

Behold I am the
handmaid of the Lord.

Luke 1:26-38



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 |  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 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.

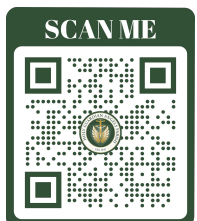
Diocese of Allentown

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 25
The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 am The Christmas Flower Intentions

Tuesday, December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr

8:00 am Frank S. Horyczko, requested by Bernadine and Rebecca

Wednesday, December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 am Jeffrey Lorah, requested by Linda Lorah

Thursday, December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 am Luigi Candelori, requested by Alicia (Scherer) Bradley

Friday, December 29

8:00 am Anthony DeLuca, requested by Nate and Donna DeLuca

Sunday, December 31
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday Vigil

4:00 pm Bernard Shaffer, requested by Joan Shaffer

Sunday

8:00 am Kathy Zvitkovitz, requested by Dolores Shemanski

9:45 am John Martin, requested by Sandy Demshock

11:30 am Annette De Lancey, requested by Katrine Miles

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 am Mila Wojciechowski, requested by John Wojciechowski

SANCTUARY LAMP & CANDLE INTENTIONS Week of December 24, 2023

Sanctuary Lamp in Church: In Memory of Frank S. Horyczko, requested by Bernadine and Rebecca. **Sanctuary Candle in Chapel:** In Memory of the Deceased members of the Schnable Family, requested by Rosemary Schnable. **St. Joseph Candles:** In Memory of Jerry Hartman, requested by Julie and Stephanie. **Blessed Mother Candles:** In Memory of Jeffrey Lorah, requested by Mom, Dad, Steph & Olive; In Memory of Doris Hartman, requested by Julie and Stephanie. **Holy Guardian Angels Candles:** 3 Candles In Memory of Mark and Sara Ahrens, requested by Jennifer Ahrens; For the Intentions of Barry and Diane McNeill on their 56th wedding anniversary. **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.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
YOU & YOURS FROM
THE RECTORY STAFF OF
HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS!**

Padre's Piece Genesis

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, is known in the Hebrew as *bereshit* meaning "in the beginning."

The Greek Septuagint version calls the book genesis, meaning "origin" or "birth"; the Latin Vulgate and English versions follow the Septuagint.

The title is apt: the book deals with origins – the origins of the Cosmos, of life, of man, of sin, and of the Chosen People Throughout, Genesis demonstrates the providential love of God as he guides human history according to his own salvific purposes.

The intent of Genesis, then, is to describe the most distant origins of the people of Israel; the covenants between God and creation, Adam, Noah, and Abraham; and the first events of salvation history pointing toward the Sinai covenant in the books to come.



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, Anne Lazar.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 24- Confession 7:15 & 9:20; Mass 8:00 & 9:45. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no 11:30 am Mass on December 24th. Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 pm (Children's Mass), 4:15 Overflow in Gym, 6:30 pm, and 10:00 pm.

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

Tuesday, December 26 - Mass 8:00 am; Rectory Office Closed; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 27 - Mass 8:00 am; Adoration 8:30 am until Benediction at 6:00 pm; Confessions 8:30 am and 5:15 pm; Pen 2 Paper Meeting 6:30 pm; CYO Girls Basketball Practice 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 28 - Mass 8:00 am; CYO Boys Basketball Practice 6:00 pm; BSA Troop 161 6:30 pm; Legion of Mary 6:30 pm; Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm

Friday, December 29 - Mass 8:00 am; Rectory Closes at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, December 30 - Confession 3:15 pm; Vigil Mass (with Live Stream) 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 31 - Confession 7:15 am, 9:20 am, 11:05 am; Mass 8:00 am, 9:45 am; 11:30 am

Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day, Mass 10:00 am; Rectory Office Closed

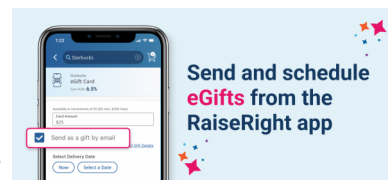


PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Angel Earnings gift cards sales the weekend of December 24th and December 31st. Sales after Masses will resume the weekend of January 7th. You can purchase gift cards at any time on the Raise Right app or website!

NEW BRAND & A BONUS! Earn 8% 11% with Kendra Scott eGift cards! Shop new eGift cards in \$50 and \$100 amounts. 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.

WELCOMED IN **BAPTISM** We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism Samuel Edward Mullen God Bless Samuel!

GET YOUR LOTTERY TICKETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY! IF ONE OF YOUR NUMBERS MATCHES THE EVENING PICK-4 NUMBER - YOU WIN \$1,000! Please call the rectory to let us know if you hold the winning ticket!



First Friday Devotions
Friday, January 5, 2024
 7:00 am Exposition
 7:00-7:40 am Confessions
 7:45 am Benediction
 8:00 am Daily Mass



RECTORY HOLIDAY HOURS
Friday, December 29 - 9am - 12 noon
Monday, January 1 - CLOSED

SERVER/LECTOR/EM SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 1

	4:00 pm	8:00 am	9:45 am	11:30 am	Monday, Jan. 1 10:00 AM
Servers	Dominic Delgado Madelyn Glessner Lia Martina Laceda	Nate Holland Samantha Holland Sara Holland	Collin Korenig Even Kroenig Sam Moody	Matthew Glembocki Dane Prechtl Mikaela Schmeck	Diego Gonzalez Christian Hendrix Noah Hendrix
Lector	Barbara Aregood	Cindy Heimbach	Anne Carroll	Cathy Douglas	Sherry Gonzalez
EM	Georjean Jones Denise LeVan	Patrick Holland George Lehman	Diane Choiniere Cathy Moyer	Kelli Glembocki Martha Weida	Maryellen LaSota Walt LaSota

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Saturday (Vigil) Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25
 Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night) Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 The Nativity of the Lord
 Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn) Is 62:11-1 ; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
 Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day) Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
 Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 St. Stephen, the First Martyr
 Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
 Thursday, December 28, 2023 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 Friday, December 29, 2023 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday, December 30, 2023 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
 Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

LAST WEEK

Collection

Due to holiday publishing deadlines, the stewardship report for Sunday, December 17th and the 24th will be reported in the January 7, 2024 Bulletin.

Everyone is welcome to attend The Culture of Life group meeting on Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 pm in the (Small) Rectory Basement Meeting Room.



Be counted along with other Berks County Catholic when we publish the anti-abortion/prolife ad in the Reading Eagle on Monday, January 22, 2024. The suggested donation is \$10/ person, \$15 couple or family.

The Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County is accepting memberships for 2024. Part of our mission is to promote and to share public awareness and appreciation of our Polish heritage through cultural, educational and social activities. IF INTERESTED, please contact Marilyn Wlazewski, President, at 610-779-5523.

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

The normal routine of most high school days includes the morning announcements. Usually one member of the administrative team does the task. It always involved the basic needs for clarity and accuracy, lest a whole community fall into disarray.

I know from personal experience that delegating a student for the job is risky at best. When I once had the assignment of moderating the students in the TV studio from which the announcements were broadcast at a certain high school, they were for the most part good kids. But one day immaturity punctured the soul of one such student, and he made a pre-planned prank that angered the administration and me. I wore the red face of embarrassment for a while. Clarity and accuracy were replaced by nonsense. The students may have gotten their “jollies” over the incident. I did not.

Raising our minds to the gospel level, we note that the word “annunciation” means an announcement. When we spell that word with a capital letter, in religious circles it defines this marvelous meeting of heaven and earth, when an archangel named Gabriel, called such because of the import of his message, visited a beautiful young Jewish girl to tell her something earth shattering. The incident has been described as an “announcement” simply because the presumption of a positive answer from Mary proved to be a guarantee.

Mary, we must remember, was perfectly free to say “No.” That would be understandable when one considers a pregnancy brought on by the Holy Spirit. Add to that the fact of the Baby’s divine nature as God’s Son. Nor can we forget the sudden change to the romance with her beloved Joseph. There was certainly clarity present and the highest of accuracy as well. This really became the most important announcement ever made.

In all truth, our very salvation as the human race hung in the balance with the virgin Mary’s answer. Would any negative reply from Mary provoke God’s wrath? There is no need for such speculation. The pivotal moment came and went, and we as a race remain ever grateful for it. World history would see God’s plan unfold. Christianity would be its lasting effect, although other faiths would remain, each with its own goodness, but incomplete and imperfect.

The formula for the best relationship between God and man was clearly spelled out for those who could accept it. All because a beautiful Jewish teen-aged girl said “Yes” to God!

In these final hours of Advent, as Christmas preparation goes into high gear, such thoughts, I believe, provide a spiritual antidote to any commercial invasion of the facts. God love you all, and my wish for you and yours to experience a blessed Christmas 2023!



HGA Regional School Families, please mark your calendars:

No School for Christmas Break- Friday, December 22 at 12pm -Tuesday, January 2, 2024 We will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Our 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.



CYO of HGA is currently looking for a High School Basketball Coach & a girls developmental coach. Please contact cyo@hgaparish.com if you are interested.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

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.)

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!



Reminder! The make-up meeting for Confirmation Parents is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st at 6:00 pm. Please contact Kari Mallozzi, Director of Religious Education at 610-921-2729, ext. 2203 or email kmallozzi@hgaparish.com for more details!

Upcoming EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LOTTERY
December 25

SYMBOLON PART II BEGINS
January 2

HEALING MASS
ROSARY RALLY
January 3

CULTURE OF LIFE MEETING
January 4

FIRST FRIDAY
January 5

SENIOR CLUB MEETING
BELOVED YOUNG WOMENS BIBLE STUDY BEGINS
January 10

1ST SUNDAY BINGO OF 2024
January 14

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
January 16

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING
PEN 2 PAPER MEETING
January 17

POLISH FOOD SALE
January 20

Many thanks to those who have made a pledge to the Because We are Catholic Annual Appeal. Your gift will allow our Diocese to meet the many and varied needs of people in our community. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how big or small. If you did not take the opportunity to make your gift, you may do so at any time over the next few weeks by placing your pledge form in the collection basket or visiting the Appeal website at BecauseWeAreCatholic.org. Thank you for your support.





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.

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.

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ON DEMAND.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



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