

Rev. Joseph J. Evanko  
570-868-5855  
**Religious Education**  
**December News**

Religious Education Coordinator:  
Stacey Panas  
570-332-3801

**Class Schedule** - Reminder: We will not have classes on Sundays, December 24 or 31, 2023.  
Merry Christmas and Happy Blessed New Year!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM:** Miss Stacey will be contacting families who have signed up to participate in the Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00PM. All participants will need to arrive at 3:00PM. Please call Stacey at the number above if you have any questions.

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception,  
December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

The faithful must fulfill this obligation by attending Mass for the Holy Day on Thursday vigil or Friday.  
Please see this week's Liturgy Schedule for Mass times at Saint Mary and Saint Jude.

**Mass Attendance Record**

All students in second, seventh, and eighth grades need to record their Mass attendance. Students are asked to sign the sheet on the clip board in front of the cry room. If you attend Mass at another church please bring their bulletin to your next class. The priest does not have to sign the bulletin.

**Gertrude Hawk**

Gertrude Hawk candy will be ready for pick-up next weekend. Boxes will be in the social hall on the bar. Please check your boxes and let us as soon as possible if there is a problem with your order. Thank you to everyone who ordered candy. All proceeds directly benefit our Religious Education Program.

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**We Need You!**

**We need Altar Servers!** Currently we only have 4 Altar Servers! Students in third grade and older are invited to "Serve at the Table of the Lord." Commitment is usually once per month. Due to the shortage of servers our servers are serving twice a month. You choose the Saturday or Sunday schedule. Holidays are by sign-up. Please call the parish office to be added to the class list or return the slip below.



My Child \_\_\_\_\_ would like to become an Altar Server.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose the schedule you prefer:          Saturday\_\_\_\_          Sunday\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING PARISH AND CLASS ACTIVITES

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: Bring your Baby Jesus to Mass with You!** All parishioners are invited to bring the baby Jesus from their nativity sets to Mass the weekend of December 16 & 17, to be blessed by Father. Pope John Paul II began the tradition of Babinelli Sunday held on the third Sunday of Advent. Pope Francis continues this tradition at Saint Peters Square in Rome.

**Children's Coat Distribution:** Saint Mary's Knights of Columbus have purchased warm, winter coats for any child who may need one. Coats are in the social hall on the bar. They will be there this weekend and remain there through the new year. Please take what you need and for anyone else who you know that could use a warm coat. Sizes range from 2T – 18 Youth.

**Coat Drive:** American Legion Post 781 Junior Auxiliary will be collecting women's, men's, and Children's coats to be distributed to local shelters. Your generosity is so much appreciated. Coats may be placed in the box at the main entrance of the Church.

**CHRISTMAS ROLLS:** The Altar & Rosary Society is selling Christmas Rolls homemade by Mom & Pop's Pierogi. Prepaid orders are due by Sunday, December 10. To order use the slip below, or call Rita 570-678-7520. If there is no answer please leave a message with your name, phone number, and your order. Rolls can be picked up on Thursday, December 21, after 1PM, in the meeting room.

**Wafer Dinner:** Saint Theresa's Guild invites all parishioners to their Annual Wafer Dinner on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in front of the Angel Room. This is a covered dish dinner. All attendees are asked to bring an item to share. The Guild provides appetizers and beverages. The reservation deadline is this Sunday, December 3.

**Advent Reconciliation Opportunities:** We will have our regularly scheduled Reconciliation times Monday evening 5:30 to 7:00 at St. Jude's on December 4 and 11. To provide you with many options of priests, Fr. Joe and Fr. Philbert will be with all the priests of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery on Monday, December 18, beginning at 5:00PM in St. Nicholas Church, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre. Fr. Joe and Fr. Philbert will also be available at St. Mary's in Dorrance on Tuesday, December 19 from 6:00 – 7:00PM. Come and experience the healing grace of forgiveness in preparation for Christmas.

**Church Decorating:** We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 17, at 11AM. Help is needed. There are jobs for all ages and abilities. This would be considered a Service Project for our Confirmation Candidates.

**Pierogi Sale:** There are frozen potato and cheese pierogi still available. The cost is \$15 per dozen. They are sold in the social hall after Masses or from the Parish Office.

**The 2024 Yearly Calendar Tickets** are on sale. They make great Christmas presents. Cost is \$30. The cash prizes range from \$35-\$200. Stop in or call the office for yours. If all parishioners purchased one and sold one, we would sell out!

**Nite @ Races:** Our parish will hold our Annual Nite @ Races on Saturday, February 24, at 6:00 PM, in the social hall. Mark your calendars now and watch the bulletin for a committee meeting in January. This is a fun filled night out for adults. Grab some friends and reserve a table! Help is always needed and greatly appreciated!