THIS WEEK’S MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, 24 December ~
Vigil for the Nativity of the Lord
4:00 PM ~ LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS of the PARISH
9:00 PM ~ SPECIAL INTENTION

SUNDAY, 25 December ~
The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 AM ~ LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS of the PARISH
10:00 AM ~ SPECIAL INTENTION

Monday, 26 December ~ St. Stephen, the First Martyr
5:30 PM ~ Note No Mass Today

Tuesday, 27 December ~ St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
8:00 AM ~ STEPHEN BANE
Charlie and Helen Roberts

Wednesday, 28 December ~ The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00 AM ~ CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS

Thursday, 29 December ~
8:00 AM ~ JOHN, MARIE AND KATHLEEN BREEN - Estate

Friday, 30 December ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
5:30 PM ~ CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, 31 December
Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God
4:00 PM ~ LILLIAN HEFFNER (ANNIV. 1/5)
Charles and Elaine Brobst

SUNDAY, 1 January 2017 ~
The Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God
8:00 AM ~ JAMES J. BERGAN
Jim and Ellen Ryan and Family

10:00 AM ~ PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

DEVO TIONAL LAMP INTENTION

† Sanctuary
In Memory of Michael, Loretta, Billy and Cookie Melusky
Bob, Peggy and Lynn Ann

† The Holy Family
In Memory of John W. “Jack” Gemmell
Wife, Rita and family

† Thursday Adoration Candles
Special Intention

† Sacred Heart
In Memory of Melvin and Mary McDonald
Nick and Rosemary Kozura and Paul and Rita Vacula and daughters
In Memory of Stephen Bane (B’day 12/25)
Wife, Jean
In Memory of Susan L. Duffy
Mom, Mary and brother, Philip

† St. Michael the Archangel
In Memory of Charles Sanza
Wife, Mary

† St. Anthony
Special Intention
In Memory of Joseph P. and Rose R. Gemmell
Daughter-in-law, Rita and family

† The Divine Mercy
In Memory of Stephen Bane
Joe and Betty Jean Lazarchick

† Blessed Virgin Mary
In Memory of William and Bridget Chernosky
Robert and Ruth Kirwan
In Memory of James and Elizabeth Brown
Daughter, Rita and family
In Memory of Stanley and Anna (B’day 12/25) Alisauckas
The Alisauckas Family

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, January 2, 2017 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

Happy New Year!

To Inspire... To Inform... and To Entertain

“‘The Son of God became a son of man so that the sons of men might become sons of God.’”
(Various Church Fathers)
Dear Family,

The gift-giving and gift-receiving of this day points to the supreme Gift that mankind has received from the Holy Trinity: the Son, Who is Equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit, took flesh from the all-pure womb of the holy Virgin Mary, and was born among us with profound humility. That tiny and defenseless Baby received the care of His mother and His guardian Joseph.

Mary and Joseph’s daily attentiveness to Our Lord’s material and spiritual life was itself a gift that He went on to share in His three years of ministry. Jesus knew enough to draw strength from His communion with the Father and the Spirit when beset by temptation, when moved to heal and teach, and especially when faced with rejection and scorn.

Jesus’ life was totally molded and modeled by sacrifice. It led Him, with full freedom and understanding, to the Cross. There He showed us how to love redemptively, and to suffer redemptively. He freed us from the effects of sin, suffering, and death. United to Him, striving to love God above all things and love neighbor as ourselves, we are on the path to life (Psalm 16). We are presenting our culture the gift it doesn’t even know it is seeking amid the passing fancies out there.

I arrived at St. Michael the Archangel Parish not quite three months ago, and I am happy to be among you for “Daddy’s First Christmas” (though I’ve been a priest for 13 years, being in my own parish has a unique and special feel). It is my heart’s desire to be a Father among you all, proclaiming the Gospel, offering sacrifice, and caring for your welfare. “Father, those whom You gave me are Your gift to me” (John 17:24). I pray that I may take care of this gift so that I can present you to the Father in union with the Son in the power of the Spirit as a pleasing oblation.

May the Christ-Child regenerate your nature!

Yours,

Fr. Christopher M. Zelonis

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Once again, and hopefully for the last time in a long time, I wish to adjust the weekday Mass schedule starting January 8, 2017.

Monday - NO MASS
Tuesday at 6pm
Wednesday at 8am
Thursday at 8am (Exposition until 6pm Novena)
Friday at 8am

Confessions will be heard Thursdays from 5 to 6 pm in addition to the Saturday afternoon Confessions from 3 to 3:50 pm.

Thank you, as usual, for your patience.

~The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas ~
DIOCESAN HAPPENINGS:

Employment Opportunity:
PA Catholic Conference Social Concerns Director
Experienced government relations professional needed to help advocate the Catholic perspective on social concerns issues at the State Capitol in Harrisburg and beyond. Candidate must have strong knowledge of the workings of state government and issues surrounding human services, respect for life, and Church teaching on social justice. Send cover letter and resume by December 21, 2016, to:
PA Catholic Conference, PO Box 2835
Harrisburg, PA 17105 or info@pacatholic.org.

45th ANNUAL TOM TRACEY MEMORIAL BOWL DRAWING
1st Prize - $1000.00    Reverse Winner - $300.00
Seller of first prize ticket gets $50.00
Donation: $3.00 per ticket

Winners are determined by the scores of the Cotton, Rose and Sugar Bowl games held at the beginning of the new year.

Captains, please pick up your tickets in the vestibule. Individual tickets can be purchased in the Parish Office during the week.
Call Ron Rowlands at 570-527-0682 if you need tickets or would be able to help with selling.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our December’s 50/50 Winner ~ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Trasa $180.00
and to the Special Second Prize Winner Mr. & Mrs. Steven G. Lescavage
(a homemade bottle of the coal regions winter warmer and universal remedy carefully crafted by our own...Fr. Zelonis)

2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST
If you need a 2016 contribution statement for tax purposes, please complete the following information and deposit form in the collection basket or return directly to the Parish Office. There is a locked drop box located on the front of the Parish Office building for before or after-hours drop-off. Requests will only be honored by use of this form. Please submit by January 25, 2017. If you wish to receive credit for 2016, all donations must be received in the Parish Office by January 25, 2017. Thank you!

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
Phone #: ___________________________

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH
MINERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

WEEKDAY ALTAR SERVER
Dec. 26, Mon. 5:30 PM, Dec. 29, Thurs., 6:00 PM
and Dec. 30, Fri. 5:30 PM ~ Ava Frantz

WEEKEND ALTAR SERVERS
Sat., December 31 - 4:00 PM—Dean Hess, Brylee Beach and Sarah Leibig
Sun., January 1 - 8:00 AM - Emily Hart, Katelyn Moran and Nikki Conville
Sun., January 1 - 10:00 AM - James Dube, Keegan Dube and Madison Hayes

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LEKTORS
Sat., December 31- 4:00 PM - Peg Ulmer, Charles Reber and Jerry Doyle  Lector: Georgine Walters
Sun., January 1 - 8:00 AM - Norm Brown, William Beadle and Sr. Catherine  Lector: Kelly Kalovcak
Sun., January 1 - 10:00 AM - Deb Walters, Alice Doyle and Sr. Catherine  Lector: Brenna Horan

NEW YEAR EVE

VIGIL MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
Saturday, DECEMBER 31, 2016
4:00 PM

NEW YEAR’S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
Sunday, JANUARY 1, 2017
8:00 AM  ~  10:00 AM

THORNBURG PAINTING

25 December 2016
**Mandated Reporter LIVE Training**
This training is run by the State of PA and can be done online or at a training session. To complete online go to this website and follow the instructions:

http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu

or

*** Monday, January 9, 2017, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

St. Jerome School, Tamaqua
Register by January 5, 2017.
There is a fee of $5.00 for each person attending the live training listed above and the fee will cover the materials and snacks. To register, please contact Ruth Davis at 610.332.0442 (x16) by the deadline listed above. Please mail your $5.00 check or money order payable to the Diocese of Allentown to: Office of Safe Environment 2145 Madison Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Once completed, the certificate of completion must be on file in the parish office.

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**Parish Food Pantry**
The second weekend of each month is the designated date for donating non-perishable food donations to our own Parish Food Pantry. Your donations help us to assist the needy of the community each month. Please bring canned or boxed items (no glass or breakable containers).

Our Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the morning.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Your generosity is greatly appreciated, but of course what really matters is that God sees your charity!

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**Second Bookings and Flower Request for 2017**
The 2017 Mass Book is open for the second Mass bookings. Forms are in the vestibule. Please note many Mass dates have already been booked.

We will do our best to accommodate you. Many dates for flower requests are open.

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**Winter Weather Plan**
For your safety, if a winter storm is bad enough so that Minersville Area School is cancelled, we will not have Adoration or Benediction on Thursday.

If school is out early, we will close Adoration at 3:00 PM.
If school is delayed we will have Adoration and Benediction as regularly scheduled.
Masses will always be as scheduled except in extreme snow emergency.

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**Collections ~ December 18, 2016**
Total envelopes: 548  Envelopes used: 221
Regular collection: $4167.00

*Second collection this weekend - School Support
Second collection next weekend - Dues*

*Please note: There are extra Block Party Fund Drive pledge cards and envelopes available in the vestibule for your convenience. Thank you to those who have made or fulfilled a pledge so far! Please make sure your NAME is on the envelopes.*

Please remember your Parish as you plan your Christmas giving. Your Christmas gift offering is vital to the life of St. Michael’s. Thank you for this special gift and for all your generosity throughout the year.

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**Parish Event Calendar**

Jan. 9: Young-at-Heart ~ meeting 1:00 PM
Jan 25: Society SVDP ~ meeting 7:00 PM
Jan. 26 Ladies’ Guild ~ meeting 7:00 PM

**Bishop’s Scholarship Program**
The Diocese of Allentown will again be awarding Catholic High School Scholarships to students who wish to attend Nativity B.V.M. High School for the 2017-2018 school year. The Catholic High School Scholarship Program will award a one-year, partial scholarship of $1000.00 to the recipient’s school. Eighth grade students MUST be registered parishioners in the Diocese of Allentown and enrolled in a Catholic, public or private school.

Application forms are available in the Parish Office weekdays between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM and must be completed and returned to your eighth grade teacher no later than Fri., January 6, 2017.

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**CCD and SACRAMENT NEWS:**

**CCD Students:** classes resume Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 5:45 PM.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT ~ MANDATORY ~**

Saturday, March 11, 2017
12:15 PM to 4:00 PM Students
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Parents