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# St. Mary and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes

December 1, 2019 ~ First Sunday of Advent



#### BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH

Lord God,

let your blessings come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- From BOOK OF BLESSINGS, 1540



#### St. Mary Parish

607 East Main Street Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania 15851 814-653-8586

Email: stmaryschurch2@verizon.net

#### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

20 Shaffer Street (P.O. Box J) Sykesville, Pennsylvania 15865 814-894-2772 Social Hall 814-894-7981 Email: abvmchurch20@gmail.com

Pastor - Father William R. Barron

**Deacon – Daniel Satterlee** 

#### **Shared contact information:**

Web address: www.stmarysassumption.com

**Parish app:** search "myParish – Catholic to download app"

**Fax number:** 814-653-2769

# Mass Intentions

8:00 AM Monday, December 2 (St. Mary) Doug Smelko

By Mom, Dad & Sisters

Tuesday, December 3 (Assumption) 9:00 AM Alan Towns

By Ted & Irene Caporale

Wednesday, December 4 (Assumption) 9:00 AM Mary Felix

By William & Barbara Bowser

Thursday, December 5 (St. Mary) 8:00 AM Deceased Members of Scolese Family By Frances Scolese

Friday, December 6 (St. Mary) 8:00 AM Anthony J. & Esterina Torrell By Children

**Saturday, December 7** (Assumption) 8:00 AM Patricia Reiter By Doug Zediak

Saturday, December 7 (St. Mary) 4:30 PM Deceased Members Leonard & Vira Deegan Family By Henry Liedl Family

Sunday, December 8 (Assumption) 8:30 AM Peg McAninch By Tootie & Family

Sunday, December 8 (St. Mary) 10:30 AM All Parishioners of both Parishes

Samaritan Outreach

# Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM

(Jan.-May – Assumption; June-Dec. St. Mary)

**Sunday Morning** 8:30 AM (Assumption) **10:30 AM** (St. Marv)

# Sacrificial Giving

Nov. 24	St. Mary	Assu	<u>ımption</u>
Collection	\$2,494.00	\$1,862.00	
Electronic Giving		\$	30.00

Thank you for your generosity!

# CSA—Catholic Services Appeal

	St. Mary	<b>Assumption</b>	
Total Pledged	\$26,855	\$18,420	
Total Paid	\$23,415	\$16,823	

# Sanctuary Candles

In Memory of:

Mike Tomasura Sr. By Madelyn

Fannie & John Lichvarcik

By Daughter Severia

Carl Swiatkowski

M. Carlson

By Marlene

**Bill Martin** 

By Susie Martin

#### 4:30pm 8:30am 10:30am (ABVM) (St. Mary) (St Mary) **Altar Servers** M. King C. Lanzoni C. Uhl R. Whipple M. Hannah Lector L. Shadduck J. Gruda D. Dennison **Eucharistic Ministers** W. Rupert **B.** Alexander R. Hannah J. McGranor M. Carlson M. Pothoven M. McCluskey F. Enseki C. McGranor

Ministers Schedule for December 7-8, 2019

#### Office Information

**Office Hours:** (located at St. Mary Church) **Prayer Chain** 

St Mary 653-2752 Monday 7:00AM—2:00 PM Tuesday 7:00AM—2:30 PM Assumption 661-3894 8:00AM—2:30 PM Wednesday **Hospital Visits:** 8:00AM-2:30 PM Thursday Call Fr. Barron 814-503-0028

Friday—Closed Blue Army Prayer Cell: Tuesday 3:00pm

> Bingo: Sunday at 6:00pm at St. Mary Madelyn Tomasura's home

## The Parish Spotlight ~ Advent Traditions

Today is the first day of Advent. There are various traditions that families participate in during this season of anticipation of the birth of our Savior. The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. The wreath is made of evergreens that are traditionally bound to a circle of wire, symbolizing the eternity of God (the Alpha and the Omega). It also symbolizes the many years from Adam to Jesus in which the world awaited its Redeemer, as well as the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, three purple and one pink. Today we light the first purple candle on the Advent Wreath signifying Hope.

Ironically, this year the first Sunday of Advent also falls on the first day of December, which coincides with the Advent Calendar. Most of you are familiar with the calendars filled with treats that are created to count down the days until Christmas Day. I, however, would like to offer you another type of Advent calendar: The Gospel of Luke. There are 24 chapters in the book of Luke, thus you can read one chapter a day, beginning today and ending on Christmas Eve. I can't think of a better way to prepare to the birth of our Savior than to read about events of His life beginning with The Infancy Narrative all the way through the Life of Jesus to The Resurrection Narrative. In 24 days, you will have learned about the Life and Death of Jesus and why Christmas is the essential event to lead to our Salvation.

In the first chapter of Luke you will read about the announcement of the Birth of John the Baptist, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary in the Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus, Mary visits Elizabeth when the infant in Elizabeth's womb (John) leapt for joy at Mary's greeting, the Canticle of Mary, the Birth of John the Baptist, and the Canticle of Zechariah. All these wonderful events happen in the first chapter; or Day 1 of your Advent calendar.

Please join me this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas by reading about His Life through the Gospel of Luke. Let us pray,

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Mary Carlson

# ST. MARY'S / ASSUMPTION'S NEWSLETTER, December 1, 2019 PARTNER PARISH NEWS

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: Partnered Parish Christmas Party this year will be held at Assumption Parish Social Hall on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. A Brunch will be served this year by Assumption Parish. Please sign-up on the sheets that will be posted at the entrances of the churches by the weekend of November 30/December 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there!!

**FRIDAY IS THE FIRST FRIDAY IN DECEMBER.** Anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion and is not already on the list, please call the office at 653-8586.

<u>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</u> - This celebration is transferred to Monday, December 9th (usually Dec.8th, but this year superseded by 2nd Sunday (Advent). This celebration is not a holy day of obligation this year. It is also the parish feast day for St. Mary's Parish. All are welcome to come and celebrate at the 8 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's.

<u>ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE</u> - The partner parish Advent Penance Service will be at **Assumption Parish** on Monday, Dec. 16th, at 7 P.M. Local clergy will be available to hear your confession.

<u>CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE</u> - same as last year - Christmas Eve - 4:30 P.M. @St. Mary's; 6:30 <u>P.M.@Assumption</u>; Christmas Day - 8:30 <u>A.M.@Assumption</u>; 10:30 <u>A.M.@St.Mary's</u>

<u>DEACON DAN</u> has informed me that he will need more rest to recover from his blood clots. For the foreseeable future, he will be serving only at 10:30 Mass on Sunday morning. This is the Mass that I need the most help with setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Deacon Dan will preach once a month. When he preaches, he will preach all the Masses. When he preaches on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, 8:30, he will be present to greet the people, preach the homily, and do the intercessions. He will then depart. Please keep Deacon Dan in your prayers as he continues to recover. Fr. Barron

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: The Catholic Services Appeal runs from April to December each year. *If you have made a pledge and have not paid it in full, please do so by the end of 2019.* We have collected pledge money in excess of our goal at St. Mary's Parish. The goal is \$20,414. Every dollar you give to the CSA will stay here in the parish, and unlike increased offertory, increased CSA gifts will not raise our annual assessments. **We have not** gotten enough pledges from Assumption Parish to cover our CSA goal, which is \$19,323. We need to collect another \$3,000 in CSA pledge money in order to pay this assessment, or we will need to make up the difference out of our savings account. Thank you for your financial support of your parish.

RESULTS OF THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: You will remember our parish financial stewardship program from September. I am pleased to share the results of the commitment drive. St. Mary's Parish - 53% of parishioners who gave to the Sunday offertory last year decided to make a commitment for this upcoming year. This represents 92 families. Their commitments for this year are an increase of 18% over their past year's offertory gifts, for an increase of \$15,260.00 from previous donations. Assumption Parish - 51% of parishioners who gave to the Sunday offertory last year decided to make a commitment for this upcoming year. This represents 67 families. Their commitments for this year are an increase of 30% over this past year's offertory gifts, for an increase of \$17,979.00 from previous donations. Additionally, new commitments from persons unregistered with either parish totaled \$3,800. Thus far, both parish offertories have risen 8% in the past 8 weeks combined. A brochure with the results will be mailed to all parishioners. Thank you for your generosity! Fr. Bill Barron

#### ST. MARY'S NEWS

FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR are in memory of Tom Moslak by Mary Beth & Tom Stojek.

**ROSARY & ALTAR SOCIETY** will have their Christmas party on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. in our Social Hall.

**THANK YOU** to the Knights of Columbus for providing the Advent booklets for our parish!

TREASURES FOR CHILDREN: The tags are all taken, amazing!!! God bless you all! Please bring the gifts, not wrapped, with the tag, to the church at any of the weekend Masses no later than Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ASSUMPTION'S NEWS**

<u>FLOWERS MEMORIALS</u> – In your packet of contribution envelopes you will find an envelope designated for Christmas Flowers . Please use this envelope for your Christmas Flowers. Please use this envelope for your Christmas remembrances of Deceased Loved Ones by writing their names on the envelope and dropping it in the collection basket at any weekend Mass now through December 15<sup>th</sup> . Your remembrances of your Loved Ones will be used as an insert in the bulletin for the weekend of December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<u>CAROLING IN THE PARK</u> – Community Caroling will take at Sykesville Stahl Park beginning at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

<u>OPLATKI</u> – Oplatki will be distributed the weekend of December 14/15<sup>th</sup>. Oplatki prayer and 4 wafers will be for you to celebrate the beauty of Christmas in one of its most beautiful forms.