

Mass Intentions for Nov 23 thru 29, 2015

Monday, Nov 23

6:50 am Ann Renaldi by Orlando Cicilioni Sr.

Tuesday, Nov 24

6:50 am Morgan Miles by family

Wednesday, Nov 25

6:50 am Shirley Dunstone by family

2:30 pm Lackawanna - All Souls Intentions

Thursday, Nov 26, Thanksgiving Day

8:00 am For All Our Parishioners (no 6:50am Mass)

Friday, Nov 27

6:50 am Dominick Puccio by Harriet Aniska

Saturday, Nov 28

4:00 pm Lorraine Gallo by family

Sunday, Nov 29

8:00 am Michelle Zini by Frank DiMatteo Family

10:00 am All Souls Day Intentions

Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and the recently deceased: Father Albert Brogus, Ann Wasilchak.



Catholic Communications and Media: "Giving everyone the opportunity to read, see and hear the Good News." Spreading the Gospel and the message of our Catholic faith is the vital mission of the Catholic Media and Communications of the Diocese of Scranton. This is why we provide a wide-ranging media program that offers print, online and broadcasting services throughout our 11-county Diocese. The message is delivered through *The Catholic Light*, the official newspaper of the Diocese which is delivered to 46,000 households; Catholic Television (CTV), the Diocesan television station; and the Diocesan website. CTV reaches more than 235,000 homes, hospitals and nursing facilities broadcasting the daily Mass and many other faith-based programs. The Diocesan website is an excellent online resource for information about life and events in the Diocese, including videos of the daily Mass and the special liturgies celebrated at the Cathedral and Bishop Bambera's homilies. We invite you to take advantage of the many mass communication resources provided by the Diocesan Appeal-the Catholic Light, CTV and the Diocesan website - to enrich your understanding and practice of the Catholic faith.

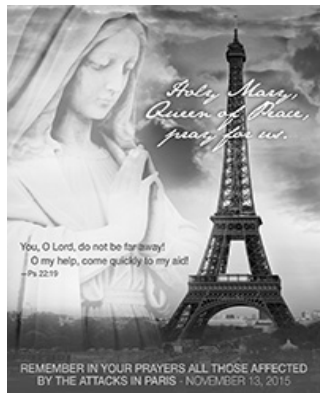
New Donors to the Diocesan Annual Appeal

On behalf of all who will benefit from your generosity, please accept our sincere gratitude to all who have supported the Diocesan Annual Appeal thus far. We appreciate those who made their pledge last week on "Text to Give Weekend". We continue to acknowledge the new donors as of November 16th: Mrs. Edward Alco, M/M Robert Alimenti, Ms. Lillian Antognoli, Mr. William Antognoli, Mrs. Alberta Barnes, M/M Alan Berardi, M/M Frank Blasi, Mrs. Carol Boyle, M/M Robert Carey, M/M Carlo Celli, M/M Benjamin Cicilioni, M/M Evo Cipriani, M/M Donald Cwikla, M/M Dana DeLeo, Mrs. Marie Gooch, Ms. Nadine Greco, M/M Andrew Gregorowicz, M/M Mark Horn, M/M Alfred Leri, M/M Theodore Lemoncelli, Ms. Ann Marie Liberty, Ms. Jeanne Lombardo, Ms. Maggie A. Lund, M/M Mario Mariani, M/M James Mellow, M/M Peter Mercatili, Mr. William F. Nalevanko, M/M Gary Perechinsky, Mrs. Lucille Petrasko, M/M Kenneth Previsch, M/M Ben W. Saita, and M/M Robert Scoblick. Please note that the Appeal Office continues to enter and report gifts. All recent donors may not yet be reflected above to date. Currently, **28.8%** of our parish families have pledged a total of **\$37,224**, **reaching 84.6%** of our diocesan assigned goal of \$44,000.

Collection for Last Weekend: November 15, 2015

382 Sunday Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,779.00
Sunday Cash Offerings	185.00
26 Other operating income envelopes	246.00
Total operating income	\$7,210.00

We sincerely thank all who are consistently using their regular offertory envelopes or prearranged bank checks to support the work and mission of Sacred Heart Parish. We also commend those who are being conscientious to their commitments through our Parish Care Campaign.



Life Lines - Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living. Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to

be merciful to all. Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.—USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program Prayer Card: "Every Life is Worth Living"

Faith Formation Thanksgiving Food Drive

Non-perishable food items are needed to help those in need in our local community. Drop off baskets are located at the auditorium entrance and Willow Street entrance of the church. All donations are needed by this Sunday, Nov. 22nd in order to distribute to those in need in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you for your generous support!

Annual Appeal Mass of Thanksgiving and Reception

You are cordially invited to attend the "Annual Appeal Mass of Thanksgiving" to be held at the Cathedral on Sun, Nov 22 at 10am celebrated by Bishop Bambera, followed by a reception in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 316 Wyoming Avenue. Your intention as you expressed on Pledge Envelopes during In-Pew Weekend will be remembered at this Mass. All are welcome to attend.

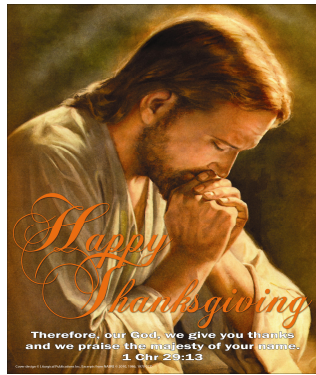
Thanksgiving 2015

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Nov 27th at 8am. (There will be no 6:50am Mass.)



Our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith. - Pope Francis, *World Meeting of Families*.

Happy Thanksgiving Prayer



Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for

health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.

Retreat for Those Serving in Parish Ministries

An early winter retreat will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish on December 4th & 5th for our parishioners involved in the ministries of Word, Worship and Community/Service. This includes Catechists and Aides, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Liturgical Musicians, Finance Council and Parish Council members, parish staff members, and various volunteers working in parish ministry under whatever heading or title.

Gayle Castellani will lead the retreat. Please try to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for prayer and reflection on Friday, December 4th from 6pm to 8:30pm and Saturday, December 5th from 9am to Noon. Please save the dates. To register call Gayle at 570-383-2777.

Faith Formation Team

Seven members of our Faith Formation team recently completed a 6-week Spiritual Enrichment Course, "The Mysteries of God", held at Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary in Jermyn. We commend them for their dedication to our program as well as acknowledging the importance of their own on-going adult faith formation needs. In attendance were Gayle Castellani, Betsy Kondrat, Elise Gilroy, Jack Gilroy, Christine Griffin, Liz Kotcho and Colleen Possanza.

Pontifical Mission Societies Honoring Esseff Brothers

The Pontifical Mission Societies will celebrate the lifelong missionary commitment of two sons of the Scranton Diocese, George J. Esseff, Sr. and Monsignor John A. Esseff, at a reception on Monday, November 23, from 6-9pm

at the Hilton Scranton. Proceeds from the reception will benefit the Scholarship Fund for the Missionary Sisters of the Pontifical *Mater Ecclesiae* College. This institution serves sisters from small religious communities in mission countries to enhance the quality of service that these sisters bring to the poorest and most vulnerable populations around the globe, and assists with the growth and presence of the Catholic Church in these countries. To make a reservation for the November 23 reception, contact The Mission Society Office in the Diocese of Scranton at 570-207-2259.

Advent 2015

Advent is a special time in the Church's calendar. It is a time of waiting and anticipation; looking forward to the second coming of Jesus and also preparing to remember his birth some 2000 years ago. Advent 2015 begins on Sat, Nov 29th.

Pope Francis on Authentic Discipleship

Spiritual worldliness, Pope Francis said, tempts us towards an inconsistent lifestyle, in which we pretend to be one thing but live in another way. It may be difficult to recognize, he said, but just as woodworm slowly destroys things, so worldliness slowly leads us to lose our Christian identity. Worldliness, he went on, leads to inconsistency between the things we say – "Oh, I'm a good Catholic Father, I go to Mass every Sunday" – and the things we do – such as offering or receiving bribes at work. This is not being consistent, rather it leads to a double life which distances us from God and destroys our Christian identity.

For this reason, Pope Francis continued, Jesus strongly pleads with his Father to save his disciples from such a worldly spirit. The Christian spirit, on the other hand, the Christian identity, he said, is never egoistic, but always tries to be consistent, avoiding scandal, helping others and showing a good example.

The Pope responded to objections such as, "It's not easy Father, to live in this world where there are so many temptations and we are lured by the attractions of a double life every single day!" For us it is impossible, he said, and only God can help us avoid such worldliness, which is why we pray in the Psalms, "The Lord, upholds me." He is our support against that spirit which destroys our Christian identity.

That is why we pray with humility, saying "Lord, I am a sinner — all of us are sinners — but I ask you to uphold me so that I don't pretend to be a Christian while living like a pagan, worldly person."

Pope Francis concluded by urging his listeners to pick up a Bible and read the story of Eleazar in chapter six of the book of Maccabees. It will do you good, he said, and give you courage to be an example to others. It will give you strength and support to uphold your Christian identity, without compromise and without leading a double life.

We thank all our business advertisers who place ads on the back of our weekly bulletin. This weekend we acknowledge **DeCarli Dentistry**. See contact information on back page.