

# ASCENSION PARISH and ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

***Our Parish Staff***

***Pastor***

Rev. Arun Lakra

***Deacon***

Deacon Carl S. Albright

***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](http://apskdp.org)

**Phone**.....570-785-3838      **Email**.....[apskdp@nep.net](mailto: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

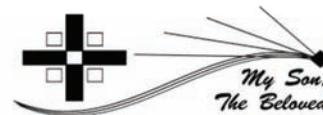
**Sunday Masses** ..... 8:00 AM St. Juliana    ♦ 9:30 AM St. Joseph  
11:00 AM St. James

**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 March 2, 2026

### Monday, March 2

8:30 AM-St. Joseph

### Tuesday, March 3

9:00 AM-St. James Mary Grady by John & Ceily

### Wednesday, March 4

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joseph Franceski, Sr. by Joe & Deb

### Thursday, March 5

9:00 AM-St. James

### Friday, March 6

8:30 AM-St. Joseph \*Communion Service\*

### Saturday, March 7

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Marion Rushen by Sam & Pat

### Sunday, March 8

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Gail Jones by Addie Heesh

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Joseph "Butch" Vozel by Wife Marian

11:00 AM-St James Helen & William Slavinkas by  
Daughter Nancy & Family

### Sanctuary Candle

March 1-7, 2026

#### St. Joseph

Donald Lewandowski by Wife & Family

The Mass Book is open for March 2026.

Remember masses are limited to 2 per family, not including requests for recently deceased people.

### Stations of the Cross - Fridays throughout Lent

4:30 PM – St. Joseph Church

6:00 PM – St. James Church

However, on March 20<sup>th</sup> stations will be held at 6:00 PM at St. Joseph Church so that our CCD students can assist.

### Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

Confessions from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

St. Joseph Church

Mondays: 3/9, 3/23

St. James Church

Mondays: 3/2, 3/16, 3/30

## PARISH FINANCES

### Ascension Parish Collection Report

February 7-8, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1371
Other Parish Envelopes	\$663
Loose	\$120
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$2154
Diocesan Second Collection	\$111
Diocesan Envelopes	\$126.25

### Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report

February 8, 2026

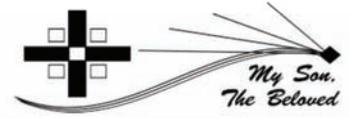
Weekly Envelopes	\$1414
Other Parish Envelopes	\$190
Loose	\$321
Parish Second Collection	\$111
Total Parish Collection	\$2036
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$133

This weekend: Deficit Reduction  
Next week: Care and Education of Priests

## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month before Mass
- Also by appointment – please call the office.

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



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### **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 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- If you have any questions, please contact Danielle O’Neill at 570-642-1190 or oneill.danielle0005@gmail.com

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### **A&RS of ASC PARISH News and Notes**

**Our next A&R meeting will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.** Refreshments will be served. Please plan on joining us and see what we are about! New members are welcome!

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### **LENTEN MEN’S RETREAT**

The Men's Lenten retreat at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center (1000 seminary Road, Dalton) will begin at 7:00 PM on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Our theme this year is *Teach Us To Pray*, addressing questions such as: How do you communicate with God? What do you talk to God about? What stops you from being honest with God? We will explore ways we pray as Catholics and grow in relationship with God. We will have Reconciliation, Adoration, and Holy Mass. Register online at [www.beacatholicman.com](http://www.beacatholicman.com). For questions you may contact Joe Adcroft, retreat coordinator at 570-380-5070.

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### **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOOD SALES**

Christ Episcopal Church Forest City, Delaware Street, will be conducting their annual homemade soup, Welsh cookies, and cabbage & noodles sale to benefit the church’s community programs. Assorted homemade soups are \$5.00 per pint, cabbage & noodles \$7.00 per pint, and Welsh cookies \$7.00 per dozen - all for sale each Friday FROM 3:00 – 5:30 pm 362 starting December 5<sup>th</sup> through April 3, 2026. Christ Episcopal Church would like to thank the community for supporting this fundraising effort and all our projects. We could not conduct our community projects without the support of this wonderful community.

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### **LENTEN HOLY HOURS**

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be traveling throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to gather for prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic devotion during the Lenten season at each of the Diocese’s 12 deaneries, continuing a tradition that began several years ago. The Lenten Holy Hour for the Carbondale Deanery will be held on Monday, March 23 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville at 7:00 PM. All are invited and encouraged to attend. The theme for this year’s Lenten Holy Hour will be “Finding Peace in Challenging Times.”

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### **ROCK LAKE PICNIC KICK OFF MEETING**

The kickoff meeting for the Rock Lake Picnic will be at St. James Hall on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm...All committee members should attend if possible. **This year’s picnic will be held a week earlier, on August 8<sup>th</sup>.** We always welcome new talent and ideas for this beneficial and fun event. Children are encouraged to participate.

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### **A&RS OF SKD PARISH**

**Food Pantry:** canned & boxed items, paper products. **\*\*Please leave ONLY NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** in the donation baskets at the churches. Please do not drop off books, clothing or fresh food, unless arranged beforehand. THANK YOU for your generosity and your consideration.

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### **RECTORY SET COOK!**

Fr. Arun Lakra of Ascension Parish/St. Katharine Drexel Parish, and Fr. Sudhir Toppo - Most Holy Trinity Parish (Susquehanna) have combined their culinary talents in this year’s Rectory Set Cook! Priests throughout the Diocese of Scranton are raising funds for Catholic Social Services anti-hunger and anti-homeless initiatives. In their video, both priests shared that their love for cooking began back home in India, where they learned treasured family recipes in their own kitchens. That foundation followed them all the way to the seminary, where they often took turns preparing meals for fellow seminarians and priests. Clearly, those early lessons paid off. With skill, story, and just the right amount of spice, Fr. Arun and Fr. Sudhir delivered a meal full of flavor and fraternity—proving once again that great meals, like great ministry, are best shared.

**Visit the Diocese of Scranton website at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) or text 2026PASTORCHEF9 to 71777 to vote for Fr. Arun and Fr. Sudhir!**

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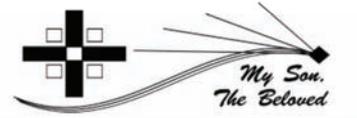
### **MASS WINTER WEATHER POLICY**

All masses for Ascension Parish regardless of weather will be held at St. Joseph Church. St. Katharine Drexel Parish daily mass will be cancelled if Forest City Regional Schools have a delay or are cancelled for any reason. Weekend masses will be cancelled via the parish website at [apskdp.org](http://apskdp.org) and Facebook.

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### **CTV IS ON NEP!**

The Catholic Television Channel from the Diocese of Scranton is now available on NEP! CTV broadcasts 24 hours a day and includes the live Daily Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter at 12:10pm. CTV also produces *Our Faith...Our Diocese* which includes news on diocesan events and news from parishes across the Diocese. Tune in to channel 120 on NEP!



## Second Sunday of Lent

The readings for this Sunday, invite us into a deeper understanding of faith, transformation, and God's call in our lives. In the first reading from Genesis, we encounter Abram, who hears God's call to leave his homeland and embark on a journey into the unknown. God promises to bless him and make him a great nation. Abram's willingness to step out in faith serves as a powerful reminder that following God often requires us to leave our comfort zones. God calls each of us to a life of purpose, but this call often asks us to trust Him wholeheartedly, even when we do not see the full picture. In the letter to Timothy, Paul speaks of sharing in suffering for the Gospel. He emphasizes the power of God, who has called us and saved us not because of our merits, but because of His grace. This grace empowers us to embrace the challenges we face as we seek to live our faith authentically. In the gospel of Matthew, we witness the transfiguration of Jesus. This moment is a radiant manifestation of His divine glory meant to strengthen the disciples' faith for the arduous journey ahead, particularly as they would face the coming suffering of Christ. Jesus' transformation is a foretaste of our own transformation through faith. Just as He was transfigured, we too are invited to be transformed into His image, reflecting His light and love in our world. ~ *Fr. Arun*

		SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
<u>St. Joseph Church</u>				
3/7/26	4:00 PM	Any	John Sukenick	Joseph Janezic & Peg Tomazic
3/8/26	9:30 AM	Paul Schror	John Risboskin	M. McCusker & B Bennett
<u>St. Juliana Church</u>				
3/8/26	8:00 AM	Bradley Burns, Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Pat Simpson	Roger Aguinaldo
<u>St. James Church</u>				
3/8/26	11:00 AM	Oscar Burleigh & Leo Stahl	<i>Family Mass</i>	Chris Urban

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord:** Joanne Wychowanec & Margaret Hnatko To add a name call 785-3838.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Kathy Spencer, Rudolph Ravnkar, Jessica Moser, Brian Walawender, Lindsey "Ruby" Gorel, Nancy Lewis, Chuck Spencer, Julia Whitney, Dolores Carra, Patricia Striefsky, Zack Hilburn, Michelle Criscera, Jeff Sheldon, Joey Grecco, Richard Burleigh, Mary Giles, Kathy Demianovich, Donna Foster, Dottie Baysa, Megan Spaulding, Donna Feduck, Mel Sherry, Joyce Skinner, Kayleen O'Hara, Tom Doheny, Mary O'Neill, Catherine Tasso, Diane Kimberley, Barbara Sprovkin, Danny Gales, Dorothy Usher, Ann Marie Furdock, Jean Cyrilin, David Hamlyn, Bucky Biondo, Peggy Newak, 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, Phyllis Flynn, 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. To submit a name, call 785-3838.



Hymns for Feb 28 & Mar 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent	4:00 pm & 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#273 The Glory of These Forty Days
Readings and Psalm	#812
Offertory	#272 Led by the Spirit
Communion	#683 Christ, Be Our Light
Recessional	#277 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

<b>DIOCESE OF SCRANTON ANNUAL APPEAL 2025-26 UPDATE Help us reach our goals!</b>
<b>Ascension Parish</b>
DAA 2025-26 Goal: \$23,450.00 % of Parishioners Giving: 31.33% Total Raised: \$23319.00 Over (Under): \$131.00 % of Goal: 99.44%
<b>Saint Katharine Drexel Parish</b>
DAA 2025-26 Goal: \$16,117.00 % of Parishioners Giving: 32.73% Total Raised: \$16675.00 {Over} Under: \$558.00 % of Goal: 103.46%

*I will bless you*

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PEANUTS x 



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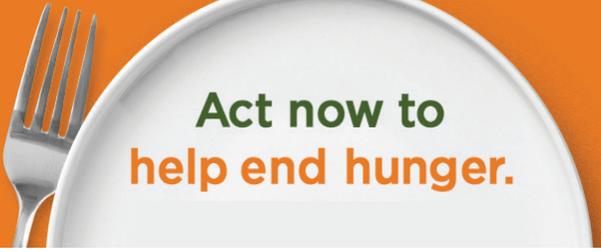


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