

**Tabernacle Lamp donated Dec 21 thru Dec 27**

*In Thanksgiving for Anita and George Lesho*

**Altar Candles donated Dec 21 thru Dec 27**

*In Memory of Roger & Florence Canevari by children*

**Bread & Wine donated Dec 21 thru Dec 27**

*In Memory of Roger & Florence Canevari by children*

**Mass Intentions for Dec 21 thru 27, 2015**

**Monday, Dec 21**

6:50 am Santarelli & Fiorelli families by family

**Tuesday, Dec 22**

6:50 am Martin Ghilardi Sr. by family



**Wednesday, Dec 23**

6:50 am Julia & Frank Anastasio by Jack & Roseann

2:30 pm Lackawanna Health and Rehab Mass

**Thursday, Dec 24**

6:50 am Richard Ghilardi by M/M Edward O'Hara

**Thursday, Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Mass for all our Parishioners

**Friday, Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day**

8:00 am Mass for all our Parishioners

10:00 am Mass for all our Parishioners



**Saturday, Dec 26**

4:00 pm John and Sally Tucky by M/M Ted Lemoncelli

**Sunday, Dec 27**

8:00 am Pauline Saldi by Lucille Kelly

10:00 am Don Strubeck by Frank and Rose

**Remember in Your Prayers**

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the bereaved and the recently deceased James Fenstermaker.

**Collection for Last Weekend: December 13, 2015**

334 Sunday Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,020.00
Sunday Cash Offerings	198.00
5 Other operating income envelopes	165.00
Total Immaculate Conception Holy Day	<u>958.00</u>
Total operating income	\$7,341.00
Total Retirement Collection for Religious	1,019.00

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.

**The Christmas Collection**

Our Parish Care Program initiated last May has been very successful in supplying the much needed funds for operating the administration aspects of our parish through the hiring of a full time person for parish administration. Nonetheless, the Annual Christmas Collection remains a very important part of our annual parish income as it does in every parish. Please be generous as always and do only what is possible for you. As the Spirit of God inspires us in His ways of stewardship and generosity, may it become for us a way of life, a way of living our faith, and a clear way of showing our gratitude to God for his immense generosity. Msgr.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

A woman, short of years but abundant in wisdom, hears the call of God through an angel and all of creation waits for her response. The story of the Annunciation in this Sunday's Gospel places on a major stage the relationship humanity has with God the Father. His love for us is so great he would seek to become like us in the Incarnation, and then by his death and resurrection save us from death so that we may live forever with him. The entire cosmic plan hinges on the response of one girl.

Have you ever had to make a decision that would entirely change your life and the lives of those around you? Has God ever asked you to risk it all for the kingdom? Maybe the question came in the form of a loved one's death. Perhaps a cross-country move or a job change was the request. Confronting the reality of the call made your stomach ache and your head spin. What was your response?

As this Advent draws to a close, and a new calendar year lies just beyond your Christmas tree, let us pray that when the call comes we may respond as mature disciples. Age does not define maturity. Neither does experience. Maturity is defined by how we respond to God in those most challenging of moments. This Christmas, may Mary from her place in heaven continue to lead us to her Son, who one day will most certainly ask us a question that will shake us to our core. May our answer echo her "yes."

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**The Light Will Be On for You**

Our eight confession services with multiple confessors concluded on Thursday evening in the Mid Valley Deanery. One other opportunity is still available for our parishioners at Sacred Heart Church on Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The light will be on for you.

**The Advent Tree**

We commend all who made the effort to place Christmas gifts around the Advent Tree over the past two weeks. Many beautifully wrapped presents were brought in and were transported on Friday to the appropriate locations for distribution. Thank you for practicing corporal works of mercy during this Jubilee Year of Mercy by reaching out to so many who have no one to bring them gifts.

**Pastoral Christmas Greetings**

As we approach the Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity, let us call to mind that God our Father so loved the world that he sent his only Son to reconnect us with his divine mercy and love. I pray that you and your loved ones may enjoy and share the peace and happiness of that mercy and love especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Be assured of my prayerful remembrances for one and all in the Masses of Christmas. Msgr Madus

**Catholic Media for Christmas**

Give everyone who walks through your doors this Christmas the chance to better understand the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith, including misunderstood and hot-button topics! Check out the New Media Rack located in the Willow Street Vestibule and take advantage of these low-cost Catholic resources to deepen your knowledge of the faith and help bring the Good News of Christ to others!

**Christmas Wafers Still Available**

Packets are located on the table in the main vestibule only. A donation of \$3.00 per packet is suggested.

**Parish Calendars for 2016**

These new calendars once again focus our attention on Stewardship as a Way of Life. They offer us twelve clear depictions and terse sayings grounded in biblical stewardship that is at the heart of discipleship.

**Saving Seats at 4:00 Mass**

The 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve will most likely be very crowded as usual. Please note that saving seats for someone arriving later is **not allowed**. First come - first sit. At the same time, the quiet room for restless children can not accommodate families, but only one adult per child. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Faith Formation Important Dates**

**Dec 27 & Jan 3 - No classes**

<b>Jan 09-</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> gr	First Penance Retreat	9am-Noon
<b>Jan 10-</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> gr	Enrollment practice w/ sponsors	11am-Noon
<b>Jan 17-</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> gr	Confirmation Enrollment Ceremony	10am Mass
<b>Jan 23-</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> gr	First Penance	11am
<b>Feb 13-</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> gr	Individual Assessments	Beginning at 9am
<b>Feb 14-</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> gr	Individual Assessments	Beginning at 1pm
<b>Feb 21-</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> gr	Parent Meeting re: First Communion	9am



**During the Jubilee Year of Mercy** which began on December 8th, the faithful are encouraged to pilgrimage to Holy Doors of churches throughout the world. St. Anthony Parish, in Ambler Pa, will be traveling to the Holy Land in April of 2016 and will visit 2 of the designated basilicas: Basilica of Gethsemane in Jerusalem and the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. This 14 day pilgrimage will also include all of the major sites of

Jesus' life and ministry from Galilee to Jerusalem. St. Anthony Parish in Ambler has been traveling successfully to the Holy Land since 2009 and has shepherded pilgrims with the utmost care and safety. No one returns from the land where Jesus walked unchanged by this once in a lifetime spiritual experience. Please call St. Anthony Parish at 215-646-4742 for the full itinerary and more information. Deposits should be received by January 3, 2016.

**Diocesan Annual Appeal**

We are very grateful to all who have supported the Diocesan Annual Appeal thus far. There is no parish donor report this week. We are now at 98.5% of goal.

**Know a Marriage That Needs Help?**

Throw them a lifeline and tell them about **Retrouvaille**, an international program that helps couples who are experiencing marital difficulties. This program is for all couples, at any stage of marriage that needs help to communicate with each other in a more attentive and loving manner. The next program in the Scranton Diocese begins Feb. 26 - Feb. 28, 2016, at The Ramada Inn in Clarks Summit. For more information or to register, please call 800-470-2230 or visit <www.helpourmarriage.org>

**Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass**

Bishop Bambera and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2016 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 5. The celebration begins with Mass at 2:30 PM at the Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made through the parish office before March 7.

**Attention all Liturgical Ministers**

We are currently updating our liturgical ministry list to make it easier to find a substitute when you need one. If your phone number or other contact information has changed within recent years please email or call the parish office. Thank you.

**St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen** needs sugar, salt and low sodium soups which can be left in our Willow St entrance.

We thank all our business advertisers who place ads on the back of our weekly bulletin. This weekend we acknowledge **Yeselavage Rug**. See contact info on back page on back pg.

**Liturgical Assignments for 12/24/15 thru 1/1/16 (Christmas Eve thru New Years Day)**

(Be sure to arrange your own substitutions when necessary)

	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>SERVERS &amp; CROSSBEARER</u></b>	<b><u>LECTOR</u></b>	<b><u>EXTR MINISTERS HOLY COMMUNION</u></b>
Dec 24	4:00pm	Chloe L, Neve S, Brianna Z, Megan F	Frank Blasi	Kim Wolfel, Silvia Celli, Pete Setta, Donna Fazio
Dec 25	8:00am	Joseph Krishanda	Frank Lesnefsky	Mark Horn, Joan Angeli
	10:00am	Joseph & Alissa Koniszewski	Dennis Fanucci	Jo Ann Berta, Frank Ghilardi, Volunteer Needed
Dec 26	4:00pm	Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak	Frank Blasi	Nadine Greco, Jo Ann Berta, Pete Setta
Dec 27	8:00am	Giavanna Villano, Caroline Burak	Chet Merli	Gail & David Haas
	10:00am	Paige Redman, Brianna Zipay	Frank Lesnefsky	Kim Wolfel, Frank Ghilardi, Volunteer Needed
Dec 31	4:00pm	Andrew, Edward & Matthew Gregorowicz	Kim Gregorowicz	Mariclare Berardelli, Donna Fazio, Lori Kopa
Jan 01	8:00am	Caroline Burak	Stephen Skierski	Mark Horn, Joan Angeli
	10:00am	Jenna Loomis, Volunteer Needed	Frank Lesnefsky	Jean & Tom Conigliaro, Elissa Pompey