Ascension Parish
and
St. Katharine Drexel Parish

612 Hudson Street ✠ Forest City, PA 18421

Web Address: apskdp.org

Phone.....570-785-3838 **Email**.....apskdp@nep.net

Parish Office Hours.....Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Office closed 12—1 pm for lunch
After hours—emergencies only: 570-785-7856

Our Parish Staff

Pastor
Rev. Stephen A. Krawontka
Deacon Carl S. Albright

Administrative Staff
Jill Bailer, Marie Risboskin

Directors of Religious Education
Jennifer Pearson
Ascension Parish

Danielle O'Neill
St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Mission Statement

Filled with faith, hope and charity, the faithful of Ascension and Saint Katharine Drexel parishes are united as disciples of Jesus Christ. With Christ and under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to continue to celebrate the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church. We seek to inspire others to build a closer relationship with God by reaching out in love through worship, prayer, fellowship, and sharing the Gospel.

Our core values: Celebration ~ Tradition ~ Hope ~ Charity ~ Resilience

Sacramental Life

Sacrament of Baptism: Because of the importance of the celebration of the sacrament of baptism, please consider carefully the man and woman of faith you choose to inspire and educate your child in the ways of our faith for the entirety of their lives. Godparents must be practicing Catholics and submit a certificate of eligibility from their parish prior to the Baptism.

Please call the office for information regarding Sacrament of Marriage, Natural Family Planning, Anointing of the Sick, and the R.C.I.A. Program.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass.....**4:00 PM** *St. Joseph*

Sunday Masses.....**8:00 AM** *St. Juliana* • **9:30 AM** *St. Joseph*
11:00 AM *St. James*

Daily Mass
Monday, Wednesday, Friday.....**8:30 AM** *St. Joseph*
Tuesday, Thursday.....**9:00 AM** *St. James*

Holy Day Masses
Vigil.....**5:30 PM** *St. James*
Holy Day.....**12:00 PM & 6:00 PM** *St. Joseph*

Confessions.....Half hour before masses

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DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS & MEMORIALS

Week of December 21, 2020

Monday, December 21

8:30 AM-St. Joseph James McCusker by Ruth Ann Slish & Family

Tuesday, December 22

9:00 AM-St. James Joan Heller by Sue Checefsky

Wednesday, December 23

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Peter Baysa by Andy & Diana Junior

Thursday, December 24

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Heller & Arcieri Families by Bill & Barb Heller

6:00 PM-St. James Deceased Members of the Dr. L. A. McAndrew Family by Family

10:00 PM-St. Joseph Bernard & Ann Simoncic by Family

Friday, December 25

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Jane Conlogue by Paul & Diane O'Hara

9:30 AM-St. Joseph James McCusker by Wife Maryann

11:00 AM-St. James Sgt. Andrew Brown

Saturday, December 26

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Margaret Sample by Children

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Joan Heller by Rita Natishak

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Vincent Novak by The Novak Family

11:00 AM-St. James Margot Schueler by Joseph & Patricia Narciso

Bread & Wine
Thursday, December 24
St. Joseph
4:00 PM
Heller & Arcieri Families by Bill & Barb Heller

Sunday, December 27
St. James
11:00 AM
A joyous New Year, peaceful transition for our country's administration, beneficial Covid Vaccine for all by the St. Katharine Drexel Altar & Rosary Society

Sanctuary Candle
Week of December 20 – 26
St. Joseph
Judy LaPenta by Paul & Linda Bezek
St. James
Jerome, Veronica, Paul J., Charles, & Rose Mary O'Neill by Family

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report December 5 & 6, 2020	
Weekly Envelopes	$3526.00
Other Parish Envelopes	$1828.00
Loose	$3.00
Total Parish Collection	$5357.00
Second Collection	$0
Diocese Envelopes	$405.00
Prior Year Parish Total – Dec 7 & 8, 2019	$6504.35
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report December 5 & 6, 2020	
Weekly Envelopes	$2650.00
Other Parish Envelopes	$1713.00
Loose	$43.00
Total Parish Collection	$4406.00
Second Collection	$0
Diocese Envelopes	$350.00
Prior Year Parish Total – Dec 7 & 8, 2019	$2726.00

Second Collection
This & Next Weekend: Deficit Reduction

MASS BOOK – JANUARY

The Mass, Bread & Wine, and Sanctuary Candle books for the month of **JANUARY 2021 will open on Monday, December 21st.** If you would like an offering please call the office or email apskdp@nep.net. Masses requested will be limited to two per family, per year.

DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27
In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

HIS WORD TODAY *by Rev. William J. Reilly*

"Mary said to the angel: 'How can this be, since I do not know man?' The angel answered her: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you, hence the holy offspring to be born will be called the Son of God... Mary said, 'I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done unto me as you say.' With that the angel left her... The word became flesh and he made his dwelling among us."

Because we are caught up in so many activities, it is easy for us to miss the importance of the visit of the messenger to Mary. She was being asked to redirect the history of the world. She raised a logical question, and through the Spirit, was answered, for our well being she said 'yes.'

Did you ever wonder what the young Jewish girl was doing when Gabriel came? Was she praying, doing household chores? Was she startled, afraid or curious? Before she went to assist Elizabeth did she tell her parents or Joseph? How would I react or respond? The great Saint Bernard said, 'Hurry up Mary, the world is waiting for your answer.'

The same Lord wishes to make His dwelling with us. Are we ready?

The parish office will be closed for Christmas on Thursday, December 24th & Friday, December 25th.

ASCENSION & ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISHES *ONLINE GIVING!*

Ascension & St. Katharine Drexel Parishes now offer Online Giving, a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelopes. This service is safe and secure and it is convenient for you. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our parish website at www.apskdp.org and selecting the Online Giving link and then selecting the appropriate parish link.

UPDATED WEATHER POLICY

Due to Forest City Regional Schools changing their snow delay procedure, we also have a new policy for inclement weather. Father Stephen will say all masses for Ascension Parish regardless of weather since he is able to walk to St. Joseph Church. St. Katharine Drexel Parish daily and weekday masses will be cancelled via the parish website at apskdp.org.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Christmas wafers are now available at the Parish Office. Please call the office to place an order at 570-785-3838. Each pack is $2.00.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will remain staffed but will be closed to the public. If you need to conduct business, please call the office at 570-785-3838, Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Please put items you are dropping off through the mail slot at 612 Hudson Street, Forest City, PA 18421. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

Even though our Masses have resumed it is with a limited number of parishioners, our expenses continue, and we still need your help. We know this pandemic has affected our families in many ways, and we appreciate that you include our churches in your budget. It truly reflects how faith-filled and considerate you are. Envelopes can be mailed to the office or dropped through the mail slot of the office door at 612 Hudson Street, Forest City, PA 18421. You can now also give online at apskdp.org and select Online Giving. Thank you for your unceasing goodness and generosity throughout the year.

DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2021 ENVELOPES

Stewardship Envelopes for the new year are now available. They may be picked up at the parish office, St. James Hall, and St. Juliana Vestibule. For Ascension Parish envelopes, please contact the parish office to pick up your envelopes at 570-785-3838. St. James and St. Juliana envelopes need to be picked up before and after Masses on Sunday. Printing of these envelopes is a significant expense. Please kindly make use of your initial offering which defrays the cost of printing. May God reward you for your generosity.

WINTER CEMETERY POLICIES

Cemetery visitations are prohibited when roads and graves are covered with snow. It is often challenging to navigate cemetery roads with plow trucks and we seek to exercise caution in not damaging grass and, most importantly, graves and their markers. We also wish to protect the safety of each of you and ask everyone to exercise prudence in your visitations in general. We do not want any injuries to occur or vehicles to be stuck in snow.

Prayers for the Sick: Jessica Vigorito, John Ferrick, Mark Polednak, Charlie Matthews, Vickie Ravnikar, Maury Urmanec, Phyllis Flynn, Caitlyn Vauter, Susan Carpenter, Mary Connors, Amelia Giorgano, Ella Pearson, Marian Rushen, Erin Andersen, Lydia Jones, Joelle Zukosky, Kerry Henderson, Carol Bishop, Geri Duplatre, Bud Peter, Diane Kimberley, Michael Murnin, Tom Fitzpatrick, Brian Rock, Joe Sprovkin, Carl Poterjoy, Walter Welicka**,** Gerrit Vanderwell, Patricia Simpson, Ruth "Rudy" Peterka, Barbara Scott, Mary Lynott, Kathleen Connor, Patricia Connor Mader, Joyce Skinner, Darlene Hamlyn, and Cheryl Williams. To submit a name, call 785-3838.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: Albert "Abby" Blodnikar To submit a name, call 785-3838.

A Christmas Message from the Pastor

This year, it isn't "what **WAS** the best gift" for Christmas, but "what **IS** the best gift". The best gift at Christmas is most certainly knowing that there is a God above us that loves us and cherishes us more than we will ever know. That He also has given us the gift of love through family and friends. 2020 has been a year that has shown us again and again that it is not the things of this world that are important, but the love, health, and friendship of those we care about. That is what makes Christmas so special and so sentimental. That, and May this Christmas season be filled with the gift of love.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stephen A. Krawontka

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CONFESSION

St. Joseph: Saturday, December 19th 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
4:45 PM - 5:45 PM
St. James: Sunday, December 20th 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
December 24th 4:00 PM
December 24th 10:00 PM
December 25th 9:30 AM

ST. JAMES CHURCH
December 24th 6:00 PM
December 25th 11:00 AM

ST. JULIANA CHURCH
December 25th 8:00 AM

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and precautions, there will be limited seating in the churches in order to maintain proper social distancing. We will be taking reservations for all the Christmas Masses. Please make your reservations by 12PM on Wednesday, December 23rd by calling the parish office at 570-785-3838 or emailing apskdp@nep.net. Masks are required to be worn at all times.

DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ascension Parish	Saint Katharine Drexel Parish
21.68%(93 out of 429) gave/pledged	26.56%(51 out of 191) gave/pledged
DAA 2019 Goal: $25,000.00	DAA 2019 Goal: $13,000.00
Total Raised: $18,400.56	Total Raised: $ 15,063.84
Over(Under): ($6,599.44)	(Over)Under: ($2,063.84)

GUIDELINES FOR MASS ATTENDANCE IN THE GREEN PHASE OF OPENING

****The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended at this time.****

- Maximum attendance is up to 25% of church capacity, as space allows, maintaining proper social distancing at all times.
- Each individual must have a reservation to enter the church and attend Mass.
- Everyone must provide their own mask and wear it at all times.
- Please stay home if you are sick. If you seem ill or have symptoms of COVID-19, you will not be allowed to enter for Mass.
- Everyone is required to keep social-distance spacing while moving or while seated.
- Entrance will be through one door. For entrance, please keep social-distance spacing when outside. After you enter you must sanitize your hands.
- Sign of peace and the collection process are omitted. A receptacle for the offertory/envelopes will be placed in a stationary location.
- Communion will be at the end of mass. Social-distance spacing should be maintained while walking to the Priest/Deacon or Eucharistic minister. When it is your turn to receive Communion, take the host, lift your mask, and place it in your mouth. It is highly recommended to receive communion on the hand for the safety of yourself and the Priest/Deacon or Eucharistic minister distributing communion. You will not be able to return to your pew. You must depart the Church after receiving the Holy Sacrament.
- Exit will be through one door. You may not socialize or gather after mass in the church or in the parking lot.
- Please note that the church doors may be locked at the start of mass to ensure we do not have more than 25% occupancy in the church and social distancing is maintained.

The Mass intentions for the week will be posted in the church. Our bulletin can be found on our website: www.apskdp.org.

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