

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

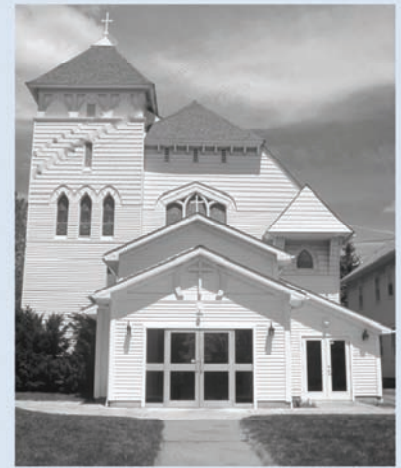
Web Address: apskdp.org

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 21, 2026

Monday, September 21

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Joyce Brooking by Barb Sheptak

Tuesday, September 22

9:00 AM-St. James Larry Coe by SKD A&R Society

Wednesday, September 23

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Andrew Mark by Carl Remus

Thursday, September 24

9:00AM-St. James Julia Whitney by Pete & Denise Vauter

Friday, September 25

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, September 26

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Dolores Carra by Orlosky Family

Sunday, September 27

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Margaret Newak by SKD A&RS

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Joyce Brooking by FCRHS Class of 1968

11:00 AM-St James Marsha Anderson by Jim & Deb Biondo

Sanctuary Candle - St. Joseph Church

September 20-26

Deceased Members of the Ravnika and Bokai Families
 by Paul Ravnika

HARVEST LUNCHEON

The SKD A&RS cordially invites everyone to the annual Harvest Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, September 27th after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please bring a dish to share.

*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 22-23, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2151
Other Parish Envelopes	\$1091
Loose	\$122
Parish Second Collection	\$122
Total Parish Collection	\$3486
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$5

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report August 23, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$1282
Other Parish Envelopes	\$246
Loose	\$487
Parish Second Collection	\$202
Total Parish Collection	\$2217
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$0

This weekend: Deficit Reduction
Next week: Deficit Reduction

Hymns for September 19-20	4:00 pm & 9:30 am 25th Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#As We Gather at Your Table
Readings and Psalm	#925
Gifts	#453 Where Love Is Found
Communion	#692 Your Words Are Spirit & Life
Recessional	#723 Glory and Praise to Our God

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 DeEsch has volunteered to be Secretary of SKD Altar Rosary Society. Thank you, Dalilah, & welcome!!

Harvest Potluck Luncheon: Sunday, 9/27 after the 11AM 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.

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.

ROSARY RALLY



The annual worldwide Rosary Rally will be held at noon on Saturday, October 10th this year. Please join us at 11:45 across from the First National Bank along the chain link fence, rain or shine, to show our devotion to the Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

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.

A&RS OF ASCENSION PARISH

Membership – it's time to **join** or **renew** your membership to the Altar & Rosary Society (yes, \$10 every year). There are yellow membership cards at each entrance of St. Joseph Church to be completed and returned to either the Parish Office or dropped into the collection basket.

Why join, you ask? Being a part of this Society gives you the opportunity to donate your time and talents to the many projects we do for our Parish as well as for the community, near and far. Whether we are donating diapers, collecting for the coat drive, supporting PHL, aiding our school children or helping those in need within our church & community, playing bingo with the residents of the Nursing Center & Personal Care Home or having fun at Trunk or Treat in town, honoring our Veterans & First Responders, we could always use another set of hands and your ideas & input as we strive to promote devotion, love, service, and dedication to the Blessed Mother while nurturing faith, charity, and respect among all. Not all members join in the monthly meetings, but do support us in many ways. Please, come see what we are about!

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!

SUICIDE PREVENTION/REMEMBRANCE WALK

The Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative is holding their annual Prevention and Remembrance Walk on Saturday, September 26th at the Wallenpaupack Area High School. Gates open at 10:30AM, program starts at 11:00AM. Free and open to the public. Join NSPI at this gathering to share our grief, honor our loved ones, fight stigma, raise suicide prevention awareness, and learn about local community resources in Wayne County. For more information call Sarah at 570-253-9200 or email snahman@waynecountypa.gov.

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.

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.

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- Benebones 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 a seminarian assigned to you, or all seminarians.

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 9/26 Saturday 4:00 PM 9/27 Sunday 9:30 AM	Lauren Tomazic & Aubrey Franks Paul Schror	Darlene Hamlyn Joseph Sukenick	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church 9/27 Sunday 8:00 AM	Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Chris Urban	Carol Kneier
St. James Church 9/27 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oliver, Macson & Seamus Murphy	Richard LaTournous	Sue LaTournous

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday invite us to reflect on the boundless generosity and mercy of God. In today's first reading from the Book of Isaiah, we hear a poignant call to seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are beyond our own. The prophet invites us to embrace the incredible generosity of God, who is ever ready to welcome us, to forgive us, enrich our lives with His mercy and grace. When we turn to God, no matter how far we may have strayed, we find a Father who always ready to receive us with open arms. In the second reading from Philippians, Paul expresses his longing to be with Christ, recognizing that to live is Christ and to die is a gain. In every situation, Paul finds meaning and purpose in Christ, and he encourages us to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel. If we align our lives with Christ's generous love, we too will discover a life rich in meaning, one that extends generosity beyond ourselves to others. The gospel passage from Matthew presents us with the parable of laborers in the vineyard. Jesus illustrates the Kingdom of Heaven as a place where the last are made first and where the generous employer gives equally to everyone, regardless of when they were called to work. For the workers who grumble, their dissatisfaction stems from a concept of entitlement. They fail to rejoice in the goodness shown to others and in the graciousness of their employer. **How often do I mirror this mindset in my own life? Do I rejoice in the blessing of others, or do I allow jealousy and comparison to darken my heart?** ~ *Father Arun*

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord: *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 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 Giorganio, 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.

Return to God



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