

Saint Michael the Archangel Church

1703 Jackson St. Scranton, PA 18504

Rectory: 570-961-1205 Fax: 570-961-2284

Emergency: 570-561-4011 (or just call Rectory and press 7)

Website: www.saintmichaelsrcc.org

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

December 15, 2013

Fr. José M. Zepeda, FSSP, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Sun. Dec. 15th	Third Sunday of Advent, <i>I Class (Gaudete)</i>
8:00 a.m.	† Walter Heisler - <i>LaFata Family</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon. Dec. 16th	St. Eusebius, <i>III Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Alan & Julie Lucchesi
Tues. Dec. 17th	Greater Feria of Advent, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	† Mary Malachowski
Wed. Dec. 18th	Ember Wednesday, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Dr. Steven Pheasant - <i>Gillenkirk Family</i>
Thur. Dec. 19th	Greater Feria of Advent, <i>II Class</i>
7:45 a.m.	Fr. Jose Zepeda, FSSP - <i>Mary Ann Czarnecki</i>
Fri. Dec. 20th	Ember Friday, <i>II Class</i>
6:00 p.m.	† Gabriel Testo - <i>Kleemola Family</i>
Sat. Dec. 21st	St. Thomas, <i>Apostle, II Class</i>
9:00 a.m.	Daniel Mitchell - <i>LaFata Family</i>
Sun. Dec. 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Advent, <i>I Class (Rorate)</i>
8:00 a.m.	Kathleen Heisler - <i>Walter Heisler</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Pro Populo</i>

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday

Low Mass: 8:00 am

High Mass: 10:15 am

Weekdays

Monday-Thursday: 7:45 am

Friday: 6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday-Saturday

One half hour before Mass

Sunday: 7:15-7:50

& 9:15-10:05

DEVOTIONS

Exposition-Benediction

Friday 5:00 pm

Saturdays 8:00 am

DAILY ROSARY

Monday-Thursday — After Mass

Friday-Sunday — Before Mass

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Friday 9 am-4 pm

THURSDAY - CLOSED

Saturday - 10 am-Noon

Third Sunday of Advent

INTROIT

Philip. 4, 4-6

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all me: for the Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous; but in everything by prayer let your requests be made known to God. Lord, Thou hast blest Thy land; Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob. *V.* Glory...

COLLECT

Incline Thine ear to our prayers, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and make bright the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest...

EPISTLE

Philip. 4, 4-7

Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice. Let your modesty be known to all men. The Lord is nigh. Be nothing solicitous; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasseth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GRADUAL

Ps. 79, 2, 3

Thou, O Lord, that sittest upon the cherubim, stir up Thy might, and come. *V.* Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel: Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. *V.* Stir up Thy might, O Lord, and come: that Thou mayest save us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1, 19-28

At that time: the Jews sent from Jerusalem priests and Levites to John, to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and did not deny; and he confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. They said therefore unto him, Who art thou, that we may give an answer to them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaias. And they that were

sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said to him, Why, then, doest thou baptize, if thou be not Christ, nor Elias, nor the prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water; but there hath stood one in the midst of you, Whom you know not; the same is He that shall come after me, Who is preferred before me, the latchet of Whose shoe I am not worthy to loose. These things were done in Bethania beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

OFFERTORY

Ps. 84, 2

Lord, Thou hast blest Thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob: Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of Thy people.

SECRET

May the sacrifice of our devotion, we beseech Thee, O Lord, be continually offered to Thee, both to carry out Thy designs in this holy Mystery and wonderfully to work in us Thy salvation. Through our Lord...

COMMUNION

Ps. 35, 4

Say, to the fainthearted, take courage, and fear not, behold our God will come and will save us.

POSTCOMMUNION

We implore Thy clemency, O Lord, that cleansed from our sins, these divine aids may prepare us for the coming festival. Through our Lord...



If, during Advent, we are led to look-forward to the twofold coming of the Son of God, at Christmas we celebrate His birth as Man, and by that very act, are prepared for His future coming as judge.

From Christmas onward, the liturgy in the cycle follows our Lord step by step in His redemptive work, that the Church, benefiting by the graces flowing from each of the mysteries of His life, may become as St. Paul says, the Spouse “not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing,” holy and immaculate, for Him to present to His Father when He returns to take us to Himself at the end of the world. This point of time, represented by the last Sunday after Pentecost, is the final goal of all the feasts of the Christian calendar.

If we look through those pages of the Missal and Breviary which are devoted to the Christmas season, we note that they are concerned especially with mysteries of our Lord’s Infancy. In the liturgy of this season is celebrated the manifestation to the Jewish people (Christmas Day) and to the Pagan world (the Epiphany), of the great mystery of the Incarnation which consists in the union in the one Person of Christ of the Word, “begotten of the Father before all worlds,” with the humanity, begotten of the substance of His Mother in the world which mystery is completed by the uniting of our souls to Christ who begets us anew to the Divine Life: “as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God.” At this season, it is in a special way, the Church’s concern to affirm the threefold birth of the Word, who receives from all eternity the Divine nature from His Father, who takes into God that humanity which the Blessed Virgin gives Him in time and who through the ages unites our souls to Himself by grace.

This three-fold birth of the Word, the humanity of Jesus and His mystical Body, receives at this time the very special thought and care of the Church.

Spiritual Birth of the Mystical Body of Christ

St Thomas says, “it is not for His own sake that the Son of God became man, but in order to make us, as it were, gods by His grace.” To the fact of God’s incarnation, i.e. the union of the divine and human nature in the person of the Son of God, must correspond the divinization of man, i.e. the union of souls to the Word by sanctifying grace and the supernatural charity which accompanies it. In fact, St. Augustine affirms that the whole Christ is

Jesus Christ Himself and Christians. He is the Head, we are the members. With our Lord we are always being born afresh to the supernatural life, for “the birth of the head is at the same time that of the body.” “Let us give thanks to God the Father,” says St. Leo, “in that having loved us with an infinite love, He took pity upon us and while we were dead through sin He has made us alive through Jesus Christ.” So that in Him we may be a new creature and a new work. Let us strip ourselves of the old man with his deeds and as having been admitted to a share in the Divinity of Christ, let us cast off the works of the flesh, Christian! Recognize your own rank, and since you have been made a partaker of the Divine nature be on your guard against falling back into your former low estate by conduct unworthy of so high a privilege. Ever remind yourself of the Head and the Body of which you are a member, and never forget that having been “delivered from the power of darkness” you have been transported into the light and the kingdom of God.

The reason for celebrating the feast of the birth of our Lord is that each year, more and more, Jesus may be born in our souls by the growth of our faith and love towards the Incarnate Word.

The crib and other exterior manifestations of this greatest event in history are but means of livening this faith and love which makes us live the life of grace.

At this Christmas feast then, we must “abound in good works,” thus showing that we are born of God and become His children; all our activities must be nothing but the radiance of that light of the Word which fills our hearts. In this lies the special grace of the Christmas Feast whose purpose it is to extend the Divine Paternity so that the Father speaking of His Incarnate Word and of each of us can say: “Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.” Bending both knees let us utter with holy reverence the words of the Creed: “I believe in Jesus Christ born of the Father before all ages: God of God..., being of one substance with the Father; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And in one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church,” born to the divine life by the grace of the Holy Spirit which has rendered fruitful the waters of Baptism.

(The Saint Andrew daily Missal)

All children ages 5-16 years old are invited to sing in the St. Michael's Children's Christmas Choir, which will sing with the Adult Choir before Midnight Mass for about 50 minutes. Practices will be on Sundays after the 10:15 Mass. Red binders with the music are in the choir loft for interested children (**One binder per family please**). The taped music will be sent to your parents email.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help decorate the Church for Christmas. The Church will be decorated on the last Sunday in Advent, December 22, starting at 1:00 p.m. Men, women, and teens are needed! Please contact Mrs. McGuirk 570-333-1484 or email athomewith8@epix.net. May God reward you!

LITURGICAL ANNOUNCEMENT: In churches where the faithful are accustomed to stand for the Collects and Postcommunion prayers at Mass, they are to kneel for these prayers on the ferias, of Advent (not however, on Sundays, feast days, or the Vigil of Christmas).

SUNDAY ENVELOPES: 2014 Sunday envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for December 29th. We are asking parishioners to contribute a potluck main dish for at least 10 people and a dessert. Everyone is welcome! For more information, please contact Maria Mitchell.

BOYS NIGHT OUT: Father Zepeda invites boys of the parish and their dads to hear a short talk by Father Stinson, FSSP, on vocations to the priesthood Friday, January 17th following 6:00 PM Mass. Refreshments will be served prior to the talk, which should begin about 7:30 PM.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Midnight Mass

Mass of Day - 10:00 a.m.

COLLECTION: December 8th - \$2,618.00

Altar Boy Schedule

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15th

8:00 a.m. Mass

ACI Dominic Gardner

AC2 Jack Gardner

TEAM B

MC Andrew Mitchell

TH Anthony Mitchell

AC1 Matthew Davidson

AC2 Joshua Sica

C Timothy Sica

S1 John Mitchell

S2 Brian LaFata

S3 Francis LaFata

S4 Stephen LaFata

WEEK TWO

Monday

7:45 a.m.

Tuesday

7:45 a.m.

Wednesday

7:45 a.m.

Thursday

7:45 a.m.

James McWhirter

Joseph McWhirter

John Mitchell

Anthony Mitchell

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22nd

8:00 a.m. Mass

ACI Joseph Schneider

AC2 Patrick Schneider

TEAM C

MC Justin LaFata

TH Robert Seeley

AC1 Dominic Gardner

AC2 Francis LaFata

C Timothy Emig

S1 Brendan Seeley

S2 Michael Gardner

S3 Jack Gardner

S4 Stephen LaFata