

DECEMBER 10, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Children of St. Ignatius Present...

# Stations of the Nativity

December 17th at 3 pm

Please join us for this year's Stations of the Nativity. Children of the Parish from 1st to 4th grade will be presenting the story of Jesus' birth.

All are welcome.



#### **Weekend Masses**

(Visiting Priests Available)

(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 **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.

### <u> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</u>

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**

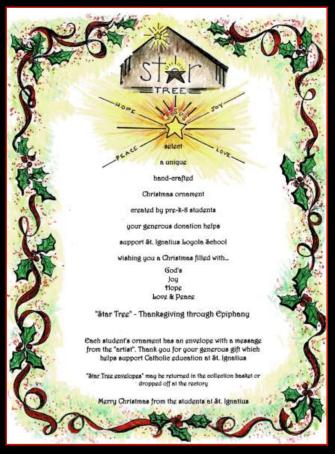
**Saturday, January 6**4:00 PM **Sunday, January 7**7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12 Noon

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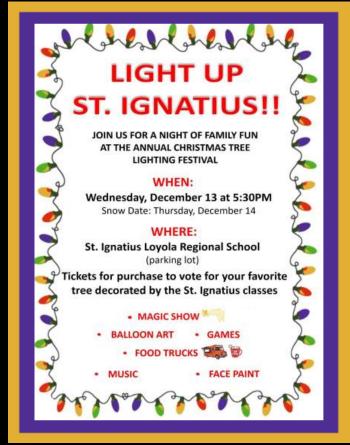
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#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT









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#### ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

Monday, December 11

6:30 a.m. Maria Borelli

8:00 a.m. Adeline Llewellyn

9:00 a.m. Lucio Santella (Grade 5A)

Tuesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 a.m. Marguerite Borst

8:00 a.m. Herman & Marie Miller

Wednesday, December 13 -St. Lucy

6:30 a.m. Joseph Daly

8:00 a.m. Philip Michael LaScala

Thursday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

6:30 a.m. Peter Fernandes

8:00 a.m. Mike Buser

Friday, December 15

6:30 a.m. Tony Cisek

8:00 a.m. Bunny Bearstler

Saturday, December 16

8:00 a.m. Joe Monteiro

4:00 p.m. Joseph & Rose Gontarchick

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Al & Anna Nerino, Sr.

9:00 a.m. Bill & Joan Boyer

10:30 a.m. Frank Ferraro – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Death

12:00 p.m. Onofre & BeataVillanueva-12<sup>th</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>Ann. of Death

#### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth and peace.

#### STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live - the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 09/10**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 /Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 /1 Thes 5:16-24 /Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

The Friday morning Cleaning Crew is looking for extra help to get our Church ready for Baby Jesus.
Join us Friday, December 15 at 8:30 AM.
Afterwards we will gather for a Christmas treat and fellowship.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

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

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

# Christmas: A Time To Remember Those We've Loved and Lost

The Loss of a loved one can weigh heavily on your heart... especially during the holidays.
Join us for an uplifting program to learn and share tips for coping with grief during the holidays and feeling the joy your loved one would want you to experience.

Two sessions will be offered: Tuesday, December 12 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM 6:30 - 8:00 PM

In the John Paul II Room in our Church.

Please call the Rectory if you plan to attend. 610.678.3767

#### 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.

#### SURVIVING DIVORCE

A confidential program offering hope and healing after divorce January 8, 2024 to March 25, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Saint Benedict Parish
2020 Chestnut Hill Road Mohnton, 19540
Please contact Joe Boylan at 610.781.6415
or joeboylan17@gmail.com



### SIMBANG GABI SCHEDULE All are welcomed!

Christmas Novena Masses in Berks County **December 9, 10,11** (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) Holy Guardian Angels Church, Kutztown Road ~ 7 PM December 9, Saturday ~ Potluck Night **December 12, 13, 14** (Tuesday, Wedneday, Thursday) St. Catherine of Sienna Chapel. Perkiomen Ave. ~ 7 PM December 15, 16,17 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) 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:** 

B. Kunder ~ 2211 Gring Drive	~ Reading, 19610
Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

### SAVE TIME & MONEY

Spend less time, and use a lot fewer checks by signing up for our electronic stewardship program (ESP). 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 This is a completely optional mortgage company. If you would like to avail yourself of this program. 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** (1st Monday of the month). Since this program is not yet

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 Initial)	
Address (Street, Route, P.O. Box)	
(City State Zip Code)	
Telephone Number Parish Envelope Number	
(check one & indicate amount to be debited from your account):  Weekly contribution of \$, beginning Monday// _  Monthly contribution of \$, beginning Monday*// _  * Monthly contributions will be deducted on the first Monday of the month.  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)	

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#### 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

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MSGR. TRESTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY/HONOR OF/FROM:

FRANK FERKO

Jim & Debbie Pierce

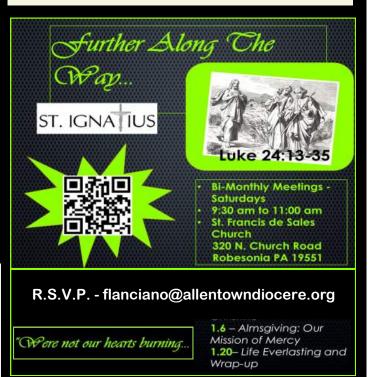
# John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS NEEDED

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.



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.





# John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington SPEECH AND 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.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

St. Peter describes the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today, saying God "is patient with you, not wishing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance." Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: "The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out."

How are we to assimilate these two truths - the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent "reset" - to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, John the Baptist instructs us to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." We must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

Thank you for your continued support and donations!

### THIS WEEK LET US PRAY...

May God help us prepare the way of the Lord by acting with tenderness and compassion, especially toward the most vulnerable among us.

### **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

Mrs. Emilia Ward, Principal
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 &
Parish Safe Environment Coordinator ~ 610.678.3767
Mrs. Jenny Matlack - Coordinator of AM PREP ~ 610.678.0676
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