#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE - 2023

#### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Tuesday, December 19

Parish Advent Confession 7:00 PM

(Visiting Priests Available)



#### **Weekend Masses**

(NO CONFESSIONS)

Saturday, December 23 - 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 24 - 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 AM

(NO 12 NOON MASS)

#### **Christmas Masses**

Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM - Incense

Monday, December 25

7:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 Noon

Also, Please Note: Saving/reserving pews/seats

will NOT be allowed at these Masses.

#### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 30

4:00 PM

Sunday, December 31

7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12 Noon

#### **Solemnity of Mary**

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)

Monday, January 1

9:00 AM

#### **Epiphany of the Lord**

Saturday, January 6

4:00 PM

Sunday, January 7

7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12 Noon

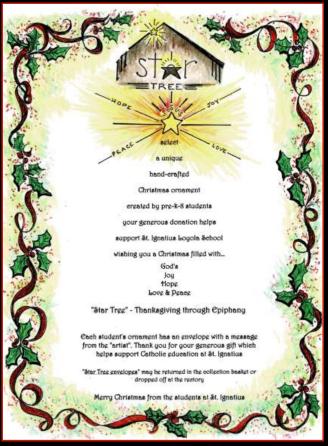


DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

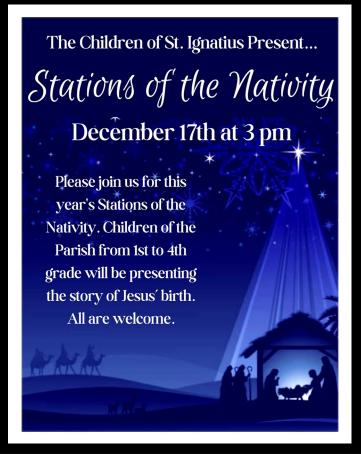


#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT









# ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK Monday, December 18th- Sunday, December 23th

Monday, December 18

6:30 a.m. Loretta C. Boland Kuhn

8:00 a.m. Ines Melendiz

9:00 a.m. Karl Pfeiffenberger Sr. & Jr.

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 a.m. Jean Reimels - 13th Anniversary of Death

8:00 a.m. Isabelle Henry

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 a.m. MJ Herman

8:00 a.m. Ted Ostrowski - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Death

Thursday, December 21

6:30 a.m. Bill Zerbe

8:00 a.m. Glen & Bonnie Bearstler

Friday, December 22

6:30 a.m. Teodoro Risos

8:00 a.m. The Duddy & Sfameni Families

Saturday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Grace Hornickle

4:00 p.m. Intentions of Matthew & Marykate Oertle

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Laino & DiSpirito Families

9:00 a.m. William A. Russo - 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Death

10:30 a.m. Everett Berkel NO 12:00 NOON MASS

#### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await His coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

#### STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

All of the people in today's readings - the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist - seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and do. Do I?

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 23/24**

2 Sm 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25 - 27 / Lk 1:26 - 38

#### Bad Weather Alert - Please Remember

- If **school is closed** for the day Adoration and all events and meetings will be canceled also for that day.
- If school has a late start due to snow or severe weather, then Adoration will be canceled for that day.
- If school is being dismissed early due to weather, then
   Adoration and all events and meetings will be discontinued/canceled beginning at the hour school is dismissed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday, December 19
Parish Advent Confession 7:00 PM
(Visiting Priests Available)

#### **Christmas Masses**

Sunday, December 24
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and
10:00 PM - Incense
Intentions of our Priests

Monday, December 25
7:30 AM, 10:00 AM and 12 Noon
Intentions of our Priests

Also, Please Note:
Saving/reserving pews/seats
will NOT be allowed at these Masses.

PLEASE NOTE THE RECTORY
WILL CLOSE AT
12 NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>
AND REOPEN AT
9:00 AM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>

Blessed Oplatek / Christmas Wafer is available for sale at a cost of \$2.00 in the Church Office or at the Rectory.

2024 MISSALS are available for sale in the Church Office and the Rectory - \$5.00.

New Parishioners, welcome to St. Ignatius!

Are you officially registered in our parish?
If you are not receiving our offering envelopes
or the AD Times in the mail
you may not be registered.

To register, visit the Rectory Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM.

You must be a registered parishioner for 3 months to:

- serve as a sacramental Godparent or Sponsor
- begin Marriage Preparation
- have your child/children Baptized.

#### Visit our website: stignatiusreading.org

#### Annual Wishing Well

Please take a slip of paper from the baskets located in the Narthex of the Church containing ideas and items needed by **Lifeline**.

As you bring in items, simply place a label from the basket on each item and place unwrapped in the container in the Narthex. Wishing Well items are due by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you!

#### SURVIVING DIVORCE

A confidential program offering hope and healing after divorce January 8, 2024 to March 25, 2024, 7-8:30 PM Saint Benedict Parish
2020 Chestnut Hill Road Mohnton, 19540
Please contact Joe Boylan at 610.781.6415
or joeboylan17@gmail.com
or Secretary@churchofsaintbenedict.org

#### SIMBANG GABI SCHEDULE

All are welcomed!

Christmas Novena Masses in Berks County

Immaculate Conception Church, Douglassville ~ 7 PM

December 17, Sunday ~ Potluck Night / Christmas Party)

#### SENIORS BUS TRIPS



- TROPICANA CASINO & BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE March 14 - \$120 pp - Deadline February 7
- TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE Beauty & The Beast April 17 - \$114 pp - Deadline March 15
  - SCHUYLKILL SUMMER ADVENTURE June 25 - \$125 pp - Deadline May 17
  - SIGHT & SOUND THEATER Daniel
    September 10 \$154 pp Deadline August 1
    Contact Judy Jablonski at 610.670.0907 or
    Mail to: 113 Primrose Lane
    Reading, PA 19610

SENIORS GROUP REGISTRATION FORM
Bring to Monthly Meeting or Mail to:
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Address	
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Email	

#### SAVE TIME & MONEY

Spend less time, and use a lot fewer checks by signing up for our electronic stewardship program (ESP). Your weekly or monthly contributions can be withdrawn automatically from your checking account. It works in the same manner as automatic payments to a utility or mortgage company. This is a completely optional program. If you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, please complete the direct debit form below and mail it to the Rectory or drop it into the collection basket in a sealed envelope marked "ESP".

Contributions can be made *weekly* (Mondays) *or monthly* (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month). Since this program is not yet available for Holy Days or special collections, envelopes will continue to be distributed unless you wish otherwise. If you have any questions, please call Terry at the Rectory at 610-678-3767.

#### ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA CHURCH AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT DEBIT OF WEEKLY OR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Name (Last, First, Middle In	itial)	
Address (Street, Rout	te, P.O. Box)	
(City State Zip Code)		
Telephone Number	Parish Envelope Number	
ELECTION (check one & indicate amount to be debited from your account):		
Weekly contribution of \$,  Monthly contributions will be deduct	, beginning Monday// beginning Monday*//	
I (we) hereby authorize St. Ignatius Loyola Parish to debit funds, in the amount and frequency listed above, from the account at the Financial Institution designated on the attached voided check, and to initiate credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error to that account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with provisions of U.S. law. This authorization will remain in effect until the Parish has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the Parish and Financial Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.		
Signature		
Date		
PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK		

(PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH DEPOSIT TICKET)

#### PAGE 5

#### ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA MEMORIAL SOCIETY

After the death of a loved one, more and more people are considering a lasting memorial gift given to their parish in memory of the deceased. Memorials also may be given in lieu of flowers or other charity. For details please call the Rectory.

#### ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL TUITION ANGEL SPONSOR

Help a St. Ignatius student in need of tuition assistance.
If you would like to donate: Donate any amount in memory of someone who has died, in honor of a special occasion or just make a charitable donation to help defray the cost of tuition for a St. Ignatius student.

Donations payable to St. Ignatius School.

#### FRIENDS OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The mission of the FOSVDP Society at St. Ignatius is to help our parishioners and neighbors who may need temporary financial assistance. Please contact the Rectory to request assistance / refer a family in need.

All information is held in the strictest confidence.

#### **DONATIONS TO:**

The Memorial Society

WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY/HONOR OF/FROM:

**JOANNE KOCH** 

Ralph & Kathleen Nevel

## John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS NEEDED

The John Paul II Center for Special Learning is looking for individuals to join our staff as Instructional Assistants in classrooms for children with intellectual Disabilities. This is a perfect job for retired teachers, empty nesters and recent graduates looking for a vocation to serve the Lord through service to others. Hours are 8:15 to 2:45, Monday Through Friday, Summers Off. Call for additional information and to request an interview 610.777.0605.

## John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST NEEDED

John Paul II Center for Special Learning is looking to hire a full or part time Speech Language Therapist to provide speech/language therapy for our school age students with Intellectual Disabilities. Perfect opportunity for recent retired SLP, recent graduates or an SLP looking for a fresh start in a small, family oriented, caring, Christian community. Call for information and to request an interview 610.777.0605.



The Columbiettes of St Ignatius would like to express our sincere gratitude for all who donated to our Berks Heim collection.
This was a huge success.
St. Ignatius parishioners are very generous and seem to know no limits for making donations.

A warm THANK YOU from our Columbiettes Ministry.





#### Lifeline of Berks County Job Opportunity

Seeking a registered nurse or physician's assistant who has a passion for life and a willingness to focus on the life -saving work of providing options information to women, STI testing and treatment, and connecting health history information to protecting future reproductive health. This position is initially part time with the possibility of learning to provide ultrasound and/or grow into full time. Contact Stephanie Conrad at sconrad@lifelineofberks.org or 610.374.8545.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment - not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions - because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too - to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior - by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

Thank you for your continued support and donations!

#### THIS WEEK LET US PRAY...

For all victims of human trafficking, may they find hope and healing in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please call Clare Hollenbacher at 610.678.0864 to make arrangements for flowers for a special occasion or in loving memory of someone.



Please take note of the businesses advertising on the last pages of our bulletins. We thank them for their support and ask you to consider patronizing them.

Please check our website regularly for current and upcoming events and important parish announcements. www.stignatiusreading.org

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 AM, 12 Noon

Daily: Monday through Friday: 6:30 & 8:00 AM

Saturday: 8:00 AM

First Friday: 7:00 PM

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER / ADORATION - CHAPEL
Tuesdays Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
after 8:00 AM Mass until 10 PM

Wednesdays Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 AM until 7 PM Evening Prayer & Benediction

Reconciliation/Confession:

Saturday - 3:00 - 4:00 PM - Church Confessionals

Baptism: Third Sunday of each month 1:30 PM.
Baptism Seminar: First Sunday of each month 1:30 PM - JP II Rm.
Seminar attendance is required for parents before Baptism.
Please call the Rectory at 610.678.3767 to register for the Seminar.

#### **DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION**

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W, M.S.

Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538 610.871.5200 ext. 2204 or prusso@allentowndiocese.org

> VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR MRS. WENDY S. KRISAK DIRECT LINE: 1.800.791.9209

#### CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone 800-276-1562.

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Thomas P. Bortz, Pastor Rev. George Osei Ababio Deacon Frederick J. Lanciano Deacon Edward L. Sanders Deacon Thomas J. Devaney Mrs. Emilia Ward, Principal

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St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School ~ 610.678.0111
Mrs. Sheryl Lanciano - Director of Parish Life ~ 610.678.0676
Mr. Tim Wood - Youth Ministry Director ~ 610.678.0676
Mr. Michael Adams - Music Coordinator ~ 610.914.9607
Mrs. Joan Skolny - Parish Secretary ~ 610.678.3767
Mrs. Debbie Pilliod - Parish Secretary &
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Doreen V. is in need of a live donor kidney. If interested, please visit the Lehigh Valley website www.lvhn.org. Click on **Living Kidney donor** 

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