

I am the voice of one crying out
in the desert, "make straight the
way of the Lord."

John 1:6-8, 19-28



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 4:00pm | **Sunday** – 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30am

Daily – Monday thru 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 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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O kukqp'Ucvgo gpv'

oY g.'y g'r ctkuj kqpgtu'qh'J qn' 'I wctf kcp' Cpi gnu' Rctkuj 'wpxgf " y kj 'y g' Ecvj qite' Ej vtej 'y tqwi j qw'v'j g'y qtrf. 'r tqerko 'qwt' dgrkgh'lp' y g'o guuci g'cpf 'o kukqp' qh' Tguwu' Ej tkw' 'Y kj 'y g' j gr 'qh'qwt' 'I wctf kcp' Cpi gnu. 'y g' uggm'v'q' h'xg' qw'v'j cv' dgrkgh'cu' c'eqo o wpx'f' qh'ucetgf 'y qtu'j kr. 'cr quv'qite' h'ckj. 'cpf 'i' gpgt'qwu' ugt'xleg' y j g'g' g'cej 'o go dgt' u'j ctgu' y kj 'qy' gtu'v'j gk' 'I qf / i kxgp' i khu' qh'ko g. 'crgpv. 'cpf 't' gcuw'gt'0'

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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 4:00 pm Vigil Mass are livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Monday, December 18

8:00 am Joe and Ann Jablonski, requested by the Jablonski Family

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am Intentions of Michelle Corson, requested by Jim Corson

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 am Mary Crnkovich, requested by Barbara Aregood

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Anna and William Haines, requested by Deb Gerhard

9:30 am (School Mass) James Fellin, requested by Rocky and Mary Guidotto

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Memorial Fund Members

Sunday, December 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday Vigil

4:00 pm John Reed, requested by Jeannette Reedy and Family

Sunday

8:00 am Mildred Bortz, requested by Caroline and Russ Reber

9:45 am Joseph Zebertavage, requested by Tom and Anne Semmel

Please note: No 11:30 Mass this day.

Christmas

12/24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 10:00 pm For Living and Deceased Parishioners

12/25 Christmas Day

SANCTUARY LAMP & CANDLE INTENTIONS

Week of December 17, 2023

Sanctuary Lamp in Church: Living and Deceased Parishioners. **Sanctuary Candle in Chapel:** Living and Deceased Parishioners. **St. Joseph Candles:** In Memory of H. & W. Vincent Skimski requested by the Family; Living and Deceased Parishioners. **Blessed Mother Candles:** In Memory of Lawrence O'Boyle requested by Helen and family; Living and Deceased Parishioners. **Holy Guardian Angels Candles:** In Memory of Cory Zahand; 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 II

There are seventy-three books in the Bible: forty-six in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Some lists separate or combine certain OT books, so the number might be slightly different, but the contents are the same.

The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments, which bear witness to two covenants, old and new, between God and his people as part of the fulfillment of the divine plan of salvation. The Catholic Church, in *Dei Verbum*, declared, "Now the books of the OT, in accordance with the state of mankind before the time of salvation established by Christ, reveal to all men the knowledge of God and of man and the ways in which God deals with men. These books show us true divine pedagogy... The books of the OT with all their parts, caught up into the proclamation of the Gospel, acquire and show forth their full meaning in the NT and in turn shed light on it and explain it." Regarding the NT, *Dei Verbum* states: "The word of God is set forth and shows its power in a most excellent way in the writings of the NT. For when fullness of time arrived, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us in the fullness of grace and truth. This mystery had not been manifested to other generations as it was now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the Holy Spirit, so that they might preach the Gospel, stir up faith in Jesus, Christ and Lord, and gather the Church together. To these realities, the writings of the NT stand as a perpetual and divine witness.

The chapter and verse divisions of the Bible are not original to the inspired writings; they were devised by later scholars to make it easier to refer to particular passages. The divisions came about gradually. Some early manuscripts such as the Vaticanus collection from the fourth century, make certain divisions in the text. The first division of the Bible into chapters was undertaken by Archbishop Stephen Langton of Canterbury in about 1205; with some refinements his divisions are the ones we use today. The further division of the chapters into versus was made around 1551 by Robert Estienne, also known as Robert Stephanus, a printer in Paris.

Pray FOR THE SICK 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, Irvin Lindinger, Msgr. John Grabish, Ramona Teahan, Marian & Al Masi, Beverly Oudinot, Thomas Greth, Demaris Diaz, Zac Schneider, Jim Selig, Peg Devine. **Names will remain on the list for one month.**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 17- Confession 7:15, 9:20, and 11:05 am; Mass 8:00, 9:45, 11:30 am; Babinelli Blessing at All Masses; Doors Open for CHRISTMAS BINGO 12:30 pm, 1st Game Called at 2:00 pm; Diocese of Allentown Legacy Society Brunch 12:30 pm; Advent Confessions 7:00 pm

Monday, December 18 - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Girl Scouts Meeting 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 19 - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20 - Mass 8:00 am; Adoration 8:30 am until Benediction at 6:00 pm; Confessions 8:30 am and 5:15 pm; Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:00 pm; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 21 - Mass 8:00 am; School Mass 9:30 am; Advent Catechetical Series: Forgiven 9:00 am; School Christmas Musical 9:45 am & 2:30 pm; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; BSA Troop 161 6:30 pm; Legion of Mary 6:30 pm; Longest Night Service 7:00 pm

Friday, December 22 - Mass 8:00 am; School Early Dismissal 12:00 pm; Rectory Closing at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 23 - Confession 3:15 pm; Vigil Mass (with Live Stream) 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 - Confession 7:15 am, 9:20 am; Mass 8:00 am, 9:45 am; Christmas Eve Childrens Mass with School Choir 4:00 pm; Christmas Eve Overflow in Gym 4:15 pm; Christmas Eve Mass 6:30 pm; Christmas "Midnight" Mass 10:00 pm

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass 10:00 am; Christmas Lottery 7:00 pm; Rectory Closed.

The Blessed Mother's Rosary is in Memory of Kathy McNichol, requested by Cochil, Stasia and Pat Baker.

The flowers at the Blessed Mother's Altar are in Memory of Antonio Campitelli, requested by Ruth and Chad Steigerwalt.



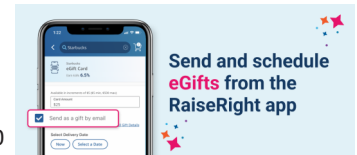
PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Angel Earnings gift cards sales the weekend of December 24th and December 31st. Sales after Masses will resume the weekend of January 7th. You can purchase gift cards at any time on the Raise Right app or website!

NEW BRAND & A BONUS! Earn ~~8%~~ **11%** with Kendra Scott eGift cards! Shop new eGift cards in \$50 and \$100 amounts, and earn extra with a bonus now through December 18. No matter your style, earnings are always on trend - plus these pieces are perfect for gifting!



The easiest way to give gifts is right at your fingertips on the RaiseRight mobile app. Shop eGift cards on the app or [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raise-right.com), then send it as a gift or schedule it to arrive in their inbox at the perfect moment.

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.



SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE DECEMBER 23-24

*PLEASE NOTE - THE MINISTERS SCHEDULE REFLECTS THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. IT DOES NOT REFLECT ANY CHANGES MADE AFTER THE TIME THE BULLETIN WAS PUBLISHED

	12/23 Sat. 4pm	12/24 Sun 8:00 am	12/24 9:45 am
Servers	Carlos Flood Sophia Lezette Meredith Swavely	Evan Kroenig Collin Kroenig William Johns	Sam Moody Lia Martina Laceda Marcus Rundle
Lector	Barbara Aregood	Anne Carroll	Anne Malinowski
EM	Marge Collins Geojrean Jones	Frank Ligenza George Lehman	Kelli Glembocki Diane Collins

SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 24 & 25

	12/24 4:00 pm	12/24 4:15 pm	12/24 6:30 pm	12/24 10:00 pm	12/25 10:00 am
Servers	Patricka Manczak William Johns Cody Toplak Elijah Kopp	No Servers	Mikaela Schmeck Christian Hendrix Noah Hendrix Madelyn Glessner	Michael Rudderow Carlos Flood Matthew Glembocki Diego Gonzalez Dane Prechtel	Nate Holland Sara Holland Samanatha Holland Libby Huston
Lector	Anne Marie Botch	Kevin Tobias	Denise LeVan	Tina Semprini	Patrick Holland
EM	Anne Marie Ferguson Jennifer Toplak Kopp Sedeleck Walt LaSota Mary Ellen LaSota	Lillian Hart Martha Weida	Cathy Moyer Denise LeVan	Mark Semprini Tina Semprini	Tony Wiencek Patrick Holland

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 18, 2023 Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
 Tuesday, December 19, 2023 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
 Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday, December 21, 2023 Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45. St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Friday, December 22, 2023 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
 Saturday, December 23, 2023 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
 Sunday, December 24, 2023 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

St. Vincent de Paul Society News

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



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul extends their gratitude to the parishioners and friends of Holy Guardian Angels Parish for your overwhelming response to our requests throughout the year. Because of you, we can assist those in need.

May you, and your family and friends have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room.

LAST WEEK *Collection* ©PPC

STEWARDSHIP	DECEMBER 10
WEEKLY	\$12,166.00
LOOSE	\$921.00
CANDLES	\$221.00
EMERGENCY	\$520.00
MAINTENANCE	\$110.00
MORTGAGE	\$475.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$2,704.00
RETIRED RELIGIOUS	\$1,613.00
THANKSGIVING	\$232.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	\$583.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$2,647.00
OTHER	\$267.00
TOTAL	\$22,459.09

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There is a lead up time before special joyous events that actually become a major part of the occasion. Note the excitement in engaged couples as the day of their wedding draws near. Or that of a jubilant city of sports fans as the victory parade for their team is scheduled. Or the jump up and down kind of anticipation among children as Christmas approaches.

This weekend features a joyful liturgical respite from our Advent penance as the great feast of the Nativity draws near. In many parishes the priest will wear rose-colored vestments, the color derived from mixing the purple of penance with the white of joy.

I daresay this time period I've described has such built-in excitement to it that afterward there is bound to be a kind of letdown that settles in. It is not completely such, but just enough to remind us that such "highs" are usually passing, much like a beautiful high note in a cherished musical composition.

All is not lost, however. What can override a letdown is a kind of afterglow, the warm recall that in our more peaceful moments invites us to savor the memory of it all. We look back on that wedding day and smile. We recall that parade and the pride we felt. We relive that Christmas morning chaos with pajama clad grandchildren.

Above all is the lasting joy of knowing that God is definitely with us in all the moments of our lives, good and bad. News headlines all about the awful things we humans do to each other should not deter us. For on this "Gaudete" ("Rejoice") Sunday, we are better off enjoying relief from the dark side of human existence to the wonderful decision God the Father made to send His only Son to us in the person of a little Child. Our ultimate redemption from our sins is available.

Here is an apt comment on joy and laughter from the renowned G.K. Chesterton: "It is really a natural trend to lapse into taking oneself gravely because it is the easiest thing to do...for solemnity flows out of men naturally. But laughter is a leap. It is easy to be heavy; hard to be light. Satan fell by force of gravity."

God love you and help you make that leap!



HGA Regional School Families, please mark your calendars:

- 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.**

New Student Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on January 1, 2024. If you are interested in learning more about joining our amazing family, please email Head of School, Kelly Prechtel at kelpre@hgaschool.org to set up a tour today! Current students will be automatically re-enrolled with a registration fee charged to the FACTS tuition account on January 15.



Remember to get your HGA Lottery Tickets for Christmas! They make great stockings stuffers or gifts for friends and family! \$2 each with free gifting envelope! You could make someone \$1,000 richer on Christmas Day! Purchase tickets after all Masses or at the Rectory, Mon.-Thur. 9-4 or Fri., 9-12 noon!

RECTORY HOLIDAY HOURS

**Friday, December 22 - 9am - 12 noon
Monday, Dec. 25 & Tuesday, Dec. 26 - CLOSED**

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 kmalozzi@hgaparish.com for more details!

Upcoming
EVENTS

ADVENT CONFESSIONS
December 17

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING
December 20

LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE
December 21

CHRISTMAS LOTTERY
December 25

SYMBOLON PART II BEGINS
January 2

HEALING MASS
January 3

CULTURE OF LIFE MEETING
January 4

FIRST FRIDAY
January 5

BELOVED YOUNG WOMENS BIBLE STUDY BEGINS
January 10

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Choral Music Program

Christmas Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
3:00 P.M.



Sacred Heart Church
740 Cherry Street
West Reading, PA 19611



Lifeline of Berks County is announcing an exciting job opportunity for a registered nurse or physician's assistant who has a passion for life and a

willingness to focus on the life-saving work of providing options information to women, STI testing and treatment, and connecting health history information to protecting future reproductive health. This position is initially part time with the possibility of learning to provide ultrasound and/or grow into full time. Contact Stephanie Conrad at 610-374-8545 or sconrad@lifelineofberks.org for an application.

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." **Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week.** Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

HGA's Prayer Shawl Ministry will provide shawls or lap blankets to anyone who would like one; they do not have to be a member of our parish. If you know someone who would like the comfort of a shawl or lap blanket, please contact Pat Hansbury (at 610-698-4327/phansbury16@gmail.com) or Barbara Aregood (Tues. or Wed. 9-4 at 610-921-2729 ext. 2201.)

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.

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