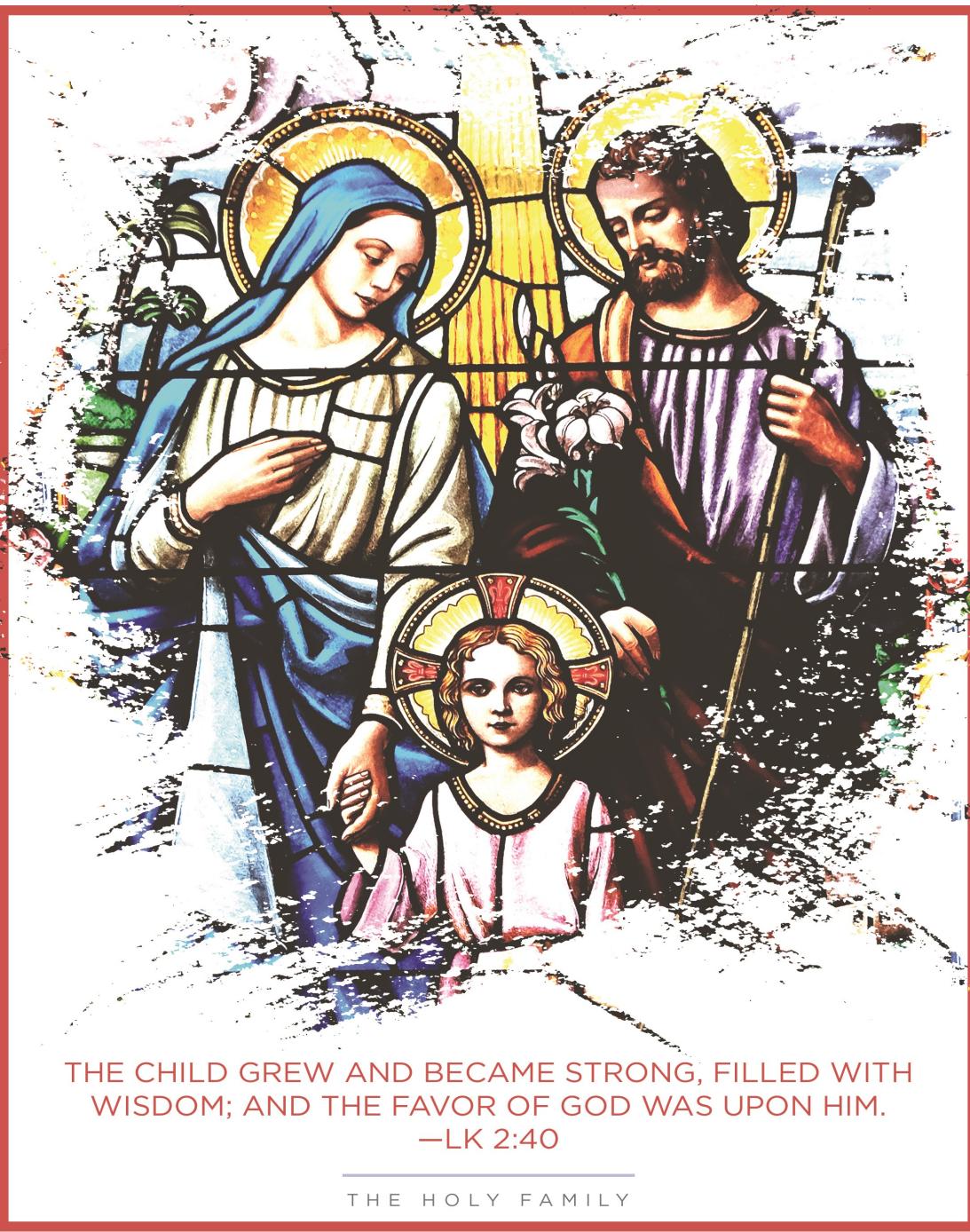




Holy Family of Jesus, Mary , and Joseph

December 27, 2020

ST MICHAEL'S



THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG, FILLED WITH
WISDOM; AND THE FAVOR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.

—LK 2:40

THE HOLY FAMILY

PARISH OFFICE

415 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905
Phone: 814-535-7646
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Email: omos@dioceseaj.org
Website: omostoday.com

PRESBYTERY

407 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905
814-535-7646
By appointment

ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

180 Gilbert St., Johnstown, PA 15906
DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL—WEST
Phone: 814 539-5315

FATHER MARK'S NOTES

Thank You

I am writing this a week before Christmas, and this one will be like no other. So many people will be working so hard to make things beautiful for you. So, not knowing how this will all work out: I want to thank you one more time for the beautiful Liturgies at Christmas. God bless technology!! (Am I allowed to say that?) This year, so many of you stepped up and made things more beautiful than ever!! From our decorations that reflected the noble simplicity of the season to our lectors, servers, those who clean the Church, Eucharistic Ministers, hospitality, sound techs, video techs, and all those who attended Mass, either in the hall or in the Church - thank you. So many of you did so much to make things special. I am very grateful to those in the music ministry who served us at each Mass this Christmas. I am so sorry we could not include many of you. It breaks my heart, but I am sure you understand. Jesus was/is indeed born to us here at Our Mother of Sorrows and St. Michael's. As we read our Christmas gift, *I Heard God Laugh*, let's claim our unique call to be saints - to be the very best version of ourselves. As Merton writes, "**The Church exalts as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing that happened long ago, but a new thing that happens today. For, TODAY, God the Father makes all things new, in His Divine Son, our Redeemer, Jesus!!**"

Angel Tree

I am so impressed with how you all pitched in and bought 200 Thanksgiving Boxes for 800 people. And, that we did the whole thing virtually. Great. I guess we keep discovering new ways to use technology to make our world a better place. But, what you did with the Angel Tree was incredible. I was reading in the newspaper the other day about someone longing for good news. Come to OMOS!! 51 families, 150 children, over \$10,000 in cash for those families. Wow!! Imagine the eyes of those young children you have helped on Christmas morning when they see their gifts under the tree.

Mary, Mother of God

There will not be First Friday Mass on January 1. It is the Octave of Christmas/Mary, the Mother of God (New Year's Day), and the Mass schedule will be a little different. At OMOS, the Vigil Mass will be Thursday evening at 6 pm, with a Mass at 10 am on Friday, and a Communion outside Mass Service at 11:30. Mass at St. Michael's will be Friday at 9:45 am. **This, of course, is a holy day for all of us. What an awesome day to celebrate and what a better way is there to bring in the new year!! See you there.**

Many Thanks

This is such a busy time, and the fact you took the time to write a Christmas card or, incredibly, to actually buy a gift is wonderful for me to think about and consider. Thank you!!! As I get older, I have been able to recapture these aspects of the Christmas Season in a new way. The greetings, the cards, the gifts, the simple gestures of kindness, all of them express In a beautiful way our wonder and our joy at this beautiful season. Could it be that as we get older, we become the child again and maybe for the first time see the meaning of Christmas for the first time? What did Jesus say, "Unless you become like a little child..." Merry Christmas!!!

Christmas Greeting

Maybe you saw the video, or you got the Christmas bulletin, but I want you to see our Christmas greeting to the parishes of Our Mother of Sorrows and St. Michael's. May we continue to be a community of God's incredible love for each other. "See how much they love one another."

OMOS OUTREACH - How Can We Help Others This Advent?

Looking Ahead...

January Project = Some will assemble “bread/cookie bags” that will be distributed at church to those who wish to bake the item. Once the item is out of the oven, the point to this project is to take the item to a neighbor, coworker, even a stranger as a way of connecting during this socially distant time. It is difficult to gauge how people are doing these days. Even a gift dropped off on their porch will be a welcomed distraction. It is a way to stay connected in our world/community/street. There will be more information about this project next week.

January / February Project = Making blankets for children and adults where the need is local for families unable to keep the heat operating in their apartment/home. This situation happens more frequently than any of us can imagine. While you are shopping (in stores or online), keep your eyes open for sales on blanket making kits. We have a plan for them; however, if you see them and can purchase one or two—please do! You can participate in a variety of ways, from financing a blanket or two to making them with family in your home. There will be more information in the coming weeks.



Virtual Angel Tree Report...

This year we estimate over \$12,000 going into this project of serving over 150 children / 51 families this Christmas. We shopped for you those who gave a donation and wanted to stay safe, others bought gifts online and shipped them to us, and some went shopping and found what they wanted to buy. You contributed to the food certificates each family will receive as well. We partnered with St. Vincent DePaul, Mom's House, Birthright, Parishioners of OMOS/St. Michaels, DMCA, and Bishop McCort to help those in our local area.

Thank you very much for supporting this project of providing clothing, food, and toys to make each of the Christmas mornings a bit brighter. Thank you goes to Ellen Shayesteh for organizing and doing much of the work to see this project through!

Grocery Shopping?

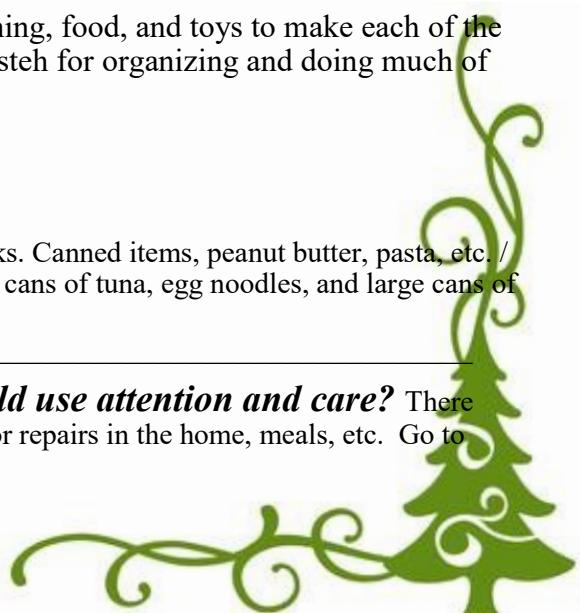
Food Bins – Drive up and drop off –

located on our back patio behind Holy Grounds.

When you are shopping, pick up a couple of extra items for the food banks. Canned items, peanut butter, pasta, etc. / Also, items for the St. Vincent de Paul Tuna Noodle dinner such as large cans of tuna, egg noodles, and large cans of mushroom soup. There is a great need currently.

Do you know someone in our parish community who could use attention and care? There are various ministries we resource to help from a friendly card sent to minor repairs in the home, meals, etc. Go to omostoday.com, click under Care Ministry, call 535-7646, or email

omoscareministry@gmail.com



SMALL GROUP NEWS

Blessings to all this beautiful Christmas season! As the year winds down we hope for a new year that brings new hope and new beginnings. Most especially, an end to this crazy year we have just gone through! This is a perfect time for everyone to consider joining a small group. Add it to your list of new year resolutions. We have some great study options for everyone to reflect on our personal journey to Christ. Let's all stay connected to your friends and parish family and help each other get through this cold winter sharing our time. Make your group or join one of our amazing groups. Sign up online or call Julie Sheehan at (814) 535-1994.

Suggested readings for January:

- *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller
- *Pray, Decide, and Don't Worry* by Bob & Jackie Angel and Fr. Mike Schmitz
- *Soul Detox: Clean Living in a Contaminated World* by Craig Groeschel
- *The Holy Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser

Online study:

- *Metanoia*—can be found on The Wild Goose is Loose TV

Happy New Year's and many blessings to all!!!

EPIC

EPIC- Spring Registration is open! Please go to [Epic - OMOS Catholic Church \(omostoday.com\)](http://Epic - OMOS Catholic Church (omostoday.com)) to sign up!

We are offering Youth Alpha on Sunday's from 5-7 pm for any 9/10/11 grade student that has NOT taken it. We recommend all 9th grade students start with it. LifeTeen is being offered on Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 and Thursday 7-8:30. Norman Ed's Class will be offered in between Masses, and we will have a parent's course offered in between Masses that is TBD. We plan to form new small groups and follow all safety guidelines that were set at the beginning of the year.

ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS

Thank you for your generosity this Advent Season! You did an amazing job with your Angel Tree donations. The church looks beautiful with all the poinsettias thanks to your donations. St. Vincent de Paul appreciates all your food donations. God bless and stay safe!

St. Michael's is selling Giant Eagle, Sheetz, and Walmart Scrip. Scrip is available after Mass and at Riek's Country Store. The hours are Thurs. & Fri. 11 am—4 pm & Sat. 9 am to noon. All checks should be made out to St. Michael's Church.

WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Monday, December 28
 6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
 8 a.m.—Mass

Tuesday, December 29
 6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
 7:30 a.m.—Confession
 8 a.m.—Mass

Wednesday, December 30
 4:30 p.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
 5:30 p.m.—Confessions
 6 p.m.—Mass

Thursday, December 31
 6 p.m.—Mass at OMOS
Servers: Adriel Manalang
Lector: Doug Puchko
Euch. Min. Diana Tyger(2),
 Michelle Petrell, Pat Petrell

Friday, January 1
 9:45 a.m.—Mass at St. Michael's
Servers:
Lector:
 10 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
Servers:
Lector: Cathy Vigna
Euch. Min. Mary Beth
 Cartwright (2), Linda Geiser,
 Carol Battaglia

11:30 a.m. Communion outside
 Mass at OMOS

Saturday, January 2
 3 pm—Confessions
 4 p.m.—Mass at OMOS
Servers: Haley Kesslak & Adriel
 Manalang
Lector: Cathy Vigna
Euch. Min: Michelle Rivetti,
 Jim Kukura, Tom Simmons

Sunday, January 3
 9:45 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's
Servers: Tim Burgess & Alexis
 Williams

Sunday, January 3
 8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
Server: Rachael Cameron &
 Domenick Barger
Lector: Jan Koval
Euch. Min: Rick Messina,
 Michelle St. Clair, Dawn Zabala

Sunday, January 3
 11:00—Mass at OMOS
Server: Chase & Charlie
 Neumann
Lector: Christa Curtis
Euch. Min: Olivia Marabito,
 Mike Garver, Mary Beth
 Cartwright

12:30 p.m.—Communion
 outside Mass at OMOS

Saturday, Dec. 26—Vigil
 4:00 p.m. William & Gertrude
 Podratsky (Dave & Joann Urban)
 6:00 p.m. Mark Stem (Tom &
 Marisa Williams)

Sunday, Dec. 27—Holy Family
 of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:30 a.m. Richard Hanechak
 (Carol Visnovsky)
11:00 a.m. Philip & Marie
 Catanese (Ric & Patty Csarak)

Monday, Dec. 28
 8:00 a.m. Mary Linda Trexler
 (Bill & Charlotte Patterson)

Tuesday, Dec. 29
 8:00 a.m. Jim Krizner (Ron &
 Mary Lou Krizner)

Wednesday, Dec. 30
 6:00 p.m. Anthony Perry (Jack
 & Carroll Green)

Thursday, Dec. 31
 6:00 p.m. Ed Sheehan, Sr.
 (wife, Flo Ann)

Friday, January 1
 9:45 a.m. Deceased Members
 of St. Michael's
 10:00 a.m. Deceased Members
 of Our Mother of Sorrows

Saturday, January 2-Vigil
 4:00 p.m. Pete Omodio (The
 Deter Family)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
 Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph
 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Sunday, January 3—The
Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 a.m. William Felix (Bob &
 Dorothy Harper)
 9:45 a.m. Richard J. Stem
 (Bernice Stem)
11:00 a.m. Joanne Rovder
 (Helen Kittka-Wilson)