



**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 15, 2024



**PARISH OFFICE**  
Mon, Tue, Fri: 9:30am - 2:30pm  
237 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA 16933  
Phone: 570-662-3568  
Email: [hlychild@ptd.net](mailto:hlychild@ptd.net)  
Web: [holychildparish.com](http://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
- Director of Religious Education: Darlene Buck 570-540-1332
- Good Samaritans: Parish Office, 570-662-3637
- Health Ministry & Medical Equipment Loaning:  
Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057
- Knights of Columbus:  
Scott DiMarco; [srdimarco@hotmail.com](mailto:srdimarco@hotmail.com)
- 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 14 **VIGIL, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Carolyn Jaquish Bond  
(by Nancy & Heather)

Sunday, December 15 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9:00 am, St Mary's: † Matthew Davison (by Doris Partyka)  
11:15 am, Holy Child: Parishioners

Monday, December 16 **Advent Weekday**  
12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Gabe Partyka (by Warren & Phyllis Keams)

Tuesday, December 17 **Advent Weekday**  
12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Marion Dzikowski (by Chet)

Wednesday, December 18 **Advent Weekday**  
No Mass

Thursday, December 19 **Advent Weekday**  
6:00 pm, Holy Child: † Joe Granville (by Tom Wierbowski)

Friday, December 20 **Advent Weekday**  
8:30 am, Holy Child: Kirk Euson (by The Ostapowicz Family)

Saturday, December 21 **VIGIL, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Rose Mazzarella (by Tom Wierbowski)

Sunday, December 22 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
9:00 am, St Mary's: † Richard Morley (by The Family)  
11:15 am, Holy Child: Parishioners  
**4:00 pm, Holy Child—Advent Penance Service**



**SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS: THIS WEEK**

Holy Child: † Alice Abrams (by Kevin Abrams & Mary Simmons)  
Saint Mary's: Parishioners

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



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

SATURDAYS—2:15 PM—HOLY CHILD CHURCH  
FIRST FRIDAYS—9:00 AM—HOLY CHILD CHURCH  
FIRST SATURDAYS—10:00 AM—ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
~OR BY APPOINTMENT~

**PARISH OFFERINGS RECEIVED 12/2-12/8. THANK YOU!**

Sunday Envelopes	\$4,043.00
Loose	796.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Fuel	30.00
Holy Days	541.00
Advent	79.00
Christmas	260.00
Christmas Flowers	457.00
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$6,216.00</u>
Cemeteries	5.00
Care & Education of Priests	125.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	360.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**

30% of Holy Child parishioners have made gifts amounting to 72% of our goal. Please consider giving what you can to support our extended family in the Diocese of Scranton (QR code below). If you've already made a gift, thank you!



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click this QR code



**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. Bless those who need special prayers:

*Judi Bonk-Guy ♦ Kirk Euson ♦ Richard Faber ♦ Bernice Frederick ♦ Catherine Gallagher ♦ Lance Hall ♦ Ann King ♦ Tony Lupkowski ♦ Tom MacBlane ♦ Christopher Mortensen ♦ Terri Nash ♦ Richard Niemczyk ♦ Sandy Parker ♦ Ethel Sandstrom ♦ Lori Sherant ♦ Kenneth Simpson ♦ Yolanda Tacka ♦ Jack Watson ♦ Ron Yanuzzi*

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



To request prayer for someone due to illness, surgery, hardship, or other reason, please contact the Parish Office. To respect 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](mailto:seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com) or 549-7550 or Dotty Welsh at [dhjrw@ptd.net](mailto:dhjrw@ptd.net) or 662-2057.  
*The Lord is always listening.*

**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.

**PRO-LIFE RESOURCES**

*Heart of Tioga* Crisis Pregnancy Center: 570-948-2020



*Project Rachel* Helpline: 888-456-  
HOPE for help after abortion

[heartoftioga@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftioga@gmail.com)  
24/7 ONLINE NURSE CHAT

Abortion Pill Reversal 24/7 Hotline: 1-877-558-0333

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Sun 12/15	Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
Mon 12/16	Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Ps 24:4-5ab,67bc,8-9 Mt 21:23-27
Tue 12/17	Gn 49:2,8-10 Ps 72:1-4b,7-8,17 Mt 1:1-17
Wed 12/18	Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25
Thu 12/19	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Fri 12/20	Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
Sat 12/21	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21 Lk 1:39-45
Sun 12/22	Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—GAUDETE SUNDAY

Gaudete (Latin for 'rejoice') Sunday comes from today's Entrance Antiphon to the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say rejoice! The Lord is near.' The Lord is near! Today the priest may wear pink vestments, the third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit, and during the next few days the Church's liturgy will turn more attentively to the coming of the Lord at Bethlehem.

But what about us? Half of Advent is already gone. Have we made any spiritual progress? Given any more time to prayer? Are we really any better prepared to greet the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day?

*Today's First Reading*—Written during the reign of Judah's king, Josiah (604-609 BC), a mere fifty years before the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple, the message of the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah was primarily one of condemnation over the moral decline of Judah and its rulers (the Davidic kings). Warning of the ominous "day of the Lord," the prophet foretold it as a day of destruction, not only of Judah, Jerusalem, and the foreign nations, but also of creation.

However, the book concludes with a dramatic reversal of the dark mood, shifting from the angst of the earlier condemnations to rejoicing in an ode to joy (Zephaniah 3:14-20). It is from this ode that today's reading is drawn. Offering comfort to Jerusalem ("daughter Zion") and the remnant of the nation of Israel that will be gathered, the ode declares that "The Lord has removed judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies." But there is more! Pointing to a hope-filled day, frightened Israel is called to joy, gladness, and exaltation because the Lord, who is Israel's king and saving warrior, mighty and victorious, is in their midst. On *that* day, the Lord will *rejoice* over Zion!

*Today's Second Reading*—Although Paul preferred to visit personally with the communities he established, he was often forced to rely on a letter. Having founded the Christian community in Philippi around AD 49, the letter that Paul sent to the community several years later is filled with rejoicing, affection, and encouragement, for "the Lord is near." In encouraging them to "rejoice in the Lord always," he implies that rejoicing is appropriate, no matter the circumstance. Paul is aware that anxiety can diminish joy, so he recommends three prayer forms as antidotes: prayer (for oneself), petition (for others), and thanksgiving (directed toward God). Of the three, thanksgiving makes the other two possible; its fruit, the "peace of God", aligns the mind and heart with Christ and grants protection from surrounding events and pressures.



*Today's Gospel*—Matthew, Mark, and Luke recall that John the Baptist preaches repentance and baptizes, but Luke alone describes the questions of those seeking to repent. John's answers lead many to wonder if he might be the Christ. John states, "one mightier than I is coming" who will baptize with "the Holy Spirit and fire." Writing from his post-resurrection perspective, Luke may well have had Pentecost in mind. In spite of some ominous language ("the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire"), John's preaching leads to eager anticipation (the "Good News") for what God is about to do.

John the Baptist, faithful witness, challenges us too to 'prepare the way of the Lord' and to make a home for him in our hearts.

"What does 'to prepare the way' mean, except to pray as you ought, to be humble minded? Take an example of humility from John himself. He is thought to be the Christ, but he says he is not what people think. He knew where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and he was afraid of being quenched by the wind of pride." (St Augustine). -S.J. Lampe; various authors



Please return all unwrapped gifts by Tuesday of this week.

*Thank you for your generosity to local children & adults in need.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec 15: Lectio: *Jewish Roots of Advent* (4) after 11:15 Mass  
Dec 22: Lectio: *Jewish Roots of Advent* (5) after 11:15 Mass  
**Dec 22: Advent Penance Service, 4pm, Holy Child**  
Dec 29: Lectio: *Jewish Roots of Advent* (6) after 11:15 Mass  
Jan 5: KofC Meeting; 6:30 pm, Holy Child Hall  
Jan 8: Health Ministry, 10:30 am, Holy Child Hall  
Jan 9: Pastoral Council starting with 6pm Mass, Holy Child  
Jan 14: Ladies Guild, 6:00 pm, Holy Child Hall

### Advent Penance Service

Sunday, December 22, 4:00 pm, Holy Child

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 pm, Holy Child

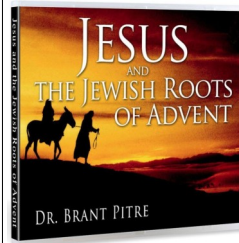
### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 am, St. Mary's  
Wednesday, December 25, 11:15 am, Holy Child

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*Holy Day of Obligation*

Tuesday, December 31, 6:00 pm, Holy Child  
Wednesday, January 1, 12:10 pm, St. Mary's



### LECTIO BIBLE STUDY: JESUS & THE JEWISH ROOTS OF ADVENT

**Sundays after 11:15 Mass, 11/24-12/29**

Dr. Brant Pitre shows how the ancient Jewish prophecies of the Messiah can help unlock the hidden meanings of Advent. In this study of readings from the Advent lectionary, you will learn about:

- The Second Advent at the End of Time
  - The Jewish Prophecies of the Messiah
  - John the Baptist
  - The Jesse Tree
  - The City of Bethlehem
  - The Virgin Birth
- Please join us! Light refreshments provided.*

### HEALTH MINISTRY—NOTES

Christmas is only 11 days away! You are running out of time to find that gift for the person who has everything. Don't worry, be happy, you have the resources for the perfect gift. Honestly you do, even if your pocketbook is empty. What is the one thing we all want around the holiday season? More time, right. Well what better way to give the perfect gift than make up a ticket booklet with time sharing gifts. An hour to sit and look through old photo albums and remember those fun times. Or a time reading and discussing a favorite novel. Time spent walking together sharing the wonders of nature on a clear day. And guess what! You will find yourself having more time because you will have time to unwind and as they say, "stop and smell the roses", too. Children learn by example so what better gift in this age of gizmos and gadgets than spending time with them reading a book (revolutionary thought) and talking about the characters. Or maybe spend time in the kitchen learning to bake the family's favorite cookie. Share time with others and somehow you will find yourself having have more time. Enjoy the holidays and remember the real reason for the season!


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**Food  
Pantry**  
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pantries need  
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Thank you for your support!

**Health Ministry—Available Medical Equipment:**  
Basket for walker, Canes, Crutches, Emesis Basin,  
Foot Bath, Hospital Bed, Hoyer Lift, Ice Therapy  
Machine, Knee Crutch, Knee Scooter, Toilet  
Chairs, Raised Toilet Seats, Toilet Handles, Rising  
Frame for Chair, Rollator Walker, Shower Bench,  
Shower Chair, Transfer Bench, Transfer Board,  
Tub Handle, Tubing, Walkers, Walker with Seat,  
Wash Basin, Wheelchair, Wheelchair Cushion,  
Baby Items at the Welsh's: Bath Tub, Booster  
Seat, Bed Rails, Safety Gate

**Book Recommendation  
from Father Bryan...**  
**A Church in Crisis:  
Pathways Forward**  
**By Ralph Martin**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored,  
glorified, loved, and preserved throughout  
the world, now and forever. St. Jude, worker  
of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the  
homeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times  
a day, by the 8th day your prayers will be an-  
swered (if it be God's will).  
It has never been known to fail.  
Thank you, St. Jude. Amen.



**The Blessed  
Sacrament is  
reserved in the  
Tabernacle.**  
*Please help to  
maintain a prayerful*  
**SILENCE AND REVERENCE**

**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.*