



CHURCH OF SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



December 22, 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

4th

Sunday OF ADVENT





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 in Advent
 9:00am For The People

12/23/24-Monday-St. John of Kanty, Priest
 8:00am Joseph Flasic, Jr. by Lisa & Larry Bartosh

12/24/24-Tuesday-Late Advent Weekday (Christmas Vigil)
 6:00pm Maria Morrow & Wayne Fumea by Pauline

12/25/24-Wednesday-The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)
 9:00am For The People

12/27/24-Friday-St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 8:00am Lloyd David by Betty Jean Branthoover

12/28/24-Saturday-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (Vigil)
 1:00pm Sacrament of Penance
 4:00pm John Machak by Daughters, Karen & Johna

12/29/24-Sunday-the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 9:00am For The People

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

Tuesday, December 24– Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 24– Christmas Eve - 10:00 p.m.

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, KENT
 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (VIGIL)**

Tuesday, December 31 - 6:00 p.m.

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***

December 8, 2024

Offertory Collection	\$ 5,085.00
Loose Collection.....	\$ 626.00
Total	\$ 5,711.00
Online Giving.....	\$ 75.00
Parish Improvement.....	\$ 180.00

WEEKLY READINGS: GATHER HYMNAL # 1002

PARISH COMING EVENTS:

Sunday, December 22

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

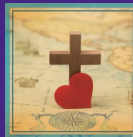
Tuesday, December 24- Friday, December 27

- ◆ Parish Office Closed

WINE IN MEMORY OF SAM FERGUSON BY FAMILY

CHAPEL CANDLE IN MEMORY OF DAVID & KATHERINE BAKER BY DAN

HOST IN MEMORY OF RICK PEZZI & CYNTHIA (PEZZI) PATRICK BY FAMILY



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
 PASTORS REFLECTION**

Micah 5:1-4a, Psalm: 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45.

The Astonishing Gift of His Visit: What Does It Reveal About Your Heart?

We are overjoyed at a visit from a beloved relative or friend whom we have not seen for some time. We are being invited this Sunday to recognize and rejoice over the abiding presence of Jesus, who is beloved relative (brothers and sisters in Christ) and friend.

The prophet Micah prophesies, how astounding and unexpected that the majestic ruler of Israel should come from so small and insignificant a place as Bethlehem. Even more astounding is that the Son of God should come to share our humanity.

Luke presents, Mary went in haste to Elizabeth’s house, entered, and greeted her. Elizabeth recognized and responded to the mystery taking place. She expressed astonishment, wonder, amazement: *“how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”* An even greater astonishment, wonder, amazement: the Lord himself comes to us. How do we respond?

Christmas Message: “Love is the essence of Christmas!” Let the birth of love in our hearts bring joy and happiness to all. May the same love that binds Jesus, Mary and Joseph hold you close to one another and give you strength in sharing the fire of the same love to the world. You and your loved ones are most remembered in my humble prayers.

Wishing you all a truly Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Fr. Dino

READINGS-December 29, 2024

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 (1st) or
 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 (1st)
 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 (2nd) or
 Colossians 3:12-21 (2nd)
 Luke 2:41-52 (Gospel)
 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



Happy Holidays!

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.

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.

ICE SKATING - YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT!

Hey, Middle & High Schoolers! Join us for a fun afternoon of ice skating, food, and fellowship with friends! Whether you're a pro on the ice or it's your first time, everyone is welcome. Come for the fun, stay for the great company, and enjoy an afternoon of laughter and community!

Date: January 4, 2025

Time: 2:00-4:00pm

Location: S & T Bank Arena, Indiana

Cost: Free, just bring a snack or drink to share – Skate rentals are included

RSVP: Jessica Thompson |

jthompson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

THANK YOU: Some things are easy to over look during the Blessed Christmas Season, but we express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have helped in any way to make the celebration of the Christmas Season special in our parish. We especially thank those who helped decorate the church and those who clean the church. We thank our Organist and Choirs who dedicated many hours to practicing the music for our Liturgies. We also thank all who served in a ministry for our Liturgies. May God bless you abundantly for your service to the Parish.

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



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.

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.

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.



CHRISTMAS GIFT



During the Christmas season Micah and Gigi were playing in the garden. Suddenly an angel appeared to them. The angel gave each one a gift, wished them Happy New year and disappeared. Before disappearing promised them that he will appear again at the end of the next year. When they opened the gift, they found a book with beautiful pictures and dates of the year. As soon as the book was opened the whole house was filled with beautiful fragrance. Every day they began to open the book and see the pictures.

On the 31st of December the following year the same angel appeared to them as they were playing in the garden. This time also the angel had gifts in his hands. They were very happy and came running to the angel and wanted to get the gifts. The angel said, please bring the gift that I gave you last year. They ran to the house and brought the books. The angel lighted a beautiful light and opened the books of Micah and Gigi. The first page was giving good fragrance, but many pages were torn and dirty and they cried out who made this book so dirty, we had kept it very clean. They looked at each other and asked who did it so?

The angel said like this, nobody did it, the book is like this. They did not understand. The angel explained. In those days when you were obeying the parents, the teachers, shared your things with the needy, the page is still giving the good fragrance. But in those days when you disobeyed and misbehaved the pages are looking dirty and without the fragrance. Micah said, when you comeback in the next year all the pages will bring fragrance. But the angel said, now I am going with the book. This is not for you again. Next year I will come and give you another book that gives better fragrance. The angel gave the gifts and disappeared.



**M E R R Y
C H R I S T M A S**



MASS SCHEDULE

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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)

O COME ALL YE
Faithful



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