

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 9, 2026

Monday, March 9

8:30 AM-St. Joseph 100th Birthday Blessings for Mildred Bezek Amadio by Paul & Linda Bezek

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 AM-St. James Les Lotz by Gail McKeon

Wednesday, March 11

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Paul J & Teresa Bokal Ravnikar by Son, Paul

Thursday, March 12

9:00 AM-St. James Marge Hnatko by Beverly Bennett

Friday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 14

4:00 PM-St. Joseph In Honor of Mildred Bezek Amadio's 100th Birthday by Nieces Mary, Carolyn & Barbara Korosec

Sunday, March 15

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Alan Llewellyn by Rose Ignatovich

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Christopher Finnerty by Wife & Family

11:00 AM-St James Jerome, Veronica, Paul J, Charles, Rose Mary & Francis O'Neill by Family

Bread & Wine

March 15, 2026

St. Juliana

Louis Matoushek by Wife & Kids

Sanctuary Candle

March 8-14, 2026

St. Joseph

In Honor of Mildred Bezek Amadio's 100th Birthday by Nieces Mary, Carolyn & Barbara Korosec

The Mass Book is open for March 2026.

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

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report February 14-15, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2692
Other Parish Envelopes	\$909
Loose	\$189
Parish Second Collection	\$326
Total Parish Collection	\$4116
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$135

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report February 15, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2001
Other Parish Envelopes	\$148
Loose	\$412
Parish Second Collection	\$309
Total Parish Collection	\$2870
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$20

This weekend: Care and Education of Priests
Next week: Catholic Relief Services

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.*

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

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

St. Joseph Church: 3/9, 3/23

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

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.

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

Next 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, 27 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

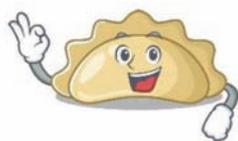


Volunteers are needed to have a foot washed by Father Arun on Holy Thursday during Mass. We would like to have 12 people for both St. James Mass at 5:30 PM and St. Joseph Mass at 7:00 PM. Please contact the office to sign up!

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!



Third Sunday of Lent

The readings for the third Sunday remind us that God comes to us in our moments of need, responding to our thirst both physical and spiritual, with the gift of life. In the first reading from Exodus, we find the Israelites in the desert, grumbling in thirst. They question Moses, wondering if God is with them. In their parched state, they are reminded of their vulnerability and their need for God's sustenance. In Romans, St. Paul reassures us that through faith, we have peace with God. This faith is not bult on strong human resolve, but rather on God's astonishing love for us, demonstrated through Christ, who died while we were still sinners. It reminds us that we are never alone in our struggles; God's grace exceeds our fears and failures. The gospel of John brings us to the well of Jacob, where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman. Here, we witness a transformative encounter. Jesus seeks her out, breaking social norms and offering her "living water" that quenches her deepest thirst. This living water symbolizes the grace that Jesus freely gives, a gift that brings eternal life and satisfaction to all who believe. As we journey through Lent, we are invited to acknowledge our thirst, not just for physical sustenance, but also for spiritual nourishment. ~ *Fr. Arun*

SERVERS		LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church			
3/14/26	4:00 PM	Zachary Hicks-Barrese & Chrissy Piatkowski John Sukenick Joseph Sukenick	Joseph Janezic & Annette Seber M. McCusker & B. Bennett
3/15/26	9:30 AM		
St. Juliana Church			
3/15/26	8:00 AM	Pat Simpson	Deb Biondo
St. James Church			
3/15/26	11:00 AM	Oliver, Seamus & Macson Murphy Adeline Frisbie	Gail McKeon

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: Dolores Carra, Clara Bianco, Joyce Skinner & Courtney McCarthy
 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 Mar 7-8 3rd Sunday of Lent	4:00 pm & 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#277 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Readings and Psalm	#814
Offertory	#620 O God, You Search Me
Communion	#413 Loving and Forgiving
Recessional	#266 Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

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: 31.33% Total Raised: \$23319.00 Over (Under): \$131.00 % of Goal: 99.44%
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%

Worship in Spirit
and Truth

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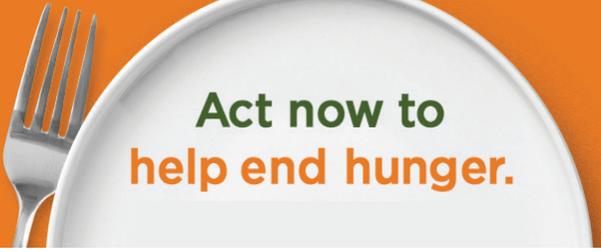


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