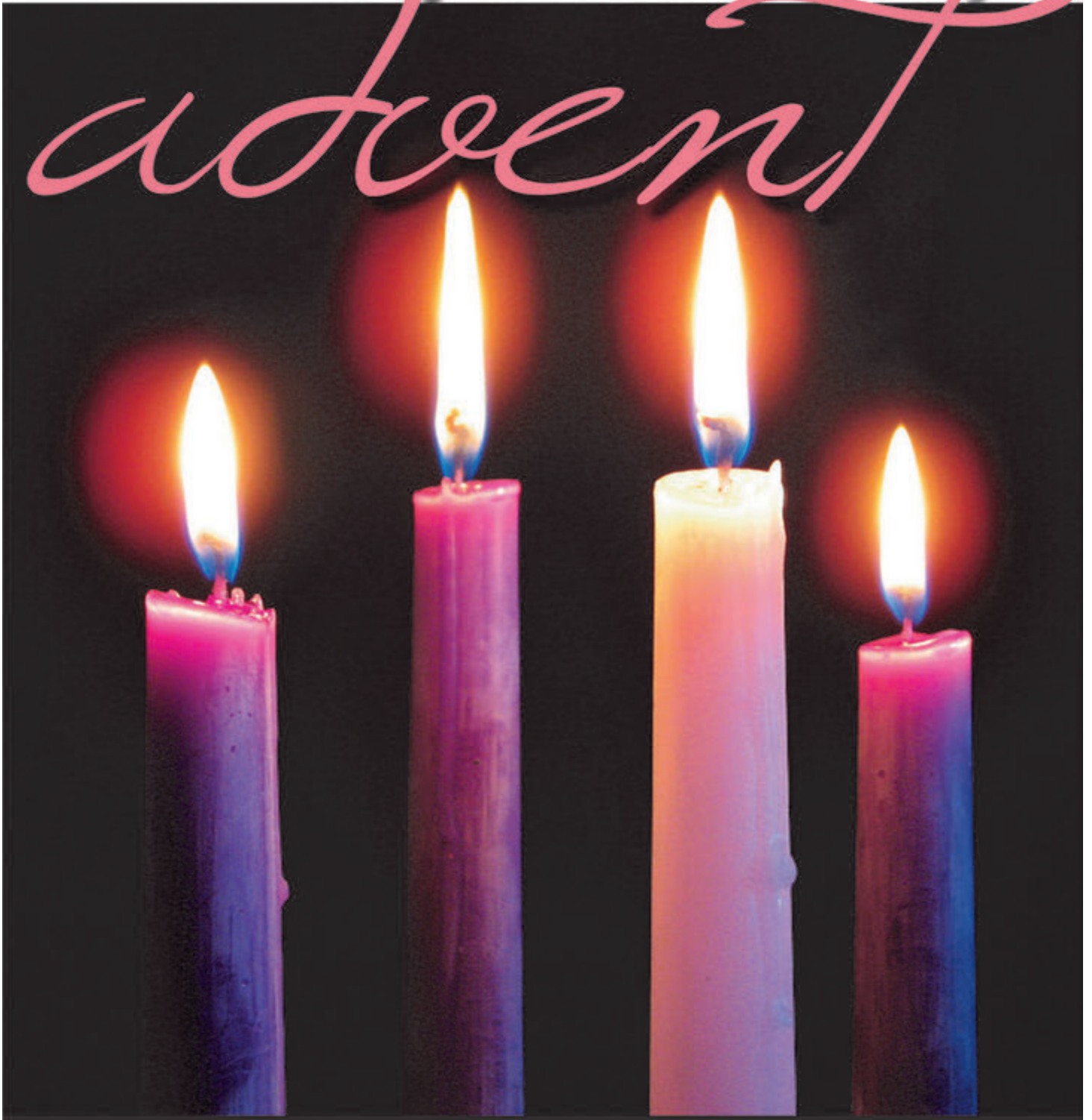


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PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS

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*Advent*



HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE

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**Mission Statement**

“To build a dynamic Roman Catholic family of faith that seeks to encounter Jesus through the spiritual, Sacramental, catechetical, and social life of the Church. We strive to be the beacon of the light of Christ to all through joyful service and mission.”

**New Members**

Welcome to St. Joseph Parish of the Panther Valley. Please call the Parish Office in order to register in our parish, or stop in during office hours. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

**Letters of Recommendation and Certificates**

Issued only to Parishioners who are officially registered in the Parish for one month prior to requesting the certificate and practicing their faith. Please come to the office during office hours to fill out the required form.

**Baptisms**

Baptisms are held for our registered and practicing parishioners normally on the first and third Sunday of the month immediately after the 11:00 Mass. Parents are to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class which will be held the second Sunday of the even months. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for the valid reception of baptism. That person must also receive a certificate of eligibility from their Catholic Parish. A non-Catholic Christian is permitted to act as a witness. Parents should begin to make arrangements for baptism during pregnancy.

**Marriage**

We look forward to celebrating God’s gift of love in the sacrament of Marriage for any registered and practicing parishioner. Diocesan policy states that contact should be made one year, but no later than six months, prior to the proposed date of marriage in order to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Call the Parish Office for further information.

**Ministry to the Sick - Anointing of the Sick**

Visits to the hospital are made on a regular basis. Please notify the Parish Office when a parishioner is in the hospital or home and would like to receive communion or anointing of the sick. *The Sacrament of the Sick is available to all in need of healing. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT until death is imminent to offer your loved one this grace.* Visits can also be made to those parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive communion by Eucharistic Ministers or Fr. Hoffa.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

**House Blessings**

House blessings are a tradition in the Church. If you would like to have your house blessed please contact Fr. Hoffa at the office.

**Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:15 pm– 3:45pm  
 Sunday morning: 8:15am—8:45pm  
 or by appointment

**Bulletin Submissions**

Deadline for submissions for Bulletin - Friday by 5pm for the following weeks bulletin.

**St. Jerome’s Regional School**

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to St. Jerome’s Regional School, which is supported by our Parish. The school is located at 50 Meadow Ave. Tamaqua. Please contact Principal Amy M. Hannis-Miskar, M.S. at 570-668-2757 for more information or to register. [www.sjrschool.com](http://www.sjrschool.com)

**Marian High School**

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local catholic high school – Marian Catholic. Please contact the Director of Admissions, Mrs. Theresa Sheer at 570-668-225 ext. 2217 more information or to register. [www.mariancatholics.org](http://www.mariancatholics.org)

**Religious Education (PREP)**

All children should be receiving religious instruction through one of our Regional Catholic Schools or through our Parish Religious Education Program offered on Sunday mornings 9:15– 10:30AM for all grades at the former St. Mary’s Convent at 231 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Coaldale. Please contact Deacon Joseph Cannon, our Director of Religious Education for more information regarding our PREP 570-645-8529 or 570-225-9275.

**SJPV Parish Nurse Ministry**

The parish nurses are available to assist parishioners in areas of healthcare counseling, education, being liaisons to community resources and providing respite care for primary caregivers . To contact the Parish Nurse ministry please call the parish office and choose option 9.

**Wills and Memorials**

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include St. Joseph Parish in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Sanctuary Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

Stewardship	Dec. 2, 2018
ADULT	\$7,644.00
LOOSE	305.00
CANDLES	184.00
SHRINE COLLECTION	128.00
SHRINE CANDLES	38.00
POVERTY RELIEF	65.00
XMAS FLOWERS	455.00
THANKSGIVING	340.00
ONLINE GIVING	1,066.00
TOTAL	\$10,225.00



*Our Prayer Calendar is in the vestibule of the Church.*

*It’s a parish calendar of each day of the month. Look over the calendar, choose a day for you, then offer the sufferings, problems, disappointments, blessings & graces you receive during the day for the good of the parish, the borough, the greater community and the needs of the Church & the world.*





**Monday, December 10 - 8am**

Walter Zuber by Joe & Dolores Zuber

**Tuesday, Dec. 11 – Change \*Communion Service\* - 5pm**

**St. John Damasus**

John Susko by Son, John

**Wednesday, December 12 - 8am - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Claudia Swierczek, 4th Anniversary by Irene Swierczek

Deceased members of the Perger, Zickler & Wasas Families by Isabel Wasas Zickler

**Thursday, December 13- 5pm - St. Lucy**

Paul V. Yanchura Jr. by The Yanchura Family

**Friday, December 14 - 8am - St. John of the Cross**

Joan Kennedy by Kennedy Family

**Saturday, December 15 - Shrine Daily Mass - 9am**

George J. Santore by Family

**St. Joseph Sunday Vigil Mass - 4pm**

Paul & Viola Sniscak by Joe O'Gurek

**Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent**

7:30am - Deceased Members of the Schilling & Gildea Family by Living Relatives

9am - Living & Deceased Parishioners

11am - Peter F. Castagnola by Sheila Kozuch



James Kozuch, Rose Marie Vanko, Lois Ciavaglia, Kathy Sheeran, Bernadette Lukac, Donna Blazosky, Donald

DeMatto, Louise Snoha, Michael Foley, Dolores Scaran, Nicholas Hiles, Wayne Vasiliou, Kenny Boyd, Pat Lipar, Margaret Arner, Fr. James Torpey, William Mansberry, Mary Matika O'Gorman, Paul Duke, John "Chet" Michalik, Sarah Yuskanish, Frank Staneck, David Marcin, Claude Turton, Mary Fredericks, Doris LaPolice, Helene Pallavicini, Patsy Black, Veronica Bazik, Charles O'Donnell, James Szczecina, Julianne O'Gorman, Emmett McCall, Sr., Mary Gallagher, Regina Kosciolek, Agnes Mikulski, Mary & Barry Fulton

Names on the Prayer List will remain for 4 wks. unless we are notified of a continuing illness)



We extend our deepest condolences to the families of Bernice Strepko, Elizabeth Kozuch & Marie Pondish who entered into eternal life. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.

Prayer Requests for Priests for December:

- 10th - Fr. Abraham Ha
- 11th - Fr. Stephen Halabura
- 12th - Msgr. William Hanges
- 13th - Fr. James Harper
- 14th - Msgr. Dennis Hartgen
- 15th - Deceased Priests
- 16th - Fr. John Hilferty

**Weekly Candles**

**Sanctuary Candle** –Norman Serena – Kathryn B.V.M. Altar - Paul V. Yanchura Jr. - Yanchura Family

**B.V.M. Altar** - Thomas & Gloria Morgan - Clarice Morgan

**St. Therese** - Ryan Newcomb - Grandson - Irene Swierczek

**Infant of Prague** - Russel & Ralph Farber - Dorothy

**Our Lady of Fatima** - Clara Polakovich - Son, Bill

**Blessed Sacrament** - TASTY- in gratitude - Dorothy

**Padre's Piece**

**"Lord, I Am Not Worthy"**

I always tell Catholics that they know a lot more Scripture than they think they do. This is because the Mass is loaded with Scripture; and that's over and above the many readings at every Mass!

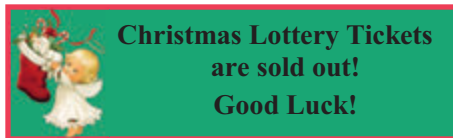
Perhaps the best example of this is right before we receive Communion. First, the priest elevates the host and quotes John 1:29 and Revelation 19:9. "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb."

The congregation responds with a quote from Matthew 8:8. Jesus agrees to go to the home of a Roman centurion and heal his servant. The centurion replies, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my servant shall be healed." At Mass, we personalize the passage and pray that our "soul shall be healed."

Isn't it true that we are not worthy? Who are we to take the Author of Life, the God of the Universe onto our tongue and into our bodies? And yet, Jesus calls us to Himself. We are made worthy by His Blood, by His sacrifice. As we walk up to receive Jesus - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity - in Holy Communion, we pray for our healing. And just as Jesus healed the centurion's servant, in the Eucharist we are healed.

**Oplatki Christmas Wafers are on sale after all Masses in the sacristy. Cost is \$3.00 an envelope.**

**Pick up a Little Blue Book for Advent - to enhance your preparation for the birth of Jesus. Donation - \$1.00**



**Christmas Lottery Tickets are sold out! Good Luck!**

**March for Life Bus Trip - January 18, 2019. Limited Seating available. Call the office to reserve your seat. 570 - 645-2664**



**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday - December 9th**- PREP, 9:15am; COAL - Gr. K-2 & 3-5 Meeting, 1-2:30pm, Coaldale; COAL - Gr. 6-8- Meeting, 5-6:30pm, Coaldale; Children's Choir, 6:30pm; Bingo - 6:30pm

**Monday - December 10th**- Senior Luncheon - 11 am(registered event), Social Hall; Pinochle - 7pm

**Tuesday - December 11th**- Bloodmobile - 1-6pm, Social Hall

**Wednesday - December 12th**- Mary Bible Study, 9am, Rectory; Live Your Faith, 6:30pm, Rectory; Choir Practice, 6:30pm

**Thursday - December 13th**-Bingo, 6:30pm Social Hall; Mary Bible Study, 6pm, Madonna Hall; Adoration/Benediction - 7:30

**Friday - December 14th -**

**Saturday - December 15th**- Confession 3:15-3:45

**Sunday - December 16th**- PREP, 9:15am; Advent Vespers - 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Children's Choir, 6:30pm; Bingo - 6:30pm



**Grades K-2 & 3-5**, Meeting January 13th 1-2:30pm, Coaldale.

**Grades 6-8 & 9-12** Meeting January 13th - 5-6:30pm, Coaldale

**Upcoming Family Events** - Sunday, January 20, Snow Tubing at Big Boulder, 3-5pm



**This Week's Reflection**

*As we await the coming of our Lord and Savior, joy and hope fill our hearts in anticipation of the Messiah.*

Prepare the way of the Lord! Today marks the Second Sunday of Advent, and we are filled with hope, joy and anticipation. The Lord enters the world to save us. Our paths will be made straight. Our burdens will be eased. Our darkness will be lightened. Salvation is at hand.

**December - 15th & 16th - Ministry Schedule**

**4pm** - Mary Comensky

**E.M.** - Robert Infante, TJ Parambo, Harmony Smith

**Cupbearers** - Tom Midas, Judy Midas

**A.S.** - Shawn Hoben, Michael Williams, Gino Williams

**7:30am** - **Lector** - Dorothy Kuhn

**9am Lector** - Jennifer Vermillion

**E.M.**- Sandy Schlemmer, Keith Degler, Steve Teeno, Robert Crampsie

**Cupbearers** - Diane Michalik, Cathy Papesh

**A.S.** - Matthew Rehrig, Albin Petschauer, Quentin Petschauer

**11am**- **Lector** - Mary Beth Risteter

**E.M.** - Aurelia DeMatto, Joseph Pelcheck, Mary Beth Risteter

**Cupbearers** - Dave O'Gurek, Jeff Swinehart

**A.S.** - Taylor Crampsie, Dylan Newton, Kylie Skodacek

**We are preparing the 1st quarter ministry schedule, so now would be the time to make changes to your scheduled Mass. To make a change, please call the parish office.**



**St. Jerome Regional School**

50 Meadow Ave, Tamaqua, PA 18252

- Dec. 10-11** - Santa Shop
- Dec. 14** - Winter Wear Spirit Pick up (1-3)  
- Blue Mountain Candle Pickup (1-3)
- Dec. 17** - Crazy Christmas Day
- Dec. 19** - Christmas Program - "The Promise of Light" - 9:30AM  
- 50/50 Drawing
- Dec. 21** - Early Dismissal - 12:00 PM
- Dec. 22 - Jan. 1** - Christmas Vacation

**Live Your Faith - Wed., December 12, 6:30 - 8pm, Rectory**

**Session 10 - The Last things: What Happens After We Die**

*This Session will cover :*

- ◆ The particular judgment of each soul at the moment of death
- ◆ Hell: what it is, and why if we fail to repent, we will be separated from God forever
- ◆ Heaven, the perfect communion of life and love with the Trinity
- ◆ Purgatory, the purification some need before entering into full communion with God
- ◆ Why Catholics pray for the dead



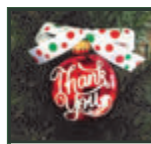
**Miller-Keystone Bloodmobile -**

Mark Your calendars Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - St. Joseph Church Social Hall—1-6pm.

Call the Parish office if you will donate or visit

[www.GiveaPint.org](http://www.GiveaPint.org) to create your donor profile and schedule an appointment. St. Joseph sponsor code is 5028

SS Peter & Paul Church, 260 North 3rd St. Lehighton is hosting their 8th Annual Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Friday, December 14th 6:30 PM. The celebration begins with Mass, there will be light refreshments following.



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**Women's Spirituality Weekend Retreat -January 11-13, 2019**

At the St. Francis Center for Renewal. "The Journey is Made Holy by Walking" For more information - Please call 610-867-8890, email: [stfranciscenter@gmail.com](mailto:stfranciscenter@gmail.com) or

[www.stfrancisctr.org](http://www.stfrancisctr.org)

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 104 E. Bertsch St. Lansford - Frozen Pirohi, Halushki Sale -\$7.00/dozen & \$6.00/lb.

Cookies \$8/tray; Nut Roll - 13\$, Poppy Seed Roll - \$12, Apricot Roll - \$12

December 14, 2018 - Pickup 11:00 A.M. To 5 P.M.

To Place Orders Please Call - 570-645-7960 or 570-645-7372



**Want to give yourself the perfect Christmas gift?** Join the women of the diocese at a Day of Reflection to be held at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 9:30am to 2:15pm. The Commission for Women is hosting the event, with the theme *“Advent: New Church Year, New Me.”* Deacon James Russo will be discussing a Catholic perspective on the Charles Dickens’ classic, “A Christmas Carol.” Cost for the day is \$20, which includes a light breakfast, Mass, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours as well as lunch and time for fellowship. If you would like to register, please go to [www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality). For questions, please contact Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763 or e-mail [cfw@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:cfw@allentowndiocese.org). Hope to see you there!

**The Master Craftsman** -You are invited to a special event “The Master Craftsman: God’s Amazing Plan for Teens (and their Parents)” co-sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. Join us for a faith-filled evening with nationally recognized speaker Scott Anthony, as he helps us see the Truth of God’s guiding hand in our lives. We encourage teens in grades 9-12 and their parents to attend! After this evening, you and your youth will look toward the future with a new-found sense of hope. The event will take place on Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center (1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103). This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided. To register for this event, please visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman). For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Francesca Frias at [Ffrias@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:Ffrias@allentowndiocese.org).

### **Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat**<sup>TM</sup>

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion - **March 22-24, 2019**

In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God’s compassion and forgiveness. For \*registration information contact: Sr. Meg Cole **1-866-3 RACHEL(Toll Free); 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019; [projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org)**  
**Deadline for Registration is March 14th - For information about the retreat experience visit the national web-site: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**The 2019 Catholic Scout Activity Weekend** will be held at Camp Trexler - Settlers April 26-28th, 2019 - so mark your calendars! We’d love to have you join us for a FUN-Filled weekend that includes all meals and a Saturday Vigil Mass! You don’t have to be working on a religious emblem to join us – all Catholic Scouts are welcome. Visit us at [www.adccos.org/bsr.htm](http://www.adccos.org/bsr.htm) for more info.

The St. Joseph Sunday Missal 2019 edition will be available to purchase after Mass & at the rectory during the week for \$3.00.



**PREP Classes are held  
Sunday – 9:15 AM - 10:30AM  
at the Parish Multi Purpose building,  
231 2nd St., Coaldale.  
DRE - Deacon Cannon -  
[deaconjoesjpv@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjoesjpv@gmail.com)  
No Class - December 23 & 30th**

**Support the Retirement Fund for Religious – Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years with little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today’s second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands elderly religious. Please be generous.**

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

STILL LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT? Give each other the gift of a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend, a gift that will outlast anything money can buy! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit [www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org).

**NO monthly breakfast in December.  
Our next breakfast will be January 20, 2019**

**Thank you to all who support our parish breakfasts!**

Become a St. Luke’s Hospice Volunteer - Volunteers are an integral part of St. Luke’s Hospice team, filling roles that range from direct contact with patients to providing clerical and fund-raising support for the organization. To find out how to join the next volunteer training please contact Juana Van Steenvoort at 484-526-7124, email [Juana.VanSteenvoort@sluhn.org](mailto:Juana.VanSteenvoort@sluhn.org), or visit <http://vna.slhn.org/Volunteer->

### **Around the Community**

- **Summit Hill Food Pantry** - “Do unto others as you would do unto you” - Food donations or monetary donations can be dropped off at the parish office. Every donation is greatly appreciated
- **AA Meetings** are held Monday and Tuesday each week from 7—8m at the former convent on Second Street in Coaldale.
- **Summit Hill Heritage Center**—The Next Monday night supper will be December 17th from 4-6pm. Menu will be Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, roll and butter for \$5. Kids meal available—a hot dog on a roll & mashed potatoes for \$3. Text to order ahead to reserve yours. 484.425.0255. Walk-ins welcome!  
**Jay Smar—“Then & Now”** - Saturday, December 29th at Summit Hill Heritage Center, 7pm. Doors open at 6:30pm This is a BYOB event. \$5 donation.



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