

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 28, 2026

Monday, September 28

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Tricia Sheptak Theide by Barb Sheptak

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 AM-St. James Christina Jamalowitz by Biondo Family

Wednesday, September 30

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kubus & Son, Frankie by Daughters and Sisters

Thursday, October 1

9:00AM-St. James Peggy Newak by Pete & Denise Vauter

Friday, October 2

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, October 3

4:00 PM-St. Joseph Frank Cyzeski by Sister, Margaret

Sunday, October 4

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Nancy Lewis by SKD A&RS

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Robert & Rosarii Emmett by Daughters

11:00 AM-St James Babies buried in Parish Cemeteries By SKD Altar & Rosary

Bread and Wine

St Joseph Church October 3 at 4PM

Frank Cyzeski by Sister, Margaret

Sanctuary Candle - St. Joseph Church

September 27-October 3

Frank Cyzeski by Sister Margaret

*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 29-30, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2470
Other Parish Envelopes	\$628
Loose	\$279
Parish Second Collection	\$291
Total Parish Collection	\$3668
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$25

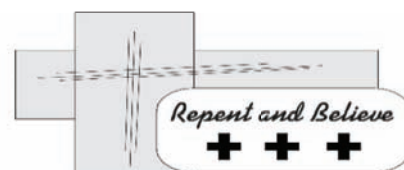
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report August 30, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2551
Other Parish Envelopes	\$167
Loose	\$605
Parish Second Collection	\$329
Total Parish Collection	\$3652
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$35

This weekend: Deficit Reduction
Next week: Care and 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.





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

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.

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.

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!

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Christ Episcopal Church (700 Delaware Street, Forest City) will host its Community Luncheon on Saturday, October 17th. Serving will begin at Noon and end at 12:45 PM. We look forward to reconnecting with our friends and making new friends. Please join us! All are welcome to join in fellowship and share bread together. We welcome and serve all in Christ's name.

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.. The schedule for the day will be: confessions at 11:00am with Holy Mass at 12 Noon, followed by lunch afterwards!

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!

All Veterans and 1st Responders are cordially invited to attend Mass in their honor to be held on **Saturday, Nov. 7th at the 4PM Mass at St. Joseph Church** - Delaware Street - Forest City by Father Arun Lakra. Lite fare will follow in the Rectory next door to the Church. Please RSVP at 570-785-3838 by Nov. 3rd. All are welcome!

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

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

The Diocese of Scranton invites 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.

Hymns for September 16-27	4:00 pm & 9:30 am 26th Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#523 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
Readings and Psalm	#928
Gifts	#668 What Wonderful Love Is This
Communion	#563 Unless a Grain of Wheat
Recessional	#670 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy





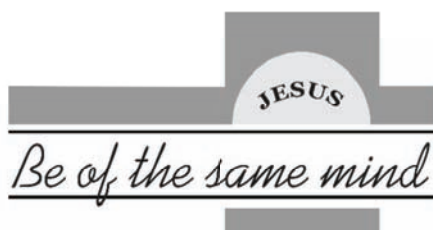
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for this Sunday present us with a profound invitation to reflect on our relationship with God, our choices, and the sincerity of our hearts. In the first reading from Ezekiel, we hear God proclaim a radical message of justice and mercy. The Israelites struggle with the concept of divine retribution, blaming their ancestors for their plight. God reminds them that every individual is responsible for their own actions. This reminder serves as a wake-up call. God desires our conversion, not our condemnation. If we turn from our wrongdoings and embrace righteousness, we can find life anew. This is a testament of God's grace, always ready to welcome back the repentant heart. In the second reading taken from the letter to the Philippians, Paul offers a powerful reflection on humility and service, urging us to adopt the mindset of Christ. Though divine, Christ took on the role of a servant and humbled Himself out of love for us. This is the essence of discipleship, serving others and placing their needs above our own. We are called to embody this spirit of love in our relationships, reflecting Christ's selflessness. In the gospel from Matthew, we encounter two sons, one who initially resists his father's request but ultimately obeys, and another who claims obedience but fails to act. This scripture challenges us to consider our own response to God's call. Am I merely proclaiming my faith, or Am I living it out through my actions? ~ *Father Arun*

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 10/3 Saturday 4:00 PM 10/4 Sunday 9:30 AM	Zachary Hicks-Baresse & Chrissy Piatkowski Paul Schror	John Sukenick Joseph Sukenick	J. Janezic & A Seber M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church 10/4 Sunday 8:00 AM	Daniel & Bridget Diehl & Anna Nebzydoski	Pat Simpson	Chris Urban
St. James Church 10/4 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oscar Burleigh	Rose Burleigh	Gail McKeon

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

Prayers for the Sick: Cheryl Lynn Allen, 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 Zolaga, 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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