

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

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

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

The angel
said to her,
"Do not be
afraid, Mary;
for you have
found favor
with God."

—LUKE 1:30



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*

THE
ANNUNCIATION
OF THE LORD



MASS INTENTIONS & MEMORIALS

Week of March 23, 2026

Monday, March 23

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joanne Wychowanec by Cathy & Paul Walker

Tuesday, March 24

9:00 AM-St. James Marge Hnatko by Cathy & Paul Walker

Wednesday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 26

9:00 AM-St. James *Communion Service*

Friday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Joanne Wychowanec by Gerard O'Neill

Sunday, March 29

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Alan Llewellyn by Margie & Stanley

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Sister Ann Patrice Murnock by Mike Murnock

11:00 AM-St James Margaret Hnatko by Kimberly Yarris- Simon

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays throughout Lent

4:30 PM – St. Joseph Church

6:00 PM – St. James Church

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.

SACRMENT OF PENANCE

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

St. Joseph Church: **cancelled 3/23**

St. James Church: 3/30

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report February 21-22, 2026 Next Week

Weekly Envelopes	\$2352.25
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1429
Loose	\$167
Parish Second Collection	\$143
Total Parish Collection	\$4091.25
Diocesan Second Collection	\$338
Diocesan Envelopes	\$50

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

Weekly Envelopes	\$1362
Other Parish Envelopes	\$291
Loose	\$146
Parish Second Collection	\$96
Total Parish Collection	\$1895
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$50

**This weekend: Deficit Reduction
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.*



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!

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.** Please note that this conflicts with the Monday confession scheduled for St. Joseph; Father Arun will be at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Peckville this night so **confession in St. Joseph is cancelled.** All are invited and encouraged to attend event with Bishop Bambera!

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.

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.

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

On 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!

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!

DON'T MAKE JILL AND LINDA CALL YOU!

RECTORY SET COOK! VOTE for FATHER!

**VOTING ENDS FRIDAY MARCH 27TH
AT 4:00 PM!**

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.



**Vote at www.dioceseofscranton.org
or text 2026PASTORCHEF9 to 71777**



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, i.e. photographs of church events that occurred between August 2025 and July 2026, including those from last year's 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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

The readings for this Sunday present us with powerful images of life emerging from death and the promise of resurrection, urging us to trust in God's transformative power. In the first reading from the Book of Ezekiel, we hear the Lord proclaiming His promise to bring His people back to life, to breathe His Spirit into their dry bones, and to restore them to their homeland. This vision of resurrection speaks not only to physical renewal but to a spiritual revival, encouraging us to trust in God's ability to restore what seems lost or hopeless. In the second reading from the letter to the Romans, St. Paul assures us that the spirit of God dwells within us, bringing life even to our mortal bodies. This divine presence is a powerful reminder that through Christ we are made new. The same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, enabling us to overcome the trials and tribulations we face. In the gospel of John, we witness the profound miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Martha's declaration, I believe that you are the Messiah, serves as a call to faith and trust in Jesus during our own moments of grief and doubt. Jesus not only bring Lazarus back to life but also reveals his identity as the resurrection and the life inviting each of us to experience the hope of resurrection in our own lives. ~ *Fr. Urban*

SERVERS		LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church			
3/28/26	4:00 PM	John & Joseph Sukenick	J. Janezic & A. Seber
3/29/26	9:30 AM	John Sukenick & B. Trusky	M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church			
3/29/26	8:00 AM	Pat Simpson	Chris Urban
St. James Church			
3/29/26	11:00 AM	Jim McCormick	Carrie McCormick

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

Prayers for the Sick: Kathy Spencer, 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 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 March 21-22 5th Sunday of Lent	4:00 pm & 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#670 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Readings and Psalm	#820
Offertory	#668 What Wondrous Love is This
Communion	#413 Loving and Forgiving
Recessional	#431 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

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: 33.33% Total Raised: \$16975.00 {Over} Under: \$858.00 % of Goal: 1035.32%

Easter Schedule 2026

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

5:30 PM St. James Church
 Adoration after Mass 6:30 PM – 6:30 AM
 7:00 PM St. Joseph Church
 Adoration after Mass 8:00-10:00 PM

Good Friday

12:00 PM St. Joseph Church - Stations of the Cross
 1:00 PM St. Joseph Church – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
 5:00 PM St. James Church - Stations of the Cross
 6:00 PM St. James Church - Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday

12:00 PM St. Joseph Church - Blessing of Food
 1:00 PM St. James Church - Blessing of Food
 8:00 PM St. Joseph Church – Vigil Mass
 With Resurrection presentation first

Easter Sunday

8:00 AM St. Juliana Church
 9:30 AM St. Joseph Church
 11:00 AM St. James Church

Easter Monday

8:30 AM St. Joseph Church - Daily Mass



Oliveri's CRYSTAL LAKE HOTEL

Jones & Brennan Funeral Home

John P. Brennan, Supervisor
570-785-3500
430 Main Street • Forest City

BE A FRIEND.
Give blood.



PEANUTS x 



**SPECIALIZING IN WILLS,
ESTATES & REAL ESTATE LAW**
Marissa McAndrew, Esquire
McAndrew Law Offices, PC
630 Main Street • Forest City, PA 18421
Office: 570-785-3333
marissa@mcandrewlawoffices.com

570.785.3153



KEVIN M. LESJACK
FUNERAL HOME
WWW.LESJACKFUNERALHOME.COM

Auto • Home • Life • Business



MEAGHER
Insurance Agency
Nationwide **570-785-5454**
Paul@MeagherAgency.com
414 Main Street • Forest City, PA 18421
www.TheMeagherAgency.com

POISON
Help™



1-800-222-1222

Free and
confidential.

24 HOURS A DAY



**Every Veteran has earned
help and support.**

Don't wait. Reach out.
VA.GOV/REACH



VA  U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Gerard T. Genco
*"We Keep the Smile
in the Mile"*
(570) 785-9500
518 Main Street
Forest City, PA 18421



**PLEASE
SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS
THEY SUPPORT
OUR PARISH**

MARTIN CAUFIELD
MEMORIAL WORKS



249 Sunrise Avenue
Honesdale, PA
• Affordable Cemetery
Memorials
• Largest Inventory
in Area
800-824-5293
martincaufieldmemorialworks.com

JMJ
CATHOLIC
RADIO



750 AM 1490 AM 98.9 FM

*Please Continue
To Pray For*



World Peace

Help your community,
the environment,
& yourself



➤ Patronize your
local businesses



**Act now to
help end hunger.**

In the United States, one in
nine people face hunger.

feedingamerica.org

**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Beware of Social
Security Phone Scams!



**SLAM
THE
SCAM**
oig.ssa.gov

Learn more at
oig.ssa.gov/scam

**Grow Your Business.
Support Your Parish.**

Call Ken Greenwood 570.331.5565



**ONLY YOU
CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES**