

Mass Intentions January 9 – January 15, 2017

Monday, Jan 9nd

6:50 am George & Elizabeth Konecny by Theresa

Tuesday, Jan 10rd

6:50 am Antionette by Diane & Melissa Mellow

Wednesday, Jan 11th

6:50 am Gerald Pompey by Robert Decker Funeral Home

2:30 pm Lacka Rehab – Mass for the People

Thursday, Jan 12th

6:50 am Marion Padden by Robert Decker Funeral Home

Friday, Jan 13th

6:50am Theodore Kempa by Paul & Andrea Kempa & daughters

Saturday, Jan 14th

4:00pm Joseph P. Ghilardi & Theresa Gasparini by Eleanor G.

Sunday, Jan 15th

8:00 am Irene & Herman Zarnowski by family

10:00 am Robert Wall by Joan Sedlak

Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and the recently deceased: Joseph Ofcharsky, Jean Haas, Andrew Safko, Helen Patrylo, and Lawrence Rosetti.

Collection for last Weekend: January 1, 2017

298 Sunday Offertory Envelopes	\$6,951.50
Solemnity of Mary Envelopes	\$1,487.00
Christmas Collection total as of Jan 6, 2017	\$21,229.00

The Christmas biscotti sale netted \$800.00 for our designated improvement fund, thanks to the generous efforts of Phil & Terri Salavanti. We also thank all our cookie patrons.

The Epiphany of the Lord



"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." In our day and age, the star of Christmas has become a kind of decorative symbol that adorns manger scenes and Christmas trees. It suggests something good and bright and holy, a visual indicator that the "Light of the world" has appeared. But today, on the feast of the Epiphany, we recall that originally, this star was not just a pretty symbolic ornament. This star was a sign from God that intervened in the operations of the physical universe. The Magi understood that this star was sent from God to indicate where his Son would be born.

Of course it should not surprise us in this season of all seasons that God should choose to order the universe according to his purposes. Jesus has just been born of a virgin! God has just taken on human flesh. These events in themselves are extraordinary divine interventions--miracles that defy the standard operation of things. Why shouldn't God choose to send a luminous star where he wants it, when he wants it? Why shouldn't he reveal his plan through the things that he created in the first place?

The beauty of today's feast is found, in part, in the fact that

the Magi were able to recognize this sign from God. They waited for it, they saw it, and they rejoiced in it: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." We too should be overjoyed in this season of God's special revelation to us. We may need the eyes to recognize it, but truly we have waited for a Savior, we have seen his appearance at Christmas, and now it is time to celebrate! God is at work in our physical world. He has come here, now to save us. This is cause for rejoicing!

Mass and Healing Service

Sunday, Jan. 15 at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca. Beginning with recitation of the rosary at 6:30pm, Mass following at 7pm, celebrated by Fr. August Ricciardi. The Healing service will follow with Fr. Ricciardi & leaders from local charismatic prayer groups. Fellowship and light refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

Additional Donors to the Diocesan Annual Appeal

The 2016 Diocesan Annual Appeal: *Living Faith, Serving with Mercy*, has raised more than \$4.5 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign to 90% of the \$5 million goal. Forty-four parishes have surpassed their Annual Appeal goal. We have currently reached 93.4% of our parish goal at \$41,085.25. We are very grateful to all parishioners who have supported the Diocesan Annual Appeal thus far. We encourage others to follow their lead wherever possible.

Life Facts



"...He whom the whole universe cannot contain, was hidden in the womb of the holy Virgin for nine months. Once we realize this, we will be awe-filled by the double mystery that God has confided to us both to conceive a human being made in the image and likeness of God and to give birth to him or her..."

(Alice von Hildebrand, *Philosopher*, "Letter to a Young Girl")

Defending Life 2017

The Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will commemorate the deadly January 22, 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion on demand by promoting our participation in the March for Life in Washington D.C. & with a local Respect Life Prayer breakfast. See below.

2017 Respect Life Prayer Breakfast



This year's prayer breakfast will be hosted at Fiorelli's Catering in Peckville, beginning at 9am on January 28th sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL). This year's theme is "The Brutality of China's One Child Policy: Forced Abortion as National Law. Principal speaker Steven Mosher will address China's "One-Child Family" policy which coerces women to abort further pregnancies against their will. He is president of the Population Research Institute in VA and has written and lectured on "The Myth of Over-population". He is the father of nine children, and a former atheist turned Catholic.

Breakfast Reservations for Sacred Heart Parish Table

Please clip and return this reservation form and send it to the rectory with a check payable to: "Pennsylvanians for Human Life" no later than Wednesday, Jan 18. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6-12, children 5 & under free.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

___ Adults ___ Children 6-12 ___ Children 5 & Under (free)

Amt enclosed: \$ _____ (Some allowances available)

2017 March for Life



Pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join tens of thousands of their counterparts from across the nation for the 44th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The 2017 March for Life will be held Friday, Jan 27th. The Presidential Inauguration, will be held on Friday, Jan 20th. As in previous Inauguration years, the National Park Service (NPS) assigned the next possible day for the March. Join us and be a part of America's LARGEST Pro-Life Rally and Civil Rights Demonstration.

44th Annual March for Life Registration Form

The bus for our parishioners will be leaving for Washington D.C from the Keyser Oak Plaza Shopping Center in Scranton at 6:45am on Friday, January 27 and return about 11:45pm. Please clip and return this reservation form to the rectory with a check payable to: "Pennsylvanians for Human Life" no later than Sunday, Jan 22. The cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for students. (Some allowances available.)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

___ Adults # ___ Students Amt enclosed: \$ _____

Respect Life Baby Bottles

Sacred Heart and Queen of Angels Parishes are once again invited and encouraged to help support the local efforts of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life in Lackawanna County. Pennsylvanians for Human Life provides resources on abortion, alternatives to abortion, post-abortion healing and euthanasia as well as other pro-life issues like chastity education, human cloning, and stem cell research. They provide referrals and assistance to women with problem pregnancies. Please help support their cause by picking up a baby bottle in any of the church entrances this weekend. Fill the bottle with your loose change or other currency and return it no later than February 5, 2017. Please place the bottle into one of the Respect Life Baskets that will be found on the steps at either side of the altar. Last year,



this worthy project in our parish alone brought in \$1,140.00. Our efforts were of great assistance to our local Respect Life Chapter and a wonderful credit to our parish in our ongoing respect for human life.

Faith Formation Resumes

Sunday, Jan 8 Classes reopen for grades one thru twelve

Additional 2016 Parish Donations

Those who want to make catch-up donations to be credited toward your 2015 parish contribution statement, please be certain to mark this on the outside of your envelope and return it to the parish office on or before Jan 16th. Otherwise, such late contributions will be applied to 2016.

2016 Tax Reports

Parishioners who want a 2016 end of year financial report for tax purposes are asked to please call the parish office.

Life Line Screening Event

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive & painless health screenings at Sacred Heart of Jesus Auditorium on Feb 7. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems. To register for this event and receive a \$10 discount call 1-888-653-6441

Bereavement Support Group

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mt. 5:4). A Bereavement Ministry at St. Peter's Cathedral Parish offers an important ministry to people in the community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The Support



Group is **available to anyone in the community** who feels the need to participate in a Bereavement Program that offers spiritual as well as emotional support during the weeks, months or years following the death of a close family member or friend. The program will work through a series of topics to help understand the grief process and to find healing. The group will meet weekly for 4 weeks starting on Wednesday, Jan 18 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in Diocesan Pastoral Center, across from the Cathedral. If you would like to attend this group, please contact the Cathedral parish office at 570-344-7231.

Seasons of Healing

"Winter: The Hopeful Heart" – is a one-day workshop dedicated to grieving parents who have lost a child of any age. Often times finding ways to cope with such a loss can be very difficult to accomplish alone. We can help you gain a better understanding about grief recovery by providing education on the grief process. We'll also share ways to develop personal coping skills to help with healing and opening your heart to hope in the new year. Saturday Jan 14th (Jan 21- snow date) from 10am – 3pm (lunch included) at VNA Hospice and Home Health, 301 Delaware Ave in Olyphant. This event is open to the community at no cost. Please call Olympia at 383-5180 if you would like to attend.