

Watch, therefore; you do not
know when the lord
of the house is coming.

Mark 13:33-37



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 5:00pm | **Sunday** – 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30am

Daily – Monday thru Friday, 8:00am

Confessions – Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm; 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 thru Thursday; 9:00am-4:00pm; Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm

Rev. Allen J. Hoffa, M. Div., Pastor | ahoffa@hgaparish.com

Follow Fr. Hoffa | [f](#) Allen Hoffa | [t](#) @padrehoffa | [i](#) 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

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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 Prechtel, 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.



MASS Intentions

Note that all Daily Masses Monday through Friday & the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass are livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Monday, December 4

St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Dr. Brian Schwab, requested by Deacon Joseph E. Ross

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am Lucia Pellegrini, requested by Anna and Andrew Alvine

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:00 am Deceased of the Aregood Family, requested by Barbara Aregood

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Bernardino and Teresa Amadio, requested by Mae Candelori

Friday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
A Holy Day of Obligation

6:30 pm Vigil (Thursday) Audrey Gallagher, requested by Carol Engelman

8:00 am Thomas Hoffman, requested by Danial and Lucille DeMarco

9:30 am (School Mass) Mother's Day Intentions

12:10 pm Terry Baker, requested by Pat Baker

Sunday, December 10

Saturday Vigil

5:00 pm Alfred Alvine, requested by Anna Marie Alvine

Sunday

8:00 am Living and Deceased Parishioners

9:45 am Holy Name Society

11:30 am Jerry Hartman, requested by Jeannie and Ed Porter

SANCTUARY LAMP & CANDLE INTENTIONS Week of December 3, 2023

Sanctuary Lamp in Church: Living and Deceased Parishioners. **Sanctuary Candle in Chapel:** In Memory of Cory Zahand. **St. Joseph Candles:** In Memory of C.J.Z. **Blessed Mother Candles:** In Memory of C.J.Z.; Living and Deceased Parishioners. **Holy Guardian Angels Candles:** In Memory of C.J.Z.; 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.**



Padre's Piece An Introduction

As we begin the liturgical year on this First Sunday of Advent, I would like to introduce you to the next series of Padre's Piece in the Bulletin.

The "Catholic Bible Dictionary" was published in 2009 as a "new" major Catholic dictionary after generations had passed since the first one. The breadth of time between the two provided a fertile generation for biblical scholarship, biblical archaeology, and the Church's interpretation of the Bible. It was time for a new resource.

Doubleday published the Catholic Bible Dictionary, edited by noted scholar and bestselling author, Scott Hahn. The accessible and comprehensive guide provides everything the average Catholic needs to know about the Bible and contains more than five thousand entries. Including...

- Every book of the Catholic canons of the Old and New Testament
- Every significant person in the Bible, historical places, and events
- The social conventions and traditions of everyday life in ancient Israel
- The language and imagery of the Bible
- The civilizations that influenced events recorded in the Bible
- Key archaeological sites and finds
- Church teaching, doctrine, and theology that relates the reading and interpretation of the Bible to themes ranging from the sacraments to inspiration.

We won't get to all 5,000, but we will visit 52 entries, one each week of this liturgical year. Drawing from two millennia of scholarship, Hahn to create this powerful tool for deeper and more rewarding biblical study.

As we explore this invaluable source of information, we will gain insight and guidance and what I hope will be lead to a spiritual springboard for our own personal exploration and study of scripture.



Barbara Schwartz, Pattie Miha-lak, 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, Ramona Teahan, Melissa Neff, Arlene Kunstek, Robert Keim, Donald Davis, Irvin Lindinger, Msgr. John Grabish, Ramona Teahan, Marian and Al Masi. Names will remain on the list for one month.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 3 - Confession 7:15, 9:20, and 11:05 am; Mass 8:00, 9:45, 11:30 am; PREP 8:15 AM; Doors Open for BINGO 12:30 pm, 1st Game Called at 2:00 pm; Advent Vespers 4:00 pm; BSA Troop 161 Committee Meeting

Monday, December 4 - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; CYO Meeting 6:00 pm; Girl Scouts Meeting 6:30 pm; Pastoral Council Meeting 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 5 - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Symbolon: The Last Things: What Happens After we Die?

Wednesday, December 6 - Mass 8:00 am; Adoration 8:30 am until Benediction at 6:00 pm; Confessions 8:30 am and 5:15 pm; Rosary Rally 5:30 pm; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Kitchen Kapers 6:00 pm; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 7 - Mass 8:00 am; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 9:00 am; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; BSA Troop 161 6:30 pm; Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm; Legion of Mary 6:30 pm; Culture of Life Meeting 6:30 pm; Vigil for the Immaculate Conception 6:30 pm

Friday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, A Holy Day of Obligation; Mass 8:00 am; 9:30 am (School Mass); 12:10pm

Saturday, December 9 - CYO Basketball Games - Girls 10:00 am, Boys 11:10 am; Knights of Columbus Christmas Party 12:30 pm; Confession 4:15 pm; Vigil Mass (with Live Stream) 5:00 pm; Simbang Gabi Potluck 7:00 pm

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

Collection for Retired Religious

"Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the **Retirement Fund for Religious next week**. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.



Only four more special order dates before Christmas!

- December 3rd
- December 10th – Last chance to order physical gift cards for Christmas!

Orders must be received by 1:00 pm and will be available for pick up the Thursday after the Order Date and then before/after Masses that weekend.

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.

Find Giftspiration With the 2023 Holiday Gift Guide

Find great gifting brands, use the holiday shopping list, and much more.

Get the guide at

RaiseRight.com/Resources/HolidayGuide



OR SCAN THE CODE

SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8

	Vigil 6:30 pm	Holy Day 8:00 am	Holy Day 12:10 pm
Lector	Jim Harper	Wendy Freeman	Anne Malinowski
EM	Mark Semprini Tina Semprini	Patrick Holland Anthony J. Wiencek	Diane Choiniere Georjean Jones

SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE NOVEMBER DEC. 9-10

*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 Patrick Manczak Meredith Swavely	Collin Kroenig Evan Kroenig Sophia Lezette	Dominic Delgado Marcus Rundle Vincent Tartaglia	Diego Gonzalez Dane Prechtl Vincent Tartaglia
Lector	Kevin Tobias	Kevin Kleckner	Theresa Quitinsky	Sherry Gonzalez
EM	Walt LaSota Maryellen LaSota	George Lehman Frank Ligenza	Cathy Moyer Cathie Wiencek	Diane Choiniere Lillian Hart

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11 St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37 St. Nicholas, Bishop
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, A Holy Day of Obligation
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14; 2 PT 3:8-14; MK 1:1-8

The Blessed Mother's Floral Rosary is in Loving Memory of Antonio Campitelli Requested by Ruth and Chad Steigerwalt

St. Vincent de Paul Society Update!

THERE WILL BE NO STOCK THE SHELVES COLLECTION DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.



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

LAST WEEK *Collection* ©JPPC

STEWARDSHIP	NOVEMBER 19
WEEKLY	\$9,380.00
LOOSE	\$1,063.00
CANDLES	\$251.00
EMERGENCY	\$45.00
MAINTENANCE	\$100.00
MORTGAGE	\$90.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$3,454.00
POVERTY RELIEF FUND	\$1,535.00
TOTAL	\$15,918.00

Everyone is welcome to attend The Culture of Life group meeting on Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 pm in the (Small) Rectory Basement Meeting Room.



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64: 2-7 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 33-37

“Watch” is the key word in the Scriptures for this First Sunday of Advent. Liturgically speaking, this is the equivalent of New Year’s Day for the Church. You and I begin a whole new look at the Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. We will meditate on it against the background of a new calendar year as well, complete with the milieu of the secular world’s story as the background.

We know there are many kinds of watchfulness. We will hear again next summer, for example, the steady recorded voice coming from a wheeled stroller saying over and over again: “Watch the cart please!” Slow vacationers must step aside to allow for passage. Add to the list the watchfulness and the alert scanning of the night watchman, hired to stay aware of any sound that could come from a break in on the property. Add in the seasonal ditty that tells of the children’s need to “better watch out, better not pout” because someone special is “coming to town.”

But then there is Jesus, here in a deadly serious command to His disciples to “Be watchful! Be alert!” exclamation points given. Why? Because “you do not know when the time will come.” “What time?” you ask. The end time. The finale of the complicated symphony that has been going on since creation. The crashing stops all the sound and fury of our little lives that is necessary for the renewal of our hearts and minds to live in the promised kingdom Jesus spoke about.

In its own way, Advent marks the beginning of an end and the end of a beginning. How so? By its plea for us to pay more attention than we have been to the fact that this life is not the only one, and that we have a destiny to live elsewhere and forever where “eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the mind of men what God has intended for those who love Him.” That last is the description from one of the Lord’s premier disciples: St. Paul.

But Advent is happily the end of the beginning of our walk with Jesus. We’ve been baptized into His family and we are all His children. So we are not just starting out on the path. We know how to be prepared. Our Advent watchfulness, then, includes a subtle warning against any complacency settling into our lives. That’s where the purple vestments, symbolic of penance, come into play. To remind us that the best preparation for celebrating Christmas is to do some fasting, some alms giving and plenty of prayer. To “clean up the stable of our souls” to be more ready to receive our Redeemer “wrapped in swaddling clothes.”

Of course, there will always be people who completely misunderstand what it means to be prepared for God’s coming. A certain Mrs. Vandemeer decided to have her portrait painted. She told the artist, “Paint me with diamond earrings, a diamond necklace, an emerald bracelet, and a ruby pendant.” “But,” the artist protested, “you’re not wearing any of those things.” “I know,” said Mrs. Vandemeer. “It’s in case I should die before my husband. I’m sure he’d remarry right away, and I want her to go nuts looking for the jewelry.” God love you, and give you His peace



HGA Regional School Families, please mark your calendars:

- Report Cards Issued- Monday, December 4
- Saint Nicholas Day- Wednesday, December 6
- HGA CYO Kitchen Kapers Competition- Wednesday, December 6
- 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.**

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 Prechtel 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.

New! Walking with Purpose - So Much More than a Bible Study!

Attn: young adult women (ages 21-35). A new opportunity for you to encounter the Lord's love for you is coming to HGA! Two young women from our parish family will lead the group beginning in January of 2024. The group will meet in the Rectory Attic on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Please contact Kari Mallozzi via email to kmallozzi@hgaparish.com or 610-921-2729, ext. 2203, for more information.

PREP Advent Confessions will be on Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. Please stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!

The last PREP dates for 2023 are December 3rd & December 10th.

Be sure to "Like" the Parish Facebook page (@hgaparish) to check out pics of our awesome Sunday mornings & for important updates or announcements.



Upcoming EVENTS

ADVENT VESPERS
December 3

ST. NICHOLAS SHOE STUFFING
December 2 & 3

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
CYO MEETING
December 4

HEALING MASS
ROSARY RALLY
KITCHEN KAPERS
December 6

CULTURE OF LIFE MEETING
December 7

CYO BASKETBALL GAMES
December 9 & 10

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

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.

SUPPORT LIFELINE: SEW A SEED OF

HOPE! For 50 years, Lifeline has been helping women facing difficult circumstances find that love, hope, and abundance in their own lives. Lifeline has been helping women find the strength to choose LIFE and to meet the challenges with new skills, deeper support, and strengthened relationships. **HOPE WHEN NONE EXISTS** ... Our clients thank YOU! To donate to Lifeline Of Berks County online go to lifelineofberks.org/donate/ or contact them at 612 Reading Ave., West Rdg., 19611 or phone 610-374-8545. Lifeline is in need of baby formula particularly Similac Advance and Enfamil Gentlease. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



Fall Catechetical Series

SYMBOLON
THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED

Join us on
Tuesday, Dec. 5th!

Topic: The Last Things:
What Happens After
We Die?

Rectory Basement Meeting Room
6:30 pm
No RSVP Needed.

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.