



CHURCH OF SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



December 17, 2023

155 North Brady Street • Blairsville, Pennsylvania 15717

Office: 459-7103 • Marian Hall: 459-6211

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parish Website: www.sssimonandjude.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

**12/16/23-Saturday-3rd Sunday in Advent (Vigil)**

1:00pm Sacrament of Penance
4:00pm Cecelia Henigin by Daughter, Susan & Family

12/17/23-Sunday-3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00am For The People

12/18/23-Monday-Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Deceased of Carl Calabrese Family by Monica

12/20/23-Wednesday-Late Advent Weekday

8:00am Nicholas Sracic by Pat

12/22/23-Friday-Late Advent Weekday

8:00am William Patrick Rovison by Family

12/23/23-Saturday-4th Sunday of Advent (Vigil)

1:00pm Sacrament of Penance
4:00pm Charlie Bartosh by Nancy Curnow

12/24/23-Sunday-4th Sunday of Advent

9:00am For The People
4:00pm Maria Lynn Morrow by Mom
6:00pm Mass at Kent
10:00pm For The People

WINE IN MEMORY OF SAM FERGUSON BY FAMILY

CHAPEL CANDLE IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL D. TOPEKA BY AUNT DARCI, UNCLE RICK, ALEX & ANDREW DICKSON

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



**MASS SCHEDULE
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, KENT**

**MONDAYS Holy Hour-5:00 P.M.; Mass-6:00 P.M.
TUESDAYS 8:30 A.M.
THURSDAYS 8:30 A.M.
SATURDAY 6:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.**

+++ FINANCIAL REPORT+++
This report will be in a future bulletin.

WEEKLY READINGS: GATHER HYMNAL # 998

PARISH COMING EVENTS:**Sunday, December 17**

- ◆ Faith Formation, Intergenerational, Grades K-12, Parish Center, 10:15 a.m.-"Noonish"

Tuesday, December 19

- ◆ Women's Choir Rehearsal, Church, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

- ◆ Men's Choir Rehearsal, Church, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 22

- ◆ Decorate Church for Christmas, 10:00 a.m.

OTHER COMING EVENTS**Monday, December 18**

- ◆ Advent Penance Service, Church of the Resurrection, Clymer, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19

- ◆ Advent Penance Service, Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucernemines, 7:00 p.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- PASTOR'S REFLECTION

December 17 - **"Who are you?"** Texts: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11, Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28.

While some gifted and intellectual people would like to be popular and number one, John shows the opposite. His life and example are a clear demonstration that our gifts and talents must be used to bring about the Kingdom of God by focusing on Other and other.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist describes the great difference that exists between who he is and who Jesus is. By implication, the same great difference exists between Jesus and us. Yet, in the second reading Paul makes clear that God indeed diminishes this difference through the grace of the Spirit in whom we are made "perfectly holy" and are "preserved blameless."

John the Baptist is sure about his own identity because he is sure about the identity of Jesus. John knows himself to be the forerunner of the greater One yet to come, whose sandal strap he is not even worthy to untie. His self-knowledge enables John to be who God intends him to be: not the Messiah, but the one who points beyond self to the Messiah's presence. If we are asked, "Who are you?" can we be so sure about our own identity in relation to Jesus that our lives too point to him?

READINGS-December 24, 2023

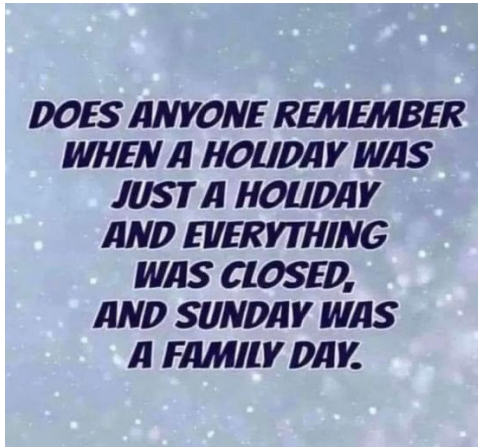
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 (1st)
 Romans 16:25-27 (2nd)
 Luke 1:26-38 (Gospel)
 Fourth Sunday of Advent



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES APPEAL: Every year the second collection at all Christmas Masses has been for those people living in our Diocese who are less fortunate. We ask you to support this appeal and make your contribution toward changing the future of an individual, family, or child.

THE CHURCH WILL BE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS on Friday, December 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to help is invited to participate.

THE WORD AMONG US, a booklet for the Advent season containing Scripture reflections and daily Mass readings each day in Advent is available in the back of the church for those wishing to take one home.



HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE: The parish office will be closed December 22nd through January 1st. For emergencies, leave a message at the parish office (724) 459-7103.

FYI: Starting in November and continuing through December, the deadline for turning in the bulletin for printing is significantly moved up. Therefore, remember this if needing to put an article in the bulletin those months and get the announcement to us as early as possible. Thank you.

2023 CATHOLIC CALENDARS, sponsored by our local funeral homes, are available in the back of the church for those wishing to take one home. We thank our funeral homes for providing this service to us.



EWTN schedules are available at the church entrances. You're welcome to pick one up and take it home.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Please note the envelopes or contributions given for the year 2023 will be credited only for the year 2023 if received by December 31st. Any contributions received **after** December 31st will be credited to 2024.

CHRISTMAS OPLATKI is for sale in the back of the church for those wishing to purchase it for \$2.00 per pack.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFERS COUNSELING for individuals, couples, and families. Catholic Charities of the Greensburg Diocese offers faith-based assistance with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, interpersonal conflicts, recovery support, parenting and family issues, anger managements, and other personal and family issues. Counseling is provided by licensed, professional and experienced therapists. Low fees, and many insurances accepted. Offices are located in Greensburg, Indiana, Uniontown, Kittanning, and New Kensington. For more information or an appointment, contact 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.





CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 4:00 P.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 6:00 P.M. (Kent)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 10:00 P.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - 9:00 A.M. (Kent)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31- 6:00 P.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 –10:00 A.M. (Kent)



REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICE

DEC. 18-CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, CLYMER-7:00 P.M.

DEC. 19-OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, LUCERNEMINES-7:00 P.M.



December Faithful Challenge: Embrace Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Revival is alive and well in our faith community! Over the last year, thousands of people responded to Bishop Kulick's weekly faithful challenges on social media. And it truly has made us a more Eucharistic Community. In December, as we celebrate both the Advent and Christmas seasons, we urge you to once again accept his challenge and open your heart and mind to the power of the Eucharist! Whether it be placing an Advent wreath in the center of your home, attending daily Mass or a Mass with the Bishop, or even saying a prayer for the Eucharistic Revival, you join with the living Body of Christ.

