

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  
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**



**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**December 27th, 2009**



**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

This liturgical feast has been on the Church calendar about a hundred years, often on different dates. It is a "devotional" or "idea" feast that was inaugurated by Holy Family associations. Everything we know about the Holy Family, which is not much, comes from the Gospel accounts read over the three years. It celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

In today's Gospel, Luke portrays a very difficult conversation between Jesus and Mary. Jesus remained behind in the temple to be about his Father's business while Mary was filled with anxious concern about her Son's safety and well-being. Jesus and Mary were both seeking to be faithful to the call God entrusted to them. Their difficult conversation centered on those fundamental calls and resolved itself in the harmony and peace of life in Nazareth.

*Saint Joseph, you are the chaste and loving spouse of the Virgin Mary, the foster father of Jesus, the protector of the Holy Family and of all families.*

*We have complete confidence in your loving care for your fidelity to the family.  
Amen.*

Father Dave, Father Alphonse, and the Staff of St. John, St. Lawrence, and St. Martin  
Wish you all a Blessed Christmas  
And a Happy & Healthy New Year!

**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. Alphonse 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*

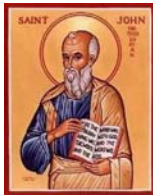
	<u>St. John</u>	<u>St. Lawrence</u>	<u>St. Martin</u>
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

**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 all for your generosity for 56 children in our community! Thanks also to the Altar and Rosary Society, American Legion, Dollar General, Soldiers of Charity, Legion Riders, and Women of the Moose who gave additional support to our Giving Tree. **Merry Christmas!** <Joni and Jackie>

We have the **Oplatek Wafers** available at St. John's for the cost of a \$1.00 in the back of the Church.

**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.

**St. John's Finance Council Meeting**—Wednesday, January 6th, 7:00pm

**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.

**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*

We offer our sympathy  
to the family and friends of  
**Charles Ficarro**  
who passed away last week.  
In Jesus, may he live forever.

# \*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 or during the Christmas Season.

**St. Martin's Choir** will sing at SNF, Barnes Kasson, Tuesday, December 29, before the Joint Night of Music at St. John's at 7:00pm.

### 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. 7th**.

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.

### LifeLine

"Abortion – the direct, intentional killing of an unborn girl or boy – is not health care. Abortion robs an innocent child of his or her life, and robs mothers of their peace and happiness. For 25 years, the Project Rachel post-abortion ministry of the Catholic Church has helped women move beyond their grief and remorse after abortion, helping them find peace by accepting God's forgiveness and by forgiving themselves and others involved in the abortion decision. Abortion funding can only increase the number of dead and grieving."

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

### \*MINISTRIES—ST. MARTIN'S

**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	Emily Backer (M/M John Hartman)
Thurs.	12/31	11:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sat.	01/02	4:00 PM	All Parishioners
Sun.	01/03	11:00 AM	Helen Marichak (Estate)

# \* PARISH CLUSTER NEWS

# \*ST. LAWRENCE



## Christmas Season Mass Schedule



### 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

## No CCD classes December 27th & January 3rd.

### From the Capuchin Sisters

Peace of Jesus? Merry Christmas to all the Parishioners of St. Martin, St. John, and St. Lawrence Churches. We sisters would like to convey our deepest thanks to all who helped make our move to St. Joseph's convent in Jackson possible. We know that many of you made sacrifices (both financial and manual labor) to make this come together.

As you know we are mainly contemplatives, so we spend several hours a day adoring our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. So, you will all be in our daily prayers as we ask God to bless you and grant your needs.

We have heard that some are asking how they can get in contact with us, our phone number is 756-2205. Because of our prayer life and communal life, we usually only answer the phone at the following times:

**Monday thru Thursday & Saturday** 9:00am—11:45am  
1:00pm—4:30pm  
7:00pm—8:15pm

May the Holy Family bless you and grant you heavenly peace!  
Most Thankful In Christ,  
The Capuchin Sisters

**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.



**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

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

### Anniversary Celebration:

**The Diocese of Scranton/Office of parish Life/Family Life:**  
Wish to invite couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2010 to a *Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration* on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

### St. Lawrence Giving Tree:

For 13 years *The Giving Tree* has branched out across our parishes into our communities and filled a need. Perhaps it was a physical need like food or a gas card for someone on a difficult journey. Maybe you sent a poinsettia to a shut in or a parishioner at SNF. (Blossom Shop tag). Many of you bought gifts for children in serious need of remembrance. Maybe you bought clothing for wounded soldiers or crayons for adults with special needs. Be it spiritual, physical, or emotional, you have filled so many needs. Our deepest appreciation and thanks to everyone. With a special thank you to: Sharon O'Connor, The Knights of Columbus and Ladies Aux. of the Great Bend VFW. May God Bless You All as you have so generously Blessed others.

Merry Christmas,  
Deb, Liz, and Diane

### St. Lawrence Church February Fund Raiser:

#### **RUMMAGE SALE:**

**DON'T THROW THAT AWAY OR PUT IT IN THE ATTIC!!!!!!**  
**Plans are being made to have a Rummage Sale the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February. When you are cleaning for the new year, please save your items for us!!!!!! It will be held in the Trinity Center and warm food will be available. . More details to follow.**

**We are in need of Altar Servers** (3rd grade & up are welcomed) **Parents**, encourage your children to share their time with their church. If interested, please call the office as soon as possible.

### St. Lawrence Church Needs Lectors

We are in need of 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 Dec. 26-31, Jan. 1-3, 2010

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 community
Mon. Dec. 28	7:00 PM	Cubby Brown req. Suzanne Brown
Tues. Dec. 29	7:00 PM	Louise Tessier req. by Anne & Mike Yannone and Tony & Lori Conarton
Wed. Dec. 30	7:00 PM	Angelo Gervasi
Thur. Dec. 31		NO MASS
Fri. Jan. 1	*8:30 AM*	Laetitia Vloeri
Sat. Jan 2	4:15 PM	Confession
Sat. Jan. 2	5:00 PM	Bob & John Franks req. by their Family
Sun. Jan. 3	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

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

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

**\*MASS INTENTIONS—ST. JOHN**

Dec. 26-31, 2009, Jan. 1-3, 2010

Sat.	12/26	6:00 PM	Scott Gow (The Kosko Family)
Sun.	12/27	8:00 AM	Clair & Blanche Perry (Margaret Perry & Family)
Mon	12/28	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Dennis (Doris Deakin)
Tues.	12/29	8:30 AM	Sandy Battisti (Joan & Family)
Wed.	12/30	8:30 AM	Bob & Ann Dooley (The Family)
Thurs.	12/31	8:30 AM	Charles Snyder (Mary Snyder & Family)
Fri	01/01	<b>7:00 PM</b>	All Parishioners
Sat	01/02	8:30 AM 6:00 PM	Mary Stout (M/M Carmen Cosentino) Leona Perrotti (M/M Joseph Schell)
Sun.	01/03	8:00 AM	All Parishioners

**\*MINISTRIES—ST. JOHN'S**

**Fri., Jan. 1st - 7:00 PM (New Year's Day)**  
Michael Armitage, Matt & Ben Kane (Altar Serv.)  
Carol Barns, Mary Snyder, Joe Schell (Euch. Min.)  
Kay Pacifici (Lector)  
(Cantors)

**Sat. Jan. 2nd - 6:00 PM**  
Matt Kane, Justin Banko, Miranda Romanofski (A.S.)  
Carol Barnhes, Joe Schell, Joe King (Euch. Min.)  
Jeffrey Keyes (Lector)  
(Cantors)

**Sun. Jan. 3rd - 8:00 AM**  
Nicole & Danielle Barnes, Christian Miller (A.S.)  
Linda Norris, Vickie Mulligan, Jane McNamara (E. Min.)  
Linda Buffington (Lector)  
(Cantor)

**\* MINISTRIES—ST. LAWRENCE**

**Sat. Dec. 26th - 5:00 PM**  
A. & M. Button (Altar Servers)  
R. Ragard (Eucharistic Minister)  
M. Button (Lector)

**Sun. Dec. 27th - 9:30 AM**  
M. & E. Mangel (Altar Servers)  
R. & D. Maida (Eucharistic Ministers)  
D. Maida (Lector)

**PARISHES' CALENDAR**

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 St. John Finance Council Meeting, 7:00pm
Thurs.	1/07	Holy Hour at St. Martin, 7:00pm
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. 19-20, 2009*

Offertory Envelopes	\$1,481.00
Loose	195.00
Candles	45.00
Religious Ed	137.00
Improvements	100.00
Fuel	233.00
Eastern Europe	10.00
Christmas Flowers	40.00
Care & Education of Priests	20.00
National Religious Retirement	30.00
Immaculate Conception	35.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,326.00</b>

**\*STEWARDSHIP—ST. MARTIN'S**

*Sat/Sun. Dec. 19-20, 2009*

Offertory Envelopes	\$915.85
Loose	187.00
Fuel	60.00
Church Dues	10.00
Care & Education of Priests	10.00
Immaculate Conception	18.00
Christmas	200.00
Christmas Remembrance	130.00
Thanksgiving	10.00
National Religious Retirement	20.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,560.85</b>

**\*STEWARDSHIP—ST. LAWRENCE**

*Sat/Sun. 19-20, 2009*

Offertory Envelopes	\$2,920.00
Fuel	385.00
Holy Day	2.00
Maintenance	37.00
Christmas	60.00
Retirement for Religious	38.00
Care & Education of Priests	15.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,457.00</b>