

Joy Advent

ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

359 WEST AREBA AVE, HERSHEY, PA 17033

DECEMBER 13, 2020

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

Phone: (717) 533-7168 Fax: (717) 520-0526

Email: office@stjoanhershey.org

Website: www.stjoanhershey.org

PARISH OFFICE

(717) 533-7168

Rev. Alfred Sceski, Pastor Ext. 102

Rev. Kenneth Roth, Parochial Vicar Ext. 104

Rev. Modestus Ngwu, O.P., In Residence

Rev. Paul Oye, O.P., In Residence

Deacon Rodrigue Mortel, M.D.

John Triscik, Youth Coordinator Ext. 128

Jerry Crawford, Parish Manager Ext. 107

Michelle Gutshall, Finance Manager Ext. 103

Matt Dunkle, Director of Facilities Ext. 127

Michael Davis, Director of Music Ext. 109

Ayana Elmore, Dir. of Communications & IT Ext. 121

Earl Tropp, Director of Religious Education Ext. 122

Susan Robison, Parish Secretary Ext. 100

Mary Butch, Census Secretary Ext. 115

Betty Roksandic, REP Secretary Ext. 124

REP Program Ext. 306

SCHOOL OFFICE

(717) 533-2854

Sr. Eileen M. McGowan, D.M., Principal Ext. 118

Deb Rizzotto, Development Director Ext. 123

HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES

(717) 857-5695

CONVENT

(717) 533-2864

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the Eucharistic Community of St. Joan of Arc Parish, by the grace of God and through our participation in His Word, the Church's sacraments, and prayer, seek our eternal salvation.

We live out the doctrines and traditions of our Faith in communion with the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, established by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

With courage, we follow the example of our patron saint and invoke her intercession as we strive to know God, love God, and serve God which moves us to actively promote and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of our every



MASS SCHEDULE

MORNING MASSES

SUNDAY

7:30 am, 9:30 am (live), 11:30 am

MONDAY - FRIDAY

6:45 am, 9:00 am (live)

SATURDAY

9:00 am (live)

LOCATION

359 W Areba Ave, Hershey PA

EVENING MASSES

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

5:00 pm

LOCATION

1525 Sand Hill Road, Hummelstown PA



FROM THE PASTOR

I am sure that many of you are planning your Christmas already. It will be different this year, I am sure, because of the pandemic. Gatherings will be smaller. Travel will be curtailed. Zoom calls, Facetime, and phone calls will be part of the day. I would like to make a suggestion to you and your families near and far. For those of you who, for various reasons, will be watching Mass via livestreaming, why don't you do it as a family? All of our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be livestreamed (and of course you can also watch them and pray with us later in the day) and so you have the opportunity of "gathering for Mass" here at Saint Joan of Arc anywhere in the country—indeed, anywhere in the world. Pick a Mass, gather as a family, and worship together. For all of you parents and grandparents, tell your families that you would like this as a Christmas present. Just like in my family, there are many people who are astray from the practice of the Faith. Regular Mass attendance has fallen by the wayside. This is a wonderful opportunity to evangelize your loved ones in a very low-key, non-threatening way. Celebrate the Birth of Christ our Savior in the warmth and safety of your homes—but do it together! I just recently received a beautiful letter from an elderly couple in Minnesota who have been worshipping with us since March. They found our Masses on YouTube and told me that while they love their parish in Minnesota, they "feel a kinship with" our parish here in Hershey. They were originally from Pennsylvania—York and Altoona—but have no connection to us in Hershey; but through the wonder of technology, have become part of our Saint Joan of Arc family! How beautiful! In the midst of difficult times, God can work his miracles! The same can be true for you and your family! Whether we are together in person or through the internet, let us "come and worship" the Newborn King!

Father Al



SENDING OUR CONDOLENCES

Please pray for the souls of **Bonnie Kuria, Sister of Connie Noll and Crys Wright, Janice Cary, Salvatore Amato, and Peg Frank** who died recently. The parish community of St. Joan of Arc extends our deepest sympathies to their families and friends on their loss.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

The following parishioners or family members are ill. Please remember them, and all the sick of our parish, in your prayers: **David Lynch, Drew Fischer, Tracy Habacivch, Larry & Sharon Shindel, Grubb Family, Kokenvie Family, Barbara Kayser, Susan Peters, Mort Kayser, Joseph Grecia, Mary Beth Sheehan, Abe Brandt, and the Schilnder Family.**

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Main Altar Vase 1: In loving memory of Don Hennigan from his loving family

Main Altar Vase 2: In loving memory of Josephine Testa from Kathleen & Dick

Respect Life Rose 1: In loving memory of the Austin, Nowicki, Zahorchak, Rozgany and Coleman Families from Pam Austin and Family



With Much Gratitude...

We wish to thank the sponsor of the week for advertising in our parish bulletin:

GOODS TREE CARE



HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24

CHURCH (AREBA AVE)

2:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 8:00 PM | MIDNIGHT

SCHOOL GYM (SAND HILL RD)

2:00 PM | 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25

CHURCH (AREBA AVE)

9:00 AM | 11:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

NEW YEAR'S EVE

DECEMBER 31

CHURCH (AREBA AVE)

6:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 1

CHURCH (AREBA AVE)

9:00 AM | 11:00 AM

Masses on Areba Ave will be live streamed in the Social Hall & Gymnasium. Masses on Sand Hill Road will be live streamed in the Cafeteria. Live stream sessions are not overflow Masses. They will start at the same time noted above. Communion will be served at all Masses, including live streams.



MASS INTENTIONS & WEEKLY READINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14: MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

6:45 AM Ofilia Taraschi Schaeffer

9:00 AM Kathryn & Harry Spang

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

6:45 AM Kevin Breckenmaker

9:00 AM Eddie Jean Olden

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

6:45 AM Nicholas Cicchini

9:00 AM Dennis Schaffer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

6:45 AM Gerhard Paegen

9:00 AM Audrey Kerestes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

6:45 AM William Germont

9:00 AM Maurice Cusatis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

9:00 AM William Butch

5:00 PM Deceased Members of the Dezagottis and Vitiello Families

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

David's posterity shall endure forever. His kingship finds its fulfillment in the son of Mary, Jesus the Christ. To him be glory and praise forever.

7:30 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Leona Berzinski

11:30 AM Mark Van Zandt

5:00 PM Rich Cappelli



YOUTH NEWS

LIFE TEEN (HIGH SCHOOL)

We will meet in the social hall from 6:15-7:30 pm.

This Week: "Life Teen Reconciliation Service"

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, Life Teen will have the opportunity to prepare our hearts with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For many of us, it's been a long time since we have gone so may we take advantage of this opportunity.

Next Week: **With Derry Township schools going fully virtual due to the growing numbers of Covid-19, sadly, Life Teen will be forced to do the same. We are hoping this will be temporary and we will be able to return on January 10th as we will continue to meet via Zoom for the time being.***

*** During Life Teen, everyone is required to wear a mask and to practice social distancing. Teens who have been around anyone with Covid-19 or have had any symptoms, please stay home. If you have recently traveled outside of the Hershey area, please stay home for at least a two week quarantine period. ***

📞 **John Triscik:** jtriscik@stjoanhershey.org



EDGE (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Edge is for grades 6-8 and meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom.

Edge meets next on December 16.

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ADULT FAITH

YOUNG ADULTS (21-39)

Calling all young adults between the ages of 21-39, married or single! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom.

We meet next on **January 13** as we continue our study of the Catholic Letters with 1st Peter.

We will not meet on December 23.

📞 **John Triscik:** jtriscik@stjoanhershey.org

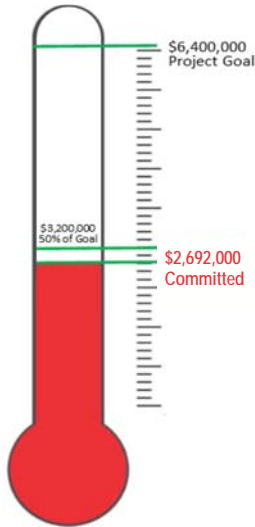


New gifts and pledges to our Centennial Project 2020 amounted to \$10,000 for the past week. Thank you!

All gifts to the Centennial Project 2020 are deposited into a restricted savings account that can only be used for the renovations of the St. Joan of Arc School or the Parish Social Hall improvements.

Making a pledge is a prudent, practical, and responsible form of stewardship. Nearly everyone believes in a commitment when planning personal finances. With its continued growth, St. Joan of Arc Parish recognized the need to expand and modernize its school facilities. This expansion also required a longer view. A pledge to the Centennial Project is an investment in our parochial school and in all of our religious education classes from K to 12 – a total of over 800 children. It frees up much needed space in our existing school for our 60 parish ministries. Further, your gifts allowed us to renovate the cafeteria into a beautiful Social Hall.

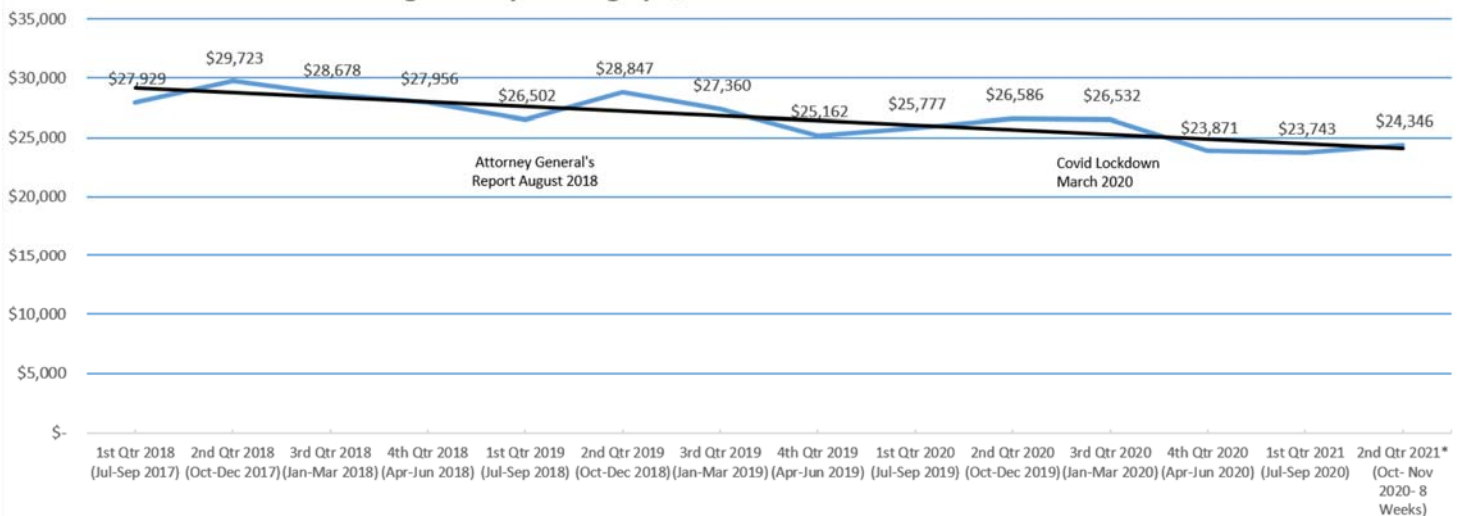
Pledging over time generally allows you to enhance your gift. It is very difficult to raise enough money through cash donations alone. We are reliant on everyone who is financially able to develop a personal goal, and then to accomplish it one step at a time. God has blessed St. Joan of Arc with generous parishioners. To witness those who so generously sacrifice and faithfully make their installment payments is both humbling and awe-inspiring.



For more information on how you can help, please visit www.stjoanhershey.org/TheCentennialProject

St. Joan of Arc Financial Corner

Average Weekly Offering By Quarter - Fiscal 2018 to Present



The graph above depicts the weekly offering from July 2017 to the present. Our fiscal year runs from July to June. The timeline of the data is divided into fiscal quarters with each data point representing the average of the 13 weeks in that quarter.

First and foremost, SJA is blessed to have such generous parishioners. Even though the past few years have been a financial challenge, SJA members have rallied and continue to make sacrifices to support the Church. We are cautiously optimistic that next year will bring a more favorable economic outlook. That optimism is based on some of our own internal indicators. School enrollment is up 11% this year and the demand for our faith-based blue ribbon academic education remains strong. Our online giving participation has increased by 22% since the beginning of the pandemic, bringing the online total to 644-over 26% of our parish families. Several benevolent parishioners have made significant donations over the last 8 months to underwrite some of the financial gaps associated with the 55% decline in the in-person attendance at weekend Mass.

We continue to pray for a successful campaign to eradicate Covid-19. Medical leaders remain positive about the rollout of the vaccine, but there is a sense that the next few months may be as difficult as last spring. So if you are able please be generous to the Parish and continue to support the Diocesan programs that provide for those in need.

✝ MINISTRY NEWS

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

You can schedule up to 4 Mass intentions for the year for \$10 each. A post card confirming your dates will be mailed to you. Complete online.

📞 www.stjoanhershey.org/store/p74/intentions.html

GIVING TREE PROGRAM

The Christmas Giving Tree Program, sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is **asking for donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society by December 13** either on the church's online giving page or you can drop your donation in an envelope marked Giving Tree.

OPLATKI WAFERS

Oplatki Wafers are available at the Parish Office. The wafers are \$3 per pack or 2 packs for \$5.

WE'RE HIRING

St. Joan of Arc is seeking a part-time custodian to work 16-20 hours per week for \$20/hour.

ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel at Holy Spirit Catholic Church has re-opened. Presently, we can accommodate up to 10 visitors at a time. Masks are required for entry. Cleaning rules and procedures to follow during your visit are posted online and on the door of the Chapel. Current operating hours are:

- Monday-Friday: 12 pm to 5 pm
- Saturday: 7 pm to 10 pm
- Sunday: 12 pm to 1 pm & 6 pm to 10 pm

📞 (717) 838-3369 ext. 111 | adorers@hspalmyra.com

📞 www.holyspiritpalmyra.com

FBMAC

This summer three seminarians and several staff members worked on outside jobs, because of the pandemic. With resources stretched very thin, we want to help in any way we can. Our goal is to raise \$3,000 to help cover the cost of the work done and expenses incurred this summer. As in the past, your generosity has always been very much appreciated, not only by the work that was done, but by St. Joan of Arc volunteers who rely on your help and encouragement to continue this charitable work. We are hoping to travel to Kentucky in Spring & Fall 2021.

Please send your donations to Jan and Larry Duckart and include FBAMC in the memo.

📞 5455 Ridge Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

✝ MINISTRY NEWS

ROAD TO KINDNESS

Thank you for embracing our Advent kindness program! There are some wonderful kindness acts included in our Advent kindness list. Even in our current environment, we can still share an unexpected act of kindness. You may have heard about this wonderful story!

"A family was having breakfast at a local diner. The waitress came over to the table and informed them that their breakfast was already paid for by another customer in the diner. The family asked them to point out the person that was so kind to pay for their family's breakfast. As the waitress went to identify the customer that had paid for their breakfast, the person was no longer in the restaurant. It became clear to the family that the person did not want them to know who had paid for their breakfast. This family then decided to pay for the next customer's breakfast that came into the diner. This family then left the diner before they could be identified as having paid for the customer's breakfast!"

We have heard many stories of kindness during this Advent season! We are blessed to have such caring people in our parish and community! Remember this phrase as you go about your week: "kindness, impossible to wrap but so easy to give!"

RESPECT LIFE

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." (Mk 11:37) ...We have here the same sober and unqualified identification of the King with someone among us. Again, he comes to us in a hidden manner, this time as a child. What inspiration these words must bring to those who generously welcome children. And what dread they ought to bring to a culture that rejects children, even killing them in the womb." - Fr. Paul Scalia, Diocese of Arlington, VA, "The Hidden King," www.thecatholicthing.org

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

Please take note of the early bulletin deadlines for the rest of the year.

All requests must be submitted by 9:00 am.

Bulletin	Article Deadline	
December 20	Monday	December 7
December 27	Monday	December 14
January 3	Friday	December 18



“Let us ask the Lord for
the *grace of being generous*,
so that our *hearts may be opened*
and we may *become kinder.*”

—Pope Francis

CONSIDERING A YEAR-END GIFT TO ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. We appreciate you!

More than 30 percent of all charitable donations are made in the month of December. We're honored that you're considering a gift to St. Joan of Arc.

2. Christmas Week Office Hours

Christmas Eve (Thursday, December 24) — 8:00 AM to Noon

Tuesday, December 29 — 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Closed Noon to 1:00 PM*)

Wednesday, December 30 — 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (*Closed Noon to 1:00 PM*)

New Year's Eve (Thursday, December 31) — 8:00 AM to Noon

3. Special Tax Breaks – this year only

As part of its response to the coronavirus, Congress made temporary changes to the tax code to incentivize charitable giving in 2020. Make sure to speak with your attorney or financial advisor to find out how you can save money on taxes while benefiting St. Joan of Arc. Charitable contributions of cash are deductible up to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2020. Ordinarily these contributions are limited to 60% of AGI. And for 2020 only, if you do not itemize your deductions, you are allowed to reduce your taxable income by up to \$300 for cash contributions to charity.

4. You can donate online, right up until the ball drops!

The Internet isn't just for video chatting with friends and grandkids! Now, you can donate to St. Joan of Arc online at: <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1376> and use the “Quick Give” option. A link for more information About Online Giving can be found in the Stewardship menu on the parish website. You can donate right up until 11:59 p.m. on December 31 and have it applied to your 2020 tax year.