



HOLY FAMILY PARISH
The Catholic Community of Portage

www.holyfamilyportage.org

509 Caldwell Avenue • Portage, PA 15946-1611 • 814-736-4279 • holyfamilyportage@dioceseaj.org

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Pastor: Fr. Tom Stabile, T.O.R., Ext. 100

Office Manager: Julie Gressick, Ext. 101

Asst. Office Mgr. & Director of Cemeteries: Pam Ellis Ext. 102

Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Phone: 814-736-4279 **Fax:** 814-736-4764

Parish Hall: Ext. 110

DRE: Sister Vivian N. Nchujaji, SSA, Ext. 104

C & YP Coordinator: Melissa Lee, evenings only
814-243-7030 or mlee@dioceseaj.org

Plant Manager: Mark Stefanko, Ext. 105

Prayer Chain: Elaine Schaffranek, 814-736-9375

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Weekdays: Mass is celebrated at 8 AM Monday through Friday.

Adoration & Benediction Fridays, after the 8 AM Mass.

Confessions are scheduled on Saturdays, from 3 to 3:40 PM.

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 4 PM, Sunday, 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

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Sat.	Dec.	1	4:00 pm	+Denny Petryshak req. by Rose & Family
Sun.	Dec.		8:00 am	+Carla Kargo & Harry Kargo req. by Ray
			10:30 am	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Mon.	Dec.	2	8:00 am	+David Bandzuh req. by Family
Tues.	Dec.	3	8:00 am	+Michael Brennan req. by Jim & Micky Maurer
Weds.	Dec.	4	8:00 am	+Robert Whitcomb req. by Sacred Heart Ushers Club
Thurs.	Dec.	5	9:00 am	+Jerry, Leona & Sr. Celeste req. by Gerri Ciesielka
Fri.	Dec.	6	8:00 am	+Rieta Zibura req. by Matt & Amber Phillips
Sat.	Dec.	7	4:00 pm	+Joseph & Rosamond Pacsai req. by Lawrence & Stephanie
Sun.	Dec.	8	8:00 am	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
			10:30 am	+Phil Zdunczyk req. by Family

*The Church Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for **Joseph & Rosamond Pacsai** req. by Lawrence & Stephanie.

*The Rectory Chapel Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for **Velma Phillips** requested by Daughters.

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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE OFTEN FOR THE LATEST UPDATES. www.holyfamilyportage.org

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STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS—December 1, 2024—First Sunday of Advent

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and gratitude for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus, born to us as Savior and Brother. A season to prepare for His return of the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgement day is coming too – the moment when we will be called to give an account for all the love God has shown us and the gifts He has given us during our lifetime.

‘God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visible in His son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God’s love visible by initiating Jesus...Stewardship is the response of the disciple to God’s unconditional love for us. Stewards bask in the wonder and awe of God’s love’, from *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*. In other words, Advent is a steward’s season!

Get ready Christian stewards! He’s coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

In gratitude: The 8th-grade religious education students who participated in the bake sale and their families would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the bake sale this past weekend, as well as all of you who purchased items through Amazon/Walmart wish lists. Whether you have donated or purchased, we thank you for your kindness and for making a difference in our community. The children intend to create gift bags for residents of Lodge Run apartments.

We also have an 8th Grade student collecting items for the Veteran’s. See the container in the vestibule of the church marked VETERAN’S or visit our website at www.holyfamilyportage.org for more information.



Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Hope

The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. Every 25 years the Church celebrates a special Holy Year called the Jubilee Year. This Jubilee will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve, 2024. The theme of the Jubilee Year is HOPE. It is a time for us to realize that “hope does not disappoint” when it is rooted in the knowledge that God has committed himself to us in *Emmanuel*, “God with us.”

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA – December 14 at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Please sign up in the vestibule of the church. This includes children up to and including 3rd grade.

PARISH FINANCES – The stats of week 11/24/2024

Sunday/Monthly	\$4,112.00
Children	37.30
Loose	123.00
Holy Day	90.00
Energy	115.00
Missalettes/Bulletins	65.00
Catholic Charities	51.00
Religious Retirement	75.00
All Souls	<u>40.00</u>

Total \$ 4,708.30

UP-COMING MEETINGS & EVENTS IN THE PARISH HALL
Dec. 1 – SHUC Rosary 5:30 PM Meeting 6:30 PM
Dec. 3 – Fundraising Meeting 6 PM
Dec. 9 – K of C Rosary 6:30 PM Meeting 7:00 PM
Dec. 10 – Finance Meeting 6:00 PM
Dec. 14 – Breakfast with Santa 10:00 AM
Dec. 14 – Blessing of Mangers 1 PM
Dec. 16 – Penance Service 7:00 PM

<p style="text-align: center;">Religious Education News and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is still a need for CCD teacher aides. Call the parish rectory or Sr. Vivian at 814-736-4279, Ext. 104.• Feedback on the Sept. 22 session assigned to grade 2 parents/guardians and godparents, and grades 9-11 parents and sponsors: See the link sent to you through email to complete the session.* Safe Environment lesson for Religious Education students is on Sunday, December 15.
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***CHRISTMAS CASH \$10 TICKETS WILL BE AVAILALE BEFORE AND AFTER ALL MASSES!**
*\$250 Cash give-a-way December 21, 22, 23, and 24. \$500 give-a-way on Christmas Day December 25th.
The winning number will be determined by the First 7:00 pm pick 3 PA Daily Lottery number. We have 91 tickets left, so if you plan to purchase one for a gift, please call the parish office or buy one before or after all weekend Masses. If we sell all of the tickets we make a profit of \$3,500!!*

Giving Tuesday December 3 – In recent years, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has become known as Giving Tuesday in the commercial world. It follows Black Friday, Shop Local Saturday, and Cyber Monday in the Christmas shopping season. The Altoona-Johnstown Diocese has partnered with #iGiveCatholic online donation firm to benefit from the donations that occur on Giving Tuesday. Holy Family Parish will participate by accepting online and traditional donations beginning November 18, 12.01 AM until December 3, 11:59 PM. The donations will be used directly for Holy Family Parish only, no money will be sent to the Diocese. This year’s donation funds will be used for building & capital improvement and youth ministry. Please consider donating to this fundraiser by: 1) visiting www.holyfamilyportage.org and clicking the **Donate to #iGiveCatholic Campaign** button or 2) visiting the www.iGiveCatholic.org website and searching for Holy Family Portage or 3) you may donate offline by placing your donation into the collection box. #iGiveCatholic envelopes are on the Credenza. **To date, \$725 has been donated by 10 donors. Thank You!**

Aging religious need your help.
“Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Journey to Bethlehem: St. Francis University, Loretto (start at the SFU Science Center) Friday, Dec. 6th – 7:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:00 PM & 8:30 PM. Four performances of the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem. This new SFU tradition will be performed by members of the SFU community. Come celebrate the nativity with us as St. Francis may have portrayed it over 800 years ago in Greccio. This is a mix of indoor & outdoor prayer service with live animals, prayer & music. Collections for our friends of the Dorothy Day Center in the form of canned goods / goodwill offerings will be collected.

FOOD BAGS FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

All are invited to assist the Portage Food Pantry in the making of Holiday Food Bags for needy families in our area this Holiday Season (Thanksgiving & Christmas). The following is a suggested list of items you may place in your bags so a qualifying family receiving the bag from the Portage Food Pantry can prepare a holiday meal.

2024 HOLIDAY FOOD BAG FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR

Donation of Cash/Check (made out to the Portage Food Panty)	
Large Box Stove Top Stuffing Mix	16 oz. Can of Yams
Large Box Instant Mashed Potatoes	16 oz. Can of Vegetables
Package of Pie Crust Mix	16 oz. Can of Fruit
Large Can of Easy Pumpkin Pie Filling	Can or Bottle of Fruit Juice
Can of Evaporated Milk	Bag of Candy

PLEASE DROP YOUR BAGS OFF IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE AT ANY TIME UP TO DEC. 9th

Holy Family Parish has made an offer to an applicant for the Office Manager Position and that offer has been accepted. As we work through all the paperwork needed for a new hire, please pray for all to go smoothly and for the transition to be seamless. The plan is that the new person will work part time with Julie beginning in early 2025. We give thanks to God for bringing forward two qualified applicants!