

Mon. 7am **Frank Kaminski** by Gerald Kozak Family  
 Tues. 7am **Mary Berrini (A)** by Family  
**Wed. 5pm Christmas Eve – Special Intention**  
 9pm **Christmas Mass Intentions**  
**Thurs 10am Merry Christmas – Special Intention**  
 Fri. 7am **Christmas Mass Intentions**  
 Sat. 4pm **Christmas Mass Intentions**  
 Sun. 8am **Christmas Mass Intentions**  
 11am **Parishioners**

**In the case of inclement weather conditions,**

If Wilkes-Barre Area is *cancelled*,  
 there will be no Mass;

if there is a *delayed*, Mass will be at 12:10pm.

### PASTOR'S

Luke 1:26-38

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. "Mary chose to cooperate with God. She didn't completely understand how his plan was going to unfold. She couldn't have known exactly what it all meant for her future. But she chose to offer herself to God's service nonetheless. And thanks to that generosity, the first Christmas happened nine months later. Mary gives us a powerful example of saying yes to God. For her, the divine plan was revealed through the visit of the Angel Gabriel. For us, it is usually revealed in less dramatic ways. We hear God's voice through the readings at Mass, through the homily, through the wise counsel of a trusted friend, through a spiritual book, or just in the prayerful silence of our own hearts. Regardless of how God speaks to us, we are in a similar situation to Mary's. We are faced with the choice either to accept God's will in our lives, saying yes as Mary did, or else to say no and choose a different path. It may be tempting to avoid the challenge of surrendering our plans to God. But just look what happened when Mary decided to let God lead: the greatest miracle in all of history! And God wants to work miracles through us too. Every time we cooperate with his will, he transforms us into more loving, more generous people.

*In Memory of*  
**The Sanctuary Lamp**  
*Joseph & Leona Wincek*

**Votive by the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*Ronald Milgate*

#### December 14, 2014

Contributions	\$7,076
Dues	\$635
Repairs	\$1,243
Charity	\$21
Care of Priest	\$92
Christmas Flowers	\$274
Immaculate Conception	\$59
Christmas	\$472
Christmas Novena	\$834
Fuel	\$10
Religious	\$1,979

### Questions of the Week

#### Luke 1:26-38

How well have you prepared yourself during Advent for the upcoming birth of Jesus?

#### 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16:

Why do you think God prevented King David from honoring him?

#### Romans 16:25-27:

What do you learn about *God* from Paul's hymn of praise?

<b>Pastor</b> Rev. John Boyle	<b>Pastor Emeritus</b> Rev. Joseph Greskiewicz
<b>Coordinator of Religious Education</b> Sande Holena	
<b>Eucharistic Minister/Lectors</b> David Loiacono	<b>Ushers</b> Paul Muczynski
<b>Youth Group</b> Maryann and Michael Quinn	<b>Altar Servers</b> Gloria Flynn
<b>Food Pantry</b> Pauline Makowski	<b>Security</b> Shiloh & Kolbe Inc.



### Memorial Donations

The following donations and memorials have recently been given to our Parish:

#### Defibrillator

\$50 Thomas & Carol Caffrey

#### SS. Peter and Paul Food Pantry

- \$855 Anonymous
- \$250 Plains Senior Citizens
- \$500 Eli and Joan Phillips
- \$500 Robert & Joanna Gover
- \$200 Eli Phillips Jr.
- \$50 Lavix
- \$25 Geraldine Evanko and Linda Mrak
- \$50 Leo E. Solomon Plains Memorial  
Junior High School
- \$10 Stella Cappellini
- \$150 in Memory of Anthony Wilk  
by Wife and Family
- \$50 in Memory of Herman Barbacci  
by Victor and Norma Nardone
- \$25 in Memory of Theresa Holub  
by Edward Holub

We thank all who have made memorial and free-will donations. May God bless you for your generosity. We will keep your intentions and love ones in our prayers.

#### Christmas Greetings

Please make a special effort to keep Christ in Christmas this year. The proper salutation is: **Merry Christmas** – English speaking Europeans often say: “Happy Christmas” – either are correct and acceptable. However, if we join the “Politically Correct” and merely wish each other “Happy Holidays”, you are denying Christ has any role to play in this great Feast – without which our Savior would not have been born. All too often, we try to not insult others for fear they don’t celebrate “our” Feasts. We have become complacent in removing any mention of Christ in our dealings with others. **Please...Please...Please...Keep Christ in Christmas!**

### Parish Activities

December 21 – December 28

#### Sun. Religious Education Classes 9:30am

Mon. Quilting	5:00pm
Rosary	6:30pm
Faith Sharing	7pm

Tues. Quilting 9am – Noon

*Merry Christmas*

#### Parish 5 Year Plan

We, you Parish Council are honored to be undertaking a 5 year plan for SS Peter and Paul Church involving Word, Worship, Service and Community of our church. We will simply organize the data for the Parish, it is our parish family who will speak as to what this plan will entail. We are looking forward to hearing from everyone in the parish; you concerns, desires and needs. Please watch the bulletin in the New Year for an exciting opportunity to share what’s on your mind in making SS Peter and Paul Parish an even more special place to worship, celebrate and grow together as a family. Together we will create a viable plan for our parish.

***Merry Christmas and Have a Blessed New Year  
Your Parish Council***

#### Christmas Greetings

Please remember to send Christmas Greetings to our Pastor Emeritus, Fr. Joseph Greskiewicz. The mailing address for Fr. Joe is: *Rev. Joseph Greskiewicz – 1600 Green Ridge St. Dunmore, PA 18509-2197.* I am confident he will appreciate Christmas Greetings from you.

**The Parish Office and Parish Center will be closed from Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> until Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## Fr. John Albosta

Fr. John will observe his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Tuesday of this week, (December 16). I have asked Fr. John to come and allow us to celebrate this great occasion with him. As you know, Fr. John was Senior Priest assigned to SS. Peter & Paul for approximately 3 years prior to his retirement in January of 2014. I have asked both the Women's Society and the Holy Name Society to prepare a modest reception for Fr. John on January 11, 2015. Anyone interested in making their favorite dish or desert please contact Joann Nixon at 570-823-8968 or Mary Jo Marek at 570-825-6969.

On that day, Fr. John will celebrate the 11:00 A.M. Mass and will join us in the School Hall for the reception. Please make time to join us and offer Fr. John our prayers and well wishes for his Golden Anniversary of Priesthood.

For those who would like to send Fr. John greetings for Christmas, his address is:

*Fr. John Albosta 821 S. Hanover St., Nanticoke, PA 18634.*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6  
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

## CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.

—Washington Irving

## Bulletin Briefs

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.’”  
- Luke 1:41-42

## Preparation for Christmas

While most of us decorate and clean and bake for the Christmas Season, please consider helping YOUR parish at Christmas time as well. We depend on your generosity at Christmas to enable us to pay some of our Diocesan Assessments. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

## Hospital Visits

I am more than willing to visit our parishioners in hospitals and/or extended care facilities. However, I can only visit those who have notified the Parish Office that they or their relatives are in a particular health care facility. All too often, any lists that the hospital provides are not complete. Hence, you may be wanting a visit, but I can only visit if I know where you are. Please let me know if you or a loved one is ill and desires a Pastoral Visit or to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or the Final Apostolic Blessing for those near death.

## Marriage Moments

It’s almost here -0 Christmas of course. It’s easy to feel pretty frantic and busy at this time of year. We want to get a nice gift for our spouse, the kids, whoever, decorate, etc. Take some time out today. It needn’t be long; just a pause. Look at each other and be thankful.

## To All the Women of the Parish

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

You are invited to attend the Epiphany Party that will be held at Vanderlyn’s Restaurant in Kingston on Sunday, January 4, 2015, at 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Anyone interested in attending may call Joann Melman at 570-824-6735 or Martha Yanaitis at 570-829-2870. Plan to spend an afternoon with good food, entertainment and camaraderie with the Women of SS Peter and Paul Parish. Price is \$40 which includes your choice of dinner. Deadline is December 20, 2014.

### **Diocesan Annual Appeal**

*Thank you to those who have already made the commitment to join in "Transforming Lives Together."*

On behalf of all who will benefit from your gifts, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera extends his sincere gratitude to everyone who has already made a pledge to the 2014 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Each gift truly matters. If you have not yet made your gift, and need a pledge envelope, envelopes will be distributed at Masses today. Packets are also available by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250, or on-line at [www.DiocesefofScranton.org](http://www.DiocesefofScranton.org). Our Parish Goal is \$74,000. Amount Pledged as of Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> is \$53,510.

### **Travel Opportunity**

Fr. B is sponsoring a trip to CANYON COUNTRY - featuring Arizona & Utah. The trip is 9 days, 12 meals (7 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners). The trip also will stop in Las Vegas for 2 nights. Date of the trip is: September 24, 2015 – October 2, 2015. Price – based on double occupancy is \$ 2929 – book now and save \$100 per person. For further information, please call the Parish Office and/or Fr. B.

### **Parenting Pointers**

The Christmas Vigil uses the genealogy of Jesus as the Gospel (Matthew 1:1-25). Do your children know their heritage back several generations? Talk with them about their relatives dead and alive and their ethnic roots. Perhaps go to a map and help them visualize the way they came to the place you now call home.

*Susan Vogt*



**Be a Voice for the Unborn – March for Life**  
January 22, 2015 in Washington DC. Call St. Joseph Mareello Parish for more details (570-654-6902)

**The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Fatima Parish** at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wilkes-Barre will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, January 4 at 3pm in the Church. The choirs and instrumentalists will perform Christmas Carol arrangements along with singing by all in attendance. This event is free and all are welcome to attend. For more information contact [olfstmarys@aol.com](mailto:olfstmarys@aol.com) or call 570-823-4168.

### *Catholic Christmas Prayer*

*Lord, in this holy season  
of prayer and song and laughter,  
we praise you for the great wonders  
you have sent us:  
for shining star and angel's song,  
for infant's cry in lowly manger.  
We praise you for the Word  
made flesh in a little Child.  
We behold his glory,  
and are bathed in its radiance.*

*Be with us as we sing  
the ironies of Christmas,  
the incomprehensible comprehended,  
the poetry made hard fact,  
the helpless Babe  
who cracks the world asunder.  
We kneel before you shepherds,  
innkeepers, wise men.  
Help us to rise bigger than we are.  
Amen.*

*Merry Christmas  
and a  
Blessed New Year!!!*