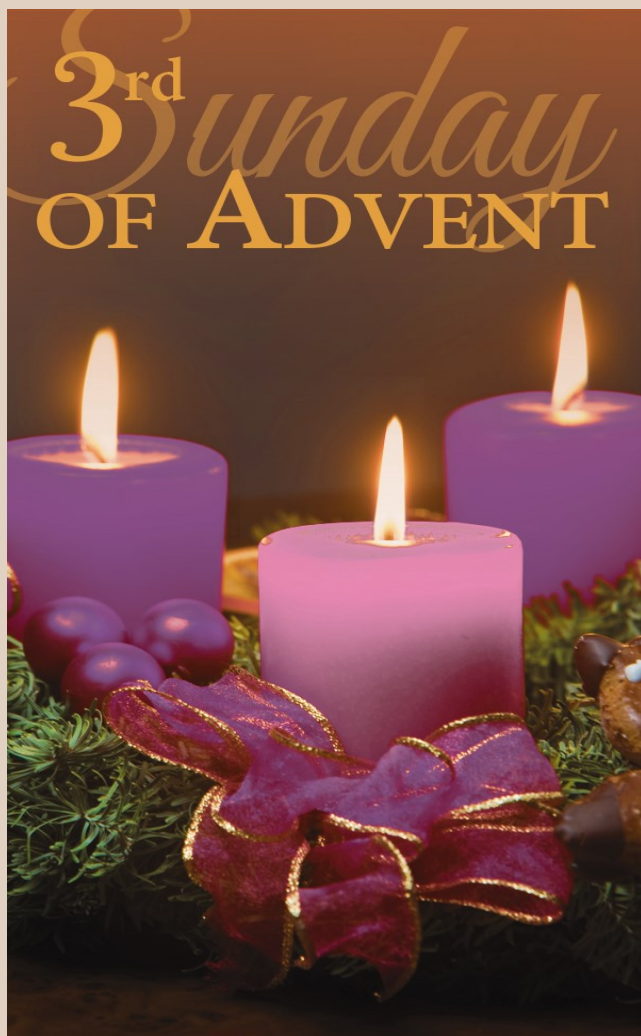




# Church of NOTRE DAME

2325 HIGHLAND RD, HERMITAGE, PA 16148  
Phone: (724) 981-5566 / website: <httpS://notredame-pa.org>  
Email: [churchoffice@notredame-pa.org](mailto:churchoffice@notredame-pa.org)



**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17  
2023**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

M–TH: 9 am–12 pm & 1–3 pm  
Friday—Closed

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekend Masses**

Saturday: 4 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 11 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: 9:00 am

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 9:00 am

Saturday 3:00 pm – Confession

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. Richard Allen

**Deacon**

Dcn. Frank Hannah

**Director of Faith Formation**

Mr. Joseph Ranelli

**Director of Adult Education**

Mrs. Kathy Higgins

**Liturgy/Music Coordinator**

Mrs. Gretchen Wagner

**Secretary**

Mrs. Carrie Hannah

**Religious Education Secretary**

Mrs. Mary Lou Hornyak

**Business Manager**

Mrs. Ann Miller

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 22, 2023 – JANUARY 1, 2024**

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

If you would like to join our parish and become part of the Notre Dame Church family, please complete this form and return by mail or drop in the collection basket.

**REQUEST FOR PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name:

Address:

City/State:

Zip:



VIDEO MASS 12/17	+Phil Ryan [Ken & Gretchen Wagner]
MON 12/18	NO MASS
TUES 12/19 9AM	+Bob Martincic [Bill & Becky Irish]
WED 12/20	NO MASS
THU 12/21 9AM	+Margery Buzzeo [Husband, Pat]
FRI 12/22 9AM	+Anne Durisko [Family]
SAT 12/23 9AM	+Dennis Sheehan [Peggy & Kelly]
SAT 12/23 * 3-3:30PM *	Confessions
SAT 12/23 4PM	+Wade Albritton [Renee Kocis]
SUN 12/24 8AM	*Mass for the People
SUN 12/24 11AM	+Charlotte Miller [Nardone & Honsaker Families]

### CHRISTMAS / NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE:

#### 12/24 Vigil: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00PM	+William "Willie" Chavara [Chavara Family]
7:00PM	+McGinty Stawaisz Families [Stawaisz Family]
10:00PM	+Frank Matune [Denise, Brian, Adam & Aidan Churlik]

#### 12/25 Christmas Day : THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

11:00AM

#### 12/31 New Year's Eve / 1/1/2023 New Year's Day

8:00AM / 11:00AM / 11:00AM

### YEAR END GIFTS

As we approach the end of 2023 and prepare year end postings, gifts to be counted toward 2023 must be received on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Thank you for your generosity throughout the year.*

#### Reminders:

Checks made payable to **Prince of Peace** must be mailed to the Prince of Peace Center.

### DECEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Reg. Offertory, 4 Sundays, including Maintenance Fund

Budgeted	Received
\$47,300	\$46,233
Human Development	\$840

### 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Number of Pledges	210
Amount of Pledges	\$133,795
Amount Received to Date	\$114,375
Amount Outstanding	\$19,295

## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>SAT 12/23 4PM</b> <b>LECTOR</b> T. Bain	<b>EUCH. MIN.</b> D. Boller / A. Costar C. Esmond / P. Thornburg <b>2 - Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>ALTAR SVR</b> A. Bowser M. Simmers
<b>SUN 12/24 8AM</b> <b>LECTOR</b> B. Lackey	<b>EUCH. MIN.</b> T. DeCaprio / A. Joseph B. Rossi / J. Trenga J. Trenga / R. Vetica	<b>ALTAR SVR</b> <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>SUN 12/24 11AM</b> <b>LECTOR</b> K. O'Brien	<b>EUCH. MIN.</b> M. Hohman / S. Hohman E. McGoff / C. Nawrocki <b>2 - Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>ALTAR SVR</b> N. Selby M. Tarbay

**\*ATTN VOLUNTEERS! Please sign-in prior to Mass**

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE IN THE VESTIBULE.**

### ST. BARTHOLOMEW MASS SCHEDULE:

#### DAILY :

MON, WED, FRI  
7:30 AM

TUES  
6:00 PM / \*6:30 PM Confessions

#### WEEKEND:

SAT 5:30 PM

SUN 9:30 AM

#### 12/24 Vigil: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

4:00PM / 12:00AM

#### 12/25 Christmas Day : THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:30AM

## Advent Penance Service

WED, DEC 20  
7:00 PM

Good Shepherd, West Middlesex

THU, DEC 21  
7:00 PM

St. Joseph, Sharon

*Times listed below are in addition to the regular scheduled times.*

FRI, DEC 22  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Immaculate Heart, Mercer

SUN, DEC 17 - FRI, DEC 22  
12:30 - 1:30 PM

St. Joseph, Sharon

## BORN INTO ETERNAL LIFE



Please keep the family of  
**Helen DellaVecchia**  
in your prayers.



"Into your hands Oh Lord we commend our brothers and sisters"

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56  
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66  
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest  
Next Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it *was* her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.” — John 1:8*

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2023

### SUNDAY READINGS

#### **First Reading:**

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

#### **Psalm:**

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

#### **Second Reading:**

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

#### **Gospel:**

"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:23)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### SCRIPTURE - Questions of the week

#### **First Reading:**

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a future when God will be fully present, and we will experience complete joy. What gives you hope for the future?

#### **Second Reading:**

Paul shares with the Philippians that regardless of his circumstances, he has learned to draw strength and gratitude from his faith in Jesus. How does your faith sustain you in good times and bad times?

#### **Gospel:**

Jesus's parable of the wedding feast offers a warning to be open to God's invitation to answer His call. How do you stay open to God's presence in your life?

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "**There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.**" The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir



#### **Saint of the week**

*Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.*

#### **Prayer**

*Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.*

*We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.*

*(Prayer Source: [http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF\\_2016/pr\\_canoniz\\_en.pdf](http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf))*

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## 2023 - 2024 Religious Ed FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

\*Mass schedule: Saturday 4:00PM / Sunday 8:00 & 11:00AM  
 \*Grades: **PreK-10<sup>th</sup>** / Sunday Mornings **9:15-10:45AM**  
 \*Grades: **11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** / First Sunday of every month / **9:15-10:45AM** /  
 Facilitator: Deacon Frank Hannah  
 \*Director: Joe Ranelli / Secretary: Mary Lou Hornyak /  
 Email: Religioised@notredame-pa.org / Phone: 724-981-5566

### December 2023

- 17 Class [Confirmation Parent/Candidate meeting following 11AM Mass in Chapel]
- 24 **NO Class** [Christmas]
- 31 **NO Class** [New Year]

### January 2024

- 7 **NO RE Class** due to Confirmation Retreat [begin with 11am Mass - 6pm]
- 14 Class [First Penance Parent Meeting following 11am Mass in the Chapel]
- 21 Class [First Penance Parent Meeting following 11am Mass in the Chapel]
- 28 **STUDENT SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN-SERVICE**

ST. ANTHONY CHURCH

# 250 CLUB RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

**DRAWING: 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

TICKET PRICE  
\$55

TICKET IS GOOD  
FOR THE  
ENTIRE YEAR  
OF 2024

WINNING TICKETS  
RE-ENTERED FOR  
REMAINING  
MONTHS

**MONTHLY PRIZES**

**TICKET**  
ADULT ONE

**JANUARY THRU NOVEMBER**

1 - \$100 WINNER  
3 - \$50 WINNERS

**TICKET**  
ADULT ONE

**DECEMBER GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

1 - \$500 WINNER  
3 - \$250 WINNERS

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED BY CALLING THE  
 ST. ANTHONY PARISH OFFICE AT  
 724-342-7391

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Prince of Peace Center**

# Annual Mardi Gras Event

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EVENING OF COCKTAILS  
& HORS D'OEUVRES

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**Tuesday, February 13th 2024**

**"THE BLOCK"**

**23 CHESTNUT AVE, SHARON, PA 16146**



## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Oplatki (Christmas Wafer) and the order form for the Wendall August Forge 2023 **"Heart of Christmas" Ornament** are in the back of the church Foyer. Many of our church families have collected these beautiful Ornaments for over 30 years. The ornament has our "Notre Dame Church" stamp on the back and will be available for pick up on the Sundays of Advent.

The Ornament prices are:  
 Aluminum- \$12.50 and Bronze-\$15.50.

We are again very grateful for Wendell August Forge for continuing this beautiful tradition with a discount for our parish church.

The Christmas Wafer (Oplatki), an Eastern European prayer tradition typically used for Christmas Eve family meals for blessing the members are **\$1.25 for a package of Four (4) wafers.**



Next Sunday's "Pantry Shower" Item is **SALAD DRESSING**. The upcoming item will be broth, stock, & creamed soups [cream of mushroom, ect.].

Thank you for your care and concern for God's needy.

## ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 AM—11:00 PM Wednesday 9:00 AM—11:00 PM  
 Join us for an hour of Prayer, every Wednesday during Adoration at 7pm

For more information call:  
 Feeney 724-699-3340 / Monica 724-977-7665