

December 10, 2023

Second 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

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

Deacon Don Crane

Permanent Deacon



13 Hudson Road,
Plains, PA 18705-2015



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[Facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains](https://www.facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains)

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
as well as on the parish Facebook page.

Confessions will be heard on the
following Mondays during Advent.
December 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, Dec. 02 - 4:00pm:

270 people attended

153 envelopes received

Offering: \$2,846.00

Sunday, Dec. 03 - 7:30am:

108 people attended

88 envelopes received

Offering \$1,578.00

Sunday, Dec. 03 - 10:30am:

266 people attended

110 envelopes received

Offering: \$2,845.00

Thank You for your Generosity.

***The Second Collection
this weekend will be for
Retirement Fund for Religious***



WORSHIP

WE REMEMBER

MASSES THIS WEEKEND

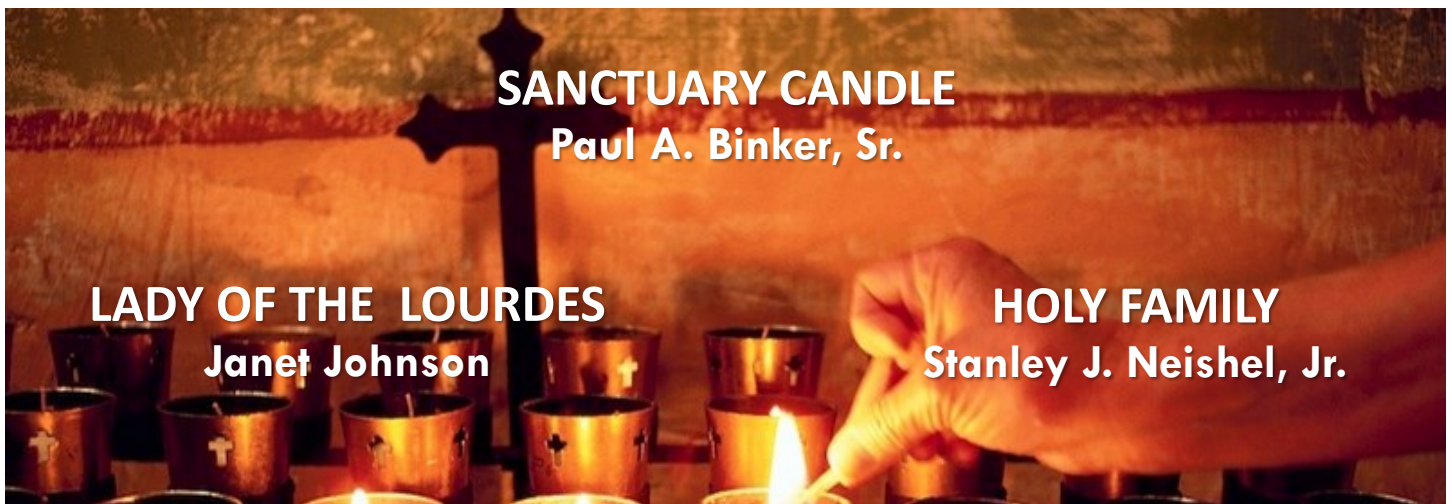
Saturday	Dec. 09	4:00pm	Vincent Miskewicz by Wife, Eleanor
Sunday	Dec. 10	7:30am 10:30am	Anso & Marie Dominick by Daughters Thomas Stanski by Parents

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday	Dec. 12	12:15pm	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Figel by Stanley & Michalene Zurek
Wednesday	Dec. 13	12:15pm	Robert & Richard Voitek by Voitek Family
Thursday	Dec. 14	12:15pm	Charles Obeid by Tony & Sue Kapinas
Friday	Dec. 15	12:15pm	Charlotte Burko by Barbara Cirelli

NEXT WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	Dec.16	4:00pm	Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 17	7:30am 10:30am	Stanley & Lillian Wilk by Daughter, Linda & Son-in-Law, Joe Helen Lavinia by Treasures Staff



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Paul A. Binker, Sr.

LADY OF THE LOURDES

Janet Johnson

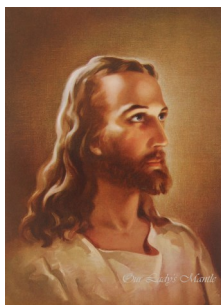
HOLY FAMILY

Stanley J. Neishel, Jr.

The Sunday Good News

Church of Saints Peter & Paul

December 10, 2023



*God of power and
mercy,
open our hearts
in welcome.
Remove the
things that
hinder us from
receiving Christ
with joy so that
we may share his
wisdom and
become one with
him when he
comes in glory,
for he lives and
reigns with you
and the Holy
Spirit,
one God,
forever and ever.*

Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for “the glory of the Lord to be revealed.” Rather than looking only at God’s power, Isaiah focuses on God’s kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to “stoop and untie his sandal straps.” John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.

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

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

“Here begins the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Isaiah the prophet it is written: ‘I send my messenger before to prepare your way’: a herald’s voice in the desert crying, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path.’ Thus it was that John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins...One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal strap. I have baptized you in water, he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.”

We meet John the Baptist, the second principal figure of advent, exhorting us to take seriously the need for preparing for the Lord in our lives today. We begin with ourselves, making sure that with the Lord’s help, that we are living the life of grace, His plan and gift for us. We seek His gift in the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

While we become preoccupied with Christmas preparations, how sad that we sometimes fail to prepare ourselves, or fail to encourage others to join with us in what really matters, our readiness to discover anew the presence of Christ. John’s reference to Isaiah provides the direction that we all need - make ready, clear the path. ‘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

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday

Is 40:1-5, 9-11;
2 Pt 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8

Monday

Is 35:1-10;
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

Zec 2:14-17 or
Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47, or any readings
from the Common of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31;
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

Is 41:13-20;
Mt 11:11-15

Friday

Is 48:17-19;
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

December/January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Faith Formation 9-10am	11 Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	12	13 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30pm	14 Food Pantry Prep	15 Food Pantry Treasures 10am-12pm	16
17 Faith Formation 9-10am	18 Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	19	20 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30pm	21	22 Office Closed	23
24	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 January Happy New Year! Office Closed	2	3	4 Women's Society -6:30pm- Parish Center Dining hall	5 Treasures 10am-12pm	6

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 at 155 Austin Ave in Parsons 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

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

In Memory of Gerald Ritsick, Sr.

\$100 Wife, Bernadine Ritsick

In Memory of Gerald Ritsick, Jr.

\$100 Mom, Bernadine Ritsick

\$160 Barbara Giomboni, Joseph Giomboni & Justin Weber

\$110 Anonymous

\$100 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.



The Giving Trees at Saints Peter and Paul were placed in the Church last 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 10th***. The gifts will be distributed through our Food Pantry on December 15th. Anyone wishing to donate gloves, socks, scarves, hats etc.. (for infants & children up to 12 years) 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

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 13th 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

Second Sunday of Advent | Mark 1:1-8

Year B

BE AWARE, PREPARE!

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was sent to Baptize many people and prepare them for the coming of Jesus, the True Messiah.

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SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

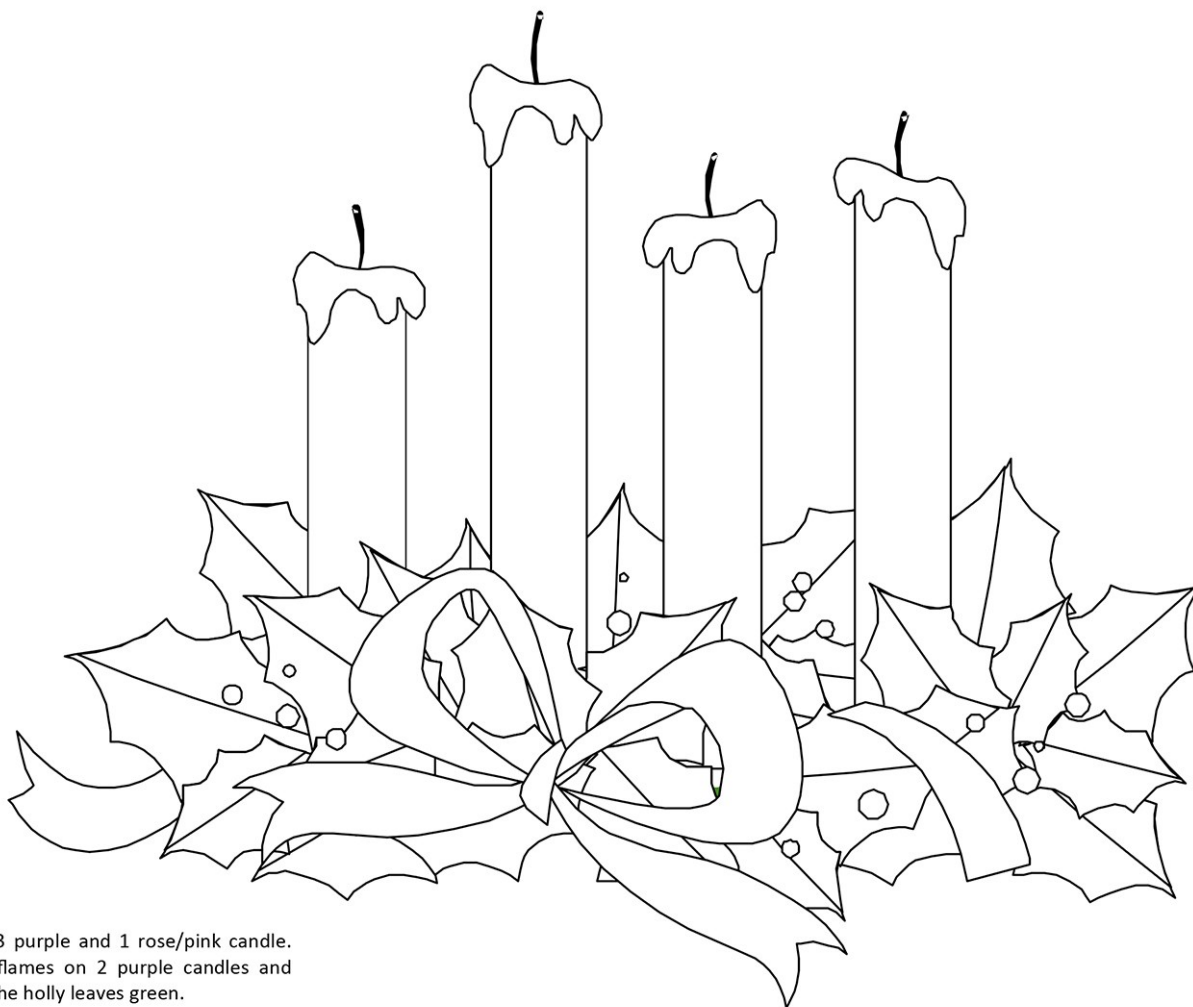
We begin the second week of Advent preparing ourselves for the Messiah. Our Advent wreath has 4 candles (3 purple, 1 rose/pink) for the four Sundays, or weeks before Christmas. The more candles we light, the brighter it gets, and the closer we are to the birth of Christ.

WEEK 2, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Oldest child lights 2 purple candles.



Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle.
Draw flames on 2 purple candles and
color the holly leaves green.

SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. John C. Lambert

pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Don Crane

Administrative Assistants

Mary Ann Gottlieb

Mary Pilarcik

parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Bernardine Hall Coordinator

Amy Vissotski

hallrental@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Parish Cemeteries

Mary Gregor

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

Maintenance

Michael Lambert

Jim Cunningham

Altar Servers

Nathan Smith ~ nrsmith822@gmail.com

Sacristan

Ben Berrini

Ministers Scheduler

Kathy Grinaway

~ministries@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Faith Formation Coordinator

Nina Cinti

faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Scholarships (Awarded to High School Seniors)

scholarships@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Business Office

businessoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com

Elder Outreach

Sister Madonna, SSCM

sscmadonna@aol.com

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

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