



GOD BLESS AMERICA



Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord...

Psalm 33:12



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 6, 2026

Monday, July 6

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Tom Risboskin by Carol & Michael Lutchko

Tuesday, July 7

Adoration 8:30AM

9:00 AM-St. James Margaret Newak by Adeline Heesh

Wednesday, July 8

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Dolores Carra by Bernice Lukus

Thursday, July 9

9:00AM-St. James Margaret Newak by Paul & Cathy Walker

Friday, July 10

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, July 11

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Jack Weaver by Family

Sunday, July 12

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Alan Llewellyn by Dan & Diane Kimberley

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Tom Risboskin by Joan Konzman

11:00 AM-St James Marge Hnatko by SKD Altar & Rosary

Sanctuary Candle July 5 - 11

St. Joseph

Regina and Aloysius Statkin by Family

Hymns for July 4-5	4:00 pm 9:30 am
Entrance Hymn	#570 All Are Welcome
Readings and Psalm	#892
Gifts	#679 Prayer of St. Francis
Communion	#511 Taste and See
Recessional	#745 America

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report

June 6-7, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3095
Other Parish Envelopes	\$2068
Loose	\$208
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$5371
Diocesan Second Collection	\$447
Diocesan Envelopes	\$51

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report

June 7, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1743
Other Parish Envelopes	\$568
Loose	\$362
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$2674
Diocesan Second Collection	\$368
Diocesan Envelopes	\$0

This weekend: Care & Education of Priests

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 before Mass begins.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

A&RS OF SKD PARISH

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 H all 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).

ROCK LAKE PICNIC

The next Rock Lake Picnic **meeting will be held on Monday, July 6 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.

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.

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.



**The Spirit of God
dwells in you**

A&RS OF ASCENSION PARISH

Change, please: If you have some change in your pockets, your purse, your car, weighing you down, 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. Perhaps your generosity can make a *change* in someone's life...

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

Good luck on your Daily Number tickets!

Pennsylvanians for Human Life: \$460 was raised between Mother's Day and Father's Day for the Scranton Chapter!

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

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Eucharistic Ministers are needed in St. Joseph Church for all Masses, daily and weekends. Altar Servers are needed for our churches, especially St. Joseph Church. All children that have received First Holy Communion are eligible to be a server. Training will be provided. Children who have been Confirmed are especially asked to help, as any younger children will miss a CCD class if they serve Sunday morning. However, it will be an excused absence.

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.

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.

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.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings of this Sunday invite us to reflect on the theme of humility and the gentle power of God’s love. In the first reading from Zechariah, we are presented with a beautiful image of a king who comes to us, not in strength or military might, but humble and riding on a donkey. This is a profound testament to the nature of God’s kingdom: it does not conform to worldly expectations. In today’s second reading from the letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that the Spirit of God dwells within us, leading us to live according to His ways. We are not called to the flesh but to a life animated by the Spirit. This is a call to transformation, inviting us to let go of our burdens and to embraces the life God has in store for us. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus extends a beautiful invitation: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” In our busy lives, we often carry many burdens such as stress, anxiety, and the weight of our responsibilities. But here is the promise of Christ; he offers us rest. His Yoke is easy, and His burden is light. By surrendering our struggles to Him, we find not just relief, but the strength carry on, guided by His love. In this Eucharistic celebration, let us open our hearts to accept Jesus’ invitation. ~*Father Arun*

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 7/11 Saturday 4:00 PM 7/12 Sunday 9:30 AM	Zachary Hicks-Baresse & Chrissy Piatkowski Paul Schror	John Sukenick Bernice Lukus	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church 7/12 Sunday 8:00 AM	Daniel & Bridget Diehl, Anna Nebzydoski	Al Snyder	Chris Urban
St. James Church 7/12 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oscar Burleigh & Leo Stahl	Jim McCormick	Carrie McCormick

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: *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 Cyrlin, 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 Giorganano, 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.*

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For more information, email sue@bonventure.net

Dr. Gerard T. Genco
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in the Mile"*
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