# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### **Patient Anticipation**

God our Father, fulfiller of promises, you illuminate our way to justice. Guide us to humbly and kindly increase and abound in love for one other. May our hearts be strengthened as we look past the distractions of this season. In this patient anticipation, help us to be vigilant so that we may be ready to respond to the call you have placed in our hearts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, December 1, 2024 Vigilance Requires Intentional Action

Today's readings: Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14 (1b); 1 Thessalonians 3:12–4:2; Luke 21:25–28, 34–36. In the first reading, Jeremiah recalls the promise the Lord made to the Israelites regarding safety and security. Through his prophecy of restoration, Jeremiah calls the Israelites back to the Lord. Hearing this prophecy reminds us that comfort in the Lord is near!

At the beginning of the liturgical year, Advent encourages Christians to focus on keeping the Lord's "covenant and his decrees," as the psalm states. Much like the Israelites, we need to pray for prudence to recognize distractions in our daily lives. During this hectic season, we may feel pulled in many directions, often away from God, as it is a time filled with much busyness and movement—or "the anxieties of daily life." Amid these distractions, we are to remember that vigilance requires intentional action. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells his disciples, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy." If attention is not paid, a person could be caught by surprise on the day of redemption. Keeping the Lord's covenant and his decrees requires spiritual discipline.

As this season of anticipation begins, the Advent wreath is blessed and lighted. Let us dedicate ourselves to lifting our souls to the Lord as we light a new candle each week.

#### St. John Baptist de La Salle 497 Athena Drive Delmont, PA 15626 (724) 327-0647 Saturday anticipated Mass 4:00 PM Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes 5900 Kennedy Avenue Export, PA 15632 (724) 327-0647 Saturday anticipated Mass 6:00 PM Sunday Mass 9:00 AM Mother of Sorrows 4202 Old William Penn Highway Murrysville, PA 15668 (724) 733-8870 Saturday anticipated Mass Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM



# THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 2 Healing Words

The centurion who approaches Jesus as he enters Capernaum expresses faith in the restorative power of Jesus' word: "Only say the word and my servant will be healed." Recognizing our unworthiness, we pray similar words during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This week, consider how you might be like the centurion and faithfully ask for healing. Allow the Lord's words to provide comfort and flow over you so that you can go rejoicing. *Today's readings: Isaiah* 2:1–5; *Psalm* 122:1–2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; *Matthew* 8:5-11.

### Tuesday, December 3 St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was a cofounder of the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuit order. As the first Jesuit missionary, he spent much time traveling and living in foreign places to evangelize. His ministry required his learning new languages, being flexible with movement, and living in different cultures. Ask for St. Francis Xavier's intercession as you consider how you might challenge yourself to leave your comfort zone to preach the Good News. *Today's readings: Isaiah* 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.

### Wednesday, December 4 Abundance

Today's Scriptures portray God's bountiful love for his people. First, the reading from Isaiah proclaims that the Lord "will provide for all peoples." Then Matthew's Gospel recounts how Jesus fed the crowd who had been with him for days with "nothing to eat." After Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread, thousands were offered food—and still there were leftovers! Reflect on the blessings in your life. Say a prayer in gratitude for the abundance—whatever that may be—with which the Lord has blessed you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.* 

### Thursday, December 5 Sturdy Ground

The Gospel reading portrays the importance of both listening intently and intentionally responding to the Lord. Consider ways to listen and respond to God throughout the rest of this season. How can you "be like a wise man who built his house on rock"? What are some tangible ways in which you are being encouraged to act so that your faith stands on sturdy ground? *Today's readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1 and 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.* 

### Friday, December 6 St. Nicholas

It is easy to become consumed with shopping for gifts and preparing for many holiday parties as Christmas approaches, ultimately pushing aside our dedication to God. When losing focus on what matters, allow to echo within you today's psalm refrain: "The Lord is my light and my salvation." Recognizing this transformational prayer, celebrate the optional Memorial of St. Nicholas today with the gift of an act of service for someone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; Matthew 9:27–31.* 

### Saturday, December 7 An Abundant Harvest

That Jesus' heart was moved with pity for the troubled and abandoned can comfort us today. Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus' ministering to those who seemed like "sheep without a shepherd" and delegating his disciples to do the same. The reading from Isaiah shows that the Lord gives what is needed, answering his people "as soon as he hears" their cries. Let us find peace knowing that God is with us as we receive and, in turn, as we give. *Today's readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew* 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8.

LTP

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Office Hours Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM



Mother of Sorrows Regional Catholic School Darcie Gatti, Principal

dgatti@mosschool.org 724-733-8840 TOPS scholarships available: www.catholicschoolsguide.org



### SERVICE PROJECT

All Faith Formation students are invited to participate in a service project on **Sunday, December 1** in the Social Hall after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses.

### CHRISTIAN MOTHERS AND LADIES GUILD

All women are invited to attend the Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild meeting on **Wednesday**, **December 4** at 12:00 NN in the Mother of Sorrows Parish Social Hall.

Christmas Oplatki, the Christmas Wafer, and Christmas cookie Rosettes will be made at the meeting with Larry Kozlowski. Christmas traditions will also be discussed and refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

### **ADVENT PROGRAM FOR MEN**

All men of MOS are invited to join in the opportunity to embrace a program of fraternity, discipline and prayer to enter into the fullness of anticipation of the coming of our Lord at Christmas. Any man interested in having a fulfilling Advent should email Jacob Gindhart at jgindhart@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on **Sunday**, **December 8** after the 11:30 AM Mass. If you are planning to have surgery, are experiencing health problems or facing the challenges of aging, you are welcome to celebrate the sacrament.

### **MOS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

Saturday	11/30	
9:00 AM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM	÷	John Stramat (Margaret පි Amber Stramat-Pisano)
Sunday	12/1	First Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	νţν	Thomas Dabre (Sanjay Dabre)
9:30 AM	νţν	Cecelia Weber (John & Donna Stasko)
11:30 AM		For the Parish
6:00 PM	4	Rosemary Halchak (Gloria Czesnakowski)
Monday	12/2	
8:00 AM	÷	Rose Shrout (Joseph & Elaine Reilly)
Tuesday	12/3	Saint Francis Xavier
8:00 AM	ý	Stephen Stoltz (Family
Wednesday	12/4	
8:00 AM	u v	Fred Wyzkiewicz (Gloria Pavlovich)
Thursday	12/5	
8:45 AM	νţν	Trish Koval (Ray Koval)
9:45 AM		Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 PM		Taizé 👗
7:00 PM		Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	12/6	
8:00 AM	str.	Lou Rostand (Tina Rostand)
Saturday	12/7	Saint Ambrose
9:00 AM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM		For the Parish
Sunday	12/8	Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	Ϋ́ν	Tony Perricelli (Phyllis & Peter O'Neil)
9:30 AM		Merante Children (parents)
11:30 AM	~~	March & Francis Grado (Nick & maria Grado & Family)
12:30 PM		Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
6:00 PM	÷	Makowski Family

### **CONGRATULATIONS**



Congratulations to the Luke family! David and Angela Luke renewed their marriage commitment and through the Sacrament of Baptism, new life was bestowed upon their daughter Ariana Rose. May God bless their family. We pray that they will always hear and follow the voice of Jesus.



## ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday	12/1	
12:00 NN SJ		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ		For the Parish
6:00 PM SM	÷	Robert Cain (Melissa A. Biondi)
Sunday	12/1	First Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM SM		Carolyn Thatcher (Mom, Dad & family)
11:00 AM SJ	γţ	Deceased members of the Snaman & Dunn Families <i>(Jim Dunn &amp; Family)</i>
Monday	12/2	
8:30 AM SJ	Ŷ	Jeffrey Harouse (Mom)
Tuesday	12/3	Saint Francis Xavier
8:30 AM SM	Ŷ	Larry Gladora (Cindy Gladora)
12:00 NN SM		Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 PM SM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:00 PM SM		Benediction and Reposition
Wednesday	12/4	
8:05 AM SJ		Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
8:30 AM SJ	ŝ	Madeline DeSabatine (Arthur & Children)
Thursday	12/5	
8:10 AM SM		St. Joseph Novena
8:30 AM SM	ý	Marc Delissio (Joan Barone)
Friday	12/6	
8:30 AM SJ	÷	Amil DiPadova (Ed & Ellen Hisker)
Saturday	12/7	Saint Ambrose
12:00 NN SJ		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ	4	Evelyn Bartko <i>(Son, David)</i>
6:00 PM SM	ų	Michael Davie (Mom, Dad, John & Emmie)
Sunday	12/8	Second Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM SM		For the Parish
11:00 AM SJ	φ	Larry Martonik (Robert & Elaine Wolcott))

### **OUR WEEKLY NUMBERS** November 16 and 17

### Mother of Sorrows

Attendance 1,555

Offertory \$ 28,849.44 Outreach \$ 1,664.00

### **Catholic Institute loan payment:** \$ 30,660.00

#### St. John

Attendance 260Offertory \$ 7,362.00



St. Mary

Attendance 264Offertory \$ 5,663.00



### **STEWARDSHIP NOTES**

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

### PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 9 and will reopen Tuesday, December 10.

# A PEEK AT THE WEEK...

Sunday		December 1
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, Ave Maria Room
10:00 AM	SM	Faith Formation, St. Mary Social Hall
10:30 AM	MOS	Service Project, Social Hall
12:30 AM	MOS	Service Project, Social Hall
4:00 PM	MOS	Middle School Youth Ministry
6:45 PM	MOS	OCIA, Ave Maria Room
Tuesday		December 3
10:00 AM	MOS	Staff Meeting, Conference Room
7:00 PM	SJ	Handbell choir, Church
Wednesday	y	December 4
9:30 AM	MOS	Women's Bible Study, Social Hall
12:00 NN	MOS	Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild, Social Hall
Friday		December 6
9:00 AM	MOS	Legion of Mary, Ave Maria Room
9:00 AM	MOS	Centering Prayer, Madonna Room
9:00 AM	SM	Women of Faith, St. Mary Social Hall
Saturday		December 7
7:00 AM	SM	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Social Hall
9:00 AM	MOS	Men's Renewal Group, Ave Maria Room
11:00 AM	MOS	Craft Show, Social Hall
5:00 PM	SJ	Delmont Pilgrimage
5:30 PM	MOS	Light up Night, School
Sunday		December 8
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, school
8:30 AM	MOS	Craft Show, Social Hall
2:00 PM	SJ	Pilgrimage Junior
5:00 PM	SJ	Delmont Pilgrimage
7:00 PM	MOS	High School Youth Ministry , lower narthex



# ST. NICHOLAS DECEMBER 6

Saint Nicholas, a bishop of the fourth century, is said to have heard of the plight of three unmarried daughters who had no money for the dowries - a situation that could have led to a life of destitution for these women. Being too modest to help the

family publicly, Nicholas threw purses filled with gold coins through their window or, in another version of the story, dropped them down the chimney. Yet another rendition says that one daughter washed her stockings and hung them near the fire to dry - and then bags of gold fell into the socks. Heard that one before? Hold onto the little customs.



### ADVENT TAIZÉ PRAYER

Taizé is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed

by an ecumenical community of monks in rural France. This quiet, moving, reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation.

A typical Taizé prayer service incorporates periods of silence with meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise and intercession, and the frequent repetition of simple, contemporary chants based on the Psalms or other parts of Scripture. The result is to gradually move prayer from the head to the heart.

All parishioners from St. John, St. Mary and MOS are invited to join us at Mother of Sorrows Parish on **Thursday, December 5, December 12, and December 19** at 6:00 PM.



### LIGHT UP NIGHT

Save the Date! Light up Night begins with 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, December 7, followed by a light Community Dinner in the school gym. Tour the beautifully decorated school hallways, visit the Living Nativity, the Gingerbread House Village and the Santa Shoppe. Please RSVP for the Community Dinner by scanning the QR code, or by visiting our website at motherofsorrowschurch.org.



The Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild Holiday Craft Show will be held in the MOS Social Hall on **Saturday**,

**December 7** from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM and on **Sunday, December 8** from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The show will feature 50 crafters, Chinese Auction gift baskets and door prizes. Admission is free and refreshments will be sold.

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS LITURGY**

As we approach the darkest night of the year, we are aware that the holidays can be difficult for any number of reasons. The Blue Christmas Liturgy allows people to acknowledge their sense of loss or pain and the shadow it casts over the holiday season.

Join us at Mother of Sorrows Parish on **Sunday, December 15** at 3:00 PM as we stand by one another during life's difficult seasons.



### **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY PARISHIONERS**



Faith Formation classes will resume on **Sunday**, **December 8** after the 9:00 AM Mass.

### FALL CONCERT

Masterworks **Concert Chorale** will present its fall concert, "Sounds of the Season," on Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 PM at **Gateway Senior** High School. The concert will feature Hanukkah. Christmas and holiday favorites under the direction of Erich Lascek and accompanied by Xenia Yelovich.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Ages 10 and under are fee. For more information, contact Melissa Beblo at 412-389-2532.

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#### SUPPORT MINISTRY

Support Ministry is open to all widows. The group meets to share a meal, have conversation and to relate to others who share the feeling of loss.

The next gathering, the Christmas Luncheon, will take place on **Tuesday, December 10** at 1:00 PM in the St. John Social Hall. Please RSVP to Sandy at 724-787-9305 or email *sandymartin112@gmail.com*.



Contact Dina Colangelo to volunteer or for more info dina.colangelo@gmail.com or cell 410-300-1244

### **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY PARISHIONERS**

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# MINISTRY OF ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT

THANK YOU TO OUR MINISTRY OF ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT FOR MAKING OUR PARISHES LOOK SO PRAYERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL. AS WE APPROACH A BUSY TIME OF YEAR FOR THIS DEDICATED GROUP, WE INVITE ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE MINISTRY TO REACH OUT. PLEASE CALL JOANN, AND YOUR NAME WILL BE PASSED ALONG TO THIS AMAZING TEAM!



### WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith is a community of faithful women that meets throughout the school year to discuss various bible studies. Moms and small children are welcome. The next meeting will take place on **Friday**, **December 6** at 9:00 AM in the St. Mary Social Hall.

For more information, please contact Emily Kelly at *emilykelly98@yahoo.com* or 724-448-6773.

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

To schedule a Mass intention at St. John or St. Mary, please contact Joann at 724-327-067.



### This week on FORMED:

### Christmas (Part 1) | What Catholics Believe

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

### Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa

Here is the fascinating story of the boy whose love for others make him one of the most popular figures of all times. Today, more than sixteen centuries later, the entire world celebrates the kindness and generosity of the man we call Santa Claus.

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES**

Those who were able to take a tag on the Christmas Giving Tree are asked to return the gift according to the detailed instructions listed on the tag.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Barone at 724-461-7146, Regina Schrello at 724-468-8165, Cindy Woods at 724-561-7467, or Patty Zaccagnini at 412-915-7844. Thank you for your generosity! SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Delmont Pilgrimage is a walk-through event at Delmont's Shields Farm. Tickets are required to experience the pilgrimage and are available online at <u>www.delmontpilgrimage.com</u>.

Visiting the local Delmont churches is free and each church has something different to offer. Five shuttle buses will run continuously on **Saturday, December 7** from 4:30 to 9:30 PM and on **Sunday, December 8** from 1:30 to 7:30 PM. The shuttle bus will travel to all five churches and will also take you to Shields Farm for your assigned ticket time to go through the eight Pilgrimage scenes.

Pilgrimage Junior will take place on **Sunday, December 8** from 2:00 to 4:00 PM for children ages 12 and under. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 4 to 12 and free for children under 4.



### HIGH SCHOOL Youth Ministry

All High School Youth are invited to join us on **Sunday**, **December 8** from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a look at the seven commandments that teach us what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. The catechism speaks on everything from faithful citizenship and just war doctrine to scandal, end of life issues and much, much more. Come and have all your questions answered!

On **Sunday, December 15** please join us for our annual Christmas Party. We will meet from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Social Hall for a gingerbread house decorating contest, a crazy gift exchange, snowball fight and lots of treats to eat. Be sure to bring a friend to enjoy all the surprises in store.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Youth Ministry will meet on **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:30 PM in the Mother of Sorrows Social Hall. Be sure to save the date for the Christmas Party on **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 PM. Email Jacob Gindhart at *jgindhart@dioceseofgreensburg* for more information and to be added to the Remind chat for updates in Youth Ministry.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on December 8 each year and celebrates a singular honor: that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without sin.

Since December 8, 2024 is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to **Monday, December 9, 2024.** Mass times for the Immaculate Conception are:

Sunday, December 8	6:00 PM	MOS
Monday, December 9	8:00 AM and 10:30 AM	MOS
Monday, December 9	8:30 AM	St. Mary
Monday, December 9	7:00 PM	St. John

### **BOOMERS AND BEYOND**



Join us on **Tuesday**, **December 10** at 11:30 AM as Father Dave Slusarick presents, "Graces Received from Hand-Copying Sacred Scripture." He will also share the story of his journey to the priesthood.

Boomers and Beyond lunch and learn sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month in

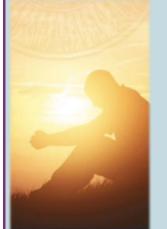
the Mother of Sorrows Social Hall. Topics are varied and reservations are not required. Participants gather at 11:30 AM and are encouraged to bring a 'brown bag' lunch and a friend. Presentations begin at 12:00 NN until 1:00 PM.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women of MOS, St. John and St. Mary Parishes are invited to the annual Women's Retreat **January 17 - 19**, **2025** at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh. This year's theme is Pilgrims of Hope. For more information, please contact Barb Hantz at *hantzbf@gmail.net* or Sherri Tollari at *sherritollari@yahoo.com*.

To register, visit our website at <u>motherofsorrowschurch.org</u> and click on the image of the brochure on our homepage.

### **DISCERNMENT GROUPS**



Father Dave Slusarick and the Office for Priestly Vocations invite all young men of the parishes to join him for a time of prayer, discussion and snacks! The Melchizedek Project for young adult men ages 18 and older will meet at 3:30 PM on **Sunday, December 1**. The Discerning God's Call group, for high school men, will meet at 6:30 PM on **December 1**. Both groups will meet in the St. John Social Hall in Delmont.

These meetings are intended for young men who are interested in learning how to discover God's Will for their lives and are open to learning more about the Priesthood.

PRIESTLY VOCATIONS



### MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL







Mrs. Carlisano's preschool students are pictured here in front of their bulletin board featuring Thanksgiving turkeys and many blessings.

# 1:00 - 8:00 PM **Mass with Bishop Larry J. Kulick** 4:00 PM **Christ Our Shepherd Center** 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg

Christmas

**Night Market** 

The Christmas Night market is a festive, fun and faith-filled event! Stroll the outdoor attractions under the twinkle of Christmas lights and warm yourself with hot chocolate by the fire, or head inside to enjoy dozens of food and craft vendors. Explore collectibles created by artist Pipka Ulvilden, on display for this event! Carolers. St. Nicholas and Christmas cookies are all part of the experience. Admission and parking are free!

# Schedule of Events:

1:00 - 8:00 PM Food and Craft Vendors, St. Nick's Gift Shop, Artwork **Display, Face Painting and Grand Raffle** 

- 1:00 PM Christmas Wine Tasting
- 2:00 PM Christmas Beer Tasting

1:00 and 2:00 PM Children's Christmas Cookie Tasting and Visit with St. Nick

NIGHT

2024

3:00 PM "The Madonna in Christmas Art," a lecture and display by worldrenowned artist Pipka Ulvilden

4:00 PM Mass with **Bishop Larry J. Kulick and Diocese Children's Choir** 

10 Pilgrimage to Christ



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