

ASCENSION PARISH and ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

Our Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Arun Lakra

Administrative Staff

Jill Bailer

Linda Bezek

Director of Religious Education

Danielle O'Neill

St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Ascension Parish

612 Hudson Street ✕ Forest City, PA 18421

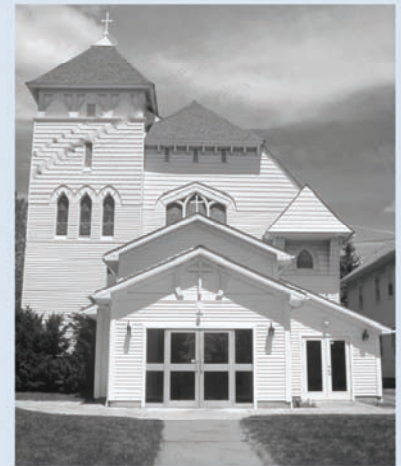
Web Address: apskdp.org

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

Office will be closed on Holy Days of Obligation & most Federal holidays.



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 - Communion service only) 8:30 AM St. Joseph

Tuesday, Thursday.....9:00 AM St. James

Holy Day Masses

Vigil.....5:30 PM St. James

Holy Day..... Regularly scheduled daily mass, and 6:00 PM St. Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS & MEMORIALS

Week of October 12, 2026

Monday, October 12

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joseph Gosciewski by Maryann McCusker

Tuesday, October 13

9:00 AM-St. James Walter & Julia Whitney by SKD Altar & Rosary Society

Wednesday, October 14

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Tricia Sheptak Thiede by Mary Ann Musho

Thursday, October 15

9:00AM-St. James Joseph Gosciewski by Paul & Cathy Walker

Friday, October 16

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, October 17

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Thomas Janezic by Wife, Ann Marie & Family

Sunday, October 18

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Marsha Anderson by Maryann McCusker

9:30 AM-St. Joseph James Matos by Robert & Rita Matos

11:00 AM-St James Joanne Molinsky Mattise by Howard & Fran Smith

Bread and Wine

St. Joseph Church October 17 4:00 PM Mass

Joyce Brooking by Sister, Ann Marie & Family

St. Joseph Church October 18 9:30 AM Mass

Joseph & Ann Ferraro by Daughter Darlene & Family

St. James Church October 18 11:00 AM Mass

Healing Prayers for Noah Wielebinski by Van Nguyen

Sanctuary Candle Week of October 11-17

St. James Church

Healing Prayers for Noah Wielebinski by Van Nguyen

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
 IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY.**

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report September 12-13, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2468
Other Parish Envelopes	\$415
Loose	\$161
Parish Second Collection	\$190
Total Parish Collection	\$190
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$30

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report September 13, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1216
Other Parish Envelopes	\$149
Loose	\$335
Parish Second Collection	\$183
Total Parish Collection	\$1883
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$50

**This weekend: Deficit Reduction
 Next week: World Mission Sunday**

*We look forward to celebrating **World Mission Sunday** on Sunday, October 18th. World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday each year when the entire Catholic Church comes together in prayer and sacrificial giving for the sake of the missions. On that day, a global collection—the only one mandated by the Code of Canon Law (see Canon 791.4)—is taken in every parish, diocese, and country to support the missions.*

Please take a moment to silence or turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

CCD – Ascension & St. Katharine Drexel Parishes

- Classes are 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM at St. James Church in Pleasant Mount for both Ascension and St. Katharine Drexel Parishes.
- CCD classes are for students in grades 1-8.
- Confirmation is a 2-year program that begins in 7th grade.
- If you have any questions, please contact Danielle O'Neill at 570-642-1190 or oneill.danielle0005@gmail.com

A&RS OF SKD PARISH

Pierogi Making: Tuesday, 11/10, Wednesday, 11/11, and Thursday, 11/12. We are always looking for helpers. Please contact Gail McKeon 609-284-5648 or Barbara Sprovkin 570-575-4072 for more information.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

- St. Joseph: Monday, Wednesday 8:00 – 8:20 AM
- St. Joseph: Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 PM
- St. James: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 – 8:50 AM
- St. Juliana: 1st Sunday of the month before Mass
- Also by appointment – please call the office.

VETERANS/1ST RESPONDERS MASS

All Veterans and 1st Responders are cordially invited to attend Mass in their honor to be held on Saturday, Nov. 7th at the 4PM Mass at St. Joseph Church - Delaware Street - Forest City by Father Arun Lakra. Lite fare will follow in the Rectory next door to the Church. Please RSVP at 570-785-3838 by Nov. 3rd. All are welcome!

ESTATE PLANNING SESSION

The Susquehanna County Register of Wills Office is holding a free community education session on The Basics of Preparing and Administering an Estate on Saturday, November 7th at the Susq. Co. Public Safety Center (210 Public Way, Suite 2, New Milford, 18834) at 9:00am – 12:00pm. A presentation and materials will be given that include topics like: planning your estate, power of attorney, trusts, wills, duties of an executor, inheritance taxes, forms, and resources. Reservations are encouraged but not necessary – call 570-278-6645 to register. Light refreshments will be provided. Each person who makes a reservation will have their name entered into a drawing for a door prize – must be present to win.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Christ Episcopal Church (700 Delaware Street, Forest City) will host its Community Luncheon on Saturday, October 17th. Serving will begin at Noon and end at 12:45 PM. We look forward to reconnecting with our friends and making new friends. Please join us! All are welcome to join in fellowship and share bread together. We welcome and serve all in Christ's name.

A&RS OF ASCENSION PARISH

Membership – it's time to **join** or **renew** your membership to the Altar & Rosary Society (yes, \$10 every year). There are yellow membership cards at each entrance of St. Joseph Church to be completed and returned to either the Parish Office or dropped into the collection basket.

Why join, you ask? Being a part of this Society gives you the opportunity to donate your time and talents to the many projects we do for our Parish as well as for the community, near and far. Whether we are donating diapers, collecting for the coat drive, supporting PHL, aiding our school children or helping those in need within our church & community, playing bingo with the residents of the Nursing Center & Personal Care Home or having fun at Trunk or Treat in town, honoring our Veterans & First Responders, we could always use another set of hands and your ideas & input as we strive to promote devotion, love, service, and dedication to the Blessed Mother while nurturing faith, charity, and respect among all. Not all members join in the monthly meetings, but do support us in many ways. Please, come see what we are about!

COATS, new or gently used, (as well as mittens, gloves, scarves & blankets) will be collected from now through Sunday, October 18th, in support of Christ Episcopal Church's free coat distribution to be held Oct 23rd from 3-6PM & Oct 24 from 1-4 at the corner of Delaware and Dundaff



streets. Thank you in advance for your generosity - and for keeping many warm and cozy throughout the chilly months of winter! And, please share these dates with anyone who may be in need of warm clothing for the winter!

All Veterans and 1st Responders are cordially invited to attend Mass in their honor to be held on **Saturday, Nov. 7th at the 4PM Mass at St. Joseph Church** - Delaware Street - Forest City by Father Arun Lakra. Lite fare will follow in the Rectory next door to the Church. Please RSVP at 570-785-3838 by Nov. 3rd. All are welcome!

Our next meetings will be Wednesday, October 7th and Tuesday, November 3rd at 6PM in St. Joseph Church.

HCHS CRAFT FAIR/HOME SHOWCASE

Holy Cross High School (501 E. Drinker Street, Dunmore) will hold a Craft Fair & Home Showcase on Sunday, October 18th 10:00am-4:00pm. Over 50 vendors, homemade food, basket raffles, door prizes, and more! Admission is \$3.00/adults, \$2.00/students and senior citizens, and children under 12 are free with proceeds benefitting the student activities fee.



PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

The Diocese of Scranton invites the faithful of the Diocese to join our new ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment, an opportunity to personally support our seminarians through daily prayer. Make a simple but meaningful commitment to pray one Hail Mary each day to walk alongside these men as they discern and prepare for a life of service to Christ and His Church. Sign up at www.survey.zohopublic.com/zs/zYDFwQ to pray for a seminarian assigned to you, or all seminarians.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to the 4th Annual Diocesan Youth Rally on Saturday, November 7th. This year's theme is "Do whatever HE tells you!" The Rally will focus on who God is, how to listen to His voice, and how we as the young Church can more fully align our wills to the will of God. It will be a day to deepen your faith, make new friends, and experience fun and fellowship! Registration fee is \$30 for students and chaperones. Must register through the parish office; deadline is October 16th.

NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 800-932-0313 or at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhere to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551 or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Reverend Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L., at 570-207-2269.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

The 2026-27 Catholic Ministries Appeal marks the 40th Annual Appeal of the Diocese of Scranton, continuing a tradition of generosity and stewardship that began with the Bishop's Annual Appeal, transitioned to the Diocesan Annual Appeal and now, the Catholic Ministries Appeal. While much has changed over four decades, the purpose remains the same: when we unite as one local Church, we can accomplish far more together. This year, we see that impact in a special way with the reestablishment of Saint Pius X Seminary in the former Cathedral Convent in Scranton. Through your prayers and financial support, the Appeal also helps care for those most in need, strengthens our parishes, and supports vital ministries - such as Vocations and Seminarian Support, Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, Catholic Media and Communications, Parish Life, and Parish Grant Support.

Diocese of Scranton Catholic Ministries Appeal 2026 Update Help us reach our goals!	
Ascension Parish	
CMA 2026-27 Goal: \$23,825.00	
Total Raised: \$3,845.00	
Over (Under): (\$19,980.00)	
% of Goal: 16.56%	
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish	
CMA 2026-27 Goal: \$16,772.00	
Total Raised: \$2,425.00	
Over (Under): (\$14,347.00)	
% of Goal: 21.77%	

Hymns for October 10-11	4:00 pm & 9:30 am 28th Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#473 As We Gather At Your Table
Readings and Psalm	#934
Gifts	#The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Communion	#511 Taste and See
Recession	#704 Now Thank We All Our God

October 11, 2026

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to reflect deeply on God's generous invitation and our response to it. In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear of a great feast prepared by God, a feast of rich food and choice wines, a symbol of His abundant love and the joy He wishes to share with all. This banquet is a powerful image of the kingdom of God, where all are called to share in His goodness and mercy. In the second reading, St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, speaks of contentment and trust in God's providence. Paul's words remind us that true satisfaction comes not from material wealth or worldly success, but from heart rooted in faith and reliance on God. In the gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding banquet. It is an invitation extended by God to all people. Yet some refused to come, distracted or indifferent, while others are unprepared, lacking the proper garment—a symbol of readiness and transformation. The banquet is open, but it requires our willing acceptance and a sincere response. As we reflect on these readings, let us ask ourselves: Are we responding to God's invitation with open hearts? **Are we ready to put on the garment of faith and live as His beloved children, welcoming others to the joy of His Kingdom?**

~ Father Arun

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
<u>St. Joseph Church</u> 10/17 Saturday 4:00 PM 10/18 Sunday 9:30 AM	Z. Hicks-Baresse & C. Piatkowski Paul Schror	Joseph Sukenik Bernice Lukus	J. Janezic & A. Seber M. McCusker & B. Bennett
<u>St. Juliana Church</u> 10/18 Sunday 8:00 AM	D. & B. Diehl, A. Nebzydoski	Ann Diehl	Chris Urban
<u>St. James Church</u> 10/18 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oliver, Macson, & Seamus Murphy	Jim McCormick	Carrie McCormick

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: To add a name call 785-3838.

Prayers for the Sick: Cheryl Lynn Allen, Eileen Hicks, Pat Mikolon, Mike Osino, Carol Kneier, Bonnie Watson, Diane Mayenzet, Kathy Spencer, Jessica Moser, Brian Walawender, Lindsey "Ruby" Gorel, Chuck Spencer, Patricia Striefsky, Zack Hilburn, Jeff Sheldon, Joey Grecco, Richard Burleigh, Mary Giles, Kathy Demianovich, Donna Foster, Dottie Baysa, Megan Spaulding, Donna Feduck, Mel Sherry, Kayleen O'Hara, Tom Doheny, Mary O'Neill, Catherine Tasso, Diane Kimberley, Barbara Sprovin, Danny Gales, Dorothy Usher, Ann Marie Furdock, Jean Cyrin, David Hamlyn, Bucky Biondo, Stephanie Dunn, John J. Jurkiw, Christopher Trusky, Maria Koslosky, Tom Zologa, Celestine Cicco, Dave Babich, Marge Armstrong, Dorothy Jones, Thomas J. Madridal, Heidi Rowe, Brendan Clune, Kate Magalski, Mollie Konczyk, Jean Welicka, Dan Kimberley, Carmen M. McClelland, Susan Glinkowski, Louise Brockdorf, Ruthie Sterchak, Robert Polinsky, Marilyn Perine, Joseph Gugliucci, Fulton Joseph Hood, Jessica Vigorito, Mark Polednak, Charlie Matthews, Maury Urmanec, Caitlyn Vauter, Susan Carpenter, Mary Connors, Amelia Giorgano, Ella Pearson, Erin Andersen, Kerry Henderson, Carol Bishop, Geri Duplatre, Brian Rock, Walter Welicka, Gerrit Vanderwell, Patricia Simpson, Ruth "Rudy" Peterka, Barbara Scott, Mary Lynott, Patricia Connor Mader, and Cheryl Williams.



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