

Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church

200 Grace Street McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Visit our website: htpncc.org

Mass Intentions

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023

8:00 AM **Herbie Hall**

Remembered by Family

10:00 AM **In Thanksgiving**

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

8:00 AM Lottie Miller (Anniversary)

Remembered by Janice and Bob

10:00 **Members of Holy Trinity**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Today is the beginning of a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah as the people repent before God: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" Mark's gospel offers the image of the master who leaves his servants in charge while he is away. Be watchful! Be alert!

Despite all of the distractions at this time of year, we really can focus on Advent during these weeks. We seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of social events or wrestle with budgets and shopping, but the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time - just a few minutes each day - to reflect on how much God promises us.

We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Savior. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord." And, who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up the wounds of his people."

As we let these deep realities of our daily, busy lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, which we can say in the smallest moments of our busiest days. "Come, Lord." "Come and save me." "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life." "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me."

Advent
*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving.

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?" (Ps. 27)*

LESSONS AND CAROLS To deepen the Advent experience and prepare for the celebration of Christmas please consider participating in Nine Lessons and Carols. This will be conducted by our very own Dr. Neil Stahurski. This is an ancient service that will take place at 3:00 PM on Sunday December 10 at the Church of the Assumption on Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue. This is a wonderful treat for all ages. It is free and open to all. Please plan to participate.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE The season of Advent is as 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.

GETTING TO KNOW THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH If you are interested in learning more about the PNCC and our Founder Bishop Francis Hodur join in a session on Monday, December 11 from 6 to 7 PM in the social hall. Bring your questions and an open heart to learn more about our history and our mission. All are welcome to join in this discussion.

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!

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.

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.



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 November 26th the parish received \$564 in our Sunday collection. In addition, the parish received \$154 for the PNCC Fund, \$3 for Christmas Flowers and \$10 for the purchase of an AED for church and miscellaneous cash was \$236. The total deposit was \$967. The Enhancement Fund received \$20. 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*

