



Holy Child Church
240 S Main St, Mansfield, PA



Reverend Bryan B. Wright,
Pastor



Saint Mary of Częstochowa Church
144 St Mary's St, Blossburg, PA

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023



PARISH RECTORY OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9:30am - 2:30pm
237 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA 16933
Phone: 570-662-3568 Fax: 570-662-2113
Email: hlychild@ptd.net
Web: holychildparish.com

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

United with the Pope, we the members of Holy Child Parish seek to be a welcoming church, which fosters spiritual development and expresses charity by living in word and deed the life of Christ. Under the leadership of the bishop, our goals are to implement effective ministries through word, worship, and the sacraments, to enhance the spiritual growth of our parish family, and to encourage, through works of love and faith, the unity of the Church.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with the Pastor and to schedule the ceremony.

Reconciliation: Confessions are heard on:

Saturdays: 2:15-3:00 pm Holy Child Church
First Fridays: 9:00-10:00 am Holy Child Church
First Saturdays: 10:00-11:00 am Saint Mary's Church
By appointment: please contact the Parish Office.

Holy Communion: Those preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time are asked to call the Parish Office.

Matrimony: Couples should contact their Pastor at least six months before the planned wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: For the infirm & homebound. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit.

New Parishioners: Welcome to Holy Child Parish! New parishioners are asked to register by contacting the Parish Office. Registration is required for our religious education programs and for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Matrimony.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	4:00 PM	Holy Child
Sunday	9:00 AM	Saint Mary's
Sunday	11:15 AM	Holy Child



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday	3:00 PM	Holy Child
Sunday	8:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Sunday	10:45 AM	Holy Child
Monday	11:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Tuesday	11:30 AM	Saint Mary's
Thursday	5:15 PM	Holy Child
Friday	8:00 AM	Holy Child



DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

Monday	12:00 PM	Saint Mary's	The Angelus
Monday	12:45 PM	Saint Mary's	Miraculous Medal
Tuesday	12:00 PM	Saint Mary's	The Angelus
Tuesday	12:45 PM	Saint Mary's	Saint Jude
Thursday	6:00 PM	Holy Child	The Angelus

PARISH CONTACTS

Financial Secretary: Darlene Buck 570-662-3568
Secretary: Cara Clementi 570-662-3568
Cemeteries: Cleo Warren 570-662-3568, by appointment
Director of Religious Education: Darlene Buck 570-540-1332
catholic.dre.holychild@gmail.com
Health Ministry & Medical Equipment Loaning:
Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057
Knights of Columbus: Jim Weiskopff 570-662-7133
Ladies Guild: Patty Hutcheson 570-662-2034
St. Mary's Hall: 638-2783 Holy Child Hall: 662-9996

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

~ prior to all Masses ~



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16 **VIGIL, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Parishioners

Sunday, December 17 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Art Mahonski (by Jane)
11:15 am, Holy Child: † Bob Swinsick (by Helen)

Monday, December 18 **Advent Weekday**
12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Joe Granville (by Tom Wierbowski)

Tuesday, December 19 **Advent Weekday**
12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Joe Manikowski (by The Family)

Wednesday, December 20 **Advent Weekday**
No Mass

Thursday, December 21 *St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*
6:00 pm, Holy Child: † Daniel Kostovick (by Meg Gefken)

Friday, December 22 **Advent Weekday**
8:30 am, Holy Child: † August Steve Hurban
(by Holy Child Ladies Guild)

Saturday, December 23 *St. John of Kanty, Priest*
VIGIL, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Ron & Maryann Egan
(by Scott & Dawn Egan)

Sunday, December 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Parishioners
11:15 am, Holy Child: † Parishioners
CHRISTMAS VIGIL
4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Parishioners

Monday, December 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Parishioners
11:15 am, Holy Child: † Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS—2:15 PM—HOLY CHILD CHURCH
FIRST FRIDAYS—9:00 AM—HOLY CHILD CHURCH
FIRST SATURDAYS—10:00 AM—SAINT MARY'S CHURCH



The Sanctuary Light burns to remind us of the Real Presence of Christ reserved in the tabernacle.

Sanctuary Light Intentions, Week of December 17-23:

Saint Mary's: † Art Mahonski (by Jane)
Holy Child: † Helen & Ed Haberberger (by the Family)

PARISH OFFERINGS RECEIVED DEC 4 –DEC 10, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$3466.00
Loose	564.00
Dues	220.00
Holy Days	169.00
Advent	15.00
Christmas Flowers	103.00
Christmas	65.00
Initial Offering	3.00
Total:	4605.00

Diocesan:	
Care & Education of Priests	12.00
Religious retirement fund	299.00

Thank you for your ongoing support!

PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY... We pray, always, for deceased parishioners, family, friends, and benefactors. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. For those serving our country: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families in our time of need. For those who need special prayers:

* Charles Chamberlain	* Jane Mahonski
* Kirk Euson	* Christopher Mortensen
* Richard Faber	* Richard Niemczyk
* Bernice Frederick	* Ethel Sandstrom
* Catherine Gallagher	* Lori Sherant
* Tom MacBlane	* Kenneth Simpson
* Tony Lupkowski	* Yolanda Tacka

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.



To request prayer for someone due to sudden illness, upcoming surgery, hospital stay, or those experiencing a hardship, please contact the Parish Office. To respect our parishioners' privacy, please ask and specify if their names are to be put in the bulletin, added to the prayer chain, or both.

"SPARE A PRAYER" PRAYER CHAIN

Contact: Maryjane Seifried at seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com or 549-7550 or Dotty Welsh at dhjrw@ptd.net or 662-2057.

Our Lord is always listening.

Please pray for our recently deceased.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen**



Charles Dincher

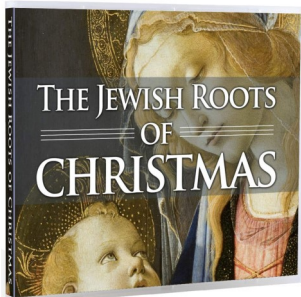
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sun 12/17	Is 61:1-2a,10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24	Lk 1:46-50,53-54 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Mon 12/18	Jer 23:5-8	Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25
Tue 12/19	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a	Ps 71:3-6,16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Wed 12/20	Is 7:10-14	Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
Thu 12/21	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a	Ps 33:2-3,11,12,20,21 Lk 1:39-45
Fri 12/22	1 Sm 1:24-28	1 Sm 2:1,4-7,8abcd Lk 1:46-56
Sat 12/23	Mal 3:1-4,23-24	Ps 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14 Lk 1:57-66
Sun 12/24	2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16	Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Dec 17: Lectio: *Christmas*, after the 11:15 Mass
 Dec 17: Penance Service, 3:00pm Holy Child Church
 Dec 21: Knights of Columbus, 6:00 pm, Holy Child
 Dec 23-24: 4th Sunday of Advent; regular weekend Masses
 Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass 4pm Holy Child
 Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass 9a St. Mary's, 11:15a Holy Child
 Jan 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; Masses:
 12:10pm St. Mary's, 6:00pm Holy Child
 Jan 3: Health Ministry, 10:30 am, Holy Child Hall
 Jan 7: Lectio: *Christmas*, after 11:15 Mass, Holy Child Hall
 Jan 7: Knights of Columbus, 6:30 pm, Holy Child Hall
 Jan 9: Ladies Guild, 6:00 pm, Holy Child Hall
 Jan 11: Pastoral Council starting with 6pm Mass, Holy Child



THIS SUNDAY: NEW LECTIO **THE JEWISH ROOTS OF CHRISTMAS**

What is the true meaning of Christmas? Why is the birth of a Jewish boy in Bethlehem the center of human history? And why is the feast of Christmas so beloved, not just among Christians, but even among unbelievers? Join us **this Sunday, December 17th and Sunday, January 7th**, following the 11:15am Mass for refreshments and the first of two presentations by Dr. Brant Pitre. You will learn about: the Birth of "the Christ"; the Sign of the Manger; the Mystery of the Magi; the Star of Bethlehem; the Significance of December 25th; and the Fulfillment of Hannukah.

"SPLIT THE POT!"

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Support our Parish for a
 chance to WIN BIG!



Three lucky winners will each receive **\$1,000** cash!

Four lucky winners will each receive **\$500** cash!

Tickets are fifty dollars (\$50.00) each, available after all Masses and in the Parish Office through December.

Only two hundred (200) tickets will be sold!

GET YOURS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

Thank you for supporting this fun, important fundraiser.

It will generate \$5,000 for our Parish!

Small Games of Chance License: 2304

Sunday, December 17th, 3 pm, Holy Child Church ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 PM @ Holy Child

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Monday, December 25, 2023

9:00 AM @ St. Mary of Częstochowa

11:15 AM @ Holy Child

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, January 1, 2024

12:10 PM @ St. Mary of Częstochowa

6:00 PM @ Holy Child

THE JOY OF GIVING

Please consider Goodies for Our Troops in your Advent/Christmas plans for gift-giving. Suggested items: Travel size hygiene items, Individually wrapped snacks and candy, Cards, Letters, and Notes. Most of all, your prayers for our troops and their families. Collection bin located in the Holy Child Church vestibule.



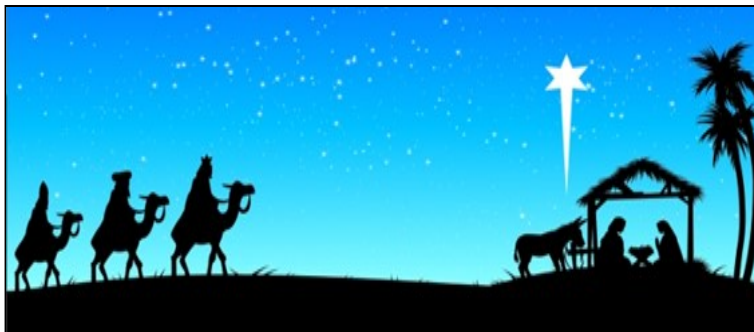
HEALTH MINISTRY

As the holidays approach and we begin gathering with family and friends, it may be time for some old (or new!) traditions, which can also help your mental and physical well-being. Look for activities that create togetherness and creativity. Here at Holy Child we have the annual Advent Wreath creation. Each participant can create something beautiful for the season, and can share and learn some family traditions.

Arts and crafts are fun, but what about all those extra holiday calories? Physical activity helps to burn calories and release feel-good hormones. When was the last time you took a walk on a crisp day or even threw a snowball or built a snowman? Instead of the usual winter hat and scarf how about a t-shirt and sunglasses? Or a cap, helmet, or jersey from your favorite sports team? Involve the whole family in making Christmas garlands, great for indoors or outdoors.

Birds enjoy sliced apples, oranges, cranberries, popcorn, or stale bagels with peanut butter dipped in bird seed and hung on a limb. You'll enjoy learning to identify different types of birds as they enjoy the winter treat. Make memories as you enjoy the holidays!





MARIAN MINISTRIES

O come let us adore Him...

*Rejoicing, we shall bring our hearts to the King,
bearing gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh.*

You are invited to join the “wise men” and journey to the City of David (St. Mary’s Church) on Saturday, January 6, 2024 after 1st Saturday Mass and Adoration. Come by camel or car. Be prepared to receive a gift from God...and lunch!

If you can’t be there for Mass and Adoration we should be starting around 11AM. We’ll start upstairs and proceed down to the manger. Please join us!

RSVP to Laurie at 570-549-2210, by text 703-470-2975, email laurie.coffee@gmail.com, or Linda Sampson, 570-404-2180 so we can plan for lunch.

PA HOUSE BILL 1888—PLEASE CALL

We need a full court press to defeat House Bill 1888, proposed pro-abortion Constitutional Amendment.

Please call PA House Judiciary Committee members below with this message: **Please oppose House Bill 1888. I do not want my hard-earned tax money to pay for abortion.**

Hon. Rob W. Kauffman
(717) 705-2004

Hon. David H. Rowe
(717) 787-3443

Hon. Kate A. Klunk
(717) 787-4790

Hon. Jim Rigby
(717) 772-9924

Hon. Torren C. Ecker
(717) 783-8875

Hon. Joe Kerwin
(717) 260-6148

Hon. Clint Owlett
(717) 772-5371

Hon. Paul Schemel
(717) 783-5218

Hon. Timothy R. Bonner
(717) 783-6438

Hon. Robert Leadbeter
(717) 783-1102

Hon. Joe Hamm
(717) 787-5270

Thank you for making these critical calls! Please share.



HEALTH MINISTRY—TREE OF LIFE

Please give a photo of new babies in your family to the Parish Office to be made into an ornament for the Health Ministry tree of life!

 **Women’s Retreat**

Bold and Beloved

Inspired by the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

January 26-28, 2024



**HOLY TRANSFIGURATION RETREAT CENTER
1000 SEMINARY RD, DALTON, PA 18414**

Inspired by the teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux. Talks and Music Ministry by Kara Kardell (sinner striving for sainthood; wife and mother of 3) and Fred Shellabarger (husband, father, spiritual arsonist, big kid who loves Jesus). \$75 for students;

\$125 for shared room; \$175 for single room. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/BoldandBeloved>

The Marian Ministries Team invites and encourages women from our parishes to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to rest, reflect, and begin the New Year. A carpool or other transportation may be arranged, depending on the number of reservations. Email marian-ministries@outlook.com or call Linda Sampson @ 570-404-2180.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know would like to receive Holy Communion, a pastoral visit, or a mailed bulletin, please contact the Parish Office.



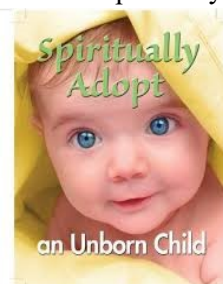
Would you or someone you know enjoy a friendly visit, a partner to play cards or games with, someone to read to them, or simply keep company? As an outreach of Marian Ministries, Mary Hohman has offered to visit local residents and nursing homes, to spend time with people who may feel alone. Contact Mary at (717) 203-9090.

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION OF THE PREBORN—MONTH FOUR

Your little baby now weighs 6 ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints which will remain unchanged throughout her life. Her tastebuds are working. Her sense of hearing is present at 14 weeks. There are no major bodily developments anymore. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong.

“Dear Lord, thank you for creating me with every little feature and characteristic that makes me special. You are the potter, we are the clay, the work of Your hand.”

Please keep praying for me & my mother.



CONFIRMATION CLASS NOTES | DEVOTIONALS AND THE FAITH | MARY'S PSALTER, OR, THE ROSARY

- * 356 A.D. St. Anthony of Egypt, one of the earliest Desert Fathers, died at 105 years old. He is said to have counted his prayers by moving small pebbles from one bowl to another, or from one pocket to another. It is probable that the number of pebbles numbered 150 to match the number of Psalms. In fact our word "bead" comes from the word for a prayer.
- * In the 8th Century, "Pater Noster cords" were in use, made by monastics and religious who used them to recite the full complement of Psalms each day. In an effort to join in the reverence of the consecrated, the laity took the habit of reciting the Our Father on each bead instead, as they had more limited time, books, and literacy.
- * By the 11th Century Monastics had started to arrange the Psalms to mirror the Gospel, this is the beginnings of the concept of the "Mysteries." During this time, the Angelic Salutation (the beginning of the Hail Mary prayer as we know it today) began to replace the Pater Noster as the prayer recited on each bead. This was suggested by St. Peter Damian (d. 1072) as a natural shift due to the study and focus on the foretelling of Christ in the Psalms, and the importance of his Mother Mary to that typology. From here four distinct Psalters were developed, 150 Our Fathers, 150 Praises of Jesus, 150 Praises of Mary, and 150 Angelic Salutations.
- * 1214 A.D. Pious tradition tells us that St. Dominic, known for his powerful homilies, was given private revelation by Our Lady. He fasted and prayed for his flock who were dwindling in numbers due to the "wicked and modern generation." Mary indicated to St. Dominic that he should "Preach my Psalter." That in "this type of warfare against evil, the battering ram, has been and will always be the Angelic Salutation."
- * 1365 A.D. The Visitor of the Carthusian Order, Henry of Kalkar, divided the 150 Angelic Salutations into groups of ten with an Our Father between each.
- * 1409 A.D. Dominic the Prussian wrote a book assigning 50 reflections on the lives of Jesus and Mary to a set of 50 Hail Marys.
- * 1569 A.D. Following the Council of Trent Pope Pius V issued a Papal Bull laying out the standard form of the Rosary as 15 Decades of Hail Marys, accompanied by the Lord's Prayer with each decade. These should be interspersed with meditations showing the life of Christ. Thus establishing the current form of the original 15 Mysteries. The Joyful: The Annunciation, the Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, and The Finding of Jesus at the Temple, The Sorrowful: The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning of Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, and The Crucifixion, and the Glorious: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption, and The Coronation.
- * 1571 A.D. The victory of the battle of Lepanto by the Holy League, a confederacy of Catholic nation states compiled by Pius V against the Ottoman Turks, has been attributed to the entirety of the personnel of the Holy League praying the Rosary before engaging in battle to protect the Christian world from the Muslim conquest. The date of the battle, October 7th became The Feast of Our Lady of Victory, and later Our Lady of the Rosary.
- * 1597 A.D. Is the first reference to a set of prayer beads being referred to as a "rosary." (We pray the Rosary on a rosary.)
- * Three years before his death in 1610, famed painter Caravaggio created a work showing St. Dominic handing out strings of beads entitled Madonna of the Rosary.
- * Pope Pius VII (d. 1823) called the Rosary a "compendium of the Gospel."
- * 1917 A.D. Our Lady of Fatima asked that the Fatima Prayer be added to the Rosary.
- * 2002 A.D. Pope St. John Paul the Great adds the Luminous Mysteries to fill in the missing aspects of Christ's life. The Luminous Mysteries are: The Baptism, The Wedding at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, The Transfiguration, and The Institution of the Eucharist. These additions helped to finalize the reflections of the Gospel of the Lord as referenced by Pius VII.



The Rosary is a powerful weapon against the realities of evil in this world. The devil fears the humility of the Virgin Mary, and his destruction began with the Angelic Salutation, the moment at which Salvation of human souls was set into motion. I challenge you to commit to carrying a rosary on your person at all times, and praying it often. Pray for me to do the same.

Your Brother in Christ, Z. Buck (Parish Catechist)

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 **Special Occasions**
Florist

Stop in to see
Nancy Furlong & Michele Sargent
15 N. Main Street, Mansfield, PA 16933
570-662-ROSE (7673)

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Reminder for Funerals...

Eulogies are permitted during:

- ♦ Funeral home vigil services
- ♦ Graveside committal services
- ♦ Luncheons after Funeral Masses


Eulogies are not permitted during
Funeral Masses (CCC1688). Thank you.


 **The Blessed**
Sacrament is
reserved in the
Tabernacle.

Please help to maintain a prayerful

SILENCE AND REVERENCE

May the Sacred
Heart of Jesus be
praised, adored, and
glorified throughout
the whole world, now
and forever. Amen.



 **Food**
Pantry

The local food
pantries need
our donations of
non-perishable
items.

Collection bins are in both churches.
Thank you for your support!

 **Happy Christmas!**
All Blessings in the New Year!

Peace,
Joe & Dotty Welsh

