

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

*Fr. Tomkosky's Column*

**MONDAY 12-23**

NO MASS

**TUESDAY 12-24**

MARY SMITH

6:30 PM HALL DWAYNE & EDITH SMITH & FAMILY

**WEDNESDAY 12-25**

PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

9:00 AM ST. THOMAS AND SEVEN DOLORS

**THURSDAY 12-26**

NO MASS

**FRIDAY 12-27**

NO MASS

**SATURDAY 12-28**

5:00 PM

BRADY DUNCAN

GRAM & PAP DUNCAN

**SUNDAY 12-29**

7:00 AM

PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

ST. THOMAS AND SEVEN DOLORS

9:30 AM

HARRY C. KARNS

FAMILY

### Server Schedule:

Christmas Eve December 24 6:30PM HALL

Rick Dovala D & K Long

Christmas Day December 25 9:00AM CHURCH

Jeff Wright Serio

### DECEMBER 28-29

5:00PM Jean Manspeaker Cotchen

7:00AM Dan Smith Serio

9:30AM Santo Collura Cordova

The new server schedule is being prepared please call Barb 814-623-1680 to let her know when you are not available. The new schedule will run through Memorial Day weekend.

### Mass Readings for December 29

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2,21-24

The Gospel Luke 2:41-52

**Christmas:** I pray as your Pastor that all parishioners and your families have a most blessed celebration of Christmas this week and throughout the Christmas season. Please be safe if you are traveling, and I pray the Christ child draws all of you close to His loving heart and that each of you give your life to Him on a deeper level in the coming year. **Please remember to invite any Catholic you know who has been away for whatever reason back to the practice of the Faith during this special time of God's graces. I especially want to welcome back any parishioners who are here for Christmas and have been away from the Church and hope you will begin anew and come to Mass on a weekly basis. If you need to talk to me, especially about a marriage situation or the need to make a good Confession in order to get back to the reception of Holy Communion, please e-mail me ([ricopadre@hotmail.com](mailto:ricopadre@hotmail.com)) or give me a call: 814-623-5526 ex. 3, and I will try the best I can to help you. Never forget the Lord loves us so much - that's why He came among us as a little baby to save us from our sins!**

**General Confession:** If you want to do a Confession of your whole life up to this point to get a fresh start with God and grow spiritually, please contact me as it takes more time.

**Some Good Catholic Charities:** I recommend these after years of research as a priest (you can look them up on the internet): *Human Life International, The Pope St. Paul VI Institute, Live Action, EWTN, the National Divine Mercy Shrine/Marian Fathers, the Missionaries of the Poor and Missionaries of Charity, the CFR's, FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), Franciscan University of Steubenville, Renewal Ministries, and Vagabond Missions.* They all do great things with our donations.

**Some good Catholic websites for the latest news:** For both secular and Church news from an orthodox Catholic perspective see: [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org) and [www.newoxfordreview.org](http://www.newoxfordreview.org) & [www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org). & [www.spiritdaily.com](http://www.spiritdaily.com).

**Recommended book:** The very insightful book on the 4 temperaments that I mentioned in my homily last weekend is called: *The Temperament God Gave You* by Art and Laraine Bennett published by Sophia Press. You can order it from Sophia or Amazon.

**Lending Library:** Before or after Mass, go downstairs to borrow a good book or DVD or CD to help you and your loved ones grow in the understanding of the treasure of our Catholic faith and the spiritual life, esp. in these challenging times. Remember good spiritual reading helps us grow into deeper spiritual union with the Blessed Trinity.

**Info about the Divine Mercy Devotion and helping the Souls in Purgatory:** Go online and read the new **Winter 2024** quarterly Marian Helper magazine at: [www.marian.org/imh/](http://www.marian.org/imh/). There is also info on how to join the **Marian helpers** which is a great Catholic group to belong to with many spiritual benefits and the **Holy Souls Sodality** to help the souls in Purgatory (see PrayForSouls.org or call: 1-800-462-7426). You can also check out their You Tube channel with many good Catholic videos [www.youtube.com/MarianHelpers](http://www.youtube.com/MarianHelpers). And if you or anyone you love needs prayers, please call the **Divine Mercy Prayer line** at 1-800-804-3823 or go online to: [www.marian.org/prayerline](http://www.marian.org/prayerline). And they have a great online Catholic store at <https://divinemercurygiftshop.org/> (1-888-484-1112) for purchasing rosaries; metals of the saints, artwork, books, etc. Have a blessed Christmas week. ☩

## **Please Remember In Your Prayers**

### **Those Who Are In Need of Healing:**

Karen McAleer, Joan Deike, Cheryl Gross, Sara Pullen, Carolyn Arnold, Sherry Diehl, Ruth Zack, Matt Siehl, Bryan Braman, Mark Fleegle, Scott Ward, Nora Massie, Melissa Baker, Cathy Houseworth, Anita Spiker, Angie Wolfhope, Frank Dohoda, Marie Smith, Mike Montreal, Jordan Seville, Debbie Wertz, Gabriel Grassi, Beverly Clark, Molly Wyman, Nicole Shorey, Dianna Garvis, Parker Lease, Mary Grace Imgrund, Kathy Nebel, Patrick Fleming Sr., Bruce Leonard, Mary Sue Harris, Mary Anderson, Pat Kohler, Gerald Steves, Fr. John Byrnes, Terry Metivier, Don Hershberger, Carolyn Hershberger, Nadine Naugle, Sandi Fleegle, Nancy Woods, Sandy Rouzer, Emily Diehl, Ed Dudzinski, Fae Montreal, John Sloniger, Tom Futcher, James B. Whisker II, Inga Pepoy, Tina Datesman, Marlene Claycomb, Tara Musselman, Hope Yotko, Catherine Marie Boob, Suzanne Wilk, Evelyn Yost, Charles Cuppett, Edith Cuppett, Peggie Scritchfield, Father John Moineau, Patricia Quarry, Jacob Clark, Melinda Stone, David Brunstretter, Cathy Vent, Matthew Kostelac, Preston Taylor, Amanda and Tim Hixenbaugh, Fr. Tom Acklin, Sue Durr, Tina Honkus, Sara Felton, Debbie Porta, Cpl. Hunner Flint, Barry Leydig, Danielle Henry, Scarlett Chris, Toni Reiss, Barry Fleegle, Rick and Val Dovala, Troy Nelson, Sherry Kendall, Ernie Imgrund, Patricia Worrell, Richard Grimes, Leesa Keys-Waite, Robert Myers, Penny Wyman, Cindy Zimmer, John Andzelik, Debbie Fisher, Barb Isaac, Sal Santino, Adam Wright, Cora Sue Sheirer, Jeremy Porta, Sue Prescott, Dan Grazer and Marlene Rankin and Duane Bruner.

**To have someone placed on the Prayer list or the Military List, Please call the rectory 623-5526. Please ask the person for their permission before placing them on either list. Please call the rectory to have them removed from the list when they recover or are no longer serving in the military.**

### **In Defense of Our Country Both at Home and Abroad:**

Leo Gressick Jr., Jim Hillegass, Richard Keller, Wilbert Litzinger, Mark Popchak, George Pullman, Michael Ryder, Gregory Smith, Jonathan Vogel, Ryan Smithmyer, Matt Stankan, Jennifer Lindsey Whetstone, Lindsey Zack, Michele Notestine, Heather Dovala, John Bankes, Ian McCoy, Curt Shane, Derrick Bunja, Michael Franklin, Adam Wertz, Aaron Ebersole, Michael Haith, Josh Gregor, Katie Simmons, Shaun Shaffer, Daniel Veltre, Justin Porta, Marco Veltre, Jeremy Porta, Cpl. Hunner Flint, Zackary Richards and Jullian Tayler.

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**814- 979-0272**

### **December 22-Fourth Sunday of Advent:**

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

**Through your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown to the hearts of the poor this Christmas. Wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas!**

**If anyone has Rosaries that need repaired or if you want any type of chaplet please contact Linda Steele at 814-979-2838.**

## **COLLECTION LAST WEEK:**

Weekly Envelopes	\$3,927.00
Monthly	685.00
Loose	382.00
Christmas	50.00
Immaculate Conception	924.00
Religious Retirement	1,482.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,450.64</b>

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.**

**THE 2025 ENVELOPES ARE IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT. PLEASE DO NOT START USING THEM UNTIL JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> AS YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER HAS CHANGED AND AFTER JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> DO NOT USE ANY 2024 ENVELOPES AS YOU WILL NOT GET CREDIT FOR THEM. IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE GETTING YOUR ENVELOPES FROM THE BASEMENT PLEASE ASK AN USHER.**

## **Dec 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent**

**Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. Mary's response to the angel Gabriel in our 'Alleluia' today captures her stewardship spirit: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Lk 1:38)." At the moment of the Annunciation, Mary recognized God's gift to her and made a generous and trusting return to Him, offering her very self to God as His servant. This reply to such an overwhelming request – made by an angel, no less – shows us how extraordinary our Blessed Mother is. She is indeed "full of grace."**

**How beautifully our Blessed Mother models the mind and heart of a steward. It is an example that we, her children, can follow in our own lives 2,000 years later. With all the gifts God gives us – our time, our talents, and our material possessions – we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using all these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today. We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.**

**The Women of the Well prayer group is meeting from 3-4PM in the Church Hall every 2 weeks on a Thursday. Dates are Dec. 5, Dec-19, Jan.-2, Jan.-16, Jan.-30, Feb.-13 and Feb.27. Please bring your own Bible. All women are welcome. For more information call: Diana 814-330-1938; Susan 706-400-8204; or Pat 814-623-1337.**

**Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Love** The fourth Advent candle symbolizes love. Our renewed sense of hope that accompanies the Jubilee Year results in a commitment to love one another. The Jubilee Year offers the opportunity to be "ambassadors of hope" through loving service. Join in the efforts to serve the poor offered by your parish. See what outreach ministries such as Catholic Charities have to offer. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son," share that love in return.

**RECONCILIATION (Confessions): Saturdays – 3:45 pm**

**ADORATION:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Will be held every Monday after 8:00 am Mass until 9:00 am

**FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS:** The First Friday of every month after 8:00 am Mass there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:30 am

**FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS:** Mass The First Saturday of every month at 8:00 am. Confessions following.

**HOLY HOUR:** Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm. Confessions at 4:00 pm.

**BAPTISMS OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN:** Parents are expected to be registered in the parish and to attend a class on the Sacrament of Baptism before a child is baptized. Due to the hectic schedule that often faces new parents as well as the nature of the material covered, we encourage parents to attend prior to the birth of the child. Call the Rectory Office for an appointment.

**MARRIAGES:** The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of Preparation. Arrangements are to be made with the Priest of the Parish nine months before the date of marriage. Your church date and time are to be set prior to your reception date and time. The Pre-Cana Conferences or Engaged Encounter must be part of the marriage preparation. **Either the bride or the groom or both must be a registered and practicing member of St. Thomas parish.** To make Marriage Preparation arrangements in the parish, call 623-5526.

Children of parishioners are reminded that they are removed from their parents' registration upon their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and must register as an adult member of the parish.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:** Certified diocesan instructors are located throughout the diocese. Contact the diocesan Family Life Office, 814-886-5551; [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org); [www.dioceseaj.org/family-life](http://www.dioceseaj.org/family-life)

**NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME!** Please call the Rectory for an appointment. If you are moving away or returning, please let us know so we can maintain accurate records. Changes in phone number are also appreciated.

**INACTIVE CATHOLICS:** Baptized Catholics who have not been practicing their faith are most welcome to return Please call or email Fr. Tomkosky if you have questions.

**R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults):** This process sees to the needs of adults who wish to become Catholic. Catholics baptized as infants and have never received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation are also invited into this process. Call the Rectory for Details.

**CARE OF THE SICK:** Those confined to home due to illness or age should contact the Rectory. Arrangements will be made to bring the Eucharist and if needed, the Sacrament of the Sick.

**ENVELOPES:** Regular use of envelopes provide a stable income for the parish and enables us to prepare a budget. A record of your contributions is kept and a statement will be mailed upon your request.

**PROJECT RACHEL:** Is a program of counseling, compassion, and healing for women and men who have been involved in an abortion. Call (814) 884-8000 or [ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org) **HURTING RELATIONSHIPS?** Spouse to Spouse or Spouse to Child. Call (814) 535-6538.

**BIRTHRIGHT:** Believes that every pregnant woman has to right to give birth, and every child has the right to be born. Call 1-800-550-4900. [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org) Birthright, 216 Dibert Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

**CATHOLIC COUNSELING:** Call Catholic Charities...Altoona office... 814-944-9388.

**SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**215 East Penn Street**

**Bedford, Pennsylvania 15522**

**PHONE:(814) 623-5526 FAX: (814) 623-1741**

**WEB SITE: [www.webparish.com/aj/thomas](http://www.webparish.com/aj/thomas)**

**Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**

**Most Rev. Mark Bartchak, Bishop**

**SERVING YOUR PARISH**

**Rev. Richard B. Tomkosky, Pastor**

**[ricopadre@hotmail.com](mailto:ricopadre@hotmail.com)**

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**SATURDAY:** 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Church

**SUNDAY:** 7:00 a.m. Mass in the Church

9:30 a.m. Mass in the Church

**Note:** The Rosary is recited ½ hour before each Mass.

**Confessions:** Saturday, 3:45 p.m. in the Church.

Or call the rectory for an appointment.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday 8:00am-12:00pm**

**Thursday 8:00am-11:30am**

All ordinary parish business should be conducted at this time. Please call Father to make an appointment with him at 623-5526 ext.3

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.**

**Isaiah**