

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

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 March 16, 2026

Monday, March 16

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joanne Wychowanec by Bev Bennet

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 AM-St. James Joe Sprovkin by Wife, Barb & Family

Wednesday, March 18

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Frank Kubas, Jr. by Daughters

Thursday, March 19

9:00 AM-St. James Louis Matoushek by Wife, Jean and Family

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Pedro Tagatec by Bernice & Carole

Sunday, March 22

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Alan Llewellyn by Nick & Pat DeLucia

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Barbara Arnold by Jerry & Kathy Franceski

11:00 AM-St James Clara Roskoski & Rose Zembrzycki by Niece, Betty

Sanctuary Candle

March 15-21, 2026

St. Juliana

Louis Matoushek by Wife, Jean & Family

The Mass Book is open for March 2026.

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

Father would be happy to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament if any parishioner would like to have personal adoration during confessions on Mondays in Lent. Please let him know or call the office.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

Confessions from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Mondays

St. Joseph Church: 3/23

St. James Church: 3/16, 3/30

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report February 21-122, 2026 Next Week

Weekly Envelopes	
Other Parish Envelopes	
Loose	
Parish Second Collection	
Total Parish Collection	
Diocesan Second Collection	
Diocesan Envelopes	

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report February 22, 2026 Next Week

Weekly Envelopes	
Other Parish Envelopes	
Loose	
Parish Second Collection	
Total Parish Collection	
Diocesan Second Collection	
Diocesan Envelopes	

**This weekend: Catholic Relief Services
Next week: Deficit Reduction**

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.

*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.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays throughout Lent

4:30 PM – St. Joseph Church*

6:00 PM – St. James Church

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

A&RS of ASC PARISH News and Notes

Our next A&R meeting will be held on March 25th at 6PM.

Refreshments will be served. Please plan on joining us and see what we are about! New members are welcome!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This week our parish will The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **reveal Christ's love** to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.isccb.org/catholic-relief.

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."

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!

ADORATION

This Holy Thursday, April 2nd, we will conduct Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. James: after 5:30 PM Mass from 6:30 PM – 6:30 AM -- 12 hours overnight.

St. Joseph: after 7:00 PM Mass from 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar - can you stay in Adoration of Jesus? Will you come and sit with Our Lord for an hour that night? **There will be sign-up sheets in the rear of St. Joseph, St. James, and St. Juliana Churches.** Bring a friend, spouse, or neighbor with you. This is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on all the blessings we enjoy, living in this great community with the ability to practice our beautiful Catholic

Faith freely. It is also a perfect time to ask for help from Our Lord and Savior or to just be quiet in His Holy Presence. Since the Holy Eucharist cannot be left exposed without someone being present in the church, we are in need of solid commitments for all times. While this may sound like a challenging commitment to make, just compare it to what Jesus did for us. Please come and join us and have a very special Holy Thursday and Holy Week!

CHOIR PRACTICE

Our choirs will be practicing for Holy Week and Easter this month. *New members are always welcome in all our choirs!*

- **St. Juliana:** Every Wednesday, March 11, 18, 25 at 6:30 PM.
- **St. Joseph:** Every Thursday, March 12, 19, 26 at 6:00 PM.

ROCK LAKE PICNIC KICK OFF MEETING

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

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 and Facebook.

FOOT WASHING – HOLY THURSDAY



Volunteers are needed to have a foot washed by Father Arun on Holy Thursday during Mass. We would like to have 12 people for both St. James Mass at 5:30 PM and St. Joseph Mass at 7:00 PM. Please contact the office to sign up!

ROCK LAKE PICNIC ANNUAL BOOKLET

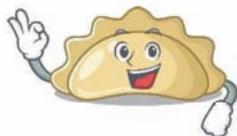
You are requested to contact Deb Biondo if you have submissions that you may have for this year's booklet, ie. photographs of church events that occurred between August 2025 and July 2026, including those from last years picnic, pierogi making, church repairs, children's activities within the parish, Christmas, Easter, etc. and also any vintage flashbacks (baptism, first communion, confirmation, youth ministry awards, wedding or photos of the interior or exterior of the churches and rectories, also past priests and parishioners.) This booklet reflects the past and ongoing history of our churches and is an opportunity to share, with others, the dedication and love we have toward them and the parish. Deb can be reached at 579-798-2107.

A&RS OF SKD PARISH

The SKD A&RS pierogi sale was such a great success the first time this year!! Kudos to our industrious workers and everyone's willingness to offer up their orders in case we ran short. Now it's time to do it again! Order sheets are in the narthex of the Pleasant

Mount churches. Also, feel free to call Joyce at 570-448-9031 or Barbara at 570-727-8385. We will be making pierogies once more the week before Holy Week, March 25 & 26. (We will peel potatoes on the 24th.) Order beforehand if you want pierogies, otherwise you might not get them. **Deadline, for ordering this second and last Lenten time, is March 20th. Cost is still just \$8.00 a dozen!**

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.



RECTORY SET COOK! VOTE for FATHER!

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 or text 2026PASTORCHEF9 to 71777 to vote for Fr. Arun and Fr. Sudhir!

Fourth Sunday of Lent

The readings for this Sunday invite us to contemplate the theme of **seeing and recognizing truth**, which connects deeply with our faith. In the first reading from 1st Samuel, we encounter the anointing of David. God instructs Samuel to look beyond outward appearances, declaring, "The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." This powerful reminder calls us to focus on what truly matters: the purity of our hearts and our intentions. In a world obsessed with superficiality, we are challenged to see each other through the lens of God's love and grace. In Ephesians, Paul reminds us that we were once in darkness but have now been brought into the light of Christ. This transformation is not just a personal journey; it is a communal one. We are called to bring that light to others, shining brightly in a world that often feels lost in shadows. In the gospel of John, we witness the profound healing of the man born blind. Jesus restores not just his sight but gives him a new identity as he progresses from seeing Jesus as a mere man to recognizing Him as the Son of God. This story illustrates that true sight is more than physical; it signifies understanding, faith, and openness to God's work in our lives. Let us ask ourselves: **what areas of my life are still in darkness? How can I allow the light of Christ to penetrate those shadows?** We are called not only to seek healing for ourselves but also healing for others, bringing sight to the blind and hope to the weary. ~ Fr. Arun

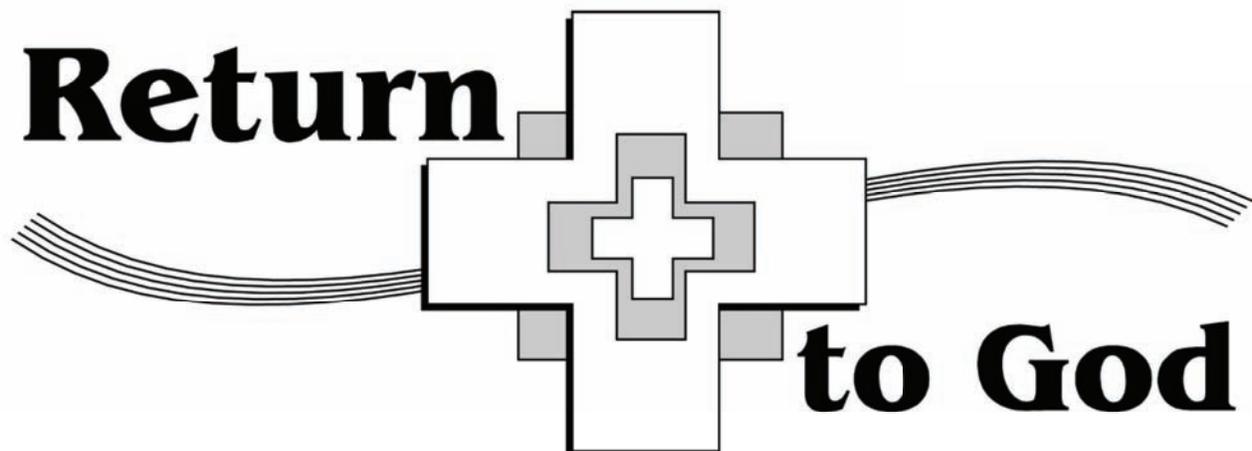
	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church			
3/21/26 4:00 PM	Lauren Tomazic & Aubrey Franks	Darlene Hamlyn	Joseph Janezic & Peg Tomazic
3/22/26 9:30 AM	Paul Schror	Sue Kulasinsky	M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church			
3/22/26 8:00 AM	Bradley Burns, Mark & Jonathan Nebzydowski	Al Snyder	Roger Aguinaldo
St. James Church			
3/2/26 11:00 AM	Gwendolyn Tallman & Jason Non	Richard LaTournous	Gail McKeon

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

Prayers for the Sick: Kathy Spencer, Rudolph Ravnika, Jessica Moser, Brian Walawender, Lindsey "Ruby" Gorel, Nancy Lewis, Chuck Spencer, Julia Whitney, 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, Kayleen O'Hara, Tom Doheny, Mary O'Neill, Catherine Tasso, Diane Kimberley, Barbara Sprovkin, Danny Gales, Dorothy Usher, Ann Marie Furdock, Jean Cyrlin, 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 March 14-15 4th Sunday of Lent	4:00 pm & 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#552 Take Up Your Cross
Readings and Psalm	#817
Offertory	#443 The Lord is My Light
Communion	#492 Behold the Lamb
Recessional	#277 Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON ANNUAL APPEAL 2025-26 UPDATE Help us reach our goals!
Ascension Parish
DAA 2025-26 Goal: \$23,450.00 % of Parishioners Giving: 31.65% Total Raised: \$23344.00 Over (Under): \$131.00 % of Goal: 99.55%
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish
DAA 2025-26 Goal: \$16,117.00 % of Parishioners Giving: 32.73% Total Raised: \$16675.00 {Over} Under: \$558.00 % of Goal: 103.46%



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To Pray For*

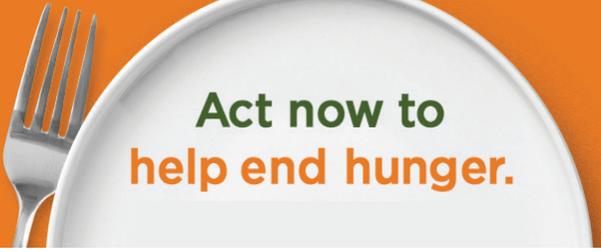


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