Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Mark 1:1-8



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 4:00pm | *Sunday* – 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30am *Daily* – Monday through Friday, 8:00am *Confessions* – Saturday, 3:15-3:45pm; Sunday, 7:15-7:45am, 9:20-9:35am & 11:05-11:20am; Wednesday, 8:30am & 5:30pm *Adoration* – Wednesdays, 8:30am-6:00pm

Office Hours - Monday through Thursday; 9:00am-4:00pm; Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm

Rev. Allen J. Hoffa, M. Div., Pastor | ahoffa@hgaparish.com Follow Fr. Hoffa () Allen Hoffa () @padrehoffa () Padre Hoffa Weekend Assistance: Rev. E. Michael Camilli, M.S.C. | Deacon John B. Gallagher HGA Rectory | 3121 Kutztown Road Reading, PA 19605 | (610) 921-2729 | www.hgaparish.com Follow HGA Parish | () hgachurch () @hgachurch () hgaparish

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Bulletin Submissions

Deadline for submissions for Bulletin - Monday Noon. Please email notices to baregood@hgaparish.com.

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to Holy Guardian Angels Regional School. The school is located at 3125 Kutztown Road, Reading, PA 19605. Please contact Kelly Prechtl, Head of School at 610-929-4124 for more information or to register. www.hgaschool.org.

Berks Catholic High School

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local catholic high school – Berks Catholic. Please contact the Director of Admissions, Nicole Smith at 610-374-8361, ext. 244 for more information or to register. www.berkscatholic.org.

Religious Education (PREP)

All children should be receiving religious instruction through one of our Regional Catholic Schools or through our Parish Religious Education Program offered for grades K-8. Please contact Kari Mallozzi, Director of Religious Education, for more information via email to kmallozzi@hgaparish.com or call 610-921-2729, ext. 2203.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for further information.

Knights of Columbus Holy Guardian Angels Council #14847

Mike Rusak - Grand Knight Council email: koc14847@hgaparish.com.

Wills and Memorials

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include Holy Guardian Angels Parish in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Holy Guardian Angels Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

Diocese of Allentown

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC Direct: (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S Secretary, Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538 610-871-5200, ext. 2204 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse reporting service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.





Note that all Daily Masses Monday through Friday & the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass are livestreamed on our Facebook page.

> Monday, December 11 St. Damascus I, Pope

8:00 am For the Intentions of Jeffrey Toplak, requested by Mom & Dad

<u>Tuesday, December 12</u> Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am Violet Cucinotta, requested by the Hertzog Family

<u>Wednesday, December 13</u> <u>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</u>

8:00 am George Hydock, Sr., requested by the Novak Family

<u>Thursday, December 14</u> <u>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</u>

8:00 am Father's Day Intentions

Friday, December 15

8:00 am Alban Carroll, Sr., requested by Dave and Anne Carroll

9:30 am (School Mass) Jane Wiencek, requested by Kevin and Fran Krotulski

Sunday, December 17 The Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday Vigil

4:00 pm Living and Deceased Parishioners Sunday

8:00 am Kenneth Lawrence, requested by Jean Kleckner 9:45 am Rose Marie Intelisano, requested by Gina Gilbert 11:30 am Robert J. Lesko, requested by Anne Lesko

SANCTUARY LAMP & CANDLE INTENTIONS Week of December 10, 2023

Sanctuary Lamp in Church: In memory of Dawn Negri. Sanctuary Candle in Chapel: Living and Deceased Parishioners. St. Joseph Candles: In memory of Chester, Jean, and Michael Dziedzic, requested by Family; In memory of Janet Ludwikowski. Blessed Mother Candles: In memory of Anna and Martin Kotch; In memory of Eleanor Kotch. Holy Guardian Angels Candles: In Memory of Stanley and Mary Sternowski, requested by family; Living and Deceased Parishioners. Anyone who would like to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamps, the Candles by St. Joseph, the Blessed Mother or the Guardian Angels for a week may stop by the Rectory Office. The cost is \$10 each.



Are you new to Holy Guardian Angels? Please be sure to stop by the Rectory to register - we'd love the opportunity to meet you! The Rectory is open Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-Noon.

Padre's Piece The Bible - Part I

Bible (Greek Biblia, "books). The collection of seventythree books that the Church believes is the written expression of God's revelation. These books form a single "Book," since God is the divine author of them all, and collectively they bear witness to God's unified plan for salvation.

In its Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*, the Second Vatican Council taught: "The Church always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord. She has always regarded the Scriptures together with Sacred Tradition as the supreme rule of faith, and will ever do so. For, inspired by God and committed once and for all to writing, they impart the word of God himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and apostles. Therefore, like the Christian religion itself, all the preaching of the Church must be nourished and ruled by sacred Scripture."

Since God is the principal author of the Bible, it is both inspired and inerrant. The specific writings, or "books," of the Bible are enumerated according to the authentic list, called the canon, accepted by the Church. These works, written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, constitute the rule of Catholic faith, in conjunction with the tradition and teaching authority of the Church. Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the Word of God, which is committed to the Church. That sacred deposit is the basis of all the doctrine of the church.



John Luppino, Barbara Schwartz, Pattie Mihalak, Fr. Wm Seifert, James Waldman, John Perate, Cindy Klymchuk, Daniel Bastek,

Sandra Clayton, Harmony Chiccarine, Aubrielle Beidler, Barbara Coco, Kim Bonner, Mary Ann Wensus, Daneen Poticher, Lisa Wrede, Bob Desherlia, Doris Day, Serge Kuschick, Jeff Strader, Joan Adams, John Gaetani, Kirsten Snyder, Robert Brannon, Jennifer Toplak-Sedlacek, Giada Caruso, Elaine Egan, Sharon Witman, William Ondich, Marie Scholl, Gene Toplak, George and Kathy Helms, Dennis Dautrich, Melissa Neff, Arlene Kunstek, Robert Keim, Donald Davis, Irvin Lindinger , Msgr. John Grabish, Ramona Teahan, Marian & Al Masi, Thomas Greth, Beverly Oudinot, Demaris Diaz. Names will remain on the list for one month.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

<u>Sunday, December 10</u> - Confession 7:15, 9:20, and 11:05 am; Mass 8:00, 9:45, 11:30 am; PREP 8:15 am; CYO Basketball Games (Girls 1:30pm, Boys 2:40 pm); Simbang Gabi Novena 7:00 pm

<u>Monday, December 11</u> - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Girl Scouts Meeting 6:30 pm; Simbang Gabi Novena 7:00 pm

<u>Tuesday, December 12</u> - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Home & School Meeting 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13 - Mass 8:00 am; Adoration 8:30 am until Benediction at 6:00 pm; Confessions 8:30 am and 5:15 pm; Senior Club Meeting 1:00 pm; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 6:30 pm; Pen 2 Paper Meeting 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 14 - Mass 8:00 am; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 9:00 am; Hope, Grace & Adulting 6:00 pm; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; BSA Troop 161 6:30 pm; Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm; Legion of Mary 6:30 pm

<u>Friday, December 15</u> - Mass 8:00 am; 9:30 am (School Mass); CYO Basketball Games (Girls 6:00 pm, Boys 7:10 pm)

Saturday, December 16 - Bambinelli Blessing at all Masses; Confession 3:15 pm; Vigil Mass (with Live Stream) 4:00 pm Sunday, December 17 - Bambinelli Blessing at all Masses; Confession 7:15 am, 9:20 am, 11:05 am; Mass 8:00 am, 9:45 am, 11:30 am; Diocese of Allentown Legacy Society Brunch 12:30pm; BINGO Doors Open at 12:30pm, 1st Game at 2:00 pm; Cub Scouts Pack 161 5:00 pm; Advent Confessions 7:00 pm

Congratulations to the Winners of the Christmas Craft Bazaar Cash Raffle!

\$1,000 - Ralph Blatt \$500 - Humberto Aguilar \$250 - Joanne Eagle \$100 - Father Hoffa \$50 - Ernie Farina



DECEMBER 10, 2023



Sun., Dec. 10th is the last special order before Christmas and for 2023. Electronic gift cards are a great way to send gifts to friends and family both near and far. Electronic gift cards are also a great way to earn rebates for the parish or your tuition account.



- Schedule eGift cards to arrive in a friend's inbox at a specific time for a surprise gift
- Easily keep track of all your eGift cards with your Wallet

To shop eGift cards: In the RaiseRight mobile app, choose a category then Filter > Product Type > eGift Card. On RaiseRight.com, choose Card Type > eGift Card.

If you have any questions regarding the Angel Earnings program, please contact Anne Malinowski at amalinowski@hgaparish.com or call 610-921-2729, ext. 2216.

The Flowers at the Blessed Virgin Mary Altar and Rosary, the Ambo, Crucifix, and St. Joseph Altar are in Loving Memory of Jerry Hartman, requested by Julie and Stephanie Hartman. The Blessed Mother's Floral Crown is in Loving Memory of Terry Baker, requested by Wife, Pat, and Daughter, Anastasia.

SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE NOVEMBER DEC. 16-17 *PLEASE NOTE - THE MINISTERS SCHEDULE REFLECTS THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. IT DOES NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGES MADE AFTER THE TIME THE BULLETIN WAS PUBLISHED

	Sat. 5pm	Sun 8:00 am	9:45 am	11:30 am
Servers	Madelyn Glessner	Libby Huston	Elijah Kopp	Carlos Flood
	Christian Hendrix	William Johns	Sam Moody	Matthew Glembocki
	Noah Hendrix	Sophie Lezette	Cody Toplak	Dane Prechtl
Lector	Barbara Aregood	Carline Reber	Carolyn Toplak	Anne Malinowski
EM	Mark Semprini	Janet Huston	Diane Collins	Kelli Glembocki
	Tina Semprini	Anthony J. Wiencek	Jennifer Toplak-Sedlacek	Martha Weida

READINGS FOR THE



Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26 St. Damascus I, Pope Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30 St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15 St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday: Is 48: 17-19 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17: 9a,10-13

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes. 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

St. Vincent de Paul Society News

THERE WILL BE NO STOCK THE SHELVES COL-



LOOKING AHEAD

Stock the Shelves – January: Chili Donations Valentines for Seniors and Shut-ins – January 27-February 11 Kennedy House Soup Kitchen – March 9 & 10

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Holy Guardian Angels Parish is here for you! Our parishioners have consistently supported our efforts to address the needs of others; however, we hope and pray that parishioners in need will reach out to us so that we may be of service to them as well. Please communicate with us through the parish website, or call 610-921-2729 (Option 4, then Option1) if you are in need of food or assistance. All communications will remain strictly confidential.

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LAST WEEK	Collection of PC
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STEWARDSHIP	NOVEMBER 26	DECEMBER 3
WEEKLY	\$9,413.00	\$12,894.00
LOOSE	\$314.00	\$1,056.00
CANDLES	\$196.00	\$235.00
EMERGENCY	\$35.00	\$687.00
MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$30.00
MORTGAGE	\$5.00	\$1,031.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$2,433.00	\$2,609.00
ALL SOULS	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
THANKSGIVING	\$1,595.00	\$0.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	\$0.00	\$2,326.00
OTHER	\$235.00	\$267.00
TOTAL	\$15,226.00	\$21,402.00

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

"Follow the Leader." Many of us remember it well as the game to play in the recess yard or on rainy days at home with family or friends. Recall the basic rules: 1. One person is chosen to be the leader; 2. The rest line up behind the leader. They must copy all the actions and movements of the leader (run when the leader runs; do jumping jacks; turn and take 2 steps forward, etc.) 3. Anyone who does not successfully copy the movement is out. 4. The last child still following the leader is the leader in the next round.

While I could never equate the process of human salvation to a game, there is something similar in the way John the Baptist, Jesus' natural cousin, follows his Cousin's leadership.

Remember that John was at the pinnacle of his success in terms of preaching repentance and baptizing crowds gathered around the Jordan river. What impressive humility John shows when he proclaims that "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." He doesn't reject a secondary role. In fact he embraces it. He knows Jesus is his Leader.

During Advent, which urges some fasting before the great feast, we should take some time over these long nights and short days to think about more than preparing for another Christmas. What does it mean for me, for example, that Christ was born to save me from the destruction I deserve on account of my sins? Or how about this: Am I planning on making a good confession during these weeks? After all, the confessionals in our churches are not there as remnants of a past generation of Catholic practice. They are the places to receive the graces John the Baptist was preaching about. Many parishes offer a special evening service for confessions during the season, with visiting priests available.

And then there is the perennial question for prosperous times: As a parent or relative, are we indirectly teaching our young ones that the source of happiness is getting every material good that I ask for with a huge display under the tree?

This is the perfect season to remember that we are called to follow our spiritual Leader, Our Lord Jesus Christ, not as part of a game but as a goal. God love you and give you His peace.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HGA Regional School Families, please mark your calendars:

- Secret Santa Shop- Monday, December 11- Friday, December 15
- Annual Christmas Musical- Thursday, December 21
- No School for Christmas Break- Friday, December 22 at 12pm-Tuesday, January 2, 2024

The HGA Regional School Cougar Cash 50/50 Raffle Sale has begun!

Last year's winner won nearly \$4500! Visit holyguardianangelsregionalschool.square.site to purchase your tickets to support our wonderful students! Join us on our Facebook page for a live drawing on Friday, February 2, 2024 at 1p.m.

Save the Dates for our December Dine Out at Pizza Como, Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14 from 11a.m.-7:30p.m. Mention that you are supporting Holy Guardian Angels Regional School and we will receive a portion of your purchase! Thank you in advance for your support!

Current HGA Student Re-Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year through December 1. A registration fee of \$120 will be applied to all FACTS accounts on January 15, 2023.

Current Cougars will automatically be re-enrolled to confirm a spot for next school year unless we are notified otherwise. Please email Kelly Prechtl at kelpre@hgaschool.org if you choose not to enroll for the 2024-2025 school year. Enrollment to the public will open on January 1, 2024.

Join the Advent Catechetical Series at any time! Please come on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm or Thursdays mornings at 9:30 am to participate in "FORGIVEN - the Transforming Power of Confession." FORGIVEN meets in the rectory basement meeting room.

Scoop out your Sins! All PREP students & their families are invited to a special PREP penance



service on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 6:45 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available beginning at 7:00 pm in the Church. Then join us back at the school for an ice cream social!

We are in need of a catechist for the 5th Grade level in our dynamic PREP program. No theology degree required! Please contact Kari Mallozzi, Director of Religious Education at 610-921-2729, ext. 2203 or email kmallozzi@hgaparish.com for more details!



HOME & SCHOOL MEETING PEN 2 PAPER MEETING December 12

SENIOR CLUB MEETING December 13

HOPE, GRACE & ADULTING December 14

BAMBINELLI BLESSING December 16 & 17

ADVENT CONFESSIONS December 17

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING December 20

LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE December 21

> CHRISTMAS LOTTERY December 25



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Looking for that perfect gift for Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Christmas & other special occasions? Visit the Canticle Gift Shop operated by the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters at their Motherhouse!

The Canticle Gift Shop is open by appointment. Call Sister Shaun Patrica Malone at 610-301-3834 to set up your shopping time. The shop offers inspirational and religious gifts including medals and rosaries, statues, crucifixes, Christmas items, and much more!

The shop honors Visa, Mastercard, and personal checks and is located adjacent to Alvernia at the McGlinn Conference & Spirituality Center, 460 Bernadine Street, Reading, PA 19607.

Any homebound parishioner, or family member of a homebound parishioner who would like to receive the weekly bulletin, please contact the Church Office at 610-921-2729. Are you looking to make an impact that will truly make a difference in someone's life? The John Paul II Center



seeks individuals passionate about helping all students and adults reach their God-given potential. Work with a team whose goals are to carry out our vision and mission of supporting students and adults to success and independence.

Opportunities include: Speech-Language Pathologist, Job Coach, Program Specialist for the adult program, Instructional Aide for School Age Program; Direct Service Staff for Adult program. Relief and substitute positions are also available. Please visit https://johnpauliicenter.org/wordpress/ employment-opportunities/ for more detailed information and application. John Paul II Center is an equal opportunity employer.

The St. Monica Ministry will hold a bilingual Holy Hour at 6:00pm on Tuesday, December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Holy Hour will take place at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown, and will be preceded by a buffet dinner and basket raffle starting at 4:00pm in the parish's Friendship Hall. Presiding at the Holy Hour will be Deacon Miguel Ramirez of Our Lady of Mercy and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes in Easton. Deacon Ramirez will offer a bilingual reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe's maternal love for her children, and on her constant intercession for those who have left the Church. Register at allentowndiocese.org/ stmonicaministry.