

St. John's Church
15 E. Church St.
Susquehanna, PA 18847
570-853-4634
miriamsj@echoes.net

St. Lawrence's Church
380 Franklin St.
Great Bend, PA 18821
570-267-1366
slcoffice@echoes.net

St. Martin's Church
State Rts. 92 & 492
Jackson, PA 18825
570-853-4634
miriamsj@echoes.net

St. John the Evangelist Mission Statement

"The parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church, in conjunction with the Diocese of Scranton, are committed to maintaining the rich Catholic heritage handed down by our past priests, religious sisters, and ancestors in the greater Susquehanna area. Imitating the love of Jesus Christ and based on the foundation of the twelve apostles, we recognize that we are called to proclaim the Gospel by word and deed in our daily lives, to celebrate the Eucharist, and to devote ourselves to prayer and education so as to promote an arena of grace, justice, and peace for all of our brothers and sisters."

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13th, 2009

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming....He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

John's ministry penetrated people's hearts to the degree that they wondered about the ways their lives needed to change. As John concretely responds to tax collectors and soldiers, he announces the coming of the one who will baptize in the power of the Holy Spirit. God's word challenges us to new patterns of justice and mercy, while God's Spirit enables us to live this new way of being.



This Sunday has traditionally been called *Gaudete* Sunday, from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin. Today, we light the pink candle that indicates we are halfway through Advent.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast

Saturday, December 12th



In 1531, Mary appeared to Cuatitlatzin, Juan Diego, a Mexican Indian, on the hill of *Tepeyac* outside Mexico City, previously known for the appearances of the serpent woman, a symbol of wisdom and peace for the native peoples of Mexico. Her image as a *mestiza*, a woman of Native American and European heritage, remained on his *tilma* or cloak. The *tilma* that Juan Diego presented to his doubtful bishop was filled with roses and is now enshrined in Mexico City in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Nowhere else does she appear as a pregnant woman as she does here, wearing the blue sash traditionally worn by expectant Aztec women. She also has flower on her womb, an Aztec symbol of new life and a new era. She blocks the sun and stands on the moon.

St. Lawrence Mission Statement

We are a family of faith in union with Christ and His Church to grow in holiness through the celebration of the inspired Word of God and the reception of the Sacrament. We are called through our Baptism to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ and glorify God through proclaiming the Gospel in our community.

St. Martin of Tours Mission Statement

We, the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Martin of Tours are a faith community of rich, diverse talents and cultures. We are called to encourage all to share God's gifts, in partnership with Him, for the good of the Body of Christ.

We are a worshipping, Eucharistic Community, united with the Holy Father, our bishop and our Pastor, to make Christ present in our world, through the Mass, and united in Him, to proclaim the Word of God in works of hospitality, charity, and mercy. We are committed to serving one another in the name of Jesus Christ, so that the Kingdom of God becomes more visible in our world today.

Rev. David Cramer, Pastor

Rev. Alfhonse Perikala, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Eileen Hartman, St. John, St. Martin Parish Secretary
Ms. Judi Salinkas, St. Lawrence Parish Secretary

Ms. Virginia Phillips, St. John
Mr. Mark Lipschutz, St. Martin Bookkeepers

Mr. Fred Huyck, Mr. Mark Matis Maintenance

Mrs. Vickie Mulligan, DRE

Mr. Jeffrey Keyes, Organist
Mrs. Susan Lee, Organist

Parish Office: 853-4634
Fax 853-3356
St. John Parish Center
853-4787

Emergency number at St. Lawrence Rectory: 267-1366

Weekend Masses

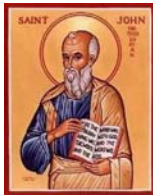
	St. John	St. Lawrence	St. Martin
Sat.	6:00 PM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sun.	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM

**Listen to Catholic Radio
JMJ 750 AM**

Men/Women Wounded By Abortion 1-800-5-WE-CARE
Pregnancy Counseling 1-800-550-4900

*ST. JOHN

THE EVANGELIST



St. John's Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is ready, courtesy of our CCD students! Please return wrapped gifts with the tag attached to the top of the gifts. **All gifts must be returned by this weekend, December 12th & 13th.** Thank you so much for your generosity!



Susquehanna Tri-Boro Ecumenical Service, Sunday, December 13th, 3:00pm, at St. John's Church

Participating Churches:

- Lakeview Mennonite Church
- Lanesboro Community Church
- United Methodist Church, Susquehanna & Jackson
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Light refreshments will be served in St. John's Parish Hall after the Service.

Altar & Rosary Meeting—Monday, December 14, 6:30pm

Joint Advent Confessions: Tuesday, December 15th, 7:00pm at St. John's.

Barnes-Kasson SNF Mass—Wednesday, December 16th, 2:00pm

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner—Benefit for Becky (Sullivan) Napolitano recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer, **Thursday, December 17th**, at the American Legion Post 86, Susquehanna, PA. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 8:00pm, Adults \$8, Children \$6, eat-in or take-out. There will also be a Bake Sale and 50/50 Raffles.

Annual March for Life, Washington, DC, Jan. 22, 2010

This year, more than ever, the people of America need to stand up and speak out for 'Life'.

Please join us on the Bus trip to Washington in January by calling St. John's Rectory, 853-4634, or Nancy Pelicci, 853-3909 to make your reservation.

St. John's Pro-Life Organization



*ST. MARTIN

OF TOURS



Cleaning Team for December: Stacie Phillips Family

Charismatic Mass—Thursday, December 17, 7:00pm at St. Martin of Tours Church. The Charismatic Mass is held every 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Martin's, 7:00pm.

The CCD Students at St. Martin's are selling **Winter and Christmas Wreaths** as a fundraiser to help out Kayla Supancik. (All proceeds will be given to the Supancik Family). These wreaths are on sale after masses during the Thanksgiving Season. Please support their efforts.

Oplatek Wafers (Christmas Wafers) will be available in the back of the church for a \$1.00 donation. The blessed Oplatek wafer is a Polish, Slovakian, and Lithuanian tradition to share with the family and friends on Christmas Eve.

St. Martin of Tours Choir practices are on Wednesdays at 7:15pm. New members welcome!

Christmas CCD Party and Play—Sunday, December 20th, after the 11:00am Mass. All are welcome to attend!!



Holy Hour Schedule at St. Martin's

Every Thursday of the month will be the Holy Hour at 7:00pm (*note: there will be no Holy Hour on Dec. 24th & Dec. 31st*)

The **third Thursday** of the month will be the Charismatic Mass at 7:00pm (**December 17th**)

New Home Addresses—Many of our parishioners addresses have not been changed to the assigned 911 addresses. Please call 853-4634 to update our parish system, or you can write on your new address the sheet provided in the lobby of St. Martin's.

LifeLine

-Yet how many children are neither loved, nor welcomed nor respected! How many of them suffer violence and every kind of exploitation by the unscrupulous! May children always be accorded the respect and attention that are due to them: they are the future and the hope of humanity!"

(Pope Benedict XVI, Greeting at Visit to the "Holy Infant of Prague," September 26, 2009)

***MASS INTENTIONS—ST. MARTIN** December 12-20, 2009

Sat.	12/12	4:00 PM	Jean Barton (Daphne Cowperthwait & Family)
Sun.	12/13	11:00 AM	All Parishioners
Sat.	12/19	4:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sun.	12/20	11:00 AM	Helen Marichak (Estate)

* PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

Joint CCD Family Time—Sunday, December 6th, 9:10am at St. John's parish hall. Parents, please come and join in helping your child with their ornaments for the Jesse Tree. All CCD students and their families from all three churches are asked to attend

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection—this weekend, Dec. 12-13th. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously.

RCIA

The next RCIA meeting will be **Monday, December 14th, 7:00pm at St. John's Hall.**

Food Bank Collections—The following items are the suggested weeks for donated items:

Dec. 13-20th Canned vegetables & fruit
 Dec. 20-27th Canned Meat, Soup
 Dec.27-31,Jan. 1-3 Peanut butter & jelly

THANK YOU to St. John, St. Lawrence, and St. Martin parishioners for all your dedication and contributions of boxed and can goods. A **special thank you** for the monetary donations that were used to purchase the turkeys for families that could not afford to buy one.

Knights of Columbus #356 Spaghetti Supper:

Great Bend, Saturday, December 12th, 4-7 P.M. Adults \$7.00, Children 6-13 \$3; under 5 free. Take outs are available.

Joint Advent Confessions: Tuesday, **December 15th, 7:00pm** at St. John's. There will be several priests here to hear confessions.

Holy Name of Mary Church, Montrose Advent Confessions—Sunday, December 20th, 6:00pm

Charismatic Mass—Thursday, December 17, 7:00pm at St. Martin of Tours Church. The Charismatic Mass is held every 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Martin's, 7:00pm.

Chicken & Biscuit Dinner—Benefit for Becky (Sullivan) Napolitano recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer, **Thursday, December 17th**, at the American Legion Post 86, Susquehanna, PA. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 8:00pm, Adults \$8, Children \$6, eat-in or take-out. There will also be a Bake Sale and 50/50 Raffles

Joint Night of Holiday Music—Tuesday, December 29th, 7:00pm at St. John's Church. All the Choirs and Folk Groups from the cluster are invited to participate. Please come and enjoy a great night of music and fellowship!! Light refreshments afterward in the parish hall.



*ST. LAWRENCE



St. Lawrence Giving Tree:

The trees are up, so PLEASE take a tag (or two). All gifts with ORIGINAL tag MUST be back by **Dec. 13th**. It is very important because the gifts will be distributed to the families the same day. 12NOON deadline. Some gifts need to be left unwrapped so please still attach the original tag. Money donations can be placed in an envelope marked "giving tree" and placed in the offering collection basket. ****DO NOT MAKE CHECKS OUT TO ST. LAWRENCE**** checks can be made payable to: Deb Vogel at 879-2574, Liz Landes at 879-5175 or Diane Conigliaro at 465-7192. .



St. Lawrence Christmas Cookie Sale:

Last year's Cookie Sale was very successful. One parishioner came forward and I'm sure she could use some help!!!!. Call Judi at St. Lawrence rectory **now!**

Knights of Columbus #356 Spaghetti Supper:

Saturday, December 12th, 4-7 P.M. Adults \$7.00, Children 6-13 \$3; under 5 free. Take outs are available.



ST. LAWRENCE NEEDS CHURCH CLEANERS:

One or two people getting together or maybe a family! It will be once a month. We would like to get a 3 weeks filled. Now that the church is open we can let you come in at your convenience. Please call Judi at the rectory asap.

St. Lawrence Picnic: We would like to begin preparations for a renewal of the St. Lawrence Picnic. If you are interested in helping plan or have some new ideas, please call the rectory and be part of the planning. We need a solid committee to help us get back on track. **Don't wait! Call now!! No meeting is scheduled UNTIL WE GET VOLUNTEERS!!!! SO VOLUNTEER!!!**

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Anna Olsa by her daughter Ann Forsyth.

We are in need of Altar Servers and Lectors. Please consider serving your church. If interested, please call the office as soon as possible.

****When Mass is over, kindly place your Breaking Bread missal back in the pew holder. The pages are getting bent and torn.**

***MASS INTENTIONS—ST. LAWRENCE December 12-20th, 2009**

Sat. Dec. 12	4:15 PM	Confession
Sat. Dec. 12	5:00 PM	For our parish community
Sun Dec. 13	9:30 AM	Thomas Maholick req. by Al and Marcy Maholick
Mon. Dec. 14	7:00 PM	Angelo Gervasi
Tues. Dec. 15		NO MASS
Wed. Dec. 16	7:00 PM	Tom Lacey req. by his loving family
Thur. Dec. 17	7:00 PM	Cal Payne
Fri. Dec. 18	7:00 PM	Cal Payne
Sat. Dec. 19	4:15 PM	Confession
Sat. Dec. 19	5:00 PM	John W. Salinkas req. by his family
Sun. Dec. 20	9:30 AM	For our parish community and Marcy Maholick

PRAYER:

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them
as they protect us. Bless them and
their families for the selfless
acts they perform for us in our time of need.
I ask this in the name
of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Colleen Rafferty	Scott T. Ball
Gregory C. Nixon	William G. Emmons
Chad M. Kovitch	Jack Kilcoyne
Christopher Emmons	Lynne Norris
Richard Kilcoyne	Justin Mascenik
Steve McNamara	Michael Herbert
Jed Stewart	Joan Valdes
Adam Schiffer	

If anyone would like to add a troop's name to our prayer list, please contact the office.

***MASS INTENTIONS—ST. JOHN**

Dec. 12-20th 2009

Sat.	12/12	6:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sun.	12/13	8:00 AM	Adrienne Herbert (The Family)
Mon	12/14	8:30 AM	Catherine Paccio (Arthur & Grace Schell)
Tues.	12/15	8:30 AM	Larry Travis (Joe & Linda Schell)
Wed.	12/16	8:30 AM 2:00 PM	Edmond Ahearn (M/M Richard Hennessey) Sandy Battisti (Anna Napolitano & Family (SNF Mass))
Thurs.	12/17	8:30 AM	Thomas Lyden (Clay & Mary Jo Weaver)
Fri	12/18	8:30 AM	Precious Blood (Special Intention)
Sat	12/19	6:00 PM	M/M Virgil Testa (Maryann & Gino Testa)
Sun.	12/20	8:00 AM	All Parishioners

*** PARISHES' CALENDAR**

Sun.	12/13	Ecumenical Christmas Service, St. John's, 3:00pm
Mon.	12/14	Altar & Rosary meeting, 6:30pm, St. John's Hall RCIA Meeting, 7:00pm, St. John's Hall
Tues.	12/15	Joint Advent Confessions, 7:00pm, St. John's
Wed..	12/16	SNF Mass, Barnes Kasson Hosp., 2:00pm St. John's Finance Council meeting, 7:00pm
Thurs.	12/17	Benefit for Becky Napolitano, American Legion Post 86, Susquehanna, 4:00pm-8:00pm Charismatic Mass at St. Martin's, 7:00pm
Sun.	12/20	St. Martin's CCD Christmas Play & Party, 12 Noon
Thurs.	12/24	Christmas Eve Masses, 4:00 & 8:00pm St. John's, 6:00pm at St. Martin, 5:00 & 10:00pm at St. Lawrence
Fri.	12/25	Christmas Masses, Regular Sunday schedule
Tues.	12/29	Joint Night of Holiday Music at St. John's, 7:00pm
Mon.	1/04	RCIA Meeting, St. John's Hall, 7:00pm
Tues.	1/05	St. John's Men's Club meeting, 7:00pm
Wed.	1/06	Susquehanna Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:30-5:30pm St. John's Parish Hall
Sat.	1/16	St. John's Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner



***MINISTRIES—ST. JOHN'S**

Sat., Dec. 19th - 6:00 PM

Logan Burdick, Tom Maby, Troy Maby (Altar Serv.)
Mary Joe Weaver, Carol Barnes, Bev Norris (E. Min.)
Clay Weaver (Lector)
Folk Group (Cantors)

Sun. Dec. 20th - 8:00 AM

Aaron Cook, Austin & Peyton Cowperthwait (Altar S.)
Bob Burns, George Napolitano, Linda Norris (Euch. Min.)
Linda Buffington (Lector)
Carolyn Rinker, Barb Wolf (Cantors)

***MINISTRIES—ST. MARTIN'S**

Sat., Dec. 19th - 4:00 PM

Haley & Peter Maloney (Altar Servers)
Matt Menapace, Miriam Pepe (Eucharistic Min.)
Mark Fallon (Lector)

Sun. Dec. 20th- 11:00 AM

Olivia Rockwell, Emily Frye (Altar Servers)
Betsy Supancik, Alfie Lambert, Charlene Kempa
(Euch. Ministers)
Eileen Hartman (Lector)

***MINISTRIES—ST. LAWRENCE**

Sat. Dec. 19th - 5:00 PM

A. & M. Button (Altar Servers)
K. Ragard (Eucharistic Minister)
M. Button (Lector)

Sun. Dec. 20th - 9:30 AM

C. & J. Mills (Altar Servers)
A. Maholick (Eucharistic Minister)
S. Mills (Lector)

***STEWARDSHIP— ST. LAWRENCE**

Sat/Sun. Dec. 5-6, 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,819.50
Fuel	44.00
Candles	16.83
Assessment	117.00
Holy Day	30.00
Clergy Care & Education	328.50
Christmas Flowers	346.00

Total: \$2,701.83

***STEWARDSHIP—ST. JOHN'S**

Sat/Sun., Dec. 5-6, 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,549.00
Loose	221.00
Candles	28.00
Religious Ed	5.00
Improvements	20.00
Fuel	767.00
Eastern Europe	10.00
Christmas Flowers	26.00
Care & Education of Priests	262.00
National Religious Retirement	2.00
Total:	\$2,890.00

***STEWARDSHIP—ST. MARTIN'S**

Sat/Sun. Dec. 5-6, 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$714.00
Loose	213.50
Fuel	46.00
Church Dues	113.00
Care & Education of Priests	192.85
Immaculate Conception	20.00
Christmas Flowers	272.00
Christmas	25.00
Christmas Remembrance	15.00
Solemnity of BVM	15.00
National Religious Retirement	15.00

Total: \$1,641.35