

Welcome

to the Parishes of St. John XXIII and St. Richard

Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor

Deacon Edward J. Girard

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent



Church of St. John XXIII

307 Pine Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Phone: 570-225-7410 ~ **Fax:** 570-668-4406

Email: secretary@sj23tamaqua.org

Website: www.sj23tamaqua.org

Facebook: Parish of St John XXIII Tamaqua

YouTube: St John XXIII Catholic Church Tamaqua

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ~ 9:00AM-3:00PM

Parish Staff

Dale Bonenberger, Director of Music

Louise Howells, Cemetery Administrator

Lisa Frederick, Office Administrator

Patricia Radocha, Business Manager

Melissa Grimminger, Director of Religious Education



Church of St. Richard

799 Barnesville Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214

Phone: 570-467-2315 ~ **Fax:** 570-467-2462

Email: strichardadmin@ptd.net

Website: www.strichard.org

Facebook: Church of St Richard

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

9:00AM-2:00PM

Parish Staff

Deacon John A. Setlock, (Retired)

Teri Howerter, Office Administrator

Mary Soberick, Business Manager

Krissy Wonsock, Director of Religious Education

Catholic Schools

St. Jerome Regional School ~ 50 Meadow Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-668-2757 ~ Grades PreK-8

Marian Catholic High School ~ 166 Marian Avenue, Tamaqua PA ~ 570-467-3335 ~ Grades 9-12

St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning ~ 302 Randel Street, Schuylkill Haven PA ~ 570-622-4638 ~ Children & Adults

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday afternoon. Parents need to be registered parishioners and attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic and obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from their parish.

Sponsor Eligibility

Certificates of Eligibility for Baptism and Confirmation require the sponsor to be a registered and active member of the parish, and if married, in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date to begin pre-nuptial instructions before making any arrangements. Please call the parish office for more information and to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Parish Prayer List

To be placed on the Parish Prayer List or to be removed when appropriate, please call either Parish Office and someone will be happy to assist you. Names placed on the Prayer List are automatically removed after three months.

Diocesan Secretary for Office of Safe Environment

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS ~ P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105
610-871-5200 ext. 2204 ~ prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak ~ 800-791-9209
victimassistance@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.

Saturday, November 29 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the First Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Eugene Ritsick Mass Intention: Francis Trackim
Sunday, November 30 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	First Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Leo Davidovich, Jr. Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes
Monday, December 1 7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>)	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Marie Kupetz
Tuesday, December 2 7:00AM Mass: SJ (<i>held at St. Richard Church</i>) 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Terry McCall
Wednesday, December 3 7:00AM Mass: SR (<i>No Eucharistic Adoration or Confession</i>)	St. Francis Xavier, Priest Mass Intention: Michael J. Badamo
Thursday, December 4 7:00AM Mass: SR	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Jacqueline Riotto
Friday, December 5 <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i>	Advent Weekday
Saturday, December 6 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Second Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Michael Derr Mass Intention: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sniscak
Sunday, December 7 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Second Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Stan Karnish Mass Intention: Betty Kerestus

TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah describes a vision of an ideal time of peace when all nations will come to the mountain of the Lord. Saint Paul urges the faithful of Rome to be ready, for the time of salvation is nearer now than when they first believed. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples that they must stay awake, for they do not know when the Son of Man will come. He gives examples throughout history of people not being prepared. The four weeks of Advent are meant for us to prepare our hearts for three comings of Christ: his birth in Bethlehem (which we celebrate on Christmas); his return at the end of time; and his coming to us here and now. Our preparations include prayer, reception of the sacraments, good works, and sacrifices. Although everyone’s preparations will look different, they are all meant to cleanse us from sin and teach us to welcome Christ with love.

TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 7: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

<p style="text-align: center;">St. John XXIII</p> <p>The Order of Mass can be found starting on page 140 in the Journeysongs Hymnal.</p> <p>The Latin Chant Mass can be found on the following pages: Kyrie – 168 / Sanctus – 170 / Memorial Acclamation – 171 / Amen – 172 / Agnus Dei – 174</p> <p>The prelude is Wachet Auf (Sleepers Wake) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) The postlude is Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)</p>
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PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

Please remember in your prayers...

David Rickert, Andrew Eremus, George Koval, Marci Bonner, Arabella & Magnolia (*infant twins*), Tracey Miller, Gregory Slivka / Alonzo Borja, Marlene Fatula, Roy Paisley, Marie Kalpinsky, Ellie Setlock, Chase Schaller, Kathy Sanchez, Quinn Derlunas, Sue Mannello, Dr. Walter Setlock, Christine Lawrence, Sean McGeehan, / Magnolia Pavlovich, Regina Zoba, Jeff Zoba, Joan Manos, Kiersten Guers, Craig Goida, Fred Holman, Jane Grier, Ron Kelly, Eileen Wolfinger, Romaine Karnish

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them...

John M. Stremick

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of Bill Savage Crucifix Candle In Memory of James "Jimmer" Young Jr. and Micah Young	St. Richard Blessed Virgin Mary For the Repose of the Soul my beloved brother – John E. Nolan Sacred Heart Special Intention
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YOUTH FORMATION

Children's bulletins are available in Narthex/Vestibule

St. John XXIII RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026 <i>All students will meet in the upstairs classrooms after the 8:30AM Mass until 11:00AM</i> Sunday, November 30 – No Youth Formation Sunday, December 7 – Kids Small Groups Grades 3-6 Family Mass Monday, December 8 – 6:00PM Pageant Rehearsal Sunday, December 14 – Sacramental Prep Grades 2, 7 & 8 Monday, December 15 – 6:00PM Pageant Rehearsal <i>We will be participating again with the Tamaqua Giving Tree at Depot Square by making bags of hygiene products for families in need. We will be collecting unused hygiene products until December 14 in the basket in the Narthex.</i>	St. Richard RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026 CCD/PREP CLASSES: Grades 5-8; Sunday, November 23rd at 9:00AM Sunday, November 30th – No Classes Thanksgiving Weekend Grades 5-8; Sunday, December 7th at 9:00AM Grades 1-4; Sunday, December 14th at 9:30AM *All classes are held in the Parish Hall <u>unless</u> noted. Any questions, please contact Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0433 SCOUT MEETINGS / EVENTS Cub Scouts Meetings held every Sunday from 4:00PM until 6:00PM in the St. Richard Parish Hall
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ADULT FORMATION

Bible Study: Wednesday evenings from 4:00PM – 6:00PM in the St. Richard Cry Room. This is an open invitation to all from both St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), formerly called "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)," is the process through which one becomes a full member of the Roman Catholic Church. Full membership in the Catholic Church involves a whole formation process, which includes the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist. For those who are already baptized and want to be received into the Catholic Church, please contact either Parish Office.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today's second collection is for Christmas Flowers.

Upcoming collections are...

12/7 ~ Parish Facility Fund

12/8 ~ Immaculate Conception

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week

Monday	9:00AM Monthly Rosary for Peace – St. John XXIII Church – please sit up front near the statue of Mary 6:30PM St. John XXIII Fundraising Meeting in the 2nd floor meeting room – new members are welcome
Tuesday	6:30PM Welcoming Advent Event in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall – more details on flyer
Thursday	6:00PM St. John XXIII Parish Choir Rehearsal – new members are always welcome
Friday	6:30PM Annual Children's Christmas Party in the St. Richard Parish Hall

Upcoming Events

December 6	9:00AM until 11:00AM Breakfast with St. Nicholas in St. Richard Parish Hall
December 8	Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation – Masses: 7:00AM at St. Richard & 7:00PM at St. John XXIII
December 10	10:00AM – the 2026 Mass Intention Book officially opens at both parishes
December 14	6:00PM-8:00PM Advent Adoration and Confession followed by Benediction at St. John XXIII
December 20	9:00AM Church Christmas decorating at St. Richard
December 21	5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – everyone is invited to this event

FUNDRAISING NEWS FROM ST. JOHN XXIII

If your Christmas gift list includes any gift cards, Redner's has a very nice selection of them and, as a special bonus, your purchase is counted in the Save-A-Tape total if you scan your Redner's card or fob. With regards to our recent courtyard restoration project, Fundraising contributed \$8,500 and we look forward to using this newly redesigned space this coming spring and summer. The Fundraising Committee is a great group of dedicated volunteers who work very hard to supplement parish income by organizing special projects and events. We are always looking for new members and new ideas. Our next meeting will be held this Monday, December 1st at 6:30PM in the Conference Room above the Parish Hall.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS VISITS

All homebound parishioners, including those who are not on the Communion call list, are eligible to receive a home visit on December 10th and receive a Christmas poinsettia, cookies, calendar, and a prayer bouquet. To add someone to the list please email tamaquaSVDP@outlook.com or call 570-225-8620

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOAGIE FUNDRAISER

The St. John XXIII Knights of Columbus Council 2711 is having a fundraiser during Advent. \$10 Pieracini hoagie tickets are on sale before and after weekend Masses until December 22nd in the Family Room. Get some today!

GIVING TREES AT BOTH PARISHES

Starting today, there is a Giving Tree for both Birthright and Catholic Charities in the St. Richard Vestibule and in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall. Birthright only accepts monetary donations or gift cards however; Catholic Charities also accepts certain items. The suggested items are printed on the ornaments on the two trees. Birthright donations can be placed in the collection basket or in the secure box on the St. Richard Rectory porch or brought into the St. John XXIII Parish Office. Catholic Charities donations (please do not wrap) may be placed under the tree. Thank you for helping these organizations as they help others in this season of giving!

JANUARY LOTTERY CALENDARS FOR SALE NOW

They are only \$5 each and make great stocking stuffers. They are available in the St. John XXIII Family room before and after weekend Masses.

ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IN THE PARISH HALL

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately after Mass for coffee and fellowship.

ADVENT BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

2026 St. Joseph Missals (\$5 each), Christmas Wafers (\$4 per packet), liturgical calendars are free. All three are located in St. Richard Vestibule and in the Family Room at St. John XXIII. Please use the appropriate envelopes provided.

YOUTH FORMATION EVENTS AT ST. RICHARD

The Feast of St. Nicholas is December 6th, and we have a super busy weekend for you! We are inviting children to leave a shoe in the vestibule before December 6th. The weekend of December 6th and 7th, the children can pick up their shoes after Mass, and maybe if they are lucky, St. Nicholas will have left them a treat!

The Annual Children's Christmas Party is on December 5th at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall. This year, we are watching the movie "The Star"! As usual, lots of pizza, popcorn, and crafts!! Jammies and blankets are welcome. \$10 per child; children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Please message Krissy Wonsock to sign up!

Join us for an All You Can Eat Breakfast from 9:00AM to 11:00AM on Saturday, December 6th. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, and various drinks! \$10 Adults, \$7 for children up to age 12 and free for children under 2. We also anticipate a "certain visitor." This event is sponsored by our Confirmation children, and all profits will be donated to local community organizations. Please reach out to Krissy Wonsock at 732-687-0733 to let us know you will be joining us!

PIEROGIES FOR SALE AT ST. RICHARD

Homemade potato and cheese pierogies will be sold for \$15.00 per dozen just in time for Christmas! A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. The order deadline is December 15th, and pickup is the weekend of December 20th/21st.

75th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS

St. Richard Parish is offering a 75th Anniversary Keepsake ornament for \$10 each. They will be available before/after all weekend Masses or stop by the Parish Office during business hours. They make great gifts, too!

WINTER LOTTERY CALENDARS AT ST. RICHARD

The 2-sided lottery calendars are \$10 for both months! Please return all tickets either in the collection or the "Fundraising" box on the rectory porch. December tickets must be returned by November 30th. To become a seller, call or text Joann at 570-640-1034.

COMMUNION

Communion will be brought to all those seated in the front pews of St. Richard Church as well as the handicap pews in the back of St. John XXIII Church and the balcony.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

We need three people to present the offertory gifts at each weekend Mass; children are welcome to participate. The individual or family (the Mass donor) who requested the Mass intention obviously takes precedence, but often they are not available for the offertory procession. This is when we offer the honor of taking up the gifts to any parishioner present at Mass. If there is a date that you know you want to take up the gifts during the offertory procession, please call Joan Marie Roth at 570-599-9809 and leave your name, phone number, and the date of the Mass you request.

MORE ATTEMPTS AT FRAUD

Over the past few weeks, someone has been impersonating Fr. Finlan and sending text messages and emails to parishioners from fake accounts pretending to be Fr. Finlan. None of these messages are legitimate. Fr. Finlan will never text or email requests for help or money or gift cards. If you do receive one of these fraudulent messages, just delete it and do not reply, but please let your respective Parish Office know.

BOYER'S KEY TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to participate in this ongoing fundraiser. Just have the cashier scan the key tag at checkout. Key fobs are located at both entrances.

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

Many thanks to those who have already made a commitment to the *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal*. The participation of all our parish families makes it possible to serve those in need. Remember that every gift counts. Please make your gift today at www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org.

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