

Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church

200 Grace Street McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Visit our website: htpncc.org

Mass Intentions

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

8:00 AM **Anna Russo**

Remembered by Sue and Dan Malerbo

10:00 AM **Florence Claybaugh** (Birthday)

Remembered by Family

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

9:00 AM Lorraine Jeffrey (Anniversary)

Remembered the Ruane Family

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Gloria Hall

Remembered by Family



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT The Third Sunday of Advent offers us more of the promise. The words used by the prophet Isaiah to describe God's vindication are the ones Jesus points to as describing his own mission: "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God."

This third week of Advent, begins with *Gaudete* (rejoice!) Sunday. Our daily prayer continues to allow us to become much more concrete about naming our desires and preparing the way for the Lord. We begin this week with joy, knowing that our celebration of all the ways our Lord comes to us is getting nearer.

These very busy days can still be a time for us to focus our desires. We can ask God to remind us again that what we are doing in our daily lives is touched by the sacred because God is present in even the most mundane tasks.

"Lord, let me place my trust in you. I get so independent and think I need to fix everything myself. Let me remember not to be afraid of so much and to ask you for the healing that my heart needs so badly. Give me the patience this week to deal with the relationships in my life that need mending and the forgiveness that I can give others and that I need so badly myself. Be with me through the darkness so that I can see the light that you bring to us and the joy with which you want to fill our hearts."

We are moving toward the end of our Advent journey. Even if we don't feel like we have "started" on Advent yet, we can begin today. We are being invited: "Do not be afraid!"

CHRISTMAS OPLETEK The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ! The babe Jesus in a manger attended to by the Blessed Virgin Mary, both watched by the Protector of the Holy Family, St. Joseph. The shepherds from the hillsides, responding to the Angelic Hosts. Wise Men from the East Worship the Holy Child. Beginning millennia ago in Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania the Christmas eve ritual continues wherever the blessed Opletok, the Christmas wafer is shared. The ancient ritual unites the past with the present, heaven and earth. Please take some blessed Christmas Wafer home today to share with friends and family this Christmas eve as you express gratitude for their presence and ask God's blessing on them in the new year.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE The season of Advent is short this year due to December 25th falling on a Monday. This makes December 24th both the Fourth SUNDAY of Advent and Christmas Eve. In order to accommodate a very short turnaround time between the seasons. Our parish will celebrate ONLY one mass at 9:00 AM on Sunday December 24. We will then decorate the church for Christmas and celebrate our Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 PM. We will also have one mass at 10:00 AM On Monday, Christmas day at 10:00 AM. Please help get this schedule out to the community as you invite friends and family to join us in prayerfully celebrating this very special time of year.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR Mass intentions are available for Sundays and other Holy Days throughout the year. Often the intention is for all of the living and deceased members of our Parish community. The Mass intention could also be offered in thanksgiving for a special blessing received, anniversary or birthday, a special prayer request for healing or in honor and remembrance of someone who has passed away. If you would like to schedule a Mass intention for 2024 please schedule with Fr. Mike.

SUPER BOWL LVIII POOL The Super Bowl this year is on Sunday February 11, 2024 and our parish will help to make the game more interesting (Since the Steelers are not positioned to participate except as spectators) with a Bloch Pool. The blocks will be \$10 each and the payouts will be \$100 for the 1st and 3rd quarters, \$200 for half-time and \$500 for the final score. The parish will get \$100 for the purchase of the AED. Please see Mike after mass to get your blocks! Good luck to all!

2023 - 2024 PITTSBURGH STEELERS SEASON FOOTBALL POOL Holy Trinity Steelers football pool is complete! Good Luck to all those who are participating over the next 5 weeks of the regular season games. Blocks have been assigned and all the numbers have been picked for the entire season. All participants will have the same block for the entire season but your numbers are different each week. Each game will pay out \$25 for half and \$75 for the final. The December 23rd game will pay out \$100 for the first and third quarters, \$200 for the half and \$300 for the final score.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING All of the youth of our parish are invited to participate in learning more about the faith in our School of Christian Living on Sunday mornings. All students that are participating, please arrive at 9am. Pre-School/Kindergarten class will begin at 9:30am and all other classes will begin at 9am. There will be a Communion and Confirmation class so if your child will be receiving either of those Sacraments, please plan on attending. If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Mary Nosal at mary.l.nosal@gmail.com or 412-817-0438. All are welcome!



BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT HOLY HOUR As a Eucharistic people, adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament focuses our attention on the love of God that permeates our lives and our world. On Saturday, January 6, our parish will host a Holy Hour beginning at 10:00 AM. January will be our fourth of five first Saturdays of the month to pray and offer sacrifices for the conversion of Russia and peace in Ukraine, Israel and the Middle East. Please plan to participate in these next five months of prayer as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. All are welcome!

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You. Most holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING The Parish Committee will meet after the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2023

2023 SUPPORT FOR HOLY TRINITY Thanks to all who generously support Holy Trinity parish. On Sunday December 10th the parish received \$1,755 in our Sunday collection. In addition, the parish received \$190 for the PNCC Fund, \$261 for HELP, \$72 for Christmas Flowers, \$40 for the Seminary, AED donation of \$25, AARP Hall rental \$100 and \$67 for Mission and miscellaneous cash was \$210 The total deposit was \$2,880. The Enhancement Fund received \$708. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! If you would like to have a set of envelopes for your contributions please see Paulette or Fr. Mike.

PRAY FOR THE SICK Please pray for all those who are infirmed or home bound. In a special way we pray for Adam, Alan, Beverly, Bobbi, and Carol K., Dolores, Jeanne, Jim, Joann, Kathy, Kimi, Knox, Linda, Nick, Melinda and Shelby Lorraine.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER *In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen. Julian of Norwich*

