

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018**

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. *Zephaniah 3:15b*



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**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Joint Parish Office located at:

15 E. Church St., Susquehanna, Pa. 18847

Phone Number 570-853-4634 Office Email: jointoffice3@gmail.com

Fax: 570-853-3356. www.saintslawrencemartinjohn.com

JOINT Website: www.saintslawrencemartinjohn.com

Emergency Phone Number at St. Lawrence Rectory: 570-267-1366 or Fr. Dave at 570-604-0819

BAPTISM: The Church, as a norm, celebrates baptism on Sunday, the Lord's Day. Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

PARISH REGISTRATION: We always welcome new members to our parishes. Registration is important so that we may serve your spiritual needs. Call the office to register. You must be registered to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage or be granted letters of eligibility for sponsoring a Baptism or Confirmation.

MARRIAGE: Couples contemplating marriage should contact the parish office at least six months before the anticipated date. This allows for proper preparation for this sacrament of commitment.

PENANCE: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturday at St. John's after Mass, St. Lawrence at 4:15PM, and at 3:15 to 3:45PM at St. Martin's. Individual Confessions can also be arranged at another time by calling the parish office for an appointment.

HOSPITALS/NURSING HOMES AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please notify the parish office of anyone in the hospital, nursing home or seriously ill anticipating an operation or advanced in age. Members of the parish are available to bring communion to the sick and the homebound each Sunday.

MASS INTENTIONS: You can honor a deceased relative or friend by remembering them with a Mass intention. Please call the rectory if you would like to have a Mass said for someone. The stipend is \$10.00 per Mass.

CHURCH NEWS DEADLINE: Information for our weekly bulletin, inserts, and church announcements should be submitted to the parish office by **TUESDAY 11:00 AM**. If you or your organization has an announcement or prayer request to be read by the lector at mass, please have it to the parish office by our Tuesday deadline as well.

Like us on Facebook: @stlawrencemartinjohn check it out and don't forget to "Like & Share"

Joint Mission Statement

We, the Roman Catholic Parishes of St. John the Evangelist, St. Lawrence and St. Martin of Tours, are committed to enriching our faith in Jesus Christ and our Catholic heritage through prayer, the celebration of the Sacraments, and devotion to the Eucharist. We joyfully proclaim the Gospel to all through word and deed and encourage our faith community to share God's gifts by serving others in works of hospitality and love.

Rev. David Cramer, Pastor
Deacon Ron Maida
Mrs. Vickie Mulligan, Pastoral Associate/ DRE
Mrs. Judi Salinkas, Secretary

Bible Study: Is off for the winter months. We will start up in April.

Divine Mercy Service Wednesday's at 3PM at St. Lawrence Church.

Email Prayer Chain, please send us your email! This prayer chain is not replacing the phone chain, it's just getting the prayers said to more people! jointoffice3@gmail.com

Eucharistic Devotions: Are held at St. John's on Sunday's at 2:30PM. All are welcomed.

Grief Support Group: Call the parish office for more information.

Holy Hour: Will be held after the Thursday morning Mass at St. Martin's. The hour will include the Mass and 30 minutes of private adoration. At 8:45 the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited.

Nigerian Mission Collection: Will take place on the 3rd weekend of each month.

Novena at St. Lawrence: Every Monday evening at St. Lawrence there will be a Novena and Adoration after the 7:00PM Mass.

Patriotic Rosary is said at St. John's Chapel every Thursday at Noon. All welcome to join us.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you know of anyone who is in need of one of these special lap shawls/quilts please call Toni Romanofski @ 853-4715 (St. John's), RoseMary Cosentino @ 756-2557 (St. Martin's) and Cheryl Tomeo: @ 879-4364 (St. Lawrence) or call the parish office at 853-4634. **Next meeting is March 7, 2019**. We have given out over **250** quilts/shawls. We make these for our joint baptisms as well! Quilters and knitters always needed.

Pro-Life Ministry: Call parish office for more information.

Special Novena: On Thursday mornings at the 8:00 AM Mass at St. Martin of Tours there is a special novena after Mass to St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer victims and those suffering from serious illness. There is a prayer box by St. Peregrine's statue where you can enter the name of a suffering loved one or yourself to be remembered. The box is emptied January 1st and July 1st. You are welcome to reenter names for those still suffering. Anyone in need of the Sacrament of anointing can receive the anointing that evening by calling the rectory at 570 853-4634.

THE GREATEST NEED

The world's greatest need is not more Christians but more Christians who practice their Christianity.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Food Bank Collections (Susq. Food Pantry)

Items may be left in the vestibule. All monetary gifts may be placed in an envelope marked "FOOD BANK" (cash only) and dropped in the collection. Canned veggies, soup & cereal.

We are still collecting rosaries for our troops. Please place them in the back of church.

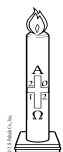
Need a lift to Church? St. John's has a transportation Committee to help out parishioners who need a ride to church. Call JoAnn Barnes at 570-647-0833.

The **SANCTUARY LIGHT** burns for the deceased members of our churches.



And the Fuel Raffle Winner is.....

1st Prize: Bob Burns
2nd Prize: Fred Jackson
3rd prize: Linda Norris
Thanks to ALL who participated. The profit is \$ 2,905.00.
75 returned envelopes of 150.



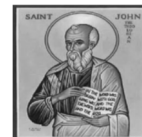
*Remember in your prayers
Margaret Perry
who passed away last week.*

Joyful in Pink Shout for joy, daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, Israel!! Be glad and exult with all your heart Zephaniah 3:14

On this day, Gaudete Sunday, our eager anticipation for the coming of a savior is ramped up. We are like children running around, excitedly preparing for a party, for the coming of our guest. We may be wondering what to do, what needs our attention, but the answer is easy—rejoice! With Christ coming, we have no reason to be worried or afraid, so we can smile and feel peace. Joy can define our movements, our hopeful expectation. We can be generous and grateful. We can be satisfied and sociable. We can be confident and cheerful, all because we are changed and ready! "They'll know we're Christians by our love," the hymn proclaims. Yet, it is not only love that ought to define us; our joy must always be apparent as well.

God of Hope, help me to joyfully announce your Good News today.

15 E. Church St.
Susquehanna, PA 18847



Stewardship—St. John's

December 8th & 9th 2018

Offering: \$ 1,866.00 Loose: 88.00 Imm. Conception:: 436.00
Fuel: 95.00 Flowers: 20.00.00 Care & Edu: 5.00 Ret. Rel:
283.00 **Total: \$ 2,863.00.**



IMPORTANT Online Giving Information:

Online Giving will no longer be available to our parishes. Our parishioners asked us to try it and we did. It never took off. Thanks to all who did use it.

Ministries—St. John

Saturday, Dec. 22nd, 2018 5:30PM

J. Burke, A. Nieradka (Servers)
M. Mazikewicz (Lector) (EM) J. Schell, S. Decker,
C. Walker

Sunday, Dec. 23rd, 2018 8:30PM

L. Hilling, L. Dooley (Servers)
M. Cook(Lector) (EM) B. Burns, B. Cook, B. Wolf

JOINT FACEBOOKPAGE:@stlawrencemartinjohn
check it out and don't forget to "Like & Share"

The Susquehanna Community Chorus needs you! Do you like to sing? Do you live in the community or close by? Have you ever wanted to make friends who share the same interest? If you answered yes to these questions, this Chorus is for you. Accompanied by Jeffrey Keyes and directed by Brenda Tiffany, this Chorus will sing a wide variety of Choral works. Practices will begin on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church. The concert will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. at the Susquehanna Community High School auditorium. We are very excited to have this group and fill the community with music. However, the existence of the chorus depends on YOU! We need at least 25 singers in order to have a concert. If we do not have enough people, we will not be able to have a concert. Anyone wishing to sing must contact Jeffrey Keyes or Brenda Tiffany via phone or text. You have until the first practice to commit to this group. Join us! You'll be glad you did!

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. delivers hot, nutritious meals out of the Lanesboro Senior Center five days a week, Monday through Friday. A volunteer can choose as little as one day or all five days to deliver meals to those in the community. Delivery hours are usually between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Volunteer drivers are reimbursed \$.50 per mile and training is provided. B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. humbly asks that you consider serving your community by becoming a volunteer Meals on Wheels driver. For more information or to become a volunteer, please call Kelly Allen at 1-800-634-3746.

"Individual commitment to a group effort-- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a church work, a society work, a civilization work." ..

ST. LAWRENCE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

380 FRANKLIN STREET GREAT BEND, PA. 18821



We at St. Lawrence ask you to PLEASE pray for those who have been placed on our prayer chain:

Jerry Stahl, Lorraine Smith, Karen Hartt, Cathy Johnson, Barry Corrigan Jr. J. Gill, Kathy Roe, Cheryl Butchta, Jim Malonis, John Vasina, Eddie Reddon, Nancy Rychlewski

**** when adding a person to the prayer list, PLEASE let us know when we should remove their name.**

Food Pantry: You can leave non perishable food items in the cry room for the Great Bend Food Pantry. All items are needed and greatly appreciated.

BIBLE STUDY: Is *not* scheduled for the winter months. We will resume in April.

Divine Mercy Wednesday's at 3:00PM at St. Lawrence Church during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The service will include hymns, prayers from St. Faustina's diary. Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, as well as Veneration of the relic of St. Faustina. Please join us.

St. Lawrence is looking for someone to take over the job of caring for our church linens. This is changing/washing the altar linens Call the parish office if interested.

IMPORTANT Online Giving Information: Online Giving will no longer be available to our parishes. Our parishioners asked us to try it and we did. It never took off. Thanks to all who did use it.



Calling all angels, donkeys, sheep and of course, Mary and Joseph!

St. Lawrence will be having their annual Children's Mass on Christmas Eve (5PM Mass) Contact Brenda Pruitt or Irene McCarthy. You can also call the parish office at 853-4634.

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. delivers hot, nutritious meals out of the Lanesboro Senior Center five days a week, Monday through Friday. A volunteer can choose as little as one day or all five days to deliver meals to those in the community. Delivery hours are usually between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Volunteer drivers are reimbursed \$.50 per mile and training is provided. B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. humbly asks that you consider serving your community by becoming a volunteer Meals on Wheels driver. For more information or to become a volunteer, please call Kelly Allen at 1-800-634-3746.

Stewardship— St. Lawrence

Dec8th & 9th, 2018

Offering Env: 1,556.00 Loose: 235.00 Care & Edu: 7.00
Maint: 158.00 Xmas Flowers: 57.00 Holy Day: 352.00
Ret. For Rel.: 277.00. **Total: \$ 2,642.00.**

MINISTERIES—ST. LAWRENCE

"A Disciple's Response of Time and Talent"

Saturday Dec. 22, 2018 5:00PM

I. McCarthy (lector) R. & D. Maida (EM)

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018 8:00AM

C. Rinker (lector) A. McLoud (EM)

Greeters: 12/15:A. Mydlinski **12/16:** L. Landes **12/22:** P. Bryce **12/23:** Rieckes. **12/29:** I. McCarthy **12/30:** R. Parkinson.



The **SANCTUARY LIGHT** burns for the deceased members of our churches.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

The Knights of Columbus meetings are still on the first Sunday of the month after the 9:30AM mass.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

State Rts. 92 & 492



St. Martin of Tours Mission Statement

United with the Holy Father, our Bishop, and our Pastor, we, the parish community of St. Martin of Tours, bring the Word of God alive through our Eucharistic celebrations and Works of Charity.



The **SANCTUARY LIGHT** burns for the deceased members of our churches.

The St. Peregrine prayer box: If you have a loved one who remains in need of prayer you are welcome to put your request in the prayer box.

PLEASE JOIN US: Each First Saturday Mass at 8:00AM at St. Martin of Tours.

First Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary include the following elements, performed with the intention of reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart, for at least five consecutive months: Confession (Father will be available) Holy Communion received on the first Saturday of each month; the Holy Rosary, five decades recited sometime during the day; meditating for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary.



IMPORTANT Online Giving Information:

Online Giving will no longer be available to our parishes. Our parishioners asked us to try it and we did. It never took off. Thanks to all who did use it.

Confession Change: *Wednesday, December 18th 6-7PM at St. Martin of Tours Church.*

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE
\$2.00 PER CHANCE OR 3 FOR \$5.00



Take a change today!

STEWARDSHIP ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

December 8th & 9th, 2018

Offering Env: 598.00 Loose: 159.00 Holy Day: 78.00
Christmas: 20.00 New Yr: 20.00 Care & Edu: 10.00
Fuel: 50.00 Flowers: 75.00 Ret. For Rel: 51.00
Total: \$ 1,040.00

JOINT FACEBOOK PAGE: @stlawrencemartinjohn
check it out and don't forget to "Like & Share"

*Time, Talent & Treasure: Think of giving
not as a duty but as a privilege.*

MINISTERIES-ST. MARTIN'S

Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018 4:00PM

R. Gilleran (Lector) M. Bier (EM)

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018 11:00AM

G. Whitehead (server) B. Corrigan (Lector) B. Kwader,
B. Supancik, K. Kempa (EM)

St. Martin of Tours has an **Emergency Prayer Request** team that is ready to pray for the needs of her parishioners. Prayer requests can be made to Annette Corrigan at corrigan@echoes.net 570 280-2264 or Betsy Supancik at grannybets68@yahoo.com 570 756-2586.

Holy Hour: will be held after the Thursday morning Mass. The hour will include the Mass and 30 minutes of private adoration. At 8:45 the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited.

Special Novena: On Thursday mornings at the 8:00 AM Mass at St. Martin of Tours there is a special novena after Mass to St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer victims and those suffering from serious illness. There is a prayer box by St. Peregrine's statue where you can enter the name of a suffering loved one or yourself to be remembered. The box is emptied January 1st and July 1st. You are welcome to reenter names for those still suffering. The box is emptied, please resubmit your names of loved ones for prayers.



PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We are taking our winter break. Next meeting will be held on March 7, 2019. We use Baptism blankets/quilts as well as regular sizes and colors are appreciated. We have given away over 250!

NEW TIME: Eucharistic Devotions are held at St. John's on Sunday's at 2:30PM. All are welcomed.

If you cannot serve on your scheduled mass, please do your best to find a substitute. If you are a server, lector or EM, at one of our other two churches, please don't hesitate to help. After all, we are all *One Body of Christ*.

HELP NEEDED: St. Martin's is in need of a person to shovel sidewalks this winter. This is for morning and weekend masses. PLEASE call the parish office ASAP is interested.

If you or a loved one are in the hospital or you are unable to attend Mass due to advanced age or sickness/disability and would like a home visit, please call the parish office at 853-4634. Fr. Dave is more than happy to pay you a visit!

THANK YOU to all who came out to our Turkey Dinner last Friday evening. We served over 100 people and the help was overwhelming! Thanks to everyone for their dedication.

Philadelphia Flower Show: Thursday, March 7th 2019. The theme is Flower Power and how flowers affect peoples lives. Contact Dee Shreffler :570-434-3029, Irene McCarthy:570-789-1837 or Maria Cina 607-242-4239.

Our parish office has a grey desk unit (60" x 21 1/2 x 29") " for anyone who is willing to just come get it out of our way! Call the office or just stop by. **FREE** Very good condition.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Volunteers are URGENTLY needed to "ring" the Salvation Army Bell this holiday season. Please donate some time to this very worthy cause that directly helps the people of Susq. County. Call Lynn at 570-853-4692 to volunteer today!

Christmas Mass Times:
Monday, December 24th
4:00PM St. Martin of Tours
5:00PM St. Lawrence
5:30PM St. John's

Christmas Day Mass
8:00AM St. John's
9:30AM St. Lawrence
11:00AM St. Martin of Tours



Sat. Dec. 15 St. Martin's	4:00PM	Marian Slamas req. by the Salinkas family
St. Lawrence	5:00PM	Dustin James req. by his loving grandparents Phil and Lorraine James
St. John's	5:30PM	Larry Travis req. by Joe and Linda Schell
Sun. Dec. 16 St. John's	8:30AM	Mary Ahearn req. by Buddy and Mary Brown
St. Lawrence	9:30AM	Catherine Battisti req. by Al and Marcy Maholick
St. Martin's	11:00AM	Regina Corrigan McArthur req. by Barry and Annette Corrigan
Mon. Dec. 17 St. Lawrence	7:00PM	Catherine Battisti req. by Bob and Carol McNamara
Tues. Dec. 18 St. John's	8:00AM	Gerald Gow Sr. req. by Richard, Sal & Michael Pelicci
Wed. Dec. 19 St. Lawrence	8:00AM	Albert Maholick req. by John Battisti and Ann Finamore
Thurs. Dec. 20		NO MASS
Fri. Dec. 21 St. John's	8:00AM	Amelia Box req. by Regina Lubbe
Sat. Dec. 22 St. Martin's	4:00PM	Marian Slamas req. by Pat and MaryBeth Ahearn
St. Lawrence	5:00PM	Nora and Paul Eagan req. by their family
St. John's	5:30PM	Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Testa req. by Gino and MaryAnn Testa
Sun. Dec. 23 St. John's	8:30AM	Rex and Mary Keyes req. by Bob, Gay, Lenore & Mike Keyes
St. Lawrence	9:30AM	Deceased members of the Krammer and Smith families req. by Margaret Smith
St. Martin's	11:00AM	Poor Souls in Purgatory

Confession:

St. John: Saturday's after Mass
St. Lawrence: Saturday's 4:15-4:45PM
St. Martin: Saturday's 3:15-3:35PM

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings: Saturday evenings at 7:30PM in St. John's Hall. Call 1-800-640-7545 or TEXT: NEPAIG to # 85100 for more information.

NO HARSHNESS

Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause.