

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 August 24, 2026

Monday, August 24

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Michael Lapera by Barb & Krista Sheptak

Tuesday, August 25

7:30 AM-St. Joseph Teachers' Mass
 9:00 AM-St. James Owen O'Hara by Pete & Denise Vauter

Wednesday, August 26

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Lucille Hans by Maryann McCusker

Thursday, August 27

9:00AM-St. James Margaret Swartz by Pam Green

Friday, August 28

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, August 29

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Ryan Gongliewski by Mom

Sunday, August 30

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Dr. John Nebzydoski by Gerard O'Neill

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Lucille Hans by Joann Fink

11:00 AM-St James Joan Fowler & Joanne Wychowanec by Friends

Bread and Wine

St. Joseph Church

Sunday, August 30 9:30AM

Lucille Hans by Joann Fink

St. James Church

Sunday, August 30 11:00AM

Joseph Svecz by Children

Sanctuary Candle

August 30- September 5

Lucille Hans by Joann Fink

*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.

PARISH FINANCES

Ascension Parish Collection Report

July 25-26, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2024
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1053
Loose	\$229
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$3306
Diocesan Second Collection	\$604
Diocesan Envelopes	\$20

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report

July 26, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1427
Other Parish Envelopes	\$506
Loose	\$419
Parish Second Collection	\$614
Total Parish Collection	\$2966
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$45

This weekend: Deficit Reduction

Next week: Deficit Reduction

Hymns for August 22-23	4:00 pm 9:30 am 21st Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#571 The Church's One Foundation
Readings and Psalm	#913
Gifts	#620 O God, You Search Me
Communion	#499 O Sacrament Most Holy
Recessional	#606 On Eagles Wings

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.

A&RS OF SKD PARISH

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 Sprovin (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!

A&RS OF ASCENSION PARISH

Membership 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.

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

FIRST AID/CPR CLASSES

Pleasant Mount Emergency Services are hosting first aid classes in August. First Aid on August 27th. Class descriptions & registration information can be found on the Pleasant Mount Emergency Services Facebook page.

DIVINE CHILD VENERATION

Come to Venerate the Miraculous Statue of the Divine Child Jesus – Bring all your cares, hopes, dreams, desires, and place them into His tender and merciful Heart! Join us at St. Faustina's Chapel (1763 Great Bend Tpke, Pleasant Mount, PA 18453) on Tuesday, August 25th. Confessions are at 4pm and Holy Mass is at 5pm with celebrant Fr. Joseph Sibilano, Priest of the Oblates of St. Joseph. Please join us for dinner afterwards!

ROCK LAKE PICNIC A SUCCESS!

St. Katharine Drexel's Rock Lake Picnic was a Booming Success! Congratulations and a huge *THANK YOU* to all who contributed to this year's picnic. While we don't have the numbers yet, there was a constant flow of happy people who graced us with their presence, so we know we did well. The church, the hall and the big tent were filled with prayer, great food and beverages, children playing games, smiles, laughter, reconnecting, music, and joy all day! Our Triduum of Masses and Overnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament must have pleased Our Lord because He provided us with beautiful weather! We will have our annual follow-up meeting on Monday evening, August 17th at 6:30 in the hall. Thank you again for all the hard work!

OCIA PROGRAM START

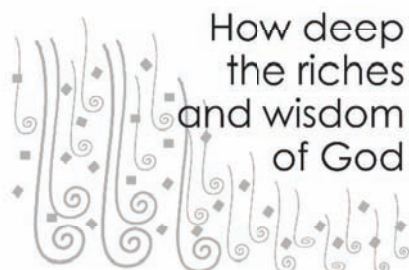
Did you receive all your sacraments? Know someone that would like to join our faith, even if they were baptized at in a different denomination? OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes are starting soon in September! After learning about the Roman Catholic faith and our sacraments, candidates will be brought into full communion at the Saturday evening Easter Vigil in a beautiful Mass. Please call the office to sign up or for more information.

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.

PRAISE4LIFE!

Pennsylvanians for Human Life, Scranton Chapter will hold Praise4Life! On Sunday, September 13th at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Lackawanna State Park (1839 N Abington Rd, North Abington Township). This is a completely free outdoor community event featuring uplifting live praise music, an inspirational guest speaker, and food. Bring your family, your friends, a lawn chair and a dish to share! Registration is free but recommended strongly so we know what everyone is bringing.



August 23, 2026

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to contemplate our identity in Christ and the authority and responsibility that comes with following Him. God does not call people without also giving them the strength and grace needed for their mission. He works through ordinary people to guide, strengthen, and care for His people. In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear God appointing Eliakim as the steward of His house. This act illustrates the divine authority bestowed upon certain leaders, but it also reminds us that leadership is a sacred trust. Eliakim's key symbolizes access and responsibility, indicating that true authority comes from God and must be exercised in His service. In second reading from the letter to the Romans, Paul exclaims the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge. His rhetorical question, "for from Him and through Him and Him are all things," calls us to marvel at our place within God's grand design. Our faith is not just an acknowledgment of God's authority; it is a response to His love and the realization that all creation is reflection of His glory. In the gospel of Matthew, we encounter Jesus asking His disciples, "who do you say that I am?" Peter's confession of faith is foundational. Jesus responds by affirming Peter's role and the authority that will be given to him. This moment marks the establishment of the Church, built upon the rock of faith. ~Father Arun

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
<u>St. Joseph Church</u> 8/29 Saturday 4:00 PM 8/30 Sunday 9:30 AM	Lauren Tomazic & Aubrey Franks Paul Schror	Darlene Hamlyn Sue Kulasinsky	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic M. McCusker & B. Bennett
<u>St. Juliana Church</u> 8/23 Sunday 8:00 AM	Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Al Snyder	Carol Kneier
<u>St. James Church</u> 8/23 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oliver, Seamus & Macson Murphy	Rick LaTournous	Sue LaTournous

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

Prayers for the Sick: Eileen Hicks, Ely twin girls, Mike Osino, Carol Kneier, Bonnie Watson, Diane Mayenzet, Kathy Spencer, Jessica Moser, Brian Walawender, Lindsey "Ruby" Gorel, Chuck Spencer, 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.*



< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today | 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 16:13-20

In today's gospel, according to Matthew, after receiving The Holy Spirit, Peter's faith was solid as a rock. When Jesus asked "Who do you say that I am"? Peter responded "You are the Messiah, The Christ, The Son of the Living God".

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Who do you say I AM?

Jesus told Peter he was the rock upon which He would build His church. Peter who was firm and dependable would begin the formation of the church and the key. The symbol of Authority, would be given to him.

- The **bold** words are found in the puzzle -

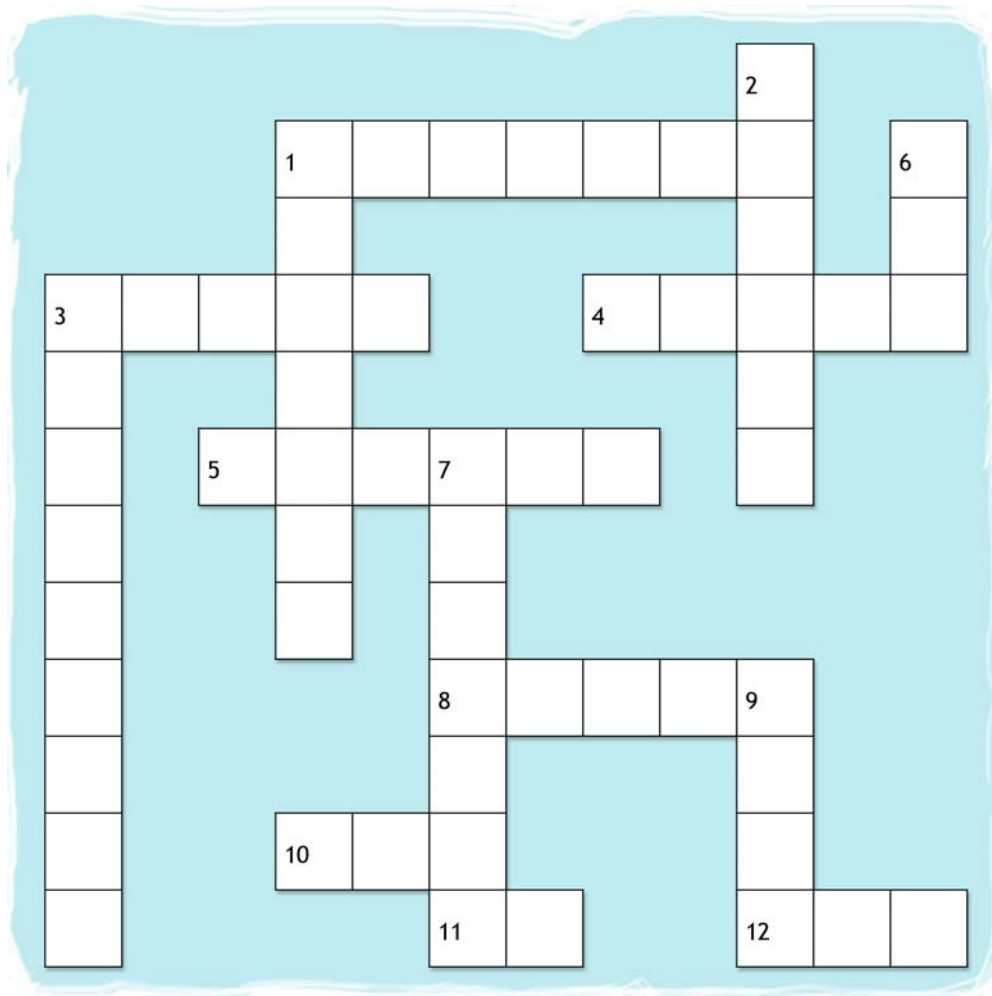


ACROSS

- 1] The Promised One
- 3] Peter's ____ was solid as a rock
- 4] To construct
- 5] A place we go to worship
- 8] The Apostle who responded to Jesus
- 10] Jesus is The ____ of God.
- 11] Jesus said "who ____ you say that I AM".
- 12] What we use to open a locked door

DOWN

- 1] Today we read the gospel of ____.
- 2] Jesus is The Messiah, or ____.
- 3] The act or process of forming
- 6] Our Father, The Almighty
- 7] To give an answer
- 9] Solid, natural mineral object



On this rock I will
build my church.



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