



# Church of NOTRE DAME



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**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 12  
2021**

**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

Monday: NO MASS

Tuesday: 9:00 am

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 9:00 am

Saturday 9:30 am - Confession

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. Richard Allen

**Deacon**

Mr. Frank Hannah

**Director of Religious Education**

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

## *Third Sunday of* **ADVENT**



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# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

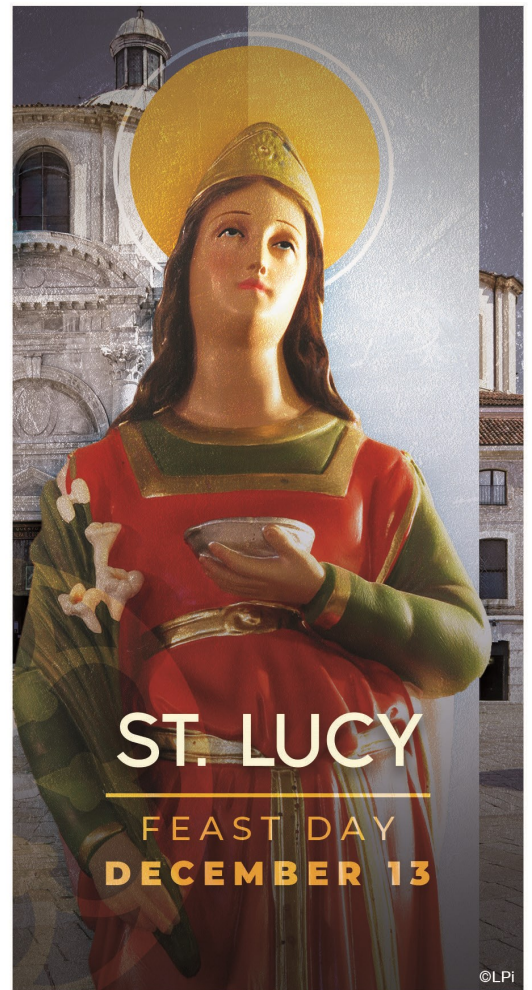
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
- Tuesday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.



# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

## FIRST READING

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness.  
(Zep 3:17)

## PSALM

Cry out with joy and gladness: for  
among you is the great and Holy One  
of Israel. (Is 12:6)

## SECOND READING

The Lord is near.  
Have no anxiety at all, but in  
everything,  
by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.  
(Phil 4:6)

## GOSPEL

The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
"What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
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## A "PEARL OF GREAT PRICE"

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

*"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila*

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)



MON 12/13	NO MASS
TUES 12/14 9AM	Lynne Knott [Family]
WED 12/15	NO MASS
THU 12/16 9 AM	Harry Crook [Paul & Annette Dougherty]
FRI 12/17 9AM	Danny Conlin [Joe & Jen Stephenson]
SAT 12/18 9AM	Msgr. Robert Schriefer
SAT 12/18 4PM	Jean Teaberry [Sam & Denise Condo]
SUN 12/19 8AM	Mass for the People
SUN 12/19 11AM	Anne Durisko [Husband, John]



<b>SAT 12/18 4PM</b> LECTOR M. Multari	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MIN.</b> R. Beal / J. Miller P. Polesnak / P. Polesnak	<b>ALTAR SERVER</b> A. Bowser
<b>SUN 12/19 8AM</b> LECTOR G. Leonard	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MIN.</b> T. Brandenstein / A. Joseph R. Mentrek / T. Pagliaroli	<b>ALTAR SERVER</b> <b>SERVER NEEDED</b>
<b>SUN 12/19 11AM</b> LECTOR K. Wagner	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MIN.</b> A. Costar / R. Fleis B. McVey / A. Orndorff	<b>ALTAR SERVER</b> C. Boren K. Fleis

**\*ATTN VOLUNTEERS! PLEASE CHECK-IN WITH FR. ALLEN PRIOR TO MASS**

## Advent Penance Service

**NOTRE DAME**  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. - Sunday

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Beloved Disciple, Grove City 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Bartholomew, Sharpsville 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Good Shepherd, West Middlesex 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
St. Joseph, Sharon 7:00 p.m.



Next Sunday's "Pantry Shower" item is **juices and powdered drinks**. The upcoming item will be large garbage bags.

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

## PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of those who have lost a loved one. Please keep in prayer those who have entered into eternal life:

**Dennis Thomas**  
**Maria Donatelli**



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
9:00 AM—11:00 PM

For more information call:  
Jo Feeney 724-699-3340  
Rosalee Beal 724-981-2645

## ATTENTION LECTORS:

Lector Workbooks are in. If you are interested in purchasing one check with Fr. Allen after mass.

Cost: \$10

## YEAR END GIFTS

As we approach the end of 2021 and prepare year end postings, gifts to be counted toward 2021 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.

## NOVEMBER 2021:

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Reg. Offertory, 4 Sundays, and Maintenance Fund

Budgeted	Received
\$45,100	\$41,880

Catholic Campaign	
For Human Development	\$600

### CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Number of Pledges	317
Amount of Pledges	\$120,985
Amount Received to Date	\$113,910



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR 2021-2022

Grades: **Pre-K–11<sup>th</sup>** / Sunday Mornings: **8:50am–9:50am**  
Use Grotto entrance of SJPII School  
Joe Ranelli, RE & Sacrament Prep Director  
Mary Lou Hornyak, Secretary  
Office: 724-981-5566 / Email: [Religiously@notredame-pa.org](mailto:Religiously@notredame-pa.org)

**NOTE:**

Calendar is subject to change due to the ongoing COVID circumstances. We will adhere to state mandates and guidelines as they unfold concerning the virus. Our primary means of communications to convey adjustments and notices will be email. Please check your email on a regular basis. If you do not have an email address, please notify the RE office.

## December

12 Class  
19 Class  
26 NO CLASS (Christmas)

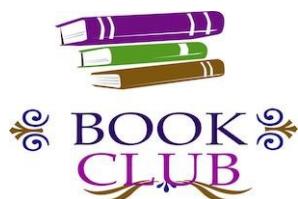
## January 2022

2 NO CLASS  
9 Class (Safe Environment In-Service/All Grades)  
16 Class  
23 Class  
30 NO CLASS (Confirmation Retreat)

## PRINCE OF PEACE

### PEGGY'S STOCKINGS TOY DRIVE GIVING CHILDREN HOPE

REMINDER: ALL **unwrapped gifts**, along with the attached identifying stocking must be returned no later than **December 13<sup>th</sup>**.



The Notre Dame Book Club will be meeting  
**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**  
in the **FOUNDERS ROOM**.

We will be reading *Bingo* by  
Rita Mae Brown.

\*If you want to bring a Christmas goodie  
to share, please do! No obligation...

*Please join us!*

## ENGAGED COUPLES: PLAN AHEAD FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY MARRIAGE

The Marriage and Family Life Office is hosting an Engagement Encounter weekend this January 28-30, 2022. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide engaged couples the tools for a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. Here's what folks have loved in the past: Time as a couple to focus on their relationship, a community that prays and has fun together, a non-judgmental atmosphere, the chance to set a good foundation for their marriage, and the opportunity to retreat from busy wedding details and enjoy each other.

Learn more or register at  
<https://www.eriecd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>.

We would love to welcome you this January!

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give NECESSITIES to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.

## MARRIAGE MOMENT

In Catholic tradition, December 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – a feast of miracles when Mary appeared in the skin color and clothing of the indigenous Mexican people. Have there been any miracles in your marriage? (recovery from an illness, revitalization of your love, remembering to check the car's oil?) Do you ever get under each other's skin? Is it a miracle you're still together?

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

We are so grateful to all who gave so generously to the annual retirement fund last year. In our valley, we know of the dedicated and hard-working effort by the many communities of sisters (Benedictine, Mercy and Sisters of St Joseph) who staffed and taught in our schools and religious education programs. We have special memories of the generosity and hard work of the Sisters of St. Joseph as they began: our Notre Dame school: Sr. Marie Corde (first Principal), Sr. Mary Timothy (Sr. Ann), Sr. Dominic, Sr. Cecelia and for the Shenango Valley Religious Education programs: Sr. Mary Paula, Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Mary Rita. In the 90's, Sr. Mary Drexler, Sr. Joyce Lowrey and Sr. Ann Donahue SSJs returned and were among our Notre Dame school administration and teaching staff. Sr. Margaret Pellerite, SSJ, has been in her teaching and ministry work since the beginning of Kennedy Catholic High School in the 70's.

In a special way we remember Sr. Joyce Lowrey and Sr. Ann Donahue, both Sisters of St Joseph who died this year. Their ministry of teaching extended through their entire careers in many schools throughout our Diocese of Erie.

With this collection, we are reminded that these religious sisters, who maintained vows of poverty, "lived simply and received very little salary during their times of ministry. The majority of these sisters have aged and no longer can work outside their community and need our financial support and prayer". If you were not prepared to give this week, a donation can still be made in the envelope marked **Retirement Fund for the Sisters** and dropped in the Sunday collection basket.