

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

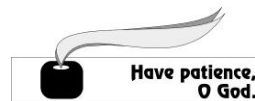
Monday, Wednesday (Friday - Communion service only) 8:30 AM *St. Joseph*

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 September 14, 2026

Monday, September 14

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Michael Drop by Ray

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 AM-St. James Judy Pietruszka by John & Ceily

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Judith Scheller by Maryann McCusker

Thursday, September 17

9:00AM-St. James Peggy Newak by Pam Green

Friday, September 18

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, September 19

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

Sunday, September 20

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Margaret Newak by Dan & Diane Kimberley

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Richard Peterlin by FCRHS Class of 1967

11:00 AM-St James Dorothy & George Babich by Children

Bread and Wine - St. Joseph Church

Sunday, September 13 9:30AM

Daniel Kovalski by Family

Sanctuary Candle - St. Juliana Church

September 13-19

For the Health and Safety of all our area schools' staff and students

By St. Katharine Drexel & Rosary Society

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 15-16, 2026

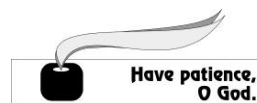
Weekly Envelopes	\$2537
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1236
Loose	\$290
Parish Second Collection	\$523
Total Parish Collection	\$4586
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$50

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report August 16, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1229
Other Parish Envelopes	\$348
Loose	\$448
Parish Second Collection	\$138
Total Parish Collection	\$2163
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$10

This weekend: Deficit Reduction
Next week: Deficit Reduction

Hymns for September 12-13	4:00 pm & 9:30 am 24th Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#570 All Are Welcome
Readings and Psalm	#922
Gifts	#453 Where Love Is Found
Communion	#510 Ubi Caritas
Recessional	#544 They'll Know We Are Christians



CCD BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20TH!

CCD – Ascension & St. Katharine Drexel Parishes

- Classes are 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM at St. James Church in Pleasant Mount for both Ascension and St. Katharine Drexel Parishes.
- CCD classes are for students in grades 1-8.
- Confirmation is a 2-year program that begins in 7th grade.
- If you have any questions, please contact Danielle O'Neill at 570-642-1190 or oneill.danielle0005@gmail.com

A&RS OF SKD PARISH

We are SO VERY HAPPY to announce that Dalilah DeSch has volunteered to be Secretary of SKD Altar Rosary Society. Thank you, Dalilah, & welcome!!

Altar Rosary **Meeting**: Tuesday, 9/15 at 12 PM, St James basement. All are welcome.

Harvest Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, 9/27 after the 11 AM mass. Please bring a dish to share.

Baby Mass: Sunday, 10/4 at 11 AM. A ceremony honoring unknown babies will follow at the St. James cemetery. Please join us.

Pierogi Making: Tuesday, 11/10, Wednesday, 11/11, and Thursday, 11/12. We are always looking for helpers. Please contact Gail McKeon 609-284-5648 or Barbara Sprovin 570-575-4072 for more information.

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

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.

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH-SEPTEMBER

Hunger isn't always visible, but it's always present. Children go to school with empty bellies, families choose between rent and groceries, and seniors ration food to afford medications. Catholic Social Services' Carbondale Office (34 River Street, Carbondale) is collecting new, non-perishable shelf-stable canned food throughout September. Especially requested items are: canned chicken and tuna, canned soups, canned fruit and vegetables, canned ravioli, and canned Spaghetti-O's. Donations can be dropped off during business hours: Monday - Thursday 8AM-12PM and 1PM-4PM, and Friday 8AM-12PM.

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. 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.

Coats, new or gently used, (as well as mittens, gloves, scarves & blankets) will be collected from now through Sunday, October 18th, in support of Christ Episcopal Church's free coat distribution to be held Oct 23rd from 3-6PM & Oct 24 from 1-4 at the corner of Delaware and Dundaff streets. Thank you in advance for your generosity - and for keeping many warm and cozy throughout the chilly months of winter! And, please share these dates with anyone who may be in need of warm clothing for the winter!

There is no Meeting in September. Our next meetings will be Wednesday, October 7th and Tuesday, November 3rd at 6PM in St. Joseph Church.

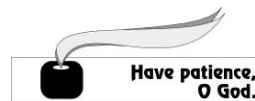
MASS-ST. FAUSTINA'S CHAPEL

Please join us for Holy Mass at St. Faustina's Chapel (1763 Great Bend Turnpike, Pleasant Mount) on Saturday, October 3rd with celebrant Fr. James Brent, OP – Professor at the Dominican House of Studies & Host of the Contemplata Podcast. The schedule for the day will be: confessions at 11:00am with Holy Mass at 12 Noon, followed by lunch afterwards!

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.





BE A CATHOLIC MAN CONFERENCE

The 11th annual Be A Catholic Man Conference will be held on October 10th at Holy Redeemer High School (159 South Pennsylvania Ave. Wilkes Barre 18701). The theme is "Just Be Catholic". Conference runs from 8:00am to 3:00pm (Adoration and Confessions will be available), closing Mass at 1:45 PM, registration/coffee between 7 & 8 AM and Rosary at 7:15 AM. The three (3) speakers will be: 1. Bishop Joseph Coffey, the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. He is widely respected for his compassionate leadership and commitment to strengthening faith communities; 2. John Martignoni, author of Blue Collar Apologetics, is a full-time evangelist. He hosts the "EWTN Open Line" radio show. He is the founder/president of the Bible Christian Society; 3. Brian Holdsworth, a convert to the Catholic Church, is a writer, speaker, commentator, and evangelist producing content in the service of the mission of the Church. Registration: \$40 (Early Bird \$30 until 9/21/26), Students \$15 - morning coffee and box lunch are included. Fr. Arun encourages all men of the parishes to join! He will be attending, providing no funerals that day. Register either online at BeACatholicMan.com, or by mail by sending your name, address, email & parish with your check payable to "Be a Catholic Man" with "Men's Conference"



on the memo line of the check. Send it to: "Be a Catholic Man", P.O. Box # 669, Wyalusing, Pa. 18853. For more information, contact your parish coordinator (Kevin Burleigh 570-520-5548 or Jim Biondo at 570-466-1090) or use this QR Code to register.

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.

BLESSING OF PETS

Christ Episcopal Church, Forest City will conduct its annual Blessing of Pets on Sunday, October 4th beginning at 12:30 and ending at 1:30. This will be a drive thru with each pet individually blessed inside your car. The location is Browndale Fire Station (620 Marion Street, Route 247). *ALL pets are welcome to be blessed by Father McGinty.* Donations to Dessin Animal Shelter (Honesdale) are greatly welcomed and will be accepted. They are in need of the following items: kitchen garbage bags, bleach, Hefty contractor garbage bags, laundry detergent, assorted sizes of Martingale collars, clumping cat Litter, non-clumping litter, Purina Cat Chow, Friskies canned cat and kitten food, and dog toys- Bonebones and Jolly Balls specifically for our super chewers. You may also drop off items at the Dessin shelter directly.

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.

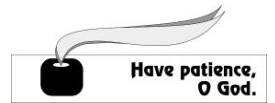
RESTORE YOUR MARRIAGE

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.

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 9/19 Saturday 4:00 PM 9/20 Sunday 9:30 AM	Zachary Hicks-Baresse & Chrissy Piatkowski Paul Schror	Bernice Lukus John Risboskin	J. Janezic & A. Seber M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church 9/19 Sunday 8:00 AM	Daniel & Bridget Diehl & Anna Nebzdoski	Roger Aguinaldo	Deb Biondo
St. James Church 9/19 Sunday 11:00 AM	Jason Non	Denise Vauter	Pete Vauter

September 13, 2026

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

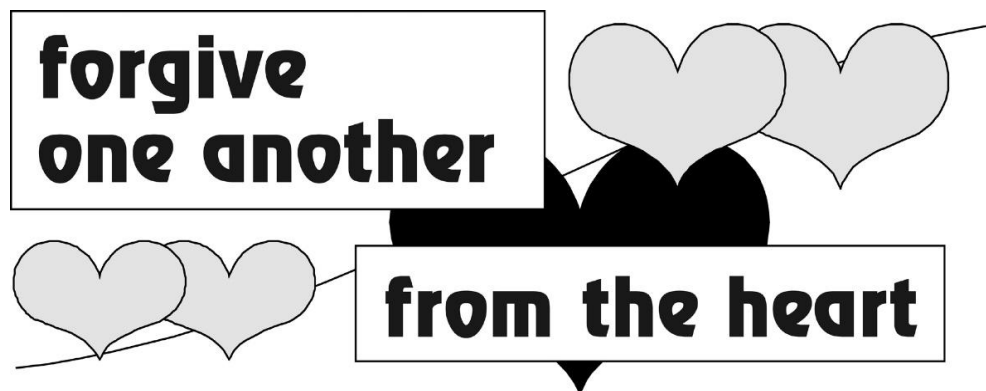


Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to reflect profoundly on the themes of mercy, forgiveness, and our relationship with one another. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that anger and vengeance can lead to bitterness and destruction. It calls us to forgive, to let go, emphasizing how unforgiveness can trap us rather than the person we refuse to forgive. The Psalm beautifully echoes the sentiment of God's mercy. It invites us to bless the Lord for His compassion, reminding us that He does not deal with us according to our sins but extends His love beyond our failing. This highlights the depth of God's forgiveness. In the second reading, St. Paul emphasizes our interconnectedness. Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord, and our actions impact one another. Therefore, how we treat others, reflects our relationship with God, and we are called to live in unity and love. In the gospel, we encounter Peter's question about forgiveness; "Lord, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus responds with an astounding answer: "Not seven times, but I tell you seventy-seven times." This response challenges us to think beyond the time limits we often impose on our love and forgiveness. Jesus follows this teaching with the parable of the unmerciful servant, illustrating the great disparity between God's generosity towards us and our reluctance to extend that same generosity to others. ~*Father Arun*

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

Prayers for the Sick: Eileen Hicks, Pat Mikolon, 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 Sprovkin, 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.



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