

PALM SUNDAY

of the

Passion of the Lord

Our Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Arun Lakra

Deacon

Deacon Carl S. Albricht

Administrative Staff

Jill Bailer

Linda Bezek

Director of Religious Education

Danielle O'Neill

St. Katharine Drexel Parish

Ascension Parish

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.

And the crowds
that went before
him and that
followed him
were shouting,
“Hosanna to the
Son of David!
Blessed is he
who comes in
the name of the
Lord! Hosanna
in the highest!”

—Matthew 21:9



Hosanna!

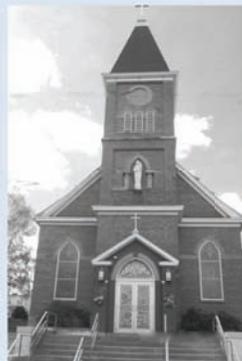
Hosanna!



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 30, 2026

Monday, March 30

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Clara Bianco by Mary Ann Musho

Tuesday, March 1

9:00 AM-St. James Gail Jones by Gail McKeon

Wednesday, April 1

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joanne Wychowanec by Bernice Lukus

Thursday, April 2 **Holy Thursday**

5:30 PM-St. James Dorothy & George Babich by Children

7:00 PM-St. Joseph Clara Bianco by Maryann McCusker

Friday, April 3 **Good Friday**

12:00 PM-St. Joseph Stations of the Cross

1:00 PM-St. Joseph Good Friday Liturgy

5:00 PM- St. James Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM-St. James Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 4 **Holy Saturday**

8:00 PM-St. Joseph Living and Deceased of our Parishes

Sunday, April 5 **Easter Sunday**

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Living and Deceased of our Parishes

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Living and Deceased of Our Parishes

11:00 AM-St James Living and Deceased of our Parishes

SACRMENT OF PENANCE

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

St. James Church: 3/30

Congratulations to Bella Bilsky, Makayla Franckowiak, Aidan Lombardi, Macson Murphy, and Jonathan Nebzydoski on receiving the Bishop's Youth Award. They were recently recognized at a Mass with Bishop Bambara at the Cathedral. Please keep them and all our parish youth in your prayers.

The Parish office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3rd and Easter Monday, April 6th.

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report February 28-March 1, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2519
Other Parish Envelopes	\$501
Loose	\$192
Parish Second Collection	\$201
Total Parish Collection	\$3413
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$95

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report March 1, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2577
Other Parish Envelopes	\$176
Loose	\$308
Parish Second Collection	\$156
Total Parish Collection	\$3217
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$65

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: 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 before Mass begins.
Thank you in advance for your consideration.*

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.

BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, April 7th, you can learn more about the biblical and historical evidence of Jesus. Continue the Easter season with informative and inspirational words about our Lord and Savior on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at the Parish Office. Please know you do not have to make a commitment to attend every session so feel free to stop in on any Tuesday evening.

FOOT WASHING – STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!



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!

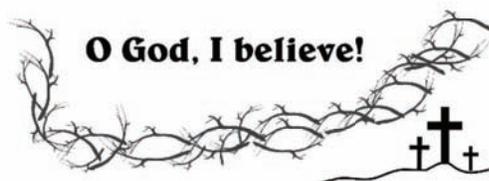
ADORATION

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!



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.

DIOCESE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

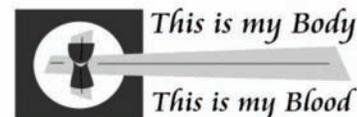
His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2026 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 28th, 2026. The event includes a 2:30 PM mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter followed by a light reception. The registration deadline for this event is Sunday, June 7th, 2026. To register, please go to <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org> or contact Bridget Maille at (570) 207-2213 x 1133 or familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

CASA DE MARIA GARDEN OF HOPE

Personalized engraved bricks are available to purchase for Providence Pregnancy Center's Garden of Hope. Your brick will be permanently placed in the Garden, bearing words of encouragement, remembrance, or celebration for generations to come. Your engraved brick will not only enhance the grounds of the maternity home but will also serve as a visible reminder of community support that uplifts every resident. This gift goes beyond the garden—it directly funds Phase 2 renovations at Casa de María, the maternity home in Scranton, and will improve the shared living spaces. More donation options are trees, benches, statuary, lighting, and other garden features, each one helping create a peaceful space of healing while strengthening the home where lives are being rebuilt. Donations are through our trusted and secure partner, Bricks R Us. For more information: <https://www.ppcscranton.org/hope-garden>.

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!



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Today, we gather to celebrate Palm Sunday, a day that marks the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and the beginning of the most profound and pivotal week in our faith, known as the Holy Week. As we reflect on the readings, a powerful theme emerges: humility, suffering, and ultimate triumph. In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah, we hear the voice of the Suffering Servant who willingly faces humiliation, rejection, and pain. This prophecy foreshadows the journey of our Lord Jesus Christ, who embodies these very words. He sets His face like flint, knowing the trails ahead, not for His own sake, but for ours, teaching us that true strength often lies in vulnerability and obedience to God's will. In the second reading from the letter to the Philippians, Paul beautifully illustrates that kenosis of Christ—His self-emptying love. Though He is God, He took on the form of a servant and humbled Himself, even to the point of death. This is the essence of our faith: to serve, to love and to sacrifice for others. It challenges us to mirror Christ's humility in our own lives, especially as we confront our struggles and serve those around us. The passion narrative from Matthew reveals the stark reality of betrayal, suffering and ultimately, death. It reminds us that even the closest of friends can falter. Yet, amid this darkness, we see seeds of hope; the resurrection is just beyond the horizon. What may appear as defeat is, in fact, the path to victory over sin and death. As we wave our palms today, let us not only celebrate Christ's triumphant entry but also prepare our hearts for the journey ahead. ~ Fr. Arun

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church			
4/2 Holy Thursday 7:00 PM	Paul Schror	Joseph Sukenick	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic
4/3 Good Friday 1:00 PM	Paul Schror	J. & J. Sukenick	M. McCusker & B. Bennett
4/4 Holy Saturday 8:00 PM	Any	J. & J. Sukenick	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic
4/5 Easter Sunday 9:30 AM	Paul Schror	Bob Trusky	M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church			
4/5 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM	Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Al Snyder	Chris Urban
St. James Church			
4/2 Holy Thursday 5:30 PM	Any	Denise Vauter	Pete Vauter
4/3 Good Friday 6:00 PM	Any	Rick LaTournous	S. LaTournous & G. McKeon
4/5 Easter Sunday 11:00 AM	Oscar Burleigh & Leo Stahl	Rose Burleigh	S. Latournous & G. McKeon

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: Thomas Chesnick, Father Leo Carley 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 28-29 Passion of the Lord	4:00 pm & 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#284 All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Readings and Psalm	#823
Offertory	#297 O Sacred Head, Surrounded – b verses
Communion	#492 Behold the Lamb
Recessional	#384 Lift High the Cross

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

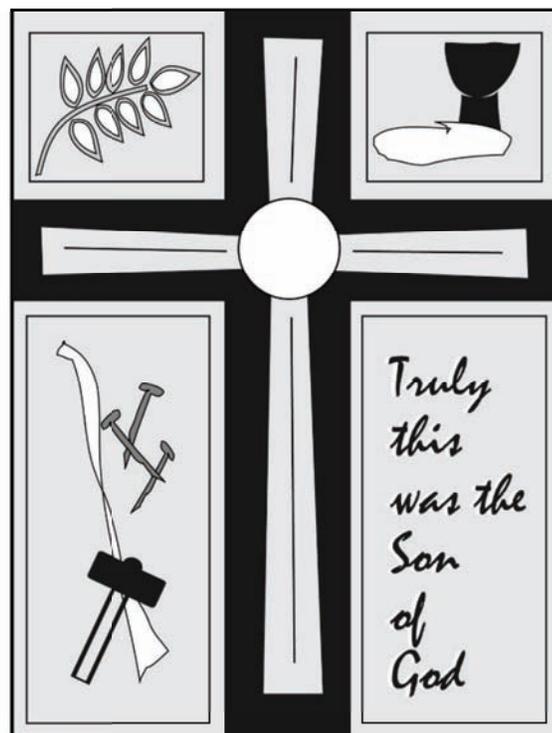
12:00 PM St. Joseph Church - Blessing of Food
 1:00 PM St. James Church - Blessing of Food
 8:00 PM St. Joseph Church – Vigil Mass
 With Resurrection presentation first

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



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