

# December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday:

4:00pm - Saints Peter & Paul

### Sunday:

7:30am - Saints Peter & Paul

10:30am - Saints Peter & Paul

### Eucharistic Adoration:

First Friday of Every Month 1:00pm - 3:00pm

### Confession:

Saturday 3:00pm - 3:30pm

## CONTACT US

13 Hudson Road

Plains, PA 18705-2015

Phone: 570-825-6663

Fax: 570-823-4556

Email: [parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

[www.sspeterandpaulplains.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulplains.com)

### Office Hours:

Monday: 8am—4pm

Tuesday: 8am—4pm

Wednesday: 8am—2pm

Thursday: 8am—4pm

Friday: 8am—Noon

\*Closed daily Noon—12:30pm\*

Reverend John C. Lambert M.S.W.

Pastor

Email: [pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

Deacon Don Crane

Permanent Deacon



13 Hudson Road,  
Plains, PA 18705-2015



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# STEWARDSHIP

## Mass Schedule

Saints Peter and Paul

Tuesday: 12:15pm

Wednesday: 12:15pm

Thursday: 12:15pm

Friday: 12:15pm

Saturday: 4:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am & 10:30 am

We Live Stream weekend Mass on the parish website:  
[www.sspeterandpaulplains.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulplains.com)  
as well as on the parish Facebook page.

**Confessions** will be heard on the  
following Mondays during Advent.  
**December 4th, 11th, and 18th**  
from 5-7pm.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd- 4:00pm

Sunday, December 24th-7:30 & 10:30am

**Must attend one of these Masses to fulfill  
your Sunday obligation as well as one of  
the following Christmas Masses.**

Christmas Eve-Sunday,  
December 24th- 4:00 & 9:00pm

Christmas Day-Monday,  
December 25th- 10:30am

## Sunday Stewards

Saturday, Nov 25 - 4:00pm:

223 people attended

132 envelopes received

Offering: \$2,287.00

Sunday, Nov 26 - 7:30am:

117 people attended

66 envelopes received

Offering \$1,179.00

Sunday, Nov 26 - 10:30am:

214 people attended

106 envelopes received

Offering: \$1,800.00

*Thank You for your Generosity.*

***The Second Collection  
this weekend will be for  
Care and Education of Priests***



# WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

### MASSES THIS WEEKEND

Saturday	Dec. 02	4:00pm	<b>Gene Bolis</b> by Barb Montante, Rose Altavilla, & Mary Ann Bolis <b>Andrew Wanat</b> by Wife Joan & Family
Sunday	Dec. 03	7:30am 10:30am	<b>Ann Marie Merlie</b> by Husband <b>John Shea</b> by Parents

### DAILY MASSES

Tuesday	Dec. 05	12:15pm	<b>John Shea</b> by Friends
Wednesday	Dec. 06	12:15pm	<b>Ann Berecin</b> by Dorath & Joe Giuffre
Thursday	Dec. 07	12:15pm	<b>Ronald Phillips</b> by Wife & Family
Friday	<b>Dec. 08</b>	<b>12:15pm</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>The Immaculate Conception of</b> <b>The Blessed Virgin Mary</b>

### NEXT WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	Dec.09	4:00pm	<b>Vincent Miskewicz</b> by Wife, Eleanor
Sunday	Dec. 10	7:30am 10:30am	<b>Anso &amp; Marie Dominick</b> by Daughters <b>Thomas Stanski</b> by Parents



### SANCTUARY CANDLE

Paul O. Binker, Jr.

### LADY OF THE LOURDES

Hilda Kalinowski

### HOLY FAMILY

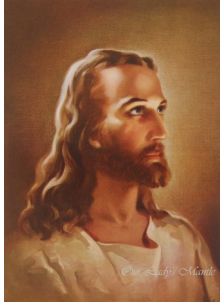
Bruce & Gino Marchetti



# The Sunday Good News

Church of Saints Peter & Paul

December 3, 2023



*Heavenly  
Father,  
inspire us to  
follow in the  
steps of John the  
Baptist and  
prepare for the  
coming of your  
Son.  
Help us to look  
honestly into our  
hearts and see  
our faults.  
Give us the  
strength we need  
to overcome our  
weaknesses and  
help us to stay  
true to your  
commandments.  
We ask this  
through Christ,  
our Lord.  
Amen*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7

In this straightforward psalm, the people acknowledge their sinful ways, yet plead that their Creator might reveal himself to them. They ask God to remember, not their sins, but that “We are all the work of your hands.”

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul explains to the Corinthians that they are specially favored by God who has sent his only Son to them. He reminds us all that it was through God’s grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

### Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Just as a servant watching over the master’s house does not know when he will return, we do not know the hour of the Second Coming. Mark reminds us of the warning from Jesus to always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour.

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY *by Rev. William J. Reilly*

### First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

**“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him... Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands.”**

The prophet Isaiah, one of the principal figures for advent, speaks for us, longing for the needed Messiah, not His first coming, but for today. Can I not see that our world needing His presence, desperate to make things better? The God who made us, the potter, needs to refashion us in His image as we live the days of this holy season. He will remake us in His image, by our prayer for all around us, beginning with His reworking who we are and what He wants us to become. ‘Come Lord Jesus.’



# WORD

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH –DECEMBER

*Each month, a Ministry of the parish is highlighted.  
For December we will focus on Gifts*

Everyone seems so busy in December! There are decorations that are placed both inside and outside, Christmas trees decorated, traditional and non-traditional foods prepared, and of course gifts. The month of December is filled with the anticipation of both receiving and giving Christmas gifts. This is all wonderful and has created some happy memories for generations. But this December, let's also take time out to contemplate the Gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

As Christians, ministry is not a choice, but a call, a privilege, and a responsibility. Our gifts are very closely tied to this calling. The following is a quote from *Christifideles Laici*, from Pope Saint John Paul II, that "The Holy Spirit pours out gifts which make it possible for every Christian man and woman to assume different ministries and forms of service that complement one another and for the good of all". These gifts are sitting inside each one of us, waiting to be used to help the Church grow. Many are not aware of the gifts that they possess, and all of us need to spend time to deeply look into ourselves. Through prayer and discernment you will find them.

Enjoy this Advent and Christmas season! Meet with friends, share meals, send Christmas cards, and buy and receive Christmas presents. God intends for us to enjoy life! In this spirit, also spend good, quality time in prayerful consideration of the gifts you received at Baptism and how you can best use them.

Merry Christmas to all!

This cannot be said too many times – a Parish needs a vibrant community to survive. So take the opportunity in reflective silence and seriously consider being an active Lay Ministry participant. This will lead you to a life of deeper and strengthening faith.

## WEEKLY READINGS

### First Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7;  
1 Cor 1:3-9;  
Mk 13:33-37

#### Monday

Is 2:1-5;  
Mt 8:5-11

#### Tuesday

Is 11:1-10;  
Lk 10:21-24

#### Wednesday

Is 25:6-10a;  
Mt 15:29-37

#### Thursday

Is 26:1-6;  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

#### Friday

Gn 3:9-15, 20;  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38

#### Saturday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26;  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <b>Faith Formation</b> 9-10am	4 Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	5	6 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30pm	7 <b>Women's Society</b> 6:30- <b>Parish Dining Hall</b>	8 Treasures 10am-12pm	9
10 <b>Faith Formation</b> 9-10am	11 Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	12	13 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30pm	14 <b>Food Pantry Prep</b>	15 <b>Food Pantry</b> Treasures 10am-12pm	16
17 <b>Faith Formation</b> 9-10am	18 Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	19	20 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30pm	21	22 <b>Office Closed</b>	23
24	25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	26	27	28	29	30

## Save the Dates

**Night at the Races - March 16th**

**Purse Bingo - April 21st**

# SERVICE

## We are Called to Serve...

*"Do you understand what I just did for you?  
You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and fittingly  
enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your  
feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash  
each other's feet. What I just did was to give an  
example: as I have done, so you must do."*

*(John 12:2-15)*

### Loaves and Fishes

For the month of **December** we will collect **canned tuna, cereal and peanut butter.**

### Food Pantry

Anyone in the Plains, Miners Mills, and Parsons area in need of food can **contact Pauline at 570-472-1646 to register.** **Food is distributed to the community on the third Friday of every month.** **Non perishable** food donations are always accepted. Please place them in the basket in the vestibule of the Church.

### Treasures

We are now accepting clean, gently used **Winter clothing** for men, women, and children. Donations may be dropped off during business hours only.  
**Mondays 5pm-7pm & Fridays 10am-12 pm.**

### Prayer Shawls

can be given to anyone for many reasons! Comfort, illness, occasions, friendship & joy. If there is anyone that would like to receive a shawl or request one for someone, please contact the Parish Office at 570-825-6663 or call Mary Jo at 570-333-5041.

### Saints Peter & Paul Parish Ministries

Pauline Makowski, *Food Pantry*

Mary Jo Marek, *Prayer Shawl*

Laura Rudloff, *Treasures*

Kathy Grinaway, *Hospitality*

Claire Koshinski, *Women's Society of Saints Peter & Paul*

Sister Madonna, *Outreach to Homebound*

## Memorial Donations

**The following donations/memorials have recently been given to our parish to support: Food Pantry; Bernardine Hall; Parish Scholarships; and General donations.**

### Food Pantry

\$1,000	Plains Lions Club
\$50	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McGroarty
\$50	Evelyn Shedlock
\$160	Anonymous
\$14	Anonymous

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



Thank you to the Plains Lions  
Club for your donation of  
\$1,000.00 to our food pantry.



**The Giving Trees at Saints Peter and Paul** are being placed in the Church this weekend decorated with gift tags. *Anyone wishing to participate in this Christmas project* is asked to take a tag, purchase a gift for the person, wrap the present, **attaching the tag on the outside of the wrapped gift and *return it to the Church by December 10<sup>th</sup>***. The gifts will be distributed through our Food Pantry on December 15th. Anyone wishing to donate gloves, socks, scarves, hats etc.. (for children infant to 12) may drop them off at the Parish Office by December 10th.



### **Christmas Wafers/Oplatki**

Are now available after all Masses or at the Parish Office during office hours.

Donations are appreciated.

## *Women's Society*

The **Women's Society** invites all women of the parish, as well as their friends, neighbors, family and spouses, to a **post-Christmas party** (a time to relax after the holiday rush) at the **East Mountain Inn (formerly Holiday Inn off 115) on Sunday, January 7th, 2024 from 11:30am-3:00pm**. You do not need to be a member to attend. There will be a Brunch Buffet. Cost is \$30 per person. Make reservations by calling Claire Koshinski at 570-479-3671 or Sandy Toloczko at 570-823-5918. Reservations, with checks, payable to Women's Society of Saints Peter and Paul, are **due by December 23, 2023**. All are welcome!

# COMMUNITY

**A Christmas COOKIE WALK** will be held **Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the hall of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont.** Enjoy a free cup of coffee or hot chocolate while choosing from dozens of delicious homemade cookies available for \$10 a pound. Try your luck at winning a holiday theme basket or the 50/50 raffle just in time for Christmas! Please be aware that this will not be a nut free environment.

On **Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m.,** the parishes of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph Mareello in Pittston will present “**A Christmas Celebration**”, a fun, family-friendly Christmas organ concert with guest organist Greg Zelek, a graduate of The Juilliard School and principal organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin. The concert will be held at **St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 William Street in Pittston,** and will feature festive organ music and the singing of Christmas carols. Greg will be teaming up with St. John's parish organist, Mike Sowa, for a special arrangement during this concert and there might be another surprise selection as well! All children who attend the program will receive a special take-home treat. We hope you will take time out of your busy holiday schedules to join us for this program!

**The Catholic Choral Society will present an Advent – Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10th at 3 PM at Forty Fort United Methodist Church, 26 Yeager Avenue, Forty Fort, PA. Snow date is Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

Music Director is Ann Manganello; accompanist is Linda Houck and percussion is Monica Spishock.

The concert will also feature the Forty Fort UMC Church Choir directed by Mary Scheib.

The choral group will be presenting sacred Advent and Christmas music as well other Christmas selections.

The concert is open to the public free of charge; a free will offering opportunity will be available.

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

First Sunday of Advent | Mark 13:33-37

Year B

### BE AWARE & KEEP WATCH!

Always be ready for the day and hour when God comes again. No one knows when, not even Jesus or the Angels in Heaven.

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## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

### WEEK 1, evening lighting prayer

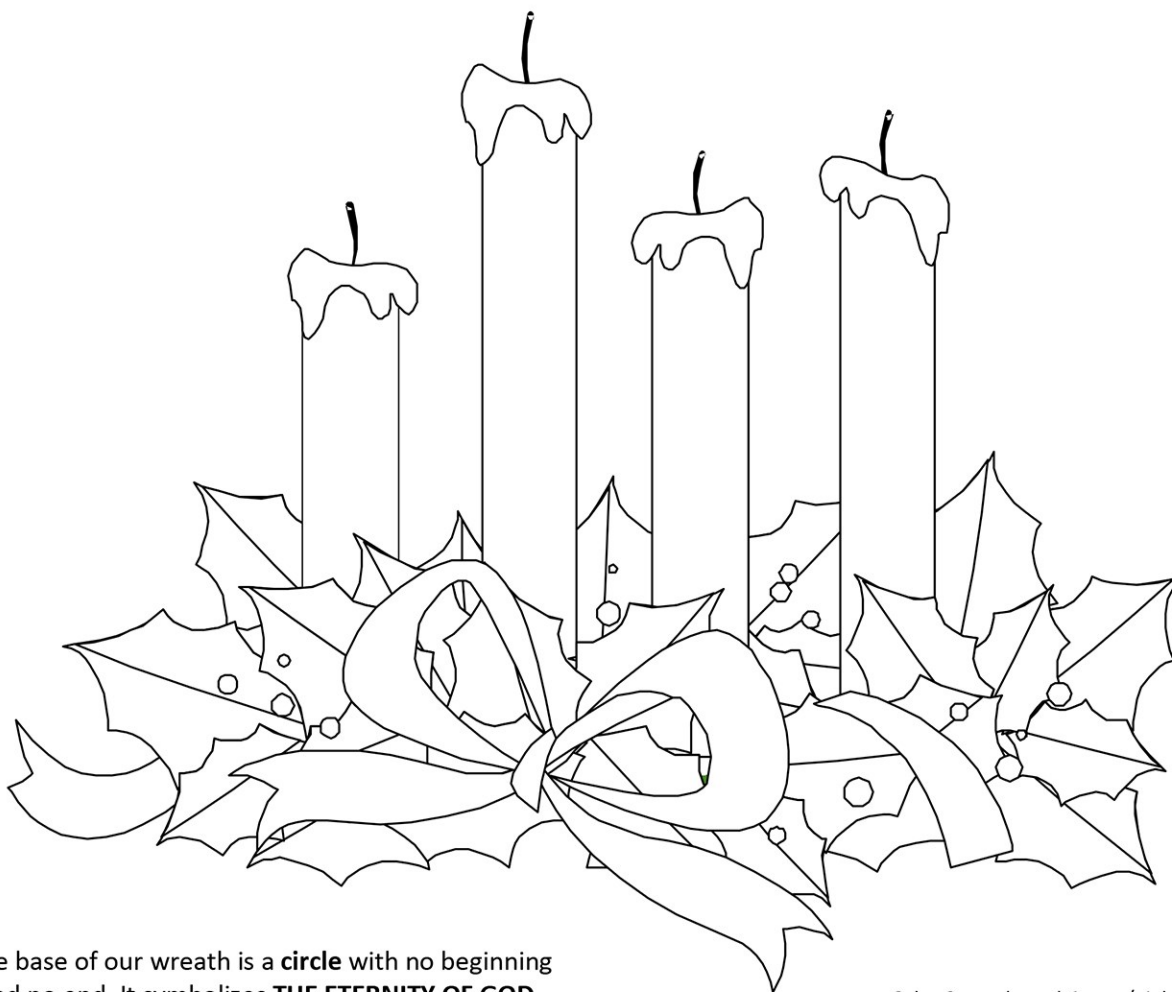
Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord, Amen". Youngest child lights 1 purple candle.

### BLESS THIS WREATH

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."



The base of our wreath is a **circle** with no beginning and no end. It symbolizes **THE ETERNITY OF GOD**.

We decorate the base with **EVERGREENS** which represent **CONTINUOUS LIFE**.

Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle.  
Draw a flame on 1 purple candle and  
color the holly leaves green.



# SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH STAFF

## **Pastor**

Rev. John C. Lambert

[pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Don Crane

## **Administrative Assistants**

Mary Ann Gottlieb

Mary Pilarcik

[parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

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## **Bernardine Hall Coordinator**

Amy Vissotski

[hallrental@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:hallrental@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Parish Cemeteries**

Mary Gregor

[cemeteries@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:cemeteries@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

Saints Peter & Paul	Saint Joseph
Sacred Heart (Plains)	Saint Francis
Sacred Heart (Dallas)	Saint Stanislaus

## **Music Ministry**

Scott Coates - Music Director

[music@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:music@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Maintenance**

Michael Lambert

Jim Cunningham

## **Altar Servers**

Nathan Smith ~ [nrsmith822@gmail.com](mailto:nrsmith822@gmail.com)

## **Sacristan**

Ben Berrini

## **Ministers Scheduler**

Kathy Grinaway

[~ministries@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:~ministries@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Faith Formation Coordinator**

Nina Cinti

[faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Scholarships (Awarded to High School Seniors)**

[scholarships@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:scholarships@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## **Business Office**

[businessoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:businessoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

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## **Elder Outreach**

Sister Madonna, SSCM

[sscmadonna@aol.com](mailto:sscmadonna@aol.com)

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## **Pastoral Council**

Kathy Grinaway, *Chairperson*

Donna Mansfield, *Vice Chairperson*

JoAnn Chukinas, *Secretary*

Barbara Gubbiotti	Jack Keeley
Debby Zuzelski	Joan Cavanaugh
Harold Golomb	Joanne Brague
Lou Zuzelski	Steve McGough

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## **Saints Peter & Paul Finance Committee**

Don Prescavage, *Chairman*

Ben Berrini, *Vice Chairman*

Charlotte Dominick, *Secretary*

Gerald Cross

Tracy Schooley

Deacon Don Cane

Paul Dreabit

Jody Gurnari