

**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the Week**  
M – Memorial A – Anniversary L –Living

**Thursday, December 21st**

8:00 am– Mother’s Day Intentions

**Saturday, December 23rd**

8:00 am–Father’s Day Intentions

**Sunday, December 24th**

9:00 am–Mother’s Day Intentions

5:30 pm–John Rickettson-M  
(Joy Bucknam & Family)

**Monday, December 25th**

10:30 am–Father’s Day Intentions

**LECTOR SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 24th**

9:00 am –John Hilton

5:30 pm–Valerie Sullivan

**Monday, December 25th**

10:30 am–Nancy Palumbo

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 24th**

9:00 am – Dustin Bliss, Scott Youngers,  
Nancy Hack, Nikera Kolacki

5:30 pm–Help Needed

**Monday, December 25th**

10:30 am–Help Needed

**SACRISTAN SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 24th**

9:00 am–Help Needed

5:30 pm–Help Needed

**Monday, December 25th**

10:30 am–Carolyn Kramer

**Counters for 12/24/2023—Team K&D**

Regular Collection 12/10/23

\$2612.46

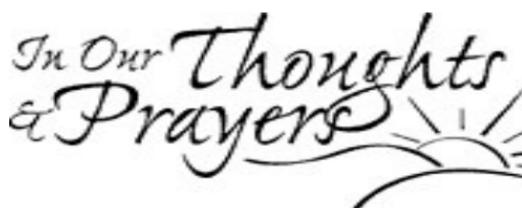
Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Bazaar

\$603.00

Attendance 12/10/23-107

**Congratulations** to the Altar and Rosary Society Christmas Bazaar Winners! **Thank you** to all who purchased tickets and donated baked goods.

- Trinity Carroll
- Nancy Zientek
- Russ Delbert
- Kay Clabeaux
- Nikera Kolacki
- P. Zak
- Joe Kerber
- Rosemary Cavaretta
- Ann Antholzner



**“Rosebud” Bouquets**  
**Amanda Youngers**  
**Lois Weber**

**Prayer Chain**

If you know someone that you would like our faith community to pray for, please call Bill Franczak @ 716-537-9448 or Mary Major at 716-537-9336. Please leave your name and phone number along with the name of the person going on the list and the reason why. Thank you!



**Today’s Scripture Readings**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11**

**1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24**

**Luke 1**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

**Readings for Next Weekend**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16**

**Romans 16: 25-27**

**Psalms 89**

**Luke 1:26-38**

**Please join us for Christmas!**

**Christmas Eve Masses Sunday, Dec. 24th:**

4:00 pm Immaculate Conception

4:00 pm St. Vincent’s

5:00 pm Annunciation

5:30 pm St. George \* New time \*

5:30 pm St. Joseph \* New time \*

6:00 pm Immaculate Conception

8:00 pm Annunciation

10:00 pm St. Vincent’s

12 Midnight Immaculate Conception

**Christmas Day Masses Monday, Dec. 25th:**

8:00 am Immaculate Conception

10:00 am St. George

10:00 am St. Vincent’s

10:30 am St. Joseph

11:00 am Annunciation

**January 1, 2024 New Year’s Day**  
**Mass Schedule for our Family:**



8 am Immaculate Conception

10 am St. Vincent’s

3 pm Annunciation

7 pm Immaculate Conception

It’s not a holy day of obligation this year, but we still love to honor our Blessed Mother on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

**December 17, 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

## FAMILY NEWS & EVENTS

As we continue our sacred journey to Christmas, today we celebrate our **JOY**. This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. The candle is pink rather than purple and the entrance antiphon at Mass reminds us that we are to **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.”** As we light the third candle of the Advent wreath let us remember that trusting God in the light is always easy; trusting God when it is dark requires faith. **Advent calls us to wait in joyful and faithful hope.**

~ Father Jerry

In the Gospel today John is in the desert and he is still proclaiming the Word of God. He is pointing and leading people to Jesus. He is a witness for the light. He plainly says that he is not the light himself, but clearly he is a person of light. He lets the light that is within him shine out for all to see and experience. As the American writer Maya Angelou wrote, **“nothing can dim the light which shines from within.”**

Perhaps the invitation and challenge for us is to become more like him in our own daily lives. **You and I are called to be vocal and visible witnesses to the light and more importantly, to be people of light whenever and wherever we can.** Jesus himself says to each of us, **‘you are the light of the world; your light must shine for others to see.’** (Mt. 5.14).

**What does it mean to be a person of light?**

These Advent days we can each do something to be a person of light in our homes with our families. A smile, a kind word of support or a phone call to a friend or neighbor can brighten someone’s day. No action, gesture or tender word, no matter how small, goes unnoticed. We must never underestimate the impact that we can have on others. We need each other’s support, kindness and encouragement. Pope Francis reminds us, **‘we need to realize that we are part of one another; that we are brothers and sisters of one another... (32) We need to communicate with others, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us’.** (134).

Can we during these remaining Advent days find some light to look forward to with joyful hope? **Let us look for moments of light and joy around us this week.**

What is bringing you some sense of joy these days? To whom can you offer the gift of joy and light this week? Let us keep each other in our prayers and thoughts.

– Br Michael Moore OMI

**Our new Family of Parishes’ name is: WHEAT Scattered and Sown**

WHEAT encompasses all of our parishes. It reminds us of Eucharist/bread.

The Scattered and Sown indicates our mission to spread the Gospel and God's love in the world.

W West Falls - St. George Church

H Holland - St. Joseph's Church,

E Elma - St. Vincent de Paul and Annunciation

A Aurora - Immaculate Conception

T Together

The Family of Parishes names indicates a group of parishes. That's why it could not be an individual Saint's name, and also helps to understand the name criteria from the diocese. Please continue to pray for our Road to Renewal process!



Catholic Charities Kinship Caregiver Program is a resource for non-parents who may need support in stepping out of the relative role and into that of a parent. The program operates in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and can help families locate resources in the community and offer personal assistance including case management, family counseling and parenting education. Catholic Charities also offers support groups for caregivers and for children, YMCA family memberships for those who participate in the group activities regularly, and youth groups/family fun nights. There is no cost to participate in the program. For more information and eligibility requirements, call 716-372-0101 or visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org).