

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

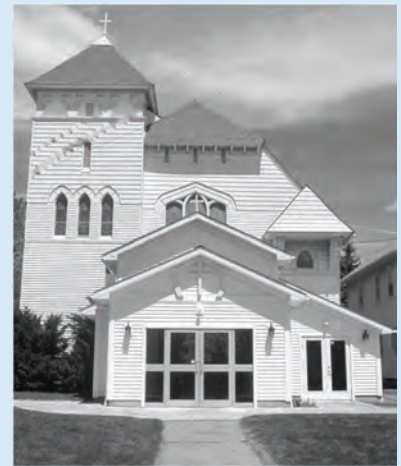
Web Address: apskdp.org

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 31, 2026

Monday, August 31

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Tom Risboskin by Sue Kulasinsky

Tuesday, September 1

9:00 AM-St. James

Wednesday, September 2

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Judy Perry by Rita Natishak

Thursday, September 3

9:00AM-St. James Ann Finkbeiwier by John & Ceily

Friday, September 4

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

Saturday, September 5

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Tom Chesnick by Pam Green

Sunday, September 6

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Margaret Newak by Gerard O'Neill

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Judith Scheller by Mary Ann Musho

11:00 AM-St James Margaret Swartz by Natishak Family

Hymns for August 29-30	4:00 pm 9:30 am 22nd Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#384 Lift High the Cross
Readings and Psalm	#916
Gifts	#523 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
Communion	#511 Taste and See
Recessional	#552 Take Up Your Cross

*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 August 1-2, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2764.13
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1337
Loose	\$208
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$4309.13
Diocesan Second Collection	\$408
Diocesan Envelopes	\$40

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report August 2, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3164
Other Parish Envelopes	\$280
Loose	\$467
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$3911
Diocesan Second Collection	\$373
Diocesan Envelopes	\$0

This weekend: Deficit Reduction
Next week: Care & 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.



Seek God



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 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!

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.

CHICKEN DINNER

St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary is holding a Drive Thru Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 20th 12:00-4:00 PM. Dinners are \$15.00 and must be ordered in advance by going to our website www.stjosephscenter.org or email auxiliary@stjosephscenter.org. Dinners include: half chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, roll, water, and a cookie.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to the 4th Annual Diocesan Youth Rally on Saturday, November 7th. This year's theme is "Do whatever HE tells you!" The Rally will focus on who God is, how to listen to His voice, and how we as the young Church can more fully align our wills to the will of God. It will be a day to deepen your faith, make new friends, and experience fun and fellowship! Registration fee is \$30 for students and chaperones. Must register through the parish office; deadline is October 16th.

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.

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!

SKD GOLF OUTING



Join us for a golf outing at Lake Lorain on Sunday, September 13th at 2:30 PM. Cost is \$45.00 and includes 9 holes with a cart and buffet at Legends Sports Bar. Cash bar available, limited to 36 golfers. Contact Dan Kimberley at 607-727-1555 to RSVP by September 6th.

"Golf is a good walk spoiled." *Mark Twain*
"Not for SKD golfers." *Dan Kimberley*

YOUNG ADULT ROSARY HIKE

Join the Diocese of Scranton Young Adult Community to connect with God through nature on Saturday September 5th with a hike in Lackawanna State Park on the Turkey Hill and Abington Trails (about 2.7 miles). Meet at Faschings Parking Area at 10AM, and after opening prayer, start your adventure. Please pack water and snacks as food is not provided. Following the hike, everyone is invited to join in some fellowship at Gin's Tavern.

PA MARCH FOR LIFE

The Diocese of Scranton will offer transportation to the Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg on September 21st. Buses will have pick-up and drop-off locations in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Registration is \$20 and includes bus transportation, a hat, snacks, and water (meals are not provided, so please pack a lunch.) Register at dioceseofscranton.org.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY MASS

The first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday, and Bishop Bambera will once again celebrate a special Mass on October 4th at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton. The Mass is open to the public, and will also be broadcast live on CTV and available on Diocesan social media.



BASKET OF CHEER/PRIZE DONORS- THANK YOU!

We would like to thank everyone that donated to the Rock Lake Picnic this year: all anonymous donors, All in the Basket, B&E Scoops, Belmont Café, Johanna Bizub-Smith, Blueberry Hill Greenhouses, Sylvia Bonham, Nick Branning, Cold Smoke, Helen Cook, Dave's Super Duper, Dirlam Brothers Lumber, Elegante's Forest City, Fishin Hole, Jon Gales, Forest City News, Ellen Greene, Susan Hall, Addie Heesh, M/M Bill Heller, Honesdale Farm & Garden, Ignatovich Family, M/M Dan Kimberley, Gloria Klingenberg, Kneier Family, M/M Rick Kulasinsky, Sue Kulasinsky, M/M Rick LaTournous, Jean Matoushek, M/M Jim McCormick, Maryann McCusker, Gail McKeon, M/M Pat Milos, M/M Mike Nebzdoski, M/M Tom Nebzdoski, M/M Paul O'Hara, M/M Ben O'Neill, Gerard O'Neill, M/M Tom Pasternak, Preston Country Market, Anne Prial, Red Schoolhouse, St. Katharine Drexel A&R Society, M/M Jim Sarno, Laura Scheider, M/M Randy Simpson, Barbara Sprovin, Steve & Irene's Hoagies, Thirteen Olives, Marianne Thorpe, Tracy Stiles Beauty Salon, Darlene Vaughn Family, M/M Paul Walker, M/M Ron Watson, Weis Markets, Zazzera's, and Tom Zolga.



ST. ANTHONY CEMETERY PROJECT

A rendering of the replacement cross and base at St. Anthony Cemetery is now in St. Joseph Church. The cross will be polished granite with beveled edges, and the foundation will be made of local natural ledgerstone boulder pieces. Solar lights and landscaping will also be added. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact the office.

MARRIAGE HELP PROGRAM

The Retrouvaille Program is dedicated to helping married couples avoid sustained unhappiness and divorce. The program works through practical tools rather than counseling and consists of 3 phases that include: a weekend experience, 6 follow up sessions, and continuing monthly support. For more information visit HelpOurMarriage.org.

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.



PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Beginning this August, the Diocese of Scranton will welcome its first seminarians to the St. Pius X Propaedeutic House of Formation, a new house of formation that will provide a dedicated year of spiritual and human formation as they begin their journey towards priesthood. We invite the faithful of the Diocese to join our new ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment, an opportunity to personally support our seminarians through daily prayer. Make a simple but meaningful commitment to pray one Hail Mary each day to walk alongside these men as they discern and prepare for a life of service to Christ and His Church. Sign up at www.survey.zohopublic.com/zs/zYDFwQ to pray for one seminarian assigned to you, or all seminarians.

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.

NOTICE REGARDING REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 800-932-0313 or at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhere to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551 or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Reverend Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L., at 570-207-2269.

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to reflect on the profound themes of suffering, sacrifice and transformation in our spiritual lives. In the first reading, we witness the prophet's struggle. He feels deceived and overpowered by a mission that brings him suffering. Yet, despite his pain, Jeremiah understands that he cannot suppress the fire of God's word within him. This resonates with us, as we often find ourselves torn between our desires and divine calling. The struggles we face might be formidable, but they also lead us to a deeper understanding of our purpose. In the second reading taken from the letter to the Romans, St. Paul urges us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, calling us to transformation through the renewing of our minds. This radical invitation challenges us to let go of worldly ways of thinking and to embrace a life that reflects Christ's love and sacrifice. It is about aligning our lives with God's will often a difficult journey but one that leads us to true peace and fulfillment. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus reveals the true nature of discipleship: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." This is a stark contrast to what the world often promises- self-fulfillment and comfort. Jesus is asking us a deeper commitment, one that acknowledges our struggles and challenges but also promises eternal life if we persevere. Let us ask ourselves: **Am I willing to embrace my crosses? Am I ready to deny myself in pursuit of God's will?** ~Father Arun

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
<u>St. Joseph Church</u> 9/5 Saturday 4:00 PM 9/6 Sunday 9:30 AM	Zachary Hicks-Baresse & Chrissy Piatkowski Paul Schror	John Sukenick Bob Trusky	J. Janezic & A. Seber M. McCusker & B. Bennett
<u>St. Juliana Church</u> 9/6 Sunday 8:00 AM	Daniel & Bridget Diehl & Anna Nebzydowski	Pat Simpson	Chris Urban
<u>St. James Church</u> 9/6 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oscar Burleigh	Jim McCormick	Carrie McCormick

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 Cyrllin, 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.

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