

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 7, 2026

Monday, September 7

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Esther & Anthony Remus by Family

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 AM-St. James Nancy Lewis by Gail McKeon & Family

Wednesday, September 9

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Lucille Hans by Rudy

Thursday, September 10

9:00AM-St. James

Friday, September 11

8:30 AM-St. Joseph Communion Service

Saturday, September 12

4:00 PM-St. Joseph John Pavelchak by Diane Femc

Sunday, September 13

8:00 AM-St. Juliana Margaret Hnatko by Pam Green

9:30 AM-St. Joseph Frank Sheroshek, Jr. by sister, Lourdes & Family

11:00 AM-St James Margaret Swartz by Bernice Lukus

Bread and Wine

St. Joseph Church

Saturday, September 12 4:00PM

Deborah Trusky by Goddaughter Jennifer & Grand Nieces Annalise & Gabriella

Hymns for September 5-6	4:00 pm & 9:30 am 23rd Ordinary time
Entrance Hymn	#570 All Are Welcome
Readings and Psalm	#919
Gifts	#772 I Have Loved you
Communion	#692 Your words are Spirit and Life
Recessional	#694 How Great Thou Art

*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 8-9, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$2123
Other Parish Envelopes	\$443
Loose	\$187
Parish Second Collection	\$177
Total Parish Collection	\$2930
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$70

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish Collection Report August 9, 2026

Weekly Envelopes	\$3826
Other Parish Envelopes	\$174
Loose	\$316
Parish Second Collection	\$0
Total Parish Collection	\$4316
Diocesan Second Collection	\$0
Diocesan Envelopes	\$133

**This weekend: Care and Education of Priests
 Next week: Deficit Reduction**

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

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

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

Labor Day Raffle: Drawing on 9/6 in the St. James basement after the 11 AM mass. DO NOT PUT YOUR RETURNS IN THE COLLECTION BASKET!

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 Sprovkin 570-575-4072 for more information.

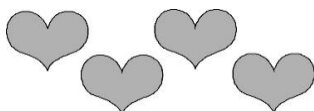
The Altar & Rosary Society thanks you for your support of all our projects, collections, and fundraisers!

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.

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.



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.

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

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone that volunteered at Ascension Parish **Family Fun Day!** We had a great day - ending the summer with a cookout, playing some enjoyable games, and giving away some fun items for the kids!

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.

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

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.

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.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Browndale Fire Station (Route 247, 620 Marion Street) will be turned into a Community Red Cross Blood donation center from 12:00 to 5:00 PM on Friday, September 11th. Please make an appointment to donate- call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to: www.redcrossblood.org. A few walk-in appointments are available. Please help support the Red Cross and donate blood. "Give the gift of life, Give Blood". New donors 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.

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- Benbone 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.



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

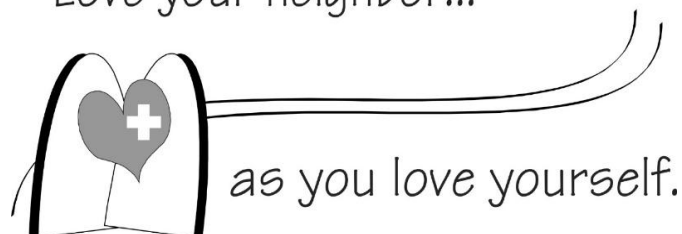
The readings for this Sunday lead us into the profound responsibility we have toward one another as members of the Body of Christ. In the first reading from Ezekiel, the Lord appoints the prophet as a sentinel for the house of Israel. This image reminds us that we are called not only to care for ourselves but to watch over each other, urging us to speak the truth in love when we see a brother or sister straying. In the second reading of a letter to the Romans, Paul amplifies this message, stating that love is the fulfillment of the law. Our interactions with one another must be rooted in love, fulfilling the ultimate commandment given to us by Christ. Love compels us to reach out, intercede, and sometimes confront when we see wrongdoings, always with a heart that seeks to restore rather than to condemn. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus provides a concrete process for addressing wrongs among us. He emphasizes the importance of reconciliation and the need to approach conflict resolution with humility and respect. The steps outlined urge us to work toward restoring relationships in a manner that reflects Christ's love and forgiveness. Jesus teaches that love and responsibility go hand in hand. Faith is not only about personal prayer but also about how people treat one another. This Sunday encourages us to live with courage, compassion, and a commitment to what is right. ~Father Arun

	SERVERS	LECTOR	E. MINISTER
St. Joseph Church 9/12 Saturday 4:00 PM 9/13 Sunday 9:30 AM	Lauren Tomazic & Aubrey Franks Paul Schror	Joseph Sukenick Bernice Lukus	J. Janezic & P. Tomazic M. McCusker & B. Bennett
St. Juliana Church 9/13 Sunday 8:00 AM	Mark & Jonathan Nebzydoski	Pat Simpson	Chris Urban
St. James Church 9/13 Sunday 11:00 AM	Oliver, Seamus & Macson Murphy	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 Cyrlin, 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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