

A hand is holding a white gift box with a red ribbon. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of warm, golden lights. The word 'Hope' is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font in the upper left corner.

# Hope

YOU ARE MY HOPE,  
MY TRUST, O LORD.

- PSALM 71:5

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN  
EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Word, Worship and Prayer

## First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37



### SATURDAY, November 28 - Vigil

4:00 pm (Live Stream Mass with Musicians)  
Elizabeth McElligott  
by The McElligott School of Irish Dance  
6:30 pm For the Souls in Purgatory by Fanilva Aubin

### SUNDAY, November 29

8:30 am People of the Parish  
11:00 am Elizabeth McElligott by St. Johns Staff

### MONDAY, November 30 Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

9:00 am For the protection of all children from abortion  
by the AOH

### TUESDAY, December 1 Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

12:00 pm Milagros Robledo by Robledo Family

### WEDNESDAY, December 2 Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

9:00 am All Living Priests in the Diocese of Scranton  
by Fr. Reichlen

### THURSDAY, December 3 Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

12:00 pm Antoni Jan Lijewski by St Johns Staff

### FRIDAY, December 4 Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

9:00 am Elizabeth McElligott by St Johns Staff

### SATURDAY, December 5 - Vigil

4:00 pm (Live Stream Mass with Musicians)  
Nancy Bellissimo, Happy Birthday  
By Mom & Dad  
6:30 pm Braulio Garces by The Garces Family

### SUNDAY, December 6

8:30 am People of the Parish  
11:00 am Joel Robledo by Milagros Robledo

## SANCTUARY CANDLE

Elizabeth McElligott

By The Annese Family

November 28, 2020 — December 4, 2020

## TABERNACLE CANDLE

Elizabeth McElligott

By The McElligott School of Irish Dance

November 28, 2020 — December 4, 2020

" Candles are available for your special intentions. They may be acquired in the Parish Office. These candles are available for honoring the memory of your deceased loved ones along with praying for recovery from an illness, celebrating birthday's, anniversaries, etc. We have a card that can be given out when the candle is reserved.



## For those who serve our country and community

At the close of our weekend Masses after the Recessional Song, our community will all kneel and pray three Hail Mary's for those individuals both living and deceased.



## FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HOPE, HEALING & HEALTH

Emilio Accomasso, Maryann Albite, Cynthia Lee Atkinson, Dr. Vincent Bellafore, Eileen Benson, John Bonito, Michele Cross, Lance Francois, Ermes Gutierrez, Doug Hilbert, Gladys Hopquins, Lily James, Robin, Andy Kman, Shirley Koenig, Laura Law, Ashlyn Leide, Josephin Macchia, Jerry Mahon, Irene McKenna, Maddie McQuillan, Luis Enrique Medina, Jeronimo Mestizo, Hugo Munillo, Samanta Murillo, Alice Perlowski, Joel Rivera, Erica Rizo, Kirsten Rutledge, Angelo and Laura Scalcione, Tom Shepherd, Javier Suarez, Sebastian Torres, Sabrina Valenti, Walker Family, Marge Wilton

To add to this list, please email : [stjohnbultn@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbultn@gmail.com)





## FATHER'S DESK



### Unwrapping Christmas Week 1: Giving Freely and Generously

Happy Advent, and I hope that you had a safe and meaningful Thanksgiving this year, as we look forward to the end of 2020, the end of COVID-19, and new beginnings in 2021. This time of year is filled with a lot of talk of giving gifts. Maybe because of fewer resources and social distancing this year, you're going to have to be creative about your Christmas giving this year. Even as many people are struggling right now to get by, Christmas is still the season of giving, and this is one thing that our culture gets right, even if it's taken to an extreme – and this is because God is a giver. John 3:16 says: **God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.** This is the greatest gift we could ever have! Because God is a giver, and we're made in his image and likeness – if we are to grow as followers of Jesus Christ, we will be givers too. Generosity is a readiness to give more than is strictly required or necessary. To be “generous” means giving freely, without any expectation of a quid pro quo, that is, the expectation of something in return. We all want to be generous people, but we all face obstacles to generosity. For example, all of us can tend to be self-centered at times, and that self-centeredness leads to greed. All of us fear, at times, that we will not have enough for ourselves and our families – and so we hesitate to loan something or give something away. Also, we might have a fear of being thought of as a “doormat” or “chump” who constantly gives away, but is constantly taken advantage of and being “burned” by others.

Scripture says: **One person is lavish yet grows richer; another is too sparing, yet poorer. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water** (Proverbs 11:24-25). In other words, in giving you will receive. Jesus says in the Gospel: **Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you** (Luke 6:38). Jesus is saying that it's in our own self-interest, to not always look out for own self-interest! We don't know when and how it will come back to us, but we trust that it will! There are two caveats to this attitude: first, we are talking about a long length of time, really our entire life. George Baily, for example, the famous lead character in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*, gives to others his entire life, and only in the end of the story, does he gain the love and support of his friends and the people of the town. Also, wise giving means giving freely, without coercion. If we feel constantly coerced to give to others, it's more likely that we are being manipulated by them; but having a mindset of giving freely, without coercion, will help us to be free of the danger of manipulation. So, in this time of the year, let's be free givers, and in doing so we are imitating God.

#### Questions for Small Groups:

1. What is your definition of a generosity? Who is the most generous person you know? Why would you call them generous?
2. What are your obstacles to being a more generous and giving person? What does it look like to give freely? What does it look like to give out of pressure or manipulation?
3. What specific opportunities for generosity will you have today? How about the week ahead?
4. When have you felt burned by giving to others? When have you given and seen the blessing come back to you?

With blessings,

Fr. Reichlen



**Youth Group**

Judy Thompson, Director -

570-807-8084 or [judythompsoncc@gmail.com](mailto:judythompsoncc@gmail.com)

**Notre Dame School System**

Notre Dame offers a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life while providing a safe and welcoming environment for all. Please email Notre Dame Elementary School at [office@ndelementary.org](mailto:office@ndelementary.org) for more information.

**Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA)**

RCIA classes are for adults who are wanting to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation.

For RCIA questions or registration contact the Parish Office at 570-223-9144.

The businesses on the back of this bulletin pay for the printing of this bulletin. Please make an effort to use these businesses the next time you are in need of one of their services. Be sure to mention that you saw their ad on the back of this bulletin or please take a moment to cut out this coupon, so they can know that their ad is being viewed.

Thank you for advertising in the Church of St. John's Bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it !

**Did You Know...**

**You May Make a Gift to Your Parish or to the Diocesan Annual Appeal Directly From Your IRA**

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your *required minimum distribution* to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For information, please contact  
Jim Bebla,  
Diocesan Secretary of Development,  
[Jim-Bebla@DioceseofScranton.org](mailto:Jim-Bebla@DioceseofScranton.org)  
570-207-2250

**Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862- 7551).

**Baptisms**

The Sacrament of Baptism is now able to be celebrated so we ask that you contact the Parish Office for more information and scheduling.

Please note that there may be a delay in our response time due to limited office hours.

**Bushkill Outreach Program**

168 Lehman Park Road , Bushkill  
570-588-0660 [bushkilloutreach@yahoo.com](mailto:bushkilloutreach@yahoo.com)

Please bring your clean gently used Fall and Winter clothing to Bushkill Outreach on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

**PLEASE** do not leave anything outside our door.

## This Week at St. John's

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Private Prayer

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Private Prayer

7:00 pm - Rosary (Live Streamed)

7:00 pm - Knights of Columbus Officers' Meeting

7:30 pm - Knights of Columbus Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Private Prayer

6:00 - 7:30 pm - BSA Troop 902 Meeting

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Private Prayer

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:30 pm Columbiette's ZOOM Officers' Meeting

7:30 pm - AA Meeting

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 - 11:00 am - Confessions (outside)

5:00 pm - Parking Lot Communion Distribution

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Mission Appeal

10:00 am - Faith Formation Classes

12:00 pm - Parking Lot Communion Distribution

## St John's Organizations

### ACTIVE -

**Alcoholics Anonymous** - Open meeting every Friday night at 7:30 pm.

**Focolare Word of Life Gathering** - 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm. Prayer meeting based on the Gospels conducted via Zoom. For information, please call Carole Lippold 718-863-1105.

**Knights of Columbus** -

1st (7:30 pm) and 3rd Tuesday (7:00 pm). For more information, please contact: Julio Cruz (Grand Knight) 570-656-0842. All parishioners are invited to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm to pray the Rosary for pro-life intentions.

**St. John's Columbiettes** - 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Women interested in becoming members, e-mail Violette -President - FRANCOIS\_3 @ msn.com

### SUSPENDED - UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Adult Church Choir** - 11:00 am Mass. To join, please contact Gil Cuffari and Nancy Gordon, Music Ministry at 570-223-9144.

**Charismatic Group** - Wednesdays 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Come join us and learn about the Holy Spirit and how he manifests his gift through us. He leads, guides, teaches and protects us as we sing, pray and worship him.

**"Mady's Kitchen" Free Community Dinner** -

The last Sunday of each month. St. John's Church Hall Call: Laura - 570-588-1707

**St John's Seniors** - 1st Tuesday at 1:00 pm. President - Felix Martinez. Contact Laura Zaso - Secretary - 570-588-9358

**Special Needs Worship Ministry** - In honor of Deacon Thomas Dello Russo. Our mission is simple; to welcome and support people with special needs and their families to grow in faith and participate in the life of our parish community. For all those interested, call Mary Galayda at 570-588-9242.



## Guidelines for Events At St John's

There is no need for a reservation to attend public Masses. However, please be aware that if our church is filled to capacity, you may have to wait in your car and follow the Mass Live Stream, until the time for Communion in the Parking Lot. Note that all the procedures, as mandated by the Bishop, still apply – (1) stay home if you or members of your household are vulnerable or sick; (2) maintain social distancing; (3) wear a mask; and (4) exit immediately after Holy Communion so that the church can be sanitized.

Communion Distribution will be in the Parking Lot on Saturdays at 5:00 pm, and Sundays at 12:15 pm. Please follow the directions of the parking lot attendants. You will be expected to exit your car and walk to a designated space in the parking lot in order to receive Communion. Procedures may be altered because of inclement weather.





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Mark Oney, x125

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