

Welcome

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

Reverend Robert T. Finlan, Pastor

Deacon Edward J. Girard

December 14, 2025

Third 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, December 13 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR 6:00PM – 8:00PM Advent Adoration/Confession: SJ	Vigil to the Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Dr. George and Patricia Holter Mass Intention: Leo Drosdak
Sunday, December 14 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Third Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Bernie Heller Mass Intention: Edward Bleyzgis
Monday, December 15 7:00AM Mass: <i>(held at St. Richard Church)</i>	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Charlie Odorizzi
Tuesday, December 16 7:00AM Mass: SJ <i>(held at St. Richard Church)</i> 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction: SJ	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Fred and Josephine Andreas
Wednesday, December 17 7:00AM Mass: SR <i>(No Eucharistic Adoration or Confession)</i>	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Gazdick and Krull Families
Thursday, December 18 7:00AM Mass: SR	Advent Weekday Mass Intention: Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes
Friday, December 19 <i>No Daily Mass at either church</i>	Advent Weekday
Saturday, December 20 2:45PM – 3:15PM Confessions: SJ 3:30PM Mass: SJ 5:00PM – 5:15PM Confessions: SR 5:30PM Mass: SR	Vigil to the Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Joseph and Lawrence Petrole Mass Intention: Michael Tini
Sunday, December 21 8:30AM Mass: SJ 10:30AM Mass: SR	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Intention: Russell Triano Mass Intention: John and Pamela McTiernan

TODAY’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will bring healing to the blind, deaf, lame, and mute. In the second reading, James encourages his readers to be patient and not to judge one another. In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims that John the Baptist is more than a prophet. He is the one who prepares the way for Jesus. Jesus’ actions speak for themselves: The blind see; the lame walk; the poor receive the Good News. John the Baptist need not look for another, for God has arrived in human flesh, bringing the kingdom of God with him. Today, we carry on Jesus’ work, allowing our words and actions to embody the love of God in the world.

TODAY’S RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, come and save us.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 21: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

<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 Behold a Rose Is Blooming (<i>Es ist Ein Ros Entsprungen</i>) by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) The postlude is Prepare Thyself Zion - BWV 248 by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)</p>

PRAYER LIST FOR BOTH PARISHES

Please remember in your prayers...

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, Fred Holman, Jane Grier, Ron Kelly, Eileen Wolfinger, Romaine Karnish / David Rickert, Andrew Eremus, George Koval, Marci Bonner, Mary Sloboda, Jack Praskac

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

Craig Goida

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

St. John XXIII Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of Rich Campbell Crucifix Candle In Memory of Herman Berger	St. Richard Blessed Virgin Mary 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, December 14 – Sacramental Prep Grades 2, 7 & 8 Monday, December 15 – 6:00PM Pageant Rehearsal Sunday, November 21 – 5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall <i>We are 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 1-4; Sunday, December 14th at 9:30AM Grades 5-8; Sunday, December 21st at 9:00AM Grades 1-8; No Classes – Christmas Break *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 the diocesan collection for Retired Religious.

Upcoming collections are...

12/21 ~ Parish Utilities 12/25 ~ Christmas 12/28 ~ Stained-Glass Window Renovation: SR / Parish Cemeteries: SJ

ST. JOHN XXIII AND ST. RICHARD NEWS AND UPDATES

This Week

Sunday	Communion to the Homebound immediately after the 8:30AM Mass 6:00PM-8:00PM Advent Adoration and Confession followed by Benediction at St. John XXIII
Wednesday	Catholic Charities Community Café Food Truck – noon until 1:30PM in the St. John XXIII parking lot
Thursday	8:30AM Church Cleaning at St. John XXIII – won't you come and lend a hand and help us clean for Christmas 6:00PM St. John XXIII Parish Choir Rehearsal – new members are always welcome
Saturday	9:00AM Church Christmas decorating at St. Richard 9:00AM-11:00AM St. Vincent de Paul Baby Food Distribution – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – 570-225-8620

Upcoming Events

December 21	5:00PM Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant – St. John XXIII Parish Hall – everyone is invited to this event
December 24	Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00PM at SJ – 5:00PM at SJ – 8:00PM at SR – 12:00AM Midnight at SR
December 25	Christmas Day Mass: 10:00AM at SJ

2026 MASS INTENTIONS AT ST. JOHN XXIII

There is a limit of two Masses (one weekday, one weekend), one Sanctuary Lamp, and one Crucifix Candle. All requests must include the 2026 updated form along with a \$10 stipend per request. Forms are in the Parish Office and the Parish Hall. Requests must be made in person. Questions may be directed to Lisa in the Parish Office. Lisa will be available in the Parish Hall today (Sunday, December 14th) immediately after the 8:30AM Mass to take your requests in person.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY IS THIS WEEKEND

If you brought your Baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene to church today, it will be blessed at the end of Mass.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS VISITS

All homebound parishioners received a home visit, a Christmas poinsettia, cookies, a calendar, and a prayer bouquet this past week. Thank you, St. Vincent de Paul members!

HYGIENE DRIVE COLLECTION ENDS TODAY

Thank you to everyone who brought in new (unused) hygiene products, socks, hats, and gloves.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOAGIE FUNDRAISER

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

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.

GIVING TREES AT BOTH PARISHES

The 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.

ST. JOHN XXIII CAFÉ IN THE PARISH HALL

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

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.

CANDY SALE THIS WEEKEND AT ST. JOHN XXIII

Remember that there is a home-made candy sale in the St. John XXIII Parish Hall after all the weekend Masses. If there is any candy remaining, it will be sold on Sunday evening during the 6:00PM Advent Adoration and Confession. This delicious candy makes great Christmas gifts!

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

In case of snow or ice, **both** St. Richard and St. John XXIII Parishes will follow Mahanoy Area School District. If the district has a cancellation or delay because of weather, there will be NO weekday Mass.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Santa Breakfast! Our confirmation students did a wonderful job serving and helping throughout the morning. A big thank-you as well to all the parents who jumped in to keep everything running smoothly and make the event so enjoyable. And an extra special thank you to Erica for expertly manning the kitchen! We are happy to share that the event raised \$500, which will be donated to the St. Teresa of Calcutta Food Pantry in Mahanoy City. Thank you for your support and generosity!

WINTER LOTTERY CALENDARS AT ST. RICHARD

The lottery calendar for only January 2026 is \$5.00. Please return the ticket either in the collection or the "Fundraising" box on the rectory porch. January tickets must be returned by December 31st.

First Round December Lottery Winners

12/1 #106, No Winner, \$25
12/2 #200, No Winner, \$25
12/3 #801, No Winner, \$25
12/4 #141, No Winner, \$25
12/5 #799, Donna Kamenas, \$25
12/6 #493, Jesse Ansbech, \$50

2026 MASS INTENTION BOOK AT ST. RICHARD

OFFICIALLY OPEN. Requests will only be accepted through the Revised Mass Intention Form (found in church or online). The completed forms with the enclosed \$10 per Mass/Candle stipend may be mailed, placed in the collection, or dropped at the office. As there is an overflow of Masses and Mass times are limited; we cannot guarantee a specific date and time for Mass intentions. To try and accommodate the intentions (*which also includes reserved dates*), there is a limit of three Masses. Please also consider having a weekday Mass, remembering your loved one through the Eternal Remembrance Society (contact the Parish Office), the Sanctuary Lamp or one of the Devotional Candles.

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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