

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. 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

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20th, 2009



**Wishing you a
Blessed & Beautiful
Christmas
Season!**

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

In Today's Gospel, Elizabeth acknowledges in Mary the dwelling place of God's promise fulfilled. Mary, like her ancestors in faith, believed that God's promise would be fulfilled, and by God's graciousness bore the Savior of the world. Each of us is called like Mary to carry the Lord's presence brought into our lives by another.



Weekend Masses

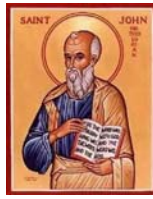
	<u>St. John</u>	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>St. Martin</u>
Sat.	6:00 PM	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sun.	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM

**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



The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who participated in providing gifts for the 'Giving Tree'. Your generosity was gratefully appreciated!!!

St. John's Pro-Life Society would like to wish everyone a Merry & Holy Christmas!

The Altar & Rosary has sent over 500 rosaries to our servicemen and women. We can continue to send them all year or you may mail them to:

Archdiocese for Military
PO Box 4469
Washington, DC 20017

First Saturday Mass, January 2, 8:30am in St. John's Chapel. The Lady of Fatima Prayer Group will pray the rosary after morning Mass.

Painting of St. John's Church will begin on January 4th and will continue through the month. We will also begin the process of fundraising so that we do not deplete our parish savings.

St. John's Men's Club Meeting, Tuesday, January 5, 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Roast Pork Dinner—Saturday, January 16, sponsored by the Men's Club. More details in the coming weeks.

Red Cross Blood Drive, Wednesday, January 6th from 1:30 to 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. To schedule an appointment, please call 278-1427 to schedule an appointment.

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

LifeLine - "Children, and those who are dependent on us due to disability or age, offer us the opportunity to grow in patience, kindness, and love. They teach us that life is a shared gift, not an encumbrance. At the end of life, we will be judged on love alone."

~ Cardinal Justin Rigali, Statement for Respect Life Sunday, September 29, 2009



*ST. MARTIN

OF TOURS



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 (except the 3rd 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 next Holy Hour will be Thursday, Jan. 3rd.

The **third Thursday** of the month will be the Charismatic Mass at 7:00pm

Note: We are in need of new Lectors, especially for the Saturday evening Mass.

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 or place on your weekly envelopes

*MINISTRIES—ST. MARTIN'S

(Betsy Supancik will call for ministers and servers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)

Sat., Dec. 26th - 4:00 PM

Michael Lingobardo (Altar Servers)
Mary Lake, Marilyn Czachor (Eucharistic Min.)
Rachael Gilleran (Lector)

Sun. Dec. 27th- 11:00 AM

Katherine Kempa, Anja Whitehead (Altar Servers)
Betsy Supancik, Alfie Lambert, Kim Marco (Euch. Min.)
David Lee (Lector)



*MASS INTENTIONS—ST. MARTIN December 19-28, 2009

Sat.	12/19	4:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sun.	12/20	11:00 AM	Helen Marichak (Estate)
Thurs.	12/24	6:00 PM	All Parishioners
Fri.	12/25	11:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sat.	12/26	4:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sun.	12/27	11:00 AM	Emily Backer (M/M John Hartman)

* PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

Christmas Season Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24th

4:00 PM St. John
 5:00 PM St. Lawrence
 6:00 PM St. Martin
 8:00 PM St. John
 10:00 PM St. Lawrence

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th

8:00 AM St. John
 9:30 AM St. Lawrence
 11:00 AM St. Martin

Solemnity of Mary Vigil, Thursday, Dec. 31st

7:00 PM St. Martin

Solemnity of Mary, Friday, January 1st

8:30 AM St. Lawrence
 7:00 PM St. John

First Saturday Mass, January 2, 8:30am in **St. John's Chapel**. The Lady of Fatima Prayer Group will pray the rosary after morning Mass.

2010 Calendar—if your organization is planning a special event or fund raiser for 2010, please call the parish office at 853-4634 so there is no conflict of dates.

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

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

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

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.



Last Will and Testament—Our parishes are very important to us all. Please consider remembering your parish in your will.

Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth are now in residence residence in the rectory at St. Martin's. The new name for the Convent is St. Joseph's convent. We are very blessed to have Sr. Kelley (Guardian), Sr. Pia and Sr. Grace Marie with us as part of our parish community. Please stop in to give a welcome to the sisters.
 Fr. Dave

Anniversary Celebration:

The Diocese of Scranton/Office of parish Life/Family Life:
 Wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2010 to a *Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration* on Sunday, April 25th. The event includes a 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address that will be accurate in February, should be made through your church office before January 10th.

*ST. LAWRENCE



St. Lawrence Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who gave in any way to our giving Tree project this season. It was another successful year.
 Deb, Liz, Diane

This Sunday:

We will be decorating St. Lawrence Church. Please try to help. We will start immediately after Mass. We need a few people who don't mind the cold to decorate outside the rectory as well!!! All are invited and welcomed.

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.

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.**

* MINISTRIES—ST. LAWRENCE

Thurs., Dec. 24th - 5:00 PM **10:00 PM**
 C. Mills, C. Lake, M. Button (Altar Servers) P. & D. Maida (Altar Servers)
 L. James, S. Brown (Euch. Min.) R. & D. Maida (Eucharistic Serv.)
 M. Button (Lector) F. O'Connor (Lector)

Fri., Dec. 25th - 9:30 AM
 A. Maholick (Altar Servers)
 S. Brown (Eucharistic Minister)
 M. Maholick (Lector)



*MASS INTENTIONS—ST. LAWRENCE December 19-27, 2009

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 & Marcy Maholick
Mon. Dec. 21	7:00 PM	Dorothy Cataldo req. by Suzanne Brown
Tues. Dec. 22	7:00 PM	Angelo Gervasi
Wed. Dec. 23	7:00 PM	Geraldine Calabrese
Thur. Dec. 24	5:00 PM 10:00 PM	Celebrants Intention Celebrants Intention
Fri. Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Celebrants Intention
Sat. Dec. 26	4:15 PM	Confession
Sat. Dec. 26	5:00 PM	John Conarton req. by his wife Angie & Family
Sun. Dec. 27	9:30 AM	For our parish family

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	Ben Barnard

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

***MASS INTENTIONS—ST. JOHN**

Dec. 19-27th, 2009

Sat. 12/19	6:00 PM	M/M Virgil Testa (Maryann & Gino Testa)
Sun. 12/20	8:00 AM	All Parishioners
Mon 12/21	8:30 AM	Robert Barrett (Linda & Ken)
Tues. 12/22	8:30 AM	Marcelle Gance (Alberta & Alfred Green)
Wed. 12/23	8:30 AM	Amelia Box (Regina Lubbe, Leona Shope, Russell Box)
Thurs. 12/24	4:00 PM 8:00 PM	All Parishioners All Parishioners
Fri 12/25	8:00 AM	All Parishioners
Sat 12/26	6:00 PM	Scott Gow (The Kosko Family)
Sun. 12/27	8:00 AM	Clair & Blanche Perry (Margaret Perry & Family)

***MINISTRIES—ST. JOHN'S**

Thurs., Dec. 24th - 4:00 PM (Christmas Eve)
Charles & Ambrose Mulligan, Brandon Gow (Altar Serv.)
Chet Walker, Joe Schell, Bob Burns (Euch. Min.)
Mike DeWitt (Lector)
Folk Group (Cantors)

Thurs., Dec. 24th - 8:00 PM (Christmas Eve)
Austin Cowperthwait, Matt & Benedict Kane (Altar S.)
Jane McNamara, Carol Bushong, Mary Jo Weaver (E. Min.)
Linda Buffington (Lector)
Choir (Cantors)

Fri., Dec. 25th - 8:00 AM (Christmas Day)
Tom & Troy Maby, Mary Walker (Altar S.)
Mary Snyder, Linda Norris, George Napolitano (E. Min.)
Kay Pacifici (Lector)
(Cantor)

Sat. Dec. 26th - 6:00 PM
David Armitage, Brandon Gow, Benedict Kane (A.S.)
Joe Schell, Chet Walker, Mary Snyder (Euch. Min.)
Mike DeWitt (Lector)
Choir (Cantors)

Sun. Dec. 27th - 8:00 AM
Austin & Peyton Cowperthwait, Logan Burdick (A.S.)
Mary Jo Weaver, Carol Bushong, Bob Burns (Euch. Min.)
Clay Weaver (Lector)
Jeffrey Keyes (Cantor)

PARISHES' CALENDAR

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
Thurs. 12/31	Solemnity of the BVM Vigil Mass, 7:00pm, St. Martin
Fri. 1/01	Solemnity of the BVM, 8:30am St. Lawrence, 7:00pm St. John
Sat. 1/02	First Saturday Mass, 8:30am, St. John's Chapel Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Group after St. John's Mass
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. 1/09	Great Bend Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Supper, 4-7:00pm
Mon. 1/11	St. John's Altar & Rosary Meeting, 6:30pm RCIA meeting, 7:00pm at St. John's Parish Hall
Wed. 1/13	St. John's Pro-Life Meeting after morning Mass. Joint Pastoral Meeting, 7:15pm at St. John's Hall
Sat. 1/16	St. John's Men's Club Roast Pork Dinner

***STEWARDSHIP—ST. JOHN'S**

Sat/Sun., Dec. 8, 12-13, 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,974.00
Loose	296.00
Candles	7.00
Church Dues	46.00
Religious Ed	6.00
Improvements	41.00
Fuel	213.00
Eastern Europe	10.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Care & Education of Priests	55.00
National Religious Retirement	346.00
Immaculate Conception	387.00

Total: \$3,391.00

***STEWARDSHIP—ST. MARTIN'S**

Sat/Sun. Dec. 8, 12-13 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,014.75
Loose	213.00
Fuel	134.00
Church Dues	108.00
Care & Education of Priests	47.00
Immaculate Conception	203.00
Christmas Flowers	70.00
Christmas	90.00
Christmas Remembrance	10.00
Thanksgiving	52.00
National Religious Retirement	142.00
Solemnity of BVM	20.00

Total: \$2,103.75

***STEWARDSHIP—ST. LAWRENCE**

Sat/Sun. 12-13, 2009

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,803.07
Fuel	2.00
Candles	29.65
Holy Day	17.00
Maintenance	213.00
Insurance	2.00
Christmas	35.00
Christmas Flowers	59.00
Retirement for Religious	398.00

Total: \$2,558.72