

Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

Reverend Father Aron M. Maghsoudi – Pastor

Rectory Office

738 Sunshine Avenue
Central City, PA 15926
814-754-5224

Holy Masses:

Daily

Church (Sacred Heart) 8:00AM

Saturday Vigil

Church (Sacred Heart) 4:00PM

Sunday Morning

Church (Sacred Heart) 8:00 AM

Chapel (St. John) 10:30 AM

December 31, 2017

The Holy Family

Worship Sites

Church (Sacred Heart)

738 Sunshine Avenue

Chapel (St. John)

162 Wheeler Street

Confessions

Church (Sacred Heart)

Saturday 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Chapel (St. John)

Sunday 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Anytime upon Request

Mass Intentions

January 1 7:00 PM	<i>The Octave of THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</i> Francis & Eleanor Kovak (Req. Family) - Chapel
January 2	<i>Saints Basil the Great, and Gregory Nazianzen</i> NO MASS
January 3 8:00 AM	<i>Christmas Weekday</i> Anna Debevits (Req. St. Michael Funeral Committee) - Chapel
January 4 8:00 AM	<i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton</i> Andy & Sue Kalmer (Req. sister Margaret Hawrylak) - Chapel
January 5 8:00 AM	<i>Saint John Neumann</i> Albert McKolosky (Req. Janice & Joe Stahl) - Chapel
January 6 4:00 PM	<i>Vigil - The Epiphany of the Lord</i> Ann Krishak (Req. - Frank & Lu Romus) - Church
January 7 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> Helen Yantus (Req. Society of Angels) - Church For the Parish (Missa Populo) - Chapel

PRAYER LIST - Jennie Sielczak, Frank Murawski, Constance Gruca, Lillian Koleszarik, Marie Metsker, Sandy Wechtenhiser, Ethan Rohlf, Rachel Moslak, Ann Guyer, Alice Zelenski, Shirley Taylor, Carol Hancharik, Kay Hintosh, Charlie Field Jr., David P. Bonus, Lauren Barnes, Andrew Straka, Fern Lasut, Agnes Palya, Trish Rullo, Stanley Carl Tomaszewski, Patrick Munro, Tom Hudak, Quincy Oglie, Charles Field Sr., Ron Delasko, Mike Dixon, Mya Polito, Madelain Mauger, Sue Frank, Caroline Amato, Joseph Shelko, Shirley Roman, Mary Ethel Sanzo, Leon Bonus, Joyce Delasko, Larry Krestar, Andrew Muha, Andrea Sesack, Ricky Gerena, Shelly Delasko, Lionel Berkebile, Mary-Ann Sgavoo, Mary Ann Naret, Barry Stuft, Mary Ann Lasut, John Harchick Jr., Vincent Bestvina, Izzy Bihun, Jeff Yanosky, Mary Clark, Rhonda Bittner, Kara Palumbo, Dave Andolina, Mary Ann Stavlo, Jeff Naugle, Debra Farley, Eugene Topka, Carla Ayres, Zoe Taylor, Rodney Shaffer, Adrian Popig, Casey Duffield, Mike Stefanik

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS - The Sanctuary Candle, at the Sacred Heart site, burns in loving memory of Clara Magnone Wilson by children and families. The Sanctuary Candle burns at the St. John's site in honor of our parish family.

WEEKLY OFFERING December 23rd and December 24th - Adult Envelopes - \$3,430.25; Loose - \$636; Fuel - \$125; Student Offering - \$35.75; Immaculate Conception - \$70; Christmas - \$5,182.50; Total - 9,479.50- Thank You!

SUPPORT OUR SISTER CHURCH - Holy Assumption Orthodox Church (St. Mary's) is sponsoring a "Holliday Raffle" ticket. To the winner goes \$700 and seven meats - bacon, ham, turkey, chicken, pork, steak, and shrimp (not technically meat). The drawing will be on Old Calendar Christmas, January 7th (based on the PA Daily number). For tickets please see Father Aron or Maryann Zubeck.

SERVER SCHEDULE

January 6 - 4:00 PM - T. & M. Mabon, A. Mauger

January 7 - 8:00 AM - A. Deneen, R. & C. Pongrac

January 7 - 10:30 AM - C. Coleman, A. Dabbs, E. Spinelli

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - Please call the rectory if you wish to have a copy of your church contribution statement for the calendar year 2017. Please inform the office if you wish to pick it up or have it mailed.

FLOWER MEMORIALS - There are flower memorial sign-up sheets at the entrance of both sites. If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers during 2018 please sign your name next to the date you select. Like this past year, at the conclusion of weekend Masses (8:00 AM Sunday at Sacred Heart and 10:30 AM Sunday at St. John) the flowers can be left at the altar or taken home.

NEW YEARS DAY MASS - January 1, 2018, New Years Day is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Normally it is a holy day of obligation but because it falls on a Monday the obligation is removed. Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of God will be celebrated Monday evening at 7:00 PM at the St. John site.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - The offertory envelopes for 2018 can be found at the entrance of both sites. As a united parish with two sites (Father Aron) did his best to remember who typically worships where - translation, your envelopes may be at the other site. If for some reason a clerical error was made and you do not have a set of envelopes please phone the rectory and your wish will be granted!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, NAME OR PHONE NUMBER - If you moved, changed your name, address or phone number since the beginning of 2017 please contact the rectory so that the parish records may be updated.

2018 CALENDAR CATHOLIC CALENDAR - An attractive 2018 calendar has been made available compliments of several generous sponsors. The parish is grateful to our calendar sponsors for continuing this pious tradition. If you, or someone you know, is interested in a calendar please take the desired quantity with you after Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY - Friday of this week is the First Friday of the month. First Friday devotions will be held at the St. John site at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

CCD SCHEDULE - CCD classes resume on January 14th. Students will receive their schedule for the spring term in class on January 14th.

YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE - Fr. Aron will be away for the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses next weekend (January 7) while he leads a bus tour from the New Baltimore parish. Fr. Sylvester Bendzella will cover the two Sunday Masses next weekend.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - Many thanks to all who were so generous with their time and helped prepare for the parish New Year's Eve celebration. Many hands came together as a sign of good will and common mission - perhaps that is the best way to celebrate the New Year!

DIVINE MERCY SPORTSMEN RAFFLE - Divine Mercy Academy in Johnstown is sponsoring a firearm raffle with a prize each day of February 2018 (based on the PA Daily Big Four). Tickets are \$20.00 each can be obtained from Stephen Knapp.

SOCIETY MEETING - The Society of Angels will meet at the St. John site on January 8th at 6:30 PM.

PUT THE TREE BACK UP - It can be a little confusing. In secular society, Christmas is celebrated around the time of Halloween up until Christmas Day. On the day after Christmas all the decorations are

put away and Christmas trees are put on the curb. However, in the Catholic Church, the liturgical season of Christmas does not start until December 25 (including the vigil celebrated on December 24) and **lasts through January**. The bishops of the United States explain how, “The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.” This is where it can get a little more confusing as the Baptism of the Lord is a moveable feast, depending on the day when Epiphany falls in the Roman calendar. For those dioceses that celebrate Epiphany on January 6, the Baptism of the Lord falls on the Sunday after it. In other places where Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday that falls from January 2 through January 8, then the Baptism of the Lord could occur either on the following Sunday, or on a Monday (this happens if Epiphany is celebrated on January 7 or 8). The latest that the Baptism of the Lord can occur is January 13. Ordinary Time starts on the day after this feast. This means that during certain years, Christmas lasts from December 25 - January 13! If you want to celebrate the historical Christmas cycle, it extends even past the Baptism of the Lord. Traditionally, in places like Poland, the feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of the Lord) occurs on February 2 and marked the final conclusion of the Christmas cycle. This is because Candlemas celebrates an event that occurred 40 days after Jesus’ birth and was his first introduction to the Temple. In other words, it is the final “baby Jesus” feast day on the Church’s liturgical calendar. In some places people did keep up Christmas decorations like the crèche until February 2, though it is probably not advisable to keep your Christmas tree up for that long (it may be a fire hazard at that point). Technically speaking, if you truly want to celebrate Christmas like Christians in ages past, you wouldn’t decorate the house until Christmas Eve and then keep everything up until February 2. This is very different from Christmas celebrations today!

BISHOP REVIEWS STAR WARS - Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, offered an interesting critique of the latest Star Wars film. His comments offer some interesting food for thought. - I fell sound asleep for about ten minutes during the most recent installment in the *Star Wars* franchise, *The Last Jedi*. This was not only because the narrative had wandered down a very tedious alleyway, but because *Star Wars* in general has lost its way. What began as a thrilling exploration of the *philosophia perennis* has devolved into a vehicle for the latest trendy ideology—and that is really a shame. Like so many others in my generation (I was 17 when the first film in the series came out), I was captivated by George Lucas’ vision. We all loved the explosions, the spaceships, and the special effects (corny now, but groundbreaking at the time), but we also sensed that there was something else going on in these films, something that excited the soul as much as it dazzled the eyes. Lucas was a devotee of Joseph Campbell, a scholar of comparative religion and mythology at Sarah Lawrence College, who had spent his career exploring what he called “the monomyth.” This is the great story which, despite all sorts of different accents and emphases from culture to culture, remains fundamentally the same and which conveys some pretty basic truths about nature, the psyche, human development, and God. It customarily unfolds as a “hero’s quest.” A young man (typically) is summoned out of the comfort of his domestic life and compelled to go on a dangerous adventure, either to secure a prize or protect the innocent, or subdue the forces of nature. In the process, he comes to realize and conquer his weakness, to face down enemies, and finally to commune with the deep spiritual powers that are at play in the cosmos. Usually, as a preparation for his mission, he is trained by a spiritual master who will put him quite vigorously through his paces. Campbell was particularly intrigued by the manner in which this story is concretely acted out in the initiation rituals among primal peoples. Lucas’ mentor was Campbell, and Campbell’s teacher was the great Swiss psychologist, C.G. Jung, who had spent his career exploring the archetypes of the collective unconscious that play themselves out in our dreams and our myths. Now one would have to be blind not to see these motifs in the original *Star Wars* films. Luke Skywalker is compelled to leave his mundane home life (remember Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru?), and under the tutelage of Obi-Wan and Yoda, he overcomes his fears, discovers his inner strength, faces down the darkness, and learns to act in communion with the Force. Attentive *Star Wars* fans will notice, by the way, that Yoda pronounces a number of the well-known sayings of C.G. Jung. I referenced the *philosophia perennis* (the perennial philosophy) above. This is a standard set of philosophical and psychological insights shared by most of the great spiritual traditions of the world, and it provided the inspiration for Jung, Campbell, Lucas and hence the *Star Wars* films. Certain elements of all of this remain, of course, in the most recent episodes, but the mythic and archetypal dimensions are all but overwhelmed by an aggressively feminist ideology. The overriding preoccupation of the makers of the most recent *Star Wars* seems to be, not the hero’s spiritual journey, but the elevation of the all-conquering female. Every male character in *The Last Jedi* is either bumbling, incompetent, arrogant, or morally compromised; and every female character is wise, good, prudent, and courageous. Even Luke has become embittered and afraid, bearing the stigma of a profound moral failure. The female figures in *The Last Jedi* typically correct, demote, control, and roll their eyes at the males, who stumble about when not provided with feminine instruction. I laughed out loud when Rey, the young woman who has come to Luke for instruction in the ways of the Jedi, shows herself already in full possession of spiritual power. No Yoda or Obi-Wan required, thank you very much. The movie ends (spoiler alert) with all of the men off the stage and Leia taking the hand of Rey and saying, “We have all we need.” Contrast this overbearing and ham-handed treatment of men and women with the far subtler handling of the same motif in

the earlier Star Wars films. In accord with Jungian instincts, the twins Luke and Leia—both smart, strong, and spiritually alert—represented the play of animus and anima, the masculine and feminine energies, within every person. And the relationship between Leia and Han Solo was such a delight, precisely because they were evenly matched. Leia didn't have to dominate Han in order to find her identity; quite the contrary, she became more fully herself as he pushed back against her. Whereas a sort of zero-sum game obtains in the present ideology—the male has to be put down in order for the female to rise—nothing of the kind existed in the wonderfully Tracy and Hepburn rapport between Leia and Han. Now don't get me wrong: I fully understand why, in our cultural context today, women are feeling the need to assert themselves and to put powerful men in their place. I even see why a certain exaggeration is inevitable. It's just disappointing that this concern has hijacked a film series that used to trade in more abiding truths.