



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025



PARISH OFFICE

Mon, Tue, Fri: 9:30am - 2:30pm

237 S. Main St, Mansfield, PA 16933

Phone: 570-662-3568

hlychild@ptd.net

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, please 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

Good Samaritans: 570-662-3568

Health Ministry & Medical Equipment Loaning:
Dotty Welsh 570-662-2057

Knights of Columbus: Scott DiMarco; srdimarco@hotmail.com

Ladies Guild: Patty Hutcheson 570-662-2034

St. Mary's Hall: 570-638-2783 Holy Child Hall: 662-9996

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
~ prior to all Masses ~



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 13 VIGIL—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Holy Child: Adam & Marsha (by John F. Frederick Jr.)

Sunday, December 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Anna Tokarz (by The Family)

11:15 am, Holy Child: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

Monday, December 15 Advent Weekday

12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Bishop Sheen (by Zack Buck)

Tuesday, December 16 Advent Weekday

12:10 pm, St. Mary's: † Charles & Marguerite Miller
(by Theresa Delmotte)

Wednesday, December 17 Advent Weekday

No Mass

Thursday, December 18 Advent Weekday

6:00 pm, Holy Child: † Joe Granville (by Tom Wierbowski)

Friday, December 19 Advent Weekday

8:30 am, Holy Child: Charol Abrams Clementi (by Cara Clementi)

Saturday, December 20 VIGIL—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 pm, Holy Child: † Trudy Thomas (by The Troncone Family)

Sunday, December 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am, St. Mary's: † Our Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:15 am, Holy Child: † Irene Frey (by Bob & Linda Nowak)

4:00 pm, Holy Child: Advent Penance Service



SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Holy Child: Shannon Egan (by Dawn Egan)

St. Mary's: † Angeline Bubacz (by Mary Ann Kendrick)

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



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

December 21st, 4PM—Holy Child—Advent Penance Service

Every Saturday—2:15 pm—Holy Child Church

First Fridays—9:15 am—Holy Child Church

First Saturdays—10:15 am—St. Mary's Church

~Or By Appointment~

PARISH OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER 1-7. THANK YOU!

Sunday envelopes \$4,225.00

Loose 812.00

Holy Days 80.00

Solemnity of Mary 10.00

Advent 60.00

Christmas 220.00

Christmas flowers 836.00

Total \$6,243.00

Diocesan—Care & Education of Priests 285.00

Retired Religious 20.00

OUR DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (2025)

30% of Holy Child parishioners have made gifts amounting to 77% of our goal. If you've already made a gift... *thank you!*



Donate now at
AnnualAppeal.org,
call (570) 207-2250 or
click this QR code



PRAYER LIST

Please pray... for deceased parishioners, family, & friends. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. For troops & first responders: Lord, hold them 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, Richard Faber, Bernice Frederick,
Catherine Gallagher, Lance Hall, Ann King,
Patrick Lindquist, Tony Lupkowski, Tom MacBlane,
Christopher Mortensen, Richard Niemczyk, Sandy Parker,
Lori Sherant, Yolanda Tacka, Jack Watson

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



To request prayer for someone, please contact the Parish Office. To respect privacy, please 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 (seifriedmaryjane@gmail.com or 570-549-7550) or Dotty (dhjrw@ptd.net or 570-662-2057).

The Lord is always listening.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND

For Communion or a Pastoral visit, 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. Mary can be reached at (717) 203-9090.



PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/

community/marriage/natural-family-planning/



heartoftiogga@gmail.com

24/7 ONLINE NURSE CHAT

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

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

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

heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory

gabrielproject.org elizabethministry.org respectlife.org

uscbb.org/prolife/diocesan-pro-life-offices

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sun 12/14	Is 35:1-6a,10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11
Mon 12/15	Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Ps 25:4-5b,6,7bc,8-9 Mt 21:23-27
Tu 12/16	Zep 3:1-2,9-13 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23 Mt 21:28-32
Wed 12/17	Gn 49:2,8-10 Ps 72:1-4b,7-8,17 Mt 1:1-17
Thu 12/18	Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19 Mt 1:18-25
Fri 12/19	Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Sat 12/20	Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
Sun 12/21	Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

GETTING INTO GAUDETE SUNDAY

by Michael Mozdy OP

Third Sunday of Advent “Gaudete Sunday,” Year A:
Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11.



Gaudete in Dómino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say rejoice.

...the first line of the Introit to today's Mass, marking the halfway point of Advent when we take a little break from the semi-penitent season to recall the joy of Christ's coming into our hearts. The name for this special Sunday comes from the first word of the Introit, Rejoice!

Reflecting on the dual nature of Christ's coming (the babe in the Nativity and the Judge at the End of Time), there is a third coming that Catholics are preparing for in Advent: **the coming of Christ in our hearts.**

Gaudete Sunday asks us directly to prepare our hearts by cultivating the joy that Christ's coming will bring (and that we will allow to fully blossom in the Christmas liturgical season).

Advent is a time to scour our hearts of sin, making them suitable for the Lord.

Gaudete Sunday is a moment in Advent when we can align that preparation of the heart by **remembering that joy is what awaits us, not just the continual work of penitential scouring.**

So, today's readings are chock-full of rejoicing. The first lines of Isaiah even extend rejoicing to all of creation: "The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom." God does have a special place in His heart for humanity, though (case in point: Jesus is incarnated as a man, not a goat or a tree), and the message for us involves our intellect, emotionality, and spirit: "say to those whose hearts are frightened: **Be strong, fear not! Here is your God ... He comes to save you.**"

That message never gets stale. It gave hope and confidence to Jews in exile hundreds of years before Christ, to early Christians suffering martyrdom, to Christians in the turbulence, disease, and violence of the Dark and Middle Ages, and to us moderns, assailed by a lust-filled, nihilist and atheistic culture.

Apart from the 100,000-foot view of cultures and history, this message gives hope and confidence to all of us on an intensely personal level, whether we struggle with depression, family problems, money problems, or other uncertainties.

God's promise as proclaimed by Isaiah is a true celebration of the best in each of us. He promises that in heaven we "will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; [we] will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee."

This **promise of joy** is so needed in all of our lives, and **a huge reason that reading and re-reading the scriptures is important**; not just for those looking for comfort, but for all of us who need to find perspective in our lives.

So, God is coming to save us, and Jesus has already initiated the Last Times. Awesome, let's do this! What is God waiting for? This question was especially poignant in the first generations after Christ's resurrection, when they pondered his words, "Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mt 24-26). There was a very real expectation that the second coming would happen at any minute.

Thus, for Christians at all moments since the resurrection, St. James's words in today's second

reading are very important: “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.” This is echoed by other apostolic writers, notably St. John, who uses the word abide (“to stay,” “stand fast,” “remain” or “endure”) 34 times in his Gospel and 19 times in his letters. **Abiding and patience** are both practices related to the virtue of fortitude – that is, not straying from the faith and the practice of the faith, remaining strong: “Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

It is oh-so-easy for us to give up on things that don’t yield right away. Especially in today’s immediate gratification culture (I find myself oddly impatient when an entire TV series isn’t available for immediate streaming all at once – having to wait a week for the next episode? The horror!).

Thankfully, our history as God’s people provides us with the example and confidence that we can do it. As James says, “Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.” This is another reason why reading and re-reading the scriptures is so important for us. It helps us find courage and remember the example of those who have come before us. **We are not in this alone and without a guide!**

We even see the need for reassurance and confidence from the great John the Baptist in today’s Gospel reading. John sends some disciples to ask if Jesus is the Messiah they’ve been waiting for. We are cultivating a sense of anticipation in Advent, but John was bursting with it. His whole life was oriented to this one thing.

Jesus, consistent with his teaching that we will be judged by our fruits, responds: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” In other words, **trust in the supernatural realities** that are being revealed to you.

What an interesting answer! He could have said, “yes,” and been done with it, but Jesus was always teaching, always consistent, always urging us to go deeper. His point was that **we must meet God’s will with our own will** – we must exercise the muscle of faith and enter into a spiritual dimen-

sion with God in order to perceive the truth about life.

Developing a relationship with God, who doesn’t often answer questions head-on the way we wish He would, takes effort and openness, but even the journey has its rewards. As we open ourselves to supernatural realities and the mysterious presence of divinity, God immediately rewards us with an expanded sense of Him and the world.

And let’s not imagine we’re in this alone, praying in the cell of our mind. The Church of which we are a part has been established as the bridegroom of Christ, where we meet him in joy and love. **The rituals, sacraments, devotions, and prayer life of the Church as a body are where we encounter God in sight, sound, feeling, and even in our bodies through the Eucharist.** If we are feeling dry in our spiritual life and lacking in patience with our faith, we must ask ourselves how often we are participating in the life-restoring activities of the Church and how open our hearts and minds are to those activities and sacraments. They are great joy bringers for us in this time of patience.

Lastly, consider this Thomist definition of joy: **“For joy is caused by love, either through the presence of the thing loved, or because the proper good of the thing loved exists and endures in it”** (Summa II.II.28.1). As he hung on the Cross, Jesus obtained his heart’s desire, a perfect sacrifice to the Father that provided salvation for humanity.

This is a great lesson for us, where **suffering is joined to joy when it is offered to the Father** - a powerful way to look at the Crucifixion, a scene often dominated by sorrow, upset, and emptiness. How important for us to consider that Jesus experienced a powerful joy over the completion of his ministry and doing God’s will.

How fruitful is the contemplation of this type of joy (which so dwarfs the suffering and ignominy) – the joy that persists for eternity with the Father while those other things pass like a whisper in the night.

prayingwithdominic.com/2022/12/11/getting-into-gaudete-sunday/

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 11: Marian Ministries OLG Celebration, 7 PM, Holy Child
 Dec 16: Ladies Guild Dinner, 5 PM, Corey Creek Golf Club
 Dec 18: Pastoral Council starting w/ 6 PM Mass, Holy Child
Dec 21: Advent Penance Service, 4:00 PM, Holy Child
Dec 24: Christmas Eve Mass, 4:00 PM, Holy Child
Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass, 9:00 AM, St. Mary's
Dec 25: Christmas Day Mass, 11:15 AM, Holy Child
 Jan 4: Knights MU Council, 6:30 PM, Holy Child Hall
 Jan 7: Health Ministry Meeting, 10:30 AM, Holy Child Hall

HOLY CHILD HEALTH MINISTRY

New members needed! All are welcome. Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am.

WANTED! Photos of new additions to your family (children, grand children, nieces, etc) for the TREE of LIFE. Put in the collection or deliver to the rectory office. THANKS!



The holidays are upon us! The time of year when things tend to multiply before your eyes and you wonder if you'll ever find the end. It may be a season of celebration, but it becomes a juggling act of finding time for everything and still being able to enjoy the quiet wonder and joy and spiritual preparation of Advent. Take time to pause and reflect, to be grateful for those personal milestones, the big and the small, and share them with your family and friends. Reconsider your gift-giving. Homemade gifts or simple gestures of spending quality time with a friend or family member can reduce your holiday spending and put a smile on someone's face. Create a calendar of all your seasonal activities and don't forget to include self care and downtime on that calendar. Focus on connection. It's not about where you go or what you do. Focus on meaningful conversations, sharing memories and laughter with family and friends. Enjoy the moment. Life is not made of days but moments. Let go of perfection; plain and simple is much less stressful and just as enjoyable. Limit social media and don't compare your holidays with others on the web. Enjoy, make memories, and have a wonderful Advent and Christmas!

NAZARETH GROUP (w/ the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth)

11:00 AM-4:30 PM: Jan. 17, Mar. 21, Jun. 6

For young women, grades 9-12, who desire to learn more about the faith, to make wholesome friendships, and to grow in their love for Christ through prayer and hearing



inspirational talks. Reservations required. Two locations:

Mother of God Convent, Tunkhannock; call Sr. Angela (570) 836-2737. Mother of the Eucharist Convent, Williamsport; call Sr. Clare (570) 745-3334.



WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

ADVENTUS: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



30 MINUTES BC

Creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. The couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.




IS CHRISTMAS PAGAN? WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is it a pagan holiday? Why December 25th? What happened at the "first Christmas"?



Our parish has a FORMED subscription!

To set up your free account, visit signup.formed.org and use zip code 16933 to search for and select our parish.



Office for Parish Life


Bold and Beloved

Women's Retreat

Inspired by the teaching of St. Hildegard of Bingen

January 30-February 1, 2026

For more information, call (570) 207-2213 x1100




Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Register at dioceseofscranton.org

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
through
DECEMBER 5TH!!!

Registration closes January 16, 2026




Annette Bergeon
Keynote Speaker

Michael Corsini
Worship Leader



HOLY CHILD PARISH MASS INTENTIONS & CANDLE INTENTIONS 2026 CALENDAR NOW OPEN

Please use the Request Forms available in our churches and available to print from our website (holychildparish.com... click "Mass Intentions" at the top).

Each family may request:

Up to a total of ten (10) Mass intentions per year, including up to three (3) weekend Mass intentions per year, one (1) First Friday, and one (1) First Saturday. Up to ten (10) Sanctuary Candle intentions per year.

**The Blessed Sacrament
is reserved in the Tabernacle.
Thank you for helping to maintain:**

SILENCE AND REVERENCE

"The family that prays together, stays together."

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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
answered (if it be God's will).
It has never been known to fail.
Thank you, St. Jude. Amen.

Your Ad Here!
\$5 per weekend
\$20 per month
Call / email the Parish Office
570-662-3568

Book Recommendation
from Father Bryan...
The Exorcist Files
By Father Carlos Martins

Your Ad Here!
\$5 per weekend
\$20 per month
Call / email the Parish Office
570-662-3568

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

THE CATHOLIC CURRENT
Bringing Christ to the World
and the World to Christ.
Producer & Host
Fr. Robert McTeigue, S.J.
Regular Air Time
Monday-Friday, 5 pm
<https://thestationofthecross.com/programs/the-catholic-current/>



Food Pantry

The local food
pantries need
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nonperishable
items.

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

Health Ministry—Available Medical Equipment:
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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, Foldable Transport Ramp, Tubing, Walk-
ers, Walker with Seat, Wash Basin, Wheelchair, Wheelchair Cushion; Baby
Items: Bath Tub, Booster Seat, Bed Rails, Safety Gate