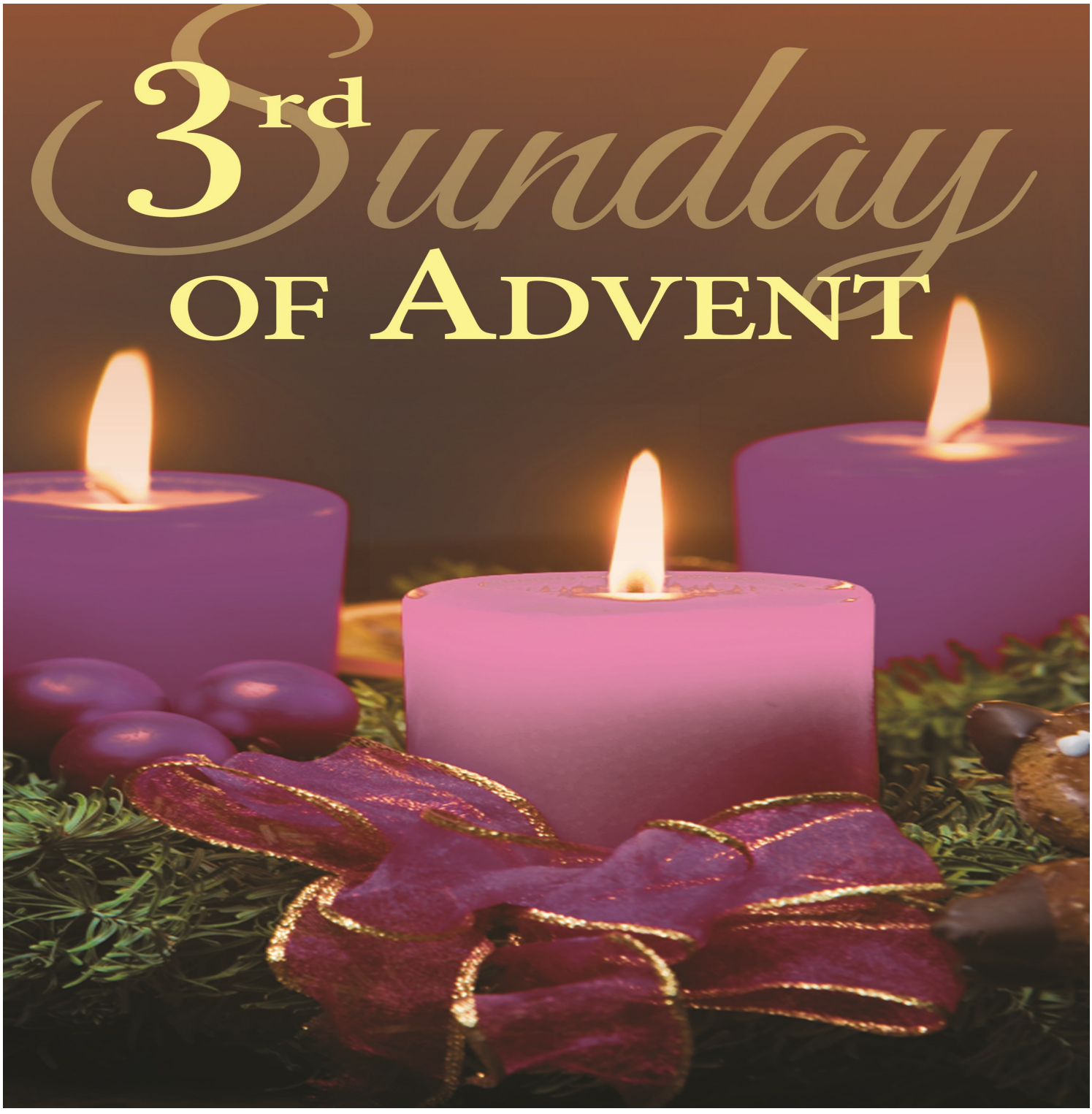
CHURCH OF
SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

December 15, 2024

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



MASS INTENTIONS

12/14/24-Saturday–3rd Sunday of Advent (Vigil)
1:00pm Sacrament of Penance
4:00pm For The People

12/15/24-Sunday-3rd Sunday of Advent
9:00am William Kenney by Bill & Dee Swanson

12/16/24-Monday-Advent Weekday
8:00am Ronnie Christopher by Riz

12/18/24-Wednesday-Late Advent Weekday
8:00am Nicholas Sracic by Kas & Alice Sikora

12/20/24-Friday-Late Advent Weekday
8:00am Janice Stets by Mary O'Connor

12/21/24-Saturday-4th Sunday of Advent (Vigil)
1:00pm Sacrament of Penance
4:00pm Frank Shurina by Ray & Shirley Boring

12/22/24-Sunday-4th Sunday of Advent
9:00am For The People

CHAPEL CANDLE IN MEMORY OF DOLLY BOSCO BY PEGGY & PAUL

HOST IN MEMORY OF MOM, DAD AND SUSAN BY JOAN HETCKO

WINE IN MEMORY OF DOLLY BOSCO BY MARK & MARY JO MILLER

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 # 999

PARISH COMING EVENTS:
Tuesday, December 17
- Women's Choir Rehearsal, Church, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18
- Men's Choir Rehearsal, Church, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22
- Decorate Church for Christmas, 10:00 a.m.
- Faith Formation, Intergenerational, Marian Hall, 10:00 a.m., St. Nicholas Breakfast

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Levels 1 & 2	Tuesdays	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Levels 1, 2, & 3	Wednesdays	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Faith Formation
Sundays 10:15 a.m. –11:45 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT PASTORS REFLECTION

Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Responsorial - Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18.

Rejoice! The Good News is Right Here.

All of us have experienced the sheer goodness of another person, the utter joy of an event, the complete surprise of intimacy. With reflection we conclude that we have indeed experienced the nearness of Christ in the flesh among us.

The first and second readings both speak of rejoicing and suggest to us that the cause of our joy is Christ ("in your midst, a mighty Savior"; "The Lord is near"). Christ is always being enfleshed in our midst.

In the gospel, John's clear and unequivocal answers to "What should we do?" gave direction to people's lives. John's good news, however, went beyond merely telling the people how to behave toward each other, but also instilled expectation in them. His good news pointed to the **One** who is all Good News, "a mighty Savior" who is in our midst (first reading), who is near (see second reading). The Good News is not a message but a person - Jesus.

READINGS-December 22, 2024
Micah 5:1-4a (1st)
Hebrews 10:5-10 (2nd)
Luke 1:39-45 (Gospel)
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE: The parish office will be closed December 24th through December 27th. For emergencies, leave a message at the parish office (724) 459-7103.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Please note the envelopes or contributions given for the year 2024 will be credited only for the year 2024 if received by December 31st. Any contributions received ***after*** December 31st will be credited to 2025.

A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Looking for the perfect faith-based Christmas Gift? We've got you covered! Give the gift of an encounter with Jesus! The parishes of Indiana Region are excited to announce that Chris Stefanick will be our keynote speaker for our 2025 Regional Lenten Mission, which is scheduled for Monday through Wednesday, March 10, 11, & 12, 2025. Tickets are on sale now for REBOOT on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, where Chris will bring a message of joy and a life of prayer. Get your tickets now before they sell out! Use the QR Code found on the posters throughout the church to purchase tickets. If you have questions on how to use the QR Code, please contact the Parish Office. Tickets must be purchased in advance as we will not be selling tickets at the door the night of REBOOT. Children under 12 enter FREE. All attendees will leave with FREE online access to Chris Stefanick's Living Joy along with a study guide.

2025 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.

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.

2024 REGIONAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

December 16, Monday- 7:00 p.m.–
SS Simon & Jude, Blairsville

December 17, Tuesday- 7:00 p.m.-
Church of the Resurrection, Clymer

December 18, Wednesday– 7:00 p.m.–
St. Bernard, Indiana

December 19, Thursday-7:00 p.m.-
Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucernemines

THE CHURCH WILL BE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS on Sunday, December 22nd after Mass. Anyone wishing to help is invited to participate.

2025 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.

CLEARANCES: It is once again time for many volunteers to renew their clearances. Needing redone are the Virtus recertification, PA State Police Criminal, Child Abuse, and Affidavit reports. These four clearances must be redone every five years. New volunteers as of January 2025 must have fingerprinting done also. If you need to redo your clearances, please stop by the office for the forms you will need. If you're not sure that your clearances need to be redone, just call the office and we can answer that question for you. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY: The Diocese of Greensburg has revitalized its Project Rachel Ministry and is prepared to assist those suffering as the result of being involved in an abortion. Bishop Michael Burbidge, from Arlington, VA, sums up Project Rachel's mission and purpose by informing us, "Diocesan-based abortion healing ministry, most often called Project Rachel Ministry, seeks to accompany those who suffer from abortion as they receive Christ's mercy, comfort , and healing. Project Rachel Ministry serves as a bridge to God's mercy, helping him to make participants whole and restoring his relationship with them as his beloved daughters and sons." For confidential, compassionate help, call 724-552-1832 or email projectrachel@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 4:00 P.M. (Kent)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 6:00 P.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 10:00 P.M. (Kent)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - 9:00 A.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 - 6:00 P.M. (Kent)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 - 9:00 A.M. (SS Simon & Jude)

2024 REGIONAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

DECEMBER 16, MONDAY - 7:00 p.m. - SS Simon & Jude, Blairsville

DECEMBER 17, TUESDAY - 7:00 p.m. - Church of the Resurrection, Clymer

DECEMBER 18, WEDNESDAY - 7:00 p.m. - St. Bernard, Indiana

DECEMBER 19, THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m. - Our Lady of the Assumption, Lucernemines

Indiana County Regional

YOUTH MINSITRY ICE SKATING

Skating • Food • Fun • Bring a Friend

January 4, 2025 | 2:00-4:00PM

S&T Bank Arena | Indiana, PA

Free of charge - just bring a food or drink to share