

**December 17, 2023**

**Third 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.

## Sunday Stewards

Saturday, Dec. 09 - 4:00pm:

253 people attended

142 envelopes received

Offering: \$2,574.00

Sunday, Dec. 10 - 7:30am:

142 people attended

103 envelopes received

Offering \$2,975.00

Sunday, Dec. 10 - 10:30am:

216 people attended

110 envelopes received

Offering: \$2,347.00

*Thank You for your Generosity.*

**Confessions** will be heard on Monday,  
December 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 Weekend Masses  
to fulfill your Sunday obligation  
AS WELL AS one of the Masses  
below to fulfill your Christmas obligation.**

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

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

***The Second Collection  
last weekend for  
Retirement Fund for Religious  
\$1,745.00***



# WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

### MASSES THIS WEEKEND

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

### DAILY MASSES

Tuesday	Dec. 19	12:15pm	<b>Sophie &amp; Nicholas Barna, Sr.</b> by Daughter, Mary Lou
Wednesday	Dec. 20	12:15pm	<b>Danny Branas</b> by Pat Stella
Thursday	Dec. 21	12:15pm	<b>Theresa Luchetti</b> by Luchetti Family
Friday	Dec. 22	12:15pm	<b>Ben &amp; Mary Berrini</b> by Candice Berrini

### NEXT WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	Dec. 23	4:00pm	<b>Alfred DeAngelis</b> by Sister & Family
Sunday	Dec. 24	7:30am 10:30am	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Parishioners</b>





# The Sunday Good News

Church of Saints Peter & Paul

December 17, 2023

*Almighty God,  
gracious provider  
and giver of life,  
we anxiously  
await the  
celebration of  
your birth.  
Like the people of  
long ago,  
our ancestors in  
faith,  
we, too, are in  
need of light,  
in need of  
direction,  
in need of your  
Word, to show us  
the way.  
Our busy lives  
and the  
consumerism  
that surrounds us  
make it difficult  
to recognize your  
kingdom and to  
hear your voice.  
Help us Lord,  
to focus on you.*

*Amen*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

### Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

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

### Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

**"Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything; retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it."**

Living the final days of Advent, Saint Paul offers a game plan for prayer and action. We have heard the prophet speak. We have met John the Baptist and accepted his message of repentance and renewal. What more can be done? It is something we dare not avoid - our personal call to holiness.

Set aside a few minutes each day, look into your heart, see what the Lord sees, thanking Him for His blessings, but also ask help to set aside whatever can block the Lord giving you His peace. '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

### Third Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11;  
1 Thes 5:16-24;  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

#### Monday

Jer 23:5-8;  
Mt 1:18-25

#### Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;  
Lk 1:5-25

#### Wednesday

Is 7:10-14;  
Lk 1:26-38

#### Thursday

Sg 2:8-14 or  
Zep 3:14-18a;  
Lk 1:39-45

#### Friday

1 Sm 1:24-28;  
Lk 1:46-56

#### Saturday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24;  
Lk 1:57-66

## December/January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 <b>Office Closed</b>	27	28	29	30
31	1 January <b>Happy New Year!</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	2	3	4 <b>Women's Society</b> 6:30pm- <b>Parish Center</b> <b>Dining hall</b>	5 Treasures 10am-12pm	6
7 <b>Faith Formation</b> 9-10am	8 Treasures 5-7pm Rosary 6pm	9	10	11 <b>Parish Council</b> 6:30pm- <b>Parish</b> <b>Center Dining</b> <b>Hall</b>	12 Treasures 10am-12pm	13

# 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 Randy Ledsoe

\$50 Wife, Debra

#### In Memory of Nello Carozzoni

\$100 Family

#### In Memory of Stanley Zavada

\$100 Family

#### In Memory of Tom & Jimmy Brice

\$100 Family

\$30 Anonymous

\$30 Magdalene Metzger

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.





## *Personal Care Drive*

Junior Leadership NE is Partnering with NEPA Youth Shelter

December 6th - December 21st

Serving Impoverished Teens

Most Needed Items: razors, shaving cream, hair ties, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wash, acne products, makeup remover, deodorant, gel, body sprays, ethnic hair products, lotion, tweezers, aftershave, etc....

!!! No feminine products, travel sized items, toothbrushes or toothpaste !!!

For any concerns call: 570-899-0386 or email: [nepayouthshelter.org](mailto:nepayouthshelter.org)

**If you would like to donate, there is a box in the vestibule of the Church to place your items in. Thank you for your contributions.**



## **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!

# Donate Blood In Honor Of **Jessica Mbaye**



Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

## **Community Blood Drive** **St Peter and Paul Parish**

Bernardine Hall  
13 Hudson Road  
Plains, PA 18705

**Friday, January 5, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter: STPPPLAINS to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass)  
to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**Come give Jan. 1-5 for a Red Cross T-shirt, ltd. qty & automatic  
entry for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in  
Vegas! Includes travel, hotel, \$1,000 gift card, pre-game  
activities & more! Terms apply; visit  
[RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl](https://RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl).**



**American Red Cross**

**[redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767**

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# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Third Sunday of Advent | John 1:6-8, 19-28

Year B

### BE AWARE, PREPARE, REJOICE!

John the Baptist denies being the Christ. He is sent to testify to the light, the coming of Christ, light of the world.

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## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

### The Rose Candle

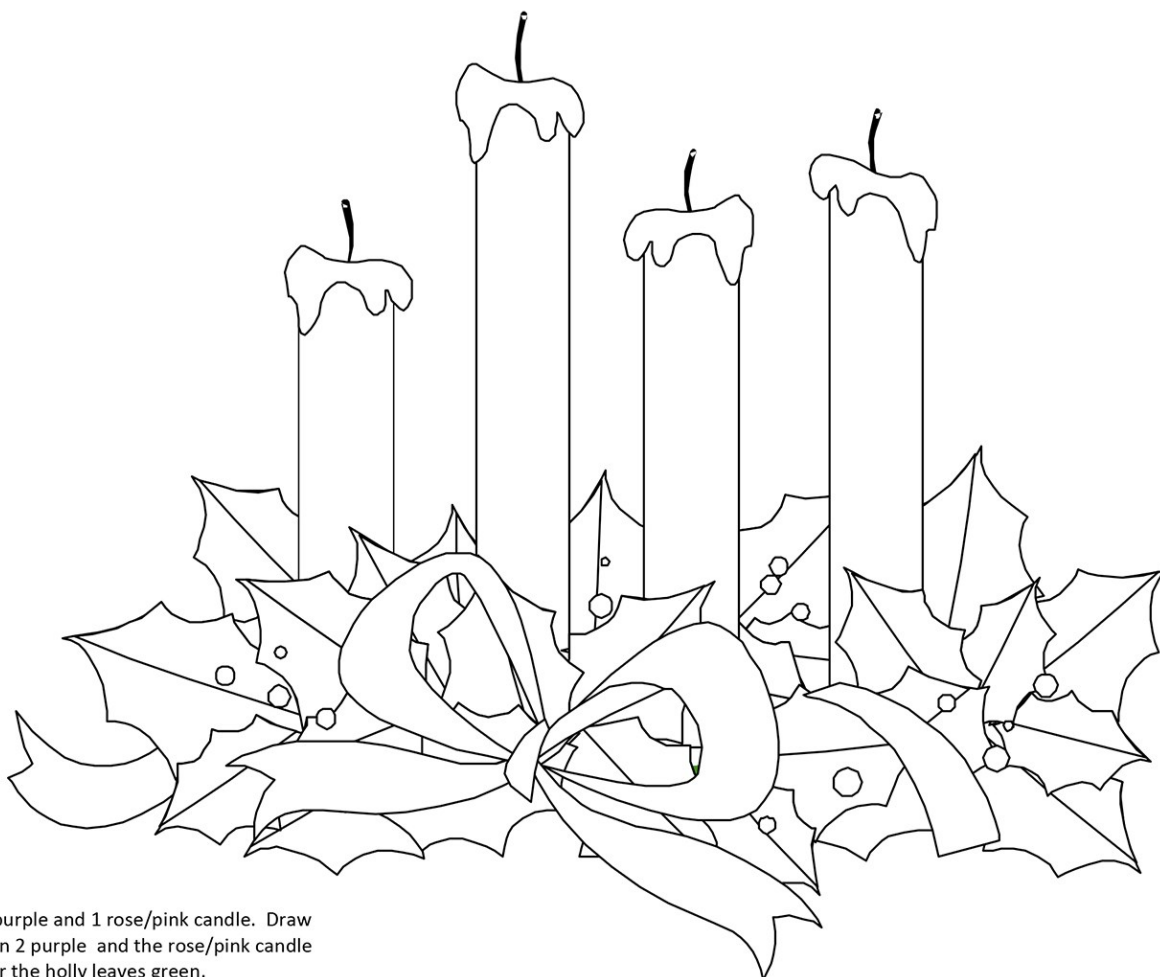
The rose/pink candle represents hope and joy. Rejoice! We are halfway through Advent and Christmas is near. Christ, light of the world, is coming soon.

### WEEK 3, evening lighting prayer

*Prayer said by Father or head of household*

"O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Mother lights the first & second purple and the rose/pink candle.



Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle. Draw flames on 2 purple and the rose/pink 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