

ASCENSION PARISH and ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

Our Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Arun Lakra

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 Masses8:00 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 July 13, 2026

Monday, July 13

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Dolores Carra by the Members of Our Lady of the "Pilgrim Statue"

Tuesday, July 14

9:00 AM-St. James Margaret Newak by Gail McKeon & Family

Wednesday, July 15

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Jan Wright by Sue Kulasinsky

Thursday, July 16

9:00AM-St. James Margaret Newak by Bonnie & Ron Watson

Friday, July 17

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, July 18

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Arthur Diego Royer by Bonifacio Ramos

Sunday, July 19

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Gail Jones by Gerald O'Neill

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Thomas Chesnick by Robert & Bernadette Korosec

11:00 AM-St James Mary & William Nevins by Jackie, Marty, & Ashley Shamro

Sanctuary Candle July 12 - 18

St. Joseph

Arthur Diego Royer by Bonifacio Ramos

Bread & Wine

St. Joseph

Saturday July 18 – 4:00 PM

Lucille Hans by Classmate Ann Marie Janezic

Sunday July 19 - 9:30 AM

Joseph & Ruth Ann Slis by Judy, Joe and Family

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.

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report June 13-14, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3738
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1407
Loose	\$247
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$5392
Diocesan Second Collection	\$783
Diocesan Envelopes	\$20

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report June 14, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1078
Other Parish Envelopes	\$857
Loose	\$388
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$2323
Diocesan Second Collection	\$804
Diocesan Envelopes	\$3

This weekend: Deficit Reduction
Next week: Venezuelan Earthquake Aid

Our parish will take up a special second collection next weekend to support those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela.

All funds will be forwarded through the Diocese of Scranton to Catholic Relief Services, which is working with Caritas Venezuela and the local Church to provide emergency shelter, food, safe water, medical care, and other critical assistance. Thank you for your prayers and your generous support of our brothers and sisters in need.

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

Our 4th of July Pie Sale at St. James Church was a great success! Sixty-seven homemade pies made their way to the sale and then out the door to be enjoyed at your table! If you didn't get one, you'll have to wait another year for this project to return! Sincere gratitude goes out to our bakers and buyers and those who made donations! We are blessed by your generosity and now can continue our service to the church and community!

Membership dues - \$5 - (renewing and new members) are now being collected. Envelopes can be found in the pews of the churches. Please join us in our work to support our parish and the community.

Food Pantry: July – personal products

With summer in our midst, so is the annual SKD Altar & Rosary **Labor Day Raffle!** This fun raffle with surprise prizes will be held after the 11 am mass at St. James Hall on Sunday, September 6th. First prize this year is \$500 CASH with many other great prizes! We welcome donations of prizes from the parish. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Peggy Sarno (570-798-2919), or one of our officers: Joyce Malicky (570-448-9031), Denise Vauter (570-448-2455), Barbara Sprovkin (570-727-8385), Sally Urmanec (570-785-5039), Gail McKeon (609-284-5648).

The Altar & Rosary Society thanks you for your support of all our projects, collections, and fundraisers!

DIOCESAN REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENT/TRAGIC DEATHS

The Diocese of Scranton invites all who have experienced the loss of a loved one through tragedy to its annual Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, July 23rd at 7 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. This special liturgy offers comfort, hope and prayer for family members and friends of those who have died, especially through murder, suicide or accident.

PRESTON COMMUNITY DAYS

The 2nd Annual Preston Community Days will be held July 17th & 18th at the new Lakewood Park (643 Old Railroad, Lakewood). Friday's events include a parade at 7 PM. Saturday will feature a car show, corn hole & horseshoe tournament with fireworks after dark. Both days will have food & refreshment vendors, music, children's games, contests, raffles, and more. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @PrestonCommDays. The mission of this event is to bring together and support our community.



WINNERS!

The winners of the Ascension Parish July "Early Bird" drawing are: Francis Pantzar, Jessica Polednak, Benjamin Prince, Gerard O'Neill, Michelle Davis, Dan Totsky, Margaret Foster, and Patricia Moro. Two winners choose to remain anonymous. Congratulations!! Don't miss out on the BIG drawing in October - you can still get a ticket!!

A&RS OF ASCENSION PARISH

Basket Raffle We need your help! We will be holding a Basket Raffle on August 1st during Trail Town Days and would greatly appreciate donations of Baskets, monetary gifts and/or gift cards as prizes. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish office or by calling Sue at 570-960-2702.

Membership Drive Also, yearly membership dues for the Society are now due! You can place your \$10 in an envelope (with your name, etc.) in the basket at Mass, drop it off at the office or give it to any member. **New members**, please complete a yellow card that can be found at the entrances of the St. Joseph Church and in the pews. Join us in the many projects we do for our Church, as well as the community!

Change, please: If you have some change please drop it into one of the Change Jars which can be found at either of the main entrances. The A&R will be turning it into gift cards for those in need.

Diaper & Wipes Drive has ended. Please bring your items to the church or the office soon!

Next A&R meeting will be July 22nd at 6PM. All are welcome!

The Altar & Rosary Society thanks you for your support of all our projects, collections, and fundraisers!

ROCK LAKE PICNIC

The next Rock Lake Picnic **meeting will be held on Monday, July 20 in St. Juliana's Hall at 6:30pm.** All are welcome to attend this meeting!

BASKET RAFFLE: anyone interested in donating a prize or an item for the cart of cheer, please contact Rose Ignatovich at 570-798-2539. Items are needed before the day of the picnic.

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.

HELP FROM ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY

The men of The St. Joseph Society are available to offer temporary assistance to anyone in our Parish who might need a helping hand with specific projects around their home or property that they might be struggling with due to illness, an injury or something that they simply can't do alone. If you need some help please feel free to contact John Bilsky at 570-687-4827 and he will gladly gather some volunteers.

CEMETERY GUIDELINES

With warm weather here, we remind you of the guidelines for our cemeteries. Some points to consider: artificial flowers, wreaths and similar decorations are not permitted from April 1st to November 1st; walking and exercising of pets is not permitted; and no ATV's, golf carts, motorbikes, skateboards, or bikes are allowed in the cemetery.

BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE

The 11th annual Be A Catholic Man Conference will be held on October 10th at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes Barre. The theme is "Just Be Catholic". Stand fast with the Church founded by Jesus Christ, who "is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Through the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, God has called men, not to be lukewarm, but to become strong in order to contend with a hostile world and imitate the heroic love Jesus possesses for all. Registration fee is \$40 (Early Bird \$30) and \$15 for students. Morning coffee and box lunch included.

SICK VISITS

Please call the office at 570-785-3838 for Fr. Arun to visit if you are ill, or going to the hospital for any reason, or if someone might be entering hospice care. He will gladly come to your home or hospital for a blessing. It's never too early to call.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to reflect on the life-giving power of God's word and our response to it. In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah, we hear the Lord proclaim that His word will not return to Him empty but will accomplish the purpose for which it was sent. Just as rain and snow nourish the earth, God's word nurtures our souls. This imagery underlines the assurance that God's guidance is both intentional and fruitful. In today's second reading from the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul, reminds us of the creation's longing for redemption. He speaks of hope- an anticipation of liberation from suffering and decay, pointing toward the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise. This hope is not wishful thinking, but a steadfast assurance grounded in God's word. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, illustrating how the word of God is received differently in the hearts of people. Some are like the path, impervious to God's seed, while others are live rocky ground or thorny soil, which, though initially receptive, fail to endure. Yet, some hearts are fertile, producing a bountiful crop. Let us ask ourselves, what is our response to God's word? Are we cultivating the soil of our hearts to receive His message? Are we allowing His truth to take root and flourish in our lives?

~Father Arun

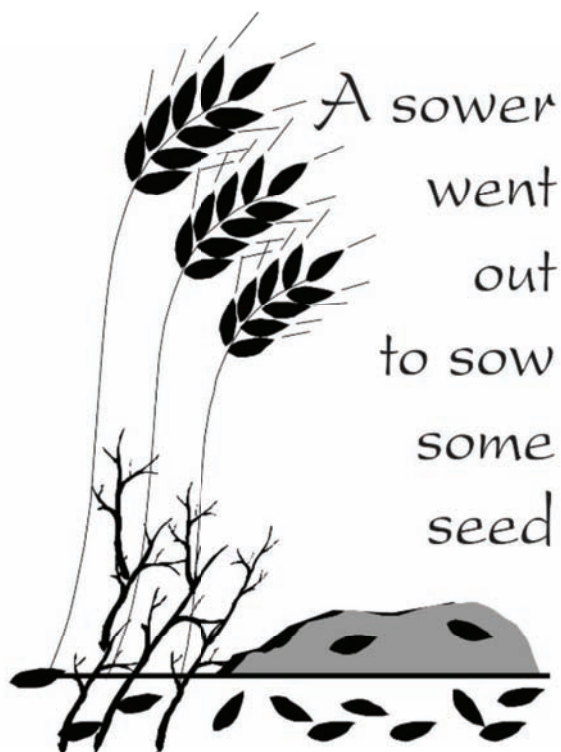


	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 7/18 Saturday 4:00 PM 7/19 Sunday 9:30 AM	Lauren Tomazic & Aubrey Franks Paul Schror	Bernice Lukus John Risboskin	J. Janezic & A. Seber M. McCusker & Brother Leo
St. Juliana Church 7/19 Sunday 8:00 AM	Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Roger Aguinaldo	Deb Biondo
St. James Church 7/19 Sunday 11:00 AM	Jason Non	Denise Vauter	Pete Vauter

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

Prayers for the Sick: Ely twin girls, Mike Osino, Carol Kneier, Bonnie Watson, Diane Mayenzet, Kathy Spencer, Jessica Moser, Brian Walawender, Lindsey "Ruby" Gorel, Chuck Spencer, Julia Whitney, Patricia Striefsky, Zack Hilburn, 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 Sprovin, Danny Gales, Dorothy Usher, Ann Marie Furdock, Jean Cyrilin, David Hamlyn, Bucky Biondo, 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, 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 July 11/12	4:00 pm 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	# 705 For the Beauty of the Earth
Readings and Psalm	#895
Gifts	# 692 Your Words Are Spirit and Life
Communion	# 502 Seed, Scattered and Sown
Recessional	# 697 For the Fruits of This Creation



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