

Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church

200 Grace Street McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Visit our website: htpncc.org

Mass Intentions

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

Christmas Da, December 25, 2023

10:00 AM **Members of Holy Trinity Parish**

Humble Shepherds, December 31, 2023

8:00 AM **John Funaiock**

Remembered by Sue and Dan Malerbo

10:00 AM **Vocations**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT This Sunday, we read Luke's Gospel of the Annunciation, the moment when a troubled Mary is told she has found favor with God and she will conceive and bear a son. She questions: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" Then declaring herself the handmaiden of the Lord, she accepts: "May it be done to me according to your word."

There is a very quick transition after Sunday. Christmas is upon us. It can be difficult to stay focused on Christmas eve and Christmas day - even though the mystery before us is so powerful. The nativity stories can remind us of how he comes, in poverty, in rejection, into the lowest of places, so that we will believe now, this year, that he can and desires to come into my place, my heart, my life. It is a time of deep gratitude, no matter how busy we are with many things.

The feasts associated with Christmas time take us into parts of Jesus' public life, almost completely passing over the hidden life years. The disciples are finding the empty tomb. It helps to recognize this and let ourselves enter this part of the mystery of the Incarnation. We are living in the flesh each day of our lives. He came to enter this life and be with us in it. After Christmas, we have these few days to let the blessings of Christmas settle in. Each one of us can begin our post-Christmas time by staying in touch with ourselves in the flesh - as people touched by Jesus' coming. We can turn to our Lord throughout each day and have real conversations with our Savior.

Thank you so much, Lord, for becoming flesh for me. And, thank you for being with me now, in the midst of each day's joys and sorrows. I ask you to increase my trust in you, my desire for closeness with you and my commitment to turn to you all day long. Continue to be with me when I have to make difficult decisions, when I need extra patience and care when in challenging situations. Continue to let my heart experience the joy of Christmas all week as I see signs of your presence with me.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE Tonight is Christmas Eve and Mass will begin at 4:00 PM The choir will begin singing carols and hymns shortly after 3:30. On December 25 we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with one Mass at 10:00 AM. We invite friends and family to join us in prayerfully celebrating this very special time of year. We welcome those who plan to participate virtually and ask that you Follow Holy Trinity Parish on Facebook and share the link with others who may appreciate the opportunity to join in worship and prayer as we experience the closeness of God.

DONATION OF THE AED We celebrate the gift of God the Father of his Son to all of creation, and we are grateful. Our parish is also extremely grateful for the generous donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for our parish. Mike and Nicole Stepek graciously worked with the Borough of McKees Rocks and the Damar Hamlin Foundation to secure this gift for the parish. We are grateful for Mike and Nicole for bringing this gift to us and for the generosity of McKees Rocks Borough and the Damar Hamlin Foundation. We will soon be conducting training on the use of this device and general CPR. All members of the parish will be informed once the training is scheduled and are invited to participate.

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.

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 2 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 \$1,024 in our Sunday collection. In addition, the parish received \$111 for the PNCC Fund, \$45 for HELP, \$20 for Christmas Flowers, \$30 for the Seminary, Oplatki donation of \$98, \$20 for Mission and miscellaneous cash was \$230 and All Souls \$10 The total deposit was \$1,598.. The Enhancement Fund received \$25. 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*

