

*Third Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



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**Mission Statement**

Compelled by the love of Christ,  
we love others,  
deepen our faith,  
and transform our world.



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## FR. MARK'S NOTES

### What a Cool Name: Evenings of Reconciliation!!

#### Sounds so Healing!

“**What should we do?**” That’s the big question asked of John the Baptist by the crowds, which amazingly included tax collectors and soldiers. John must have had a vast influence on so many people. Maybe as we prepare for the coming of the Messiah, we too should ask this essential question, “**What should we do?**”

Of course, what comes to my mind first **are our Evenings of Reconciliation on Monday and Tuesday, December 16 and 17.** Again, these are not Penance Services, just a group of priests scattered throughout the Church (we will have some hospitality there to help you.) ready to hear your confession when you arrive **anytime between 6:00 and 7:30.** I will absolutely be there for the whole time. There won’t be as much waiting, and I hope the times suit your schedule.

May I say again: to be a welcoming church, we also need to be an honest and authentic Church. We need to be more and more of a Church of people who are sincere and truthful with ourselves and God. Again, have you noticed that God is not interested in our “acceptable self.” He wants to meet us in those dark, hidden, and wounded parts of our soul, where we hide from ourselves and God— especially in the Sacrament. That’s where Jesus is present. He wants us to realize we are loved and accepted, and can come out of hiding. So, let’s risk that and experience Jesus’ healing. Let’s be honest with God so our hearts are healed and set free in ways we never thought possible. **Let’s you and I repent!** Let’s discover a whole new way of thinking.

So, think about it. **What should you (I) do?** Let’s risk God, let’s risk freedom!! If we all ask that question, the Church will return to a more authentic, true, and honest Faith— one where everyone will belong.

#### FYF (Follow Your Faith)

Last week, we talked about the importance of Incarnation. Why did Jesus come? Why is that so important? We are the only faith that calls God “Father” and calls God’s eternal Son “Brother.” At the core, our faith is so very radical. Also, remember, there is no “man upstairs,” only a God very immanent and present to us.

This week, we will discuss the implication of such truths in “The Consequences of the Incarnation for Spirituality.” **It changes everything:** How we pray and our understanding of reconciliation and healing. (There is no such thing as going straight to God: we go Him through Jesus and Jesus in His Church and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To get that is to get being Catholic!), how does Jesus set us free internally from anxiety and conflict, our understanding of how God guides us in life, our grasp of the community (this is an important one), and our understanding of mission? (Remember, we are called away from mere maintenance to a true mission for the Church. Along with that is the “mission of accompaniment.), finally, how do we stay in contact with loved ones after death (this is a big question for many.)

This topic may take us more than one week. We will get started this week. Join us!!

## CHRISTMAS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve Mass at OMOS—4 pm

**Servers:** Brendan Murphy, Madelyn Murphy, Ellslyn Murphy, Brian Koch, James Smedberg

**Lectors:** Tom Polacek, Sabrina Mezyk

**Euch. Min:** David (2) & Estelle Milligan, Mark Voelker, Jerry & Mary Kay Clark, Pam Fisher, Matt DiFrancesco

**Hosp:** Pattie Porter, Rick Phillips, Ed, Julie & Natalie Sheehan, Anne & Matt DiFrancesco, Tami Buchan, Estelle & Dave Milligan

### Christmas Eve Mass at St. Michael's—4 pm

**Servers:** Tim Burgess & Taylor Beneke

**Lector:** Kayla Stephenson

### Christmas Eve Mass at OMOS—7 pm

**Servers:** Isabela Segear, Adriel, Arianna, Annaliese Manalang, Millie Kohut

**Lectors:** Rick Wess & Cathy Vigna

**Euch. Min:** Marilyn Billow (2), Vickie Wesner, Janet Bowser, Christine Manalang, Mike Garver, Evie Wess, **need one more**

**Hosp:** John Esch, Ann Mattie, Rich & Deb Cowan, Marianne Krizner, Gerri Isban, Janette Cowan, Keith Santee

### Christmas Eve Mass at OMOS—10pm

**Servers:** Domenick Lokesak, Mason Lokesak

**Lectors:** Jim Clark & Balkis Awan

**Euch. Min:** Joyce Dailey (2), Heather Lokesak, Kathy & Jim Ridella, Liz Petruska, **need 2 more**

**Hosp:** Kevin Evans, Amada Awan, Kathy Lepsch, **need 5 more**

### Christmas Day Mass at St. Michael's—9 am

**Servers:** Tim Burgess & Stan Smith

**Lector:** Mary Ann Burgess

### Christmas Day Mass at OMOS-10 am

**Servers:** James Smedberg

**Lectors:** John Skelley, John McGrath

**Euch. Min:** Mary Beth Cartwright (2), Carol Battaglia, Barb Flick, Maria Nesmith, Linda Geiser, Rick & Evie Wess.

**Hosp:** Diane & Denny Thomas, Joyce Nesmith, Karen Findish, Rick & Evie Wess, Michele Varner

**Young Adult Group (18-39):** Our next Theology on Tap is December 18th at 6 pm at the Boulevard Grill with Deacon Rick Messina speaking on The Holy Family and Catholic Family Life. Our group is also Christmas Caroling at Hilltop Heights Health & Rehab Center on December 21st at 1 pm. All young adults aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith, food, and fellowship! We appreciate your support, and please continue spreading the word to young adults! For more information, contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.



### ALPHA NEWS

The Fall 2024 Alpha has just wrapped up. Besides holding it at OMOS, we helped facilitate Alpha at Alliance Church, St. Benedict Church, and the YMCA. Ninety people took the course at one of the four locations. OMOS had 25 guests and an additional 25 volunteers serving as hosts, helpers, kitchen staff, set-up and clean-up, technology, music, and hospitality. (Our guests often mentioned the warm welcome they received and the joy noticed in all the volunteers!) In addition, we had over 25 volunteers serving at other locations. As you can see, it takes an army to run Alpha. At OMOS alone, our volunteers served a total of 630 meals. A big thanks to all the volunteers who provided the meals! Thanks to all the volunteers! Your time, support, and expertise in your area allowed things to run more smoothly (and my job a lot easier!) Michele Varner

### MORE ALPHA NEWS

We are already preparing for our 2025 Winter/Spring Alpha! We will begin Adult Alpha in January and Youth Alpha in February. OMOS will also help Liberty Grace Church in Richland with their Alpha. If you have taken Alpha in the past, consider coming back to watch the newer video series and bring a friend with you! The video series currently being used differs from those shown 5-10 years ago.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Adult Alpha

- ◆ Begins Tuesday, January 14 (6—8:30 pm)
- ◆ Day Away—March 1
- ◆ Last Alpha—April 1

#### Liberty Grace Church

- ◆ Begins Sunday, January 19
- ◆ Day Away—March 1
- ◆ Last Alpha-April 6

#### Youth Alpha

- ◆ Begins Sunday, February 16 (5—7 pm)
- ◆ Day Away—March 16
- ◆ Last Alpha—April 6

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve:

- ◆ Tuesday, December 24— OMOS 4 pm, 7 pm, 10 pm
- ◆ Tuesday, December 24—St. Michael's—4 pm

### Christmas Day:

- ◆ Wednesday, December 25—OMOS—10 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesday, December 25—St. Michael's—9 a.m.





## ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS

### DECORATE ST. MICHAEL'S FOR CHRISTMAS!

St. Michael's will decorate the church on Sunday, December 22 at 10 am. Please come and help make the church beautiful for the Christmas Season.

**OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS**, \$2/Pack (4 Wafers per pack). Contact Maureen Puchko (814) 322-2035 to place your order while supplies last.

### OPLATKI CHRISTMAS WAFERS FOR SALE

\$2/Pack (4 Wafers per pack)

Contact OMOS Parish Office (535-7646) to place your order while supplies last.

### SMALL JOB HELP AVAILABLE

The students from UPJ's Catholic Campus Ministries are looking to do God's will by giving back to those in our Johnstown community. If anyone is in need or has potential work that needs to be completed (yard work, painting, gutters cleaned, winterization, lights hung, etc.,) please get in touch with LaDonna McCary at (814) 977-4277 or Lam220@pitt.edu.



**ALL ANGEL TREE GIFTS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, DEC. 15!** Please drop off all unwrapped gifts, with the angels attached in back of the church. Online monetary donations will be accepted online this week. Thank you for your generosity!

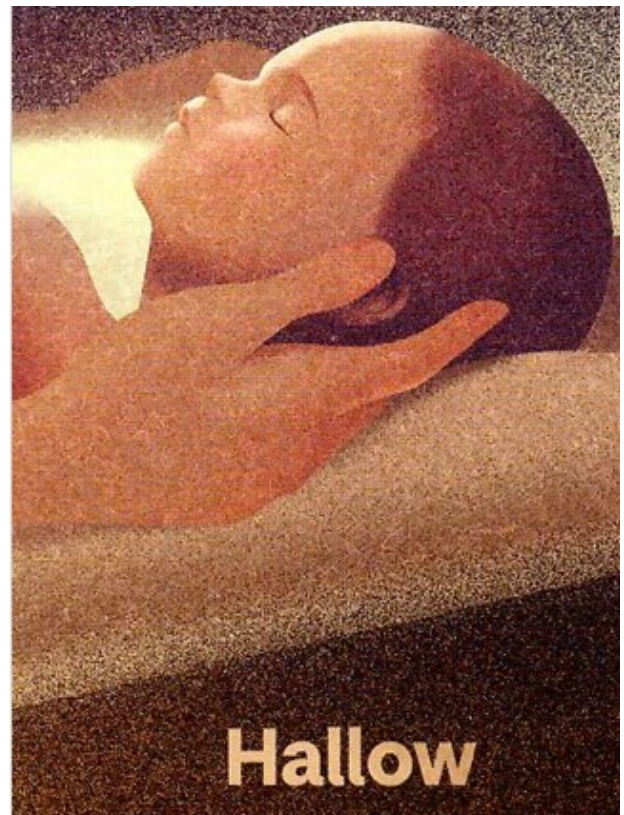
## NIGHTS OF RECONCILIATION

**Monday, December 16—6 –7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, December 17—6 –7:30 pm**

### FOOD BANK COLLECTION

We continue to collect nonperishable food for St. Clement's Food Bank. Our containers are inside Holy Grounds, just inside the room on the left. You are welcome to walk in and drop off the nonperishable food anytime. If we are closed, please leave your donations on the porch, and we will take care of them.



## JOIN THE ADVENT PRAY25 CHALLENGE

Prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent with daily prayer on Hallow, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps us encounter Christ through daily prayer.

The parish link for Hallow is:  
<https://hallow.com/parish/>



**Hallow**  
hallow.com/pray

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Monday, December 16

6 a.m. —Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m. —Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Bella Seegar & Jamison Gibson

**Lector:** Matt DiFrancesco

### Tuesday, December 17

6 a.m. —Eucharistic Adoration

7:30 a.m. —Confessions

8 a.m. —Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Anna Iese Manalang & Cassidy Stephenson

**Lector:** Cathy Vigna

### Wednesday, December 18

7 a.m. Praise & Worship

5:30 p.m. —Confessions

6:00 p.m. —Mass at OMOS

**Server:** Tim Burgess

**Lector:** Rick Wess

### Thursday, December 19

6 a.m. —Eucharistic Adoration

9 a.m. —Mass with BMCE

**Server:** Students

**Lector:** Students

### Friday, December 20

6 a.m. —Eucharistic Adoration

8 a.m. —Mass at OMOS

**Server:** Milie Kohut & James Smedberg

**Lector:** Kim Hill

### Saturday, December 21—Vigil

3 p.m. —Confessions

4 p.m. —Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Nicolas & Dominic Barger

**Lector:** Jeane Clark

**Euch. Min:** Mary Kay (2) & Jerry Clark, Pam Fisher, Diana Tyger, Mark Voelker, Vicki Wesner, Michelle Rivetti

**Hosp.:** Cathy Vigna, Ally Zoldos, Rich & Deb Cowan, Pattie Porter, Kevin Evans

### Saturday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

6 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's

**Servers:** Tim Burgess & Taylor Beneke

**Lector:** Mitzie Simmons

### Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am— Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Cassidy Stephenson & Damian Carbaugh

**Lector:** Anita Altman

**Euch. Min:** Matt DiFrancesco (2), Linda Geiser, Barb Flick, Ralph DeMarco, Rick & Eveie Wess, Mary Beth Cartwright

**Hosp:** Julie & Ed Sheehan, Maria & Ralph DeMarco, Karen Findish, Jim & Joan Frischauf, Julie Fontana

### Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

11 am—Mass at OMOS

**Servers:** Aubrey & Ava Marron

**Lector:** Marty Radovanic, Jr.

**Euch. Min:** Tim DiGiuseppe (2), Heather Lokesak, Richard & Barbara Luckner, Maria Nesmith, Liz Petruska, Kevin Lynch

**Hosp:** Diane & Denny Thomas, John Onufro, Joyce Nesmith, Denise Mezyk, Tim DiGiuseppe, Patty & Don Falcone

## SUNDAY REGULAR COLLECTION

### November 24, 2024

Envelopes .....\$ 7,473

Loose ..... 2,632

Online ..... 6,185

Total .....\$ 16,290

St. Michael's ..... 2,290

### December 1, 2024

Envelopes .....\$ 6,594

Loose ..... 1,211

Online ..... 10,139

Total .....\$ 17,944

St. Michael's ..... 1,451

*Due to early bulletin deadlines we have are behind on reporting our regular collection figures.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 14—Vigil

4 pm Howard & Cecelia Sherman & Gladys Smajda (Family)

### Saturday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent

6 p.m. Anna Jean Sostek (Leonard & Connie Jerva), Robert, Dolores, & Kathryn Polak (Rena Weirbinski), & Paula Budash (Rita Mathes) (*Sanctuary Candle in memory of Benny Popchak*)

### Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Charles F. Pfaller (Theresa & Jane Pfaller)

11:00 a.m. Roy Begly (Bill & Terrie Ray)

### Monday, December 16

8 a.m. Stephen & Eleanor Rist (Veronica Rist)

### Tuesday, December 17

8 a.m. Mary Linda Trexler (Carrienne Brown)

### Wednesday, December 18

6 p.m. Garth Wesner (Sue Denovich)

### Thursday, December 19

9 a.m. Mary Jane Messich (Jim & Kathy Ridella)

### Friday, December 20

8 a.m. Linda Maurer (Theresa Flynn)

### Saturday, December 21—Vigil

4 pm Dolores Kadas (husband, Joe)

### Saturday, December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent

6 p.m. Raymond Cushman (Helen Oleksa & Family) & Bernice Stem (Bernie & Mary Ann Pentrack)

### Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Jean Hammer (Thomas & Barbara Kelly)

11:00 a.m. Marlene A. Kessler (husband)

## MASS READINGS

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45