

**Tabernacle Lamp donated December 28 thru January 3**

*In Memory of James M. Soranno by Eileen Soranno*

**Altar Candles donated December 28 thru January 3**

*In Memory of James M. Soranno by Eileen Soranno*

**Mass Intentions for Dec 28, 2015 thru Jan 3, 2016**

**Monday, Dec 28**

6:50 am Anthony Rescigno by Cara Marciano

**Tuesday, Dec 29**

6:50 am Grace Ercolani by Walter Paduk

**Wednesday, Dec 30**

6:50 am Charlotte Holecko by M/M Edward Natushko

**Thursday, Dec 31**

6:50 am M/M Joseph Colarusso Sr. by Paul & Susan Bush

4:00 pm Mass for the People (Holy Day Vigil Mass)

**Friday, Jan 1- Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

8:00 am Mass for the People

10:00 am Mass for the People

**Saturday, Jan 2**

4:00 pm Richard J. Evans Sr by Guziewicz & Carr families

**Sunday, Jan 3**

8:00 am Josephine & Sherwood Palumbo by Sal & Beverly Palumbo

10:00 am Rebecca Zehel Sekelsky by Nancy Campbell & family

**Remember in Your Prayers**

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the recently deceased.



***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph***

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost. © [loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm](http://loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm)

***Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family***

O Mary and Joseph, we thank you for having lived the moments of uncertainty and anguish with purity of heart and with one desire--namely, to be faithful to the Lord. God's astounding plan made you seek new directions. Though frustration was not spared you, your faith was only strengthened. Protect us by your intercession that we may never forget the presence of our Lord who is our joy and our strength. *Mary and Your Everyday Life* by Fr Bernard Haring 1978

**Life Lines** - "We know what true, authentic love looks like. It looks like the man on the Cross. This deep, pure love that motivated Jesus to offer his life for ours, is the love that will answer the longing in our hearts, if we let it."

- USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program "10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won't Tell You"

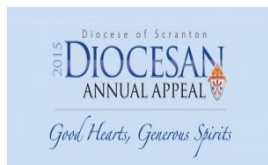
**Parish Calendars for 2016**

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.

**Collection for Last Weekend: December 20, 2015**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 388 Sunday Offertory Envelopes      | \$5,809.00 |
| Sunday Cash Offerings               | 257.00     |
| 41 Other operating income envelopes | 361.00     |
| Total operating income              | \$6,427.00 |

*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 about their commitments through our Parish Care Campaign.*



**2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal**

We are very grateful to all who have supported the 2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal thus far. Currently, **36.61%** of our parish families have

pledged, raising a total of **\$43,646.00**. That brings us to **99.2%** of our assigned goal of **\$44,000**. We are just **\$343** away from our 2015 goal! Bishop Bambera and I thank you once again for your continued generosity in serving the needs of our parish and diocese. May you be blessed for your support. We continue to thank all our donors and acknowledge the following new donors as of December 21st: M/M Anthony Berardelli, M/M Bill Bogdanovicz, M/M Jeff Cruciani, M/M Robert Cucura, M/M Mark Cunningham, M/M John Dubranski Jr., Mrs. Eleanor D. Ghilardi, M/M David Klassner, M/M Jack Kubash, M/M Michael Lawrence, M/M Myron Marcinek, M/M Scott Ohmnacht, M/M Thomas Reese, M/M Robert Stefursky, M/M Edward Sumski, M/M Thomas Umile, and Miss JoAnne Wolochowicz.

## Christmas Greetings

As your pastor here at Sacred Heart, I offer my sincerest gratitude to all of you for so many thoughtful greetings, gifts and prayerful remembrances during this beautiful season commemorating Christ's birth in Bethlehem some 20 centuries ago.

I want to thank also our many volunteers who help in our parish throughout the year including those who helped prepare our parish for the celebration of Christmas—especially all extraordinary ministers, lectors, servers, choir members, decorators and helpers.

Please accept my prayerful best wishes for a wonderful and joyous Twelve Days of Christmas filled with abundant blessings of God! Filled once again with the joy of the Christmas mystery, may we all grow more into the likeness of Christ as the days of the season and New Year unfold. In every celebration, please be ever mindful of the reason for the season, which is the re-connection and re-affiliation of God with the global family of mankind.

Gratefully, Monsignor Madus

**The Friends of the Poor** will celebrate their 30th Anniversary in 2016 with mass on January 10th at 10am in St. Peter's Cathedral. Following the mass a reception will be held in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. All are welcome to attend.

We thank all our business advertisers who place ads on the back of our weekly bulletin. This weekend we acknowledge **Hedley W. Mason Funeral Home**. See info on back page.

### 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, Clarks Summit, PA. For more information or to register, please call 800-470-2230 or visit the website at [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org)

### Faith Formation Important Dates

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

|                |   |                  |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Jan 9-</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              |

### Jubilee Year of Mercy



"We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." *Misericordiae Vultus*

### January 2016 Assignments for Lackawanna Health and Rehab Center

Jan 6 Maria Ceccacci, Donna Listanski  
Jan 13 Silvia Passeri, Donna Listanski

Jan 20 Ginny Yazinski, Donna Listanski  
Jan 27 Sharon Gallo, Donna Listanski



### January 2016 Liturgical Assignments

(Be sure to arrange your own substitutions when necessary)

|        | TIME    | SERVERS & CROSSBEARER             | LECTOR           | EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS HOLY COM               |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Jan 2  | 4:00pm  | Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak     | Sal Urso         | Nadine Greco, Silvia Celli, Lori Kopa          |
| Jan 3  | 8:00am  | John Redman, Joseph Krishanda     | Chet Merli       | David & Gail Haas                              |
|        | 10:00am | S. Ferraro, M. Farrell, J. Loomis | Frank Lesnefsky  | Elissa Pompey, Tom & Jean Conigliaro           |
| Jan 9  | 4:00pm  | Andrew, Edward, Matt Gregorowicz  | Kim Gregorowicz  | Mariclare Berardelli, JoAnn Berta, Pete Setta  |
| Jan 10 | 8:00am  | Caroline Burak, Giavanna Villano  | Stephen Skierski | Joan Angeli, Mark Horn                         |
|        | 10:00am | Paige Redman, Brianna Zipay       | Dennis Fanucci   | Kim Wolfel, Frank Ghilardi                     |
| Jan 16 | 4:00pm  | Chloe Laboranti, Neve Skapyak     | Frank Blasi      | Donna Fazio, Nadine Greco, Silvia Celli        |
| Jan 17 | 8:00am  | John Redman, Joseph Krishanda     | Maria Neri       | David & Gail Haas                              |
|        | 10:00am | Ed Kozlowski, Aidan Alco          | Lisa Kozlowski   | Elissa Pompey, Tom & Jean Conigliaro           |
| Jan 23 | 4:00pm  | Andrew, Edward, Matt Gregorowicz  | Frank Lesnefsky  | Mariclare Berardelli, Jo Ann Berta, Pete Setta |
| Jan 24 | 8:00am  | Caroline Burak, Giavanna Villano  | Stephen Skierski | Joan Angeli, Mark Horn                         |
|        | 10:00am | Paige Redman, Brianna Zipay       | Dennis Fanucci   | Kim Wolfel, Frank Ghilardi                     |
| Jan 30 | 4:00pm  | Andrew, Edward, Matt Gregorowicz  | Kim Gregorowicz  | Donna Fazio, Silvia Celli, Lori Kopa           |
| Jan 31 | 8:00am  | John Redman, Joseph Krishanda     | Chet Merli       | David & Gail Haas                              |
|        | 10:00am | Joseph, Julia, Alyssa Koniszewski | Frank Lesnefsky  | Elissa Pompey, Tom & Jean Conigliaro           |

