

# Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

Reverend Father Aron M. Maghsoudi – Pastor

## Rectory Office

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

December 29, 2019

**The Holy Family  
Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

## Worship Sites

**Church (Sacred Heart)**

738 Sunshine Avenue

**Chapel (St. John)**

162 Wheeler Street

## Holy Masses:

### Daily

Chapel (St. John) See Below

### Saturday Vigil

Church (Sacred Heart) 4:00PM

### Sunday Morning

Church (Sacred Heart) 8:00 AM

Chapel (St. John) 10:30 AM

## Confessions

Church (Sacred Heart)

Saturday 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Chapel (St. John)

Anytime upon Request

---

## Mass Intentions

December 30 (Mon)  
NOON

Sixth Day Within The Octave of The Nativity of the Lord  
Bob Coleman (Req. Galish Family) - Chapel

December 31 (Tue)

St. Sylvester I  
**NO MASS**

January 1, 2020 (Wed)  
NOON  
7:00 PM

Mary Mother of God- **Holy Day of Obligation**  
For the Parish (Missa Pro Populo) -Church  
Rachel Moslak (Req. Teresa Mrozowski) - Chapel

January 2 (Thu)

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
**NO MASS**

January 3 (Fri)

Most Holy Name of Jesus  
**NO MASS**

January 4 (Sat)  
4:00 PM

*Vigil - Epiphany of the Lord*  
For the Parish (Missa Pro Populo) - Church

January 5 (Sun)  
8:00 AM  
10:30 AM

*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Lillian Koleszarik (Req. Ted Deneen) - Church  
Anthony Criscuolo (Req. Jim Yelovich) -Chapel

**WEEKLY OFFERING** December 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> - Loose - \$111; Adult Envelopes - \$4,596.50; Fuel - \$46; Student Offering - \$53.50; Candles - \$61; Christmas Flowers - \$70; Immaculate Conception - \$65; Retirement Fund for Religious - \$30; Peirogi - \$224; Oplatki - \$85; Christmas \$155; Sportsman Raffle - \$825; Thanksgiving - \$10; Student Thanksgiving - \$2; Student Immaculate Conception - \$3; All Saints - \$5; Student All Saints - \$1; DVD - \$10. Total - \$6,353.00. - Thank You!

**SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS** - The Sanctuary Candle burns at the Sacred Heart site in loving memory of Patsy Magnone by Family. The Sanctuary Candle burns at the St. John site in remembrance of Richard Satkovich by Family.

### **SERVER SCHEDULE**

January 4 - 4:00 PM - E. & M. Rapsky, C. Mauger

January 5 - 8:00 AM - R. & C. Pongrac, A. Deneen

January 5 - 10:30 AM - J. Hammer, J. Eger

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December 30 - Lessons & Soup - 12:40 PM - St. John Hall

January 1 - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting - 7 PM - Activities Center

January 12 - Holy Name Corporate Communion - 8 AM - Sacred Heart; Meeting to follow - Activities Center

January 12 - CCD Class - 9:15 AM - Activities Center

January 12 - CCD Students visit Garvey Manor

January 13 - Society of Angels Meeting - 6:30 PM - Activities Center

January 19 - All You Can Eat Breakfast - 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM - St. John Hall

January 20 - Care & Comfort Meeting - 6:30 - St. John

January 26 - Sportsman's Raffle - 12:15 PM - Activities Center

January 27 - Knights of Columbus Meeting - 7:00 PM - St. John

February 8 - Night at the Races - Activities Center

**PENGUINS TICKETS** - The Knights of Columbus are selling \$2 chances for 2 Tickets to the Pittsburgh Penguins vs. Buffalo Sabres game on February 22, 2020 • 1 PM at the PPG Paints Arena and \$200 cash. The winning number will be determined the first PA Lottery Evening Pick 3 Drawing on February 7, 2020. Please see any Knight for tickets.

**SOUP & STUDY**- This coming Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, Father Aron will again be hosting a short lesson/ study of a Catholic or biblical topic following NOON Mass, for those Mass attendees who are interested, in the **St. John Hall** with a small meal of soup being offered to anyone at no cost.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES** - Offertory envelopes are available for families registered at the parish and can be found on the back tables at each site. If you cannot find your envelope box or did not receive one please phone the rectory so that we can take care of getting a box for you.

**NEW NUMBERS** - Please be advised that the collection envelope numbers are new this year. If you are donating, please make sure to use the current envelopes. If you do not use the current envelopes, please write your name on the envelope you use. Thank you!

**ALL SAINTS CAROLS & EXPOSITION** - All Saints Parish in Boswell will be hosting a sing along/concert of beloved Polish Christmas carols (Koledy) as well as exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday December 29th at 3:00 PM at their church located at 325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell. Following the event refreshments will be provided. Any questions can be directed to the parish office at (814) 629-5551. All are welcome.

**A NIGHT AT THE RACES** - Winter is a long season and undoubtedly seasonal depression sets in because of cold weather and a certain level of stagnation. Well, the doctor has just found the cure - a ticket for our Night at the Races event on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have never been to a Night at the Races you don't know what you are missing. Patrons will be treated to a catered dinner of Chicken Cordon-Bleu and Roast Beef. Following dinner (soft drinks and beer included) the excitement commences as the horse race portion of the evening begins. Each ticket entitles the bearer to name their horse. A video horse race is played where a race track announcer reads the name of the horses as they run the track. If your horse wins, you win money. If the horse you bet on wins, you win money. It can be a very profitable evening and a celebration of food, drink and gaming. Event details, including the time and cost will be provided in the next bulletin.

**PRAYER LIST** - Please call the rectory with any changes or additions. Kay Hintosh, Michelle Moore, Dale Berkey Jr., Allen S. Berkey, David Stockdill, Tina Udet, Rick Flickner, Patty Foltz, Dave Kurtz, Ian Rosenbaum, Easton Pritts, Joyce Reitz, Stanley Tomaszewski, Cindy Hillegass, Tom Hudak, Mike George, David Keller, Barry Stufft, Andrea Sesack, Sandy Wechtenhiser, Eugene Topka, Sue Emsweiler, Richard Rembold, Catherine Curaney, Connie Gruca, Judy Kostick, Lisa Schrifft, Amy Thomas Georg, , Cayleigh Wilson, Betsy Paolucci, Areile Adomnik, Charles Field, Todd Diorio, Jerry Otto, Denne Osman, Addison Zearfaus, Pam Kacmarski, Tom Schall, Howard Rose, Karen Hickey, David P. Bonus, Henry Sprock.

**A STORY OF REBIRTH DVD AVAILABLE** - The movie about our parish story is available on DVD at the rectory for \$5. This is a great way to share our story with someone who does not have internet access!

**HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION** - January 1st the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be on January 1st at Noon at the Sacred Heart site and 7:00 PM at the St. John site. Please come and start 2020 by going to Mass and asking Mary for her intercession.

## **CCD NEWS:**

- **GARVY MANOR** - The Service project at Garvey Manor will be taking place on January 12, 2020.
- **CCD CLASSES** - CCD classes resume **January 12, 2020**. Enjoy the break. Parents will be given schedules in the New Year.

**END OF THE YEAR FORMS** - Anyone wishing to obtain an end of the year giving statement is asked to phone the rectory to request a statement.

**HOUSE BLESSING** - In accordance with the Polish and Slovak custom, Fr. Aron will be blessing homes near the feast of the Epiphany. House blessing is a deliberate way to call upon God to be the center of your home in the new year. God invites us to prayer, to cooperate with grace, what better way than to have your home blessed each year. Your house need not be featured in Better Homes and Gardens, spotless, or include a tip or meal - just an openness to inviting God into your home. If you are interested in having your home blessed, please phone the rectory to schedule a time.

**SPORTSMEN RAFFLE - PRE-SALE FOR PARISHIONERS ONLY UNTIL 12/30/2019** - The tickets for the Sportsmen Raffle (to be held on January 26, 2020) are now on sale to parishioners only (before the general public). To reserve your tickets call the Rectory (814-754-5224) **IMMEDIATELY** with your name, address, phone number and the number of tickets you need. Do not wait to receive a letter in the mail. Please leave all requested information in a message, if we are not able to answer the phone. Any requests received by mail will not be opened until December 30, 2019 and will **NOT** be considered a part of the pre-sale. Pre-sale tickets are available for pick up now at the Rectory.

**NO FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS** - There will be no First Friday Devotions on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**FLOWER MEMORIALS** - There are flower memorial sign-up sheets at the entrance of both sites. If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers during 2020 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.

**FR. ARON AWAY** - Fr. Aron will be away for all of next weekend's Masses (January 4-5). One of the Benedictine Monk will cover all the Masses next weekend.

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST** - Our parish will be hosting our monthly All You Can Eat Breakfast Sunday, January 19, from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM at the St. John site. The breakfast includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, sausage gravy and biscuits, pancakes, French toast, donuts, toast, juice and coffee. The price is \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 8 to 4, children under 4 are free. All are welcome - bring your appetite. Proceeds go to benefit the activities for the parish religious education students.

**REMEMBER WHEN?** – Older residents of Central City are familiar with the tradition of the “Gubi” of “Kuba,” a Slavic custom that seems to have died out in our community around fifty years ago. Practiced in Carpatho-Rusyn and Slovak villages, the famed carolers (known in Slovak as jaslickari) are remembered by senior Central Citians for their legendary home visits this time of year. The custom, as practiced in Europe and later in American towns with high Slavic populations, included carolers who visited homes on or near Christmas dressed as angels and shepherds carrying a miniature church (typical in Subcarpathia) or led in procession by a star on a pole (more common in the Lemko Region/Galicia). The peculiar dress of the jaslickari featured carolers wearing white garments with tall cylinder hats and brightly colored ribbons across their chests, carrying staves, perhaps with a bell at the end. The guba, kuba, dido or staryj pastyr, the oldest shepherd (with a mask on his face served as the main character and also the comedian. As the carolers went from door-to-door, the kuba or gubi chased children with his wooden hatchet and threatened to kidnap the bad ones. Some Gubi chased the attractive women, attempting to steal a kiss. Another adult represented St. Nicholas. This character carried a container for donations from each household. The donations were later divided among the adult carolers and an official from the local church. When the carolers entered a home, they placed a nativity shrine on the dining room table, after which each shepherd would kneel before it and say a particular verse: “For behold, I bring unto you, tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” In so doing, the carolers reminded each family they visited of the Angels who brought tidings of great joy to the shepherds as they watched their sheep at night. The "Bethlehem Play" they presented was a short presentation of carols, sung greetings (koljadky), dialogue, dancing, and the announcement of Christ's birth. In some villages a puppet play, vertep (the cave) was presented. At the conclusion of the visit, the family rewarded the carolers with drinks or coins to thank them for their long journey from home to home. – It is a tradition worth reviving!



**THE ACTUAL DATE OF CHRISTMAS** – Rebecca Salazar, a molecular biologist, catechist, and mother of three who blogs at *On the Care and Feeding of Geeks* recently shared some thoughts about the actual date of Christ's birth. Her words are worthy of some consideration. – Long ago, I accepted the idea that December 25 was probably not the actual date of Christ's birth, that the real date was unknown but probably in the spring. Knowing the exact date doesn't really impact the liturgical celebration, after all. It was just one more sad thing about being an adult, one more little bit of wonder gone from life. Since then, I've become well acquainted with the historical evidence in favor of a date of December 25. The date can be derived historically from the dating of Zechariah's entry into the temple to burn incense. It can also be derived theologically from the ancient tradition that a great prophet entered and left the world on the same calendar day. Thus, the Annunciation was determined to have occurred on the same day as the crucifixion, March 25. December 25 naturally follows nine months later. They are good arguments, held to strict standards of historical research and logic, within their own fields. But neither ever quite satisfied my desire for something really concrete. One continual objection was that the shepherds in the fields at night were presumed to be attending to the dropping of lambs. And lambs didn't drop in December. Lambs dropped in the spring, not the winter. So, when yet another person asked "Why do we celebrate Christmas in December if lambs are born in the spring?" instead of explaining the significance of March 25, I suddenly wondered: *ARE lambs actually born in the spring in Israel? Can I find out?* The Awassi sheep is a desert sheep, a fat-tailed breed that has existed in the Middle East for an estimated 5,000 years. It is the only indigenous breed of sheep in Israel. They are raised for wool, meat, and milk. Awassi sheep breed in the summer and drop lambs in the winter, when there is sufficient pasture for the ewes in milk. In Israel, the principal lambing season is December through January. This is practical, I thought. This is fact. This is *biology*. Sheep estrus, it turns out, varies according to breed. In northern breeds, estrus is triggered by the shortening of daylight after the autumn equinox. Breeding occurs naturally in October to November, and lambs are dropped in March and April. But, as you move geographically closer to the equator, the days don't shorten as dramatically. Instead, sheep from subtropical and tropical areas tend to breed earlier, and drop lambs in the winter, or even breed and drop lambs year round. This one little tidbit of information, for me, crystallized all the others. Of course Jesus, the Lamb of God, was born at the same time and in the same place as all of the Passover lambs. Of course this time was such that the day of His entry to and exit from the world are the same. Of course the nativity of John the Baptist is when it is because Jesus' birth really is when it is. Biology places great value on symmetry, and here was a symmetry to delight my intellect, a symmetry of history and theology and biology. Earlier, I had honestly mourned the loss of my childish wondering; now I find that this understanding has produced a greater and deeper wonder at the providence of God.