. Joseph's calendars.

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!

PARISH OFFICE NEWS

The parish office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am – 2 pm. The office will be closed on Wednesday and Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please note that all flower envelopes for dedications must be submitted by Thursday, December 21st, to be included in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Monday: 9 am – 2 pm	Thursday: 9 am – 2 pm
Tuesday: 9 am – 2 pm	Friday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed	