

Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF MINERSVILLE



Holy Family Parish of Minersville is a Christ-centered sacramental family, modeled after the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We are dedicated to growing in our faith, spreading the Gospel in our community, preserving our rich traditions while looking to the future and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

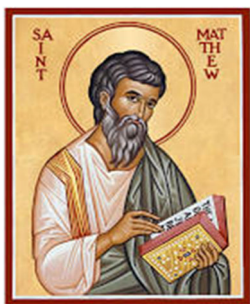
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 4/5, 2021

Parish Office 538 Sunbury Street, Minersville, PA 17954 -1016

Office (570) 544 - 4741

Fax (570) 544 - 4742

Rev. Jason F. Stokes ~ M.Div., M.A. ~ Pastor
Dr. James P. Henninger ~ O.D. ~ Deacon
Mr. Robert Reiley, Summer Deacon Candidate



135 Spruce St
Minersville, PA 17954



538 Sunbury St.
Minersville, PA 17954

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StMichaelDefendUs

Parish Website: minersvillecatholic.com

Diocesan Website: www.allentowndiocese.org

Nativity B.V.M. High School

570-622-8110

Assumption B.V.M. Grade School

570-622-0106

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

570-622-4638

Parish E-mail address: HolyFamilyParishMinersville@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS ~ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday ~ Thursday
Closed ~ Friday

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4 September - Vigil Mass for The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confession 3:15 PM ~ St. Michael's

4:00 PM ~ St. Michael's ~ *People of the Parish*

5:30 PM ~ St. Matthew's ~ *Alexander and Josephine Sumoski*
Daughter

Sunday, 5 September - The Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Confession 7:45 AM ~ St. Matthew's

8:30 AM ~ St. Matthew's ~ *People of the Parish*

10:30 AM ~ St. Michael's ~ *Paul "Buddy" Harvilla*
Walter Miscavage

Monday, 6 September -

8:00 AM~ St. Matthew's~ *Holy Family Memorial Fund*

Tuesday, 7 September -

8:00 AM~ St. Michael's~ *Patty Beadle*
Husband, Bill

Wednesday, 8 September - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8:00 AM~ St. Matthew's~ *People of the Parish*

**Thursday, 9 September– Saint Peter Claver, Priest
NO MASS**

Friday, 10 September -

8:00 AM ~ St. Michael's ~ *Kathleen Santai*
Jim Sandai and Family

Saturday, 11 September - Vigil Mass for The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confession 3:15 PM ~ St. Michael's

4:00 PM ~ St. Michael's ~ **NO MASS**

5:30 PM ~ St. Matthew's ~ *Phyllis and James McNamara and Josephine and Stanley Graf, Sr.*
Mary Beth, Evelyn, and Maureen

Sunday, 12 September - The Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Confession 7:45 AM ~ St. Matthew's

8:30 AM ~ St. Matthew's ~ *People of the Parish*

10:30 AM ~ St. Michael's ~ *Elmer F. Heffner, Jr.*
George and Jean Heffner
Walter Miscavage

HOLY FAMILY 50 / 50

\$1.00 per envelope, your envelope is your ticket!

Please remember to write your name and phone number on the envelope. Thank you.

Collection Amounts For
August 28 & 29= 5,525.00

This week the second collection is for
Fuel and Heat
Next weekend the second collection is for
Convent Maintenance

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to our Online givers as well!

Happy Labor Day!

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, September 6th.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Quandel Concrete

Thank you for sponsoring an ad,
making our bulletin possible.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to victims of sexual abuse. Contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 1-800-791-9209 + Diocesan website: www.allentowndiocese.org

YOUTH PROTECTION DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS ~ Secretary for Youth Protection ~ prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Diocese of Allentown 1515 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive P.O. Box F Allentown, PA 18105-1538 610-871-5200 Ext. 2204

LOCAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR ~ Sr. Catherine Therese Brennan, SSJ ~ 570-544-4741

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting ~ www.ReportBishopAbuse.org 800-276-1562



Ask Father: Why is Cohabitation Wrong?

This is a very good question as cohabitation (living together before marriage) has increased exponentially over the last decades. Cohabitation in the United States increased more than 1,500% in the past 50 years. In 1960, about 450,000 unmarried couples lived together. Now the number is well over 7.5 million! The sad fact is that the majority of young adults in their 20s will live with a romantic partner at least once, and more than half of all marriages will be preceded by cohabitation. But the old adage holds, just because everyone is doing it, doesn't make it right.

There was a striking nationwide survey conducted in 2001 by the National Marriage Project, then at Rutgers University (yes I know this is 20 years old, but the information still holds). Nearly half of all 20-somethings agreed with the statement, "You would only marry someone if he or she agreed to live together with you first, so that you could find out whether you really get along." About two-thirds said they believed that moving in together before marriage was a good way to avoid divorce.

But that belief is contradicted by experience. Couples who cohabitate before marriage (and especially before an engagement or an otherwise clear commitment) tend to be less satisfied with their marriages – and are more likely to divorce – than couples who do not. These negative outcomes are called the cohabitation effect and has been attributed to cohabitators having less conventional thinking about marriage and are thus more open to divorce. Research also suggests that at least some of the risks lie in cohabitation itself.

Many cohabitators experience what researchers have coined "sliding, not deciding." This means that the couple moves from dating to sleeping over to sleeping over a lot to cohabitation as a gradual slope, not one marked by rings or ceremonies or sometimes even a conversation. Couples bypass talking about why they want to live together and what it will mean. When researchers ask cohabitators these questions, partners often have different unspoken, even unconscious, agendas. Women are more likely to view cohabitation as a step towards marriage, while men are more likely to see it as a way to test a relationship or postpone commitment.

What is fascinating, and to be honest, not too surprising, is that the Church has been teaching this for centuries. The Church has great understanding into the human person and our relationships with God, with each other and with ourselves. However, the Church could do a better job in getting this information out in a way that is understandable and relatable. Let's be honest, who has the time or attention span to read and understand a theological treatise or papal encyclical?

The Church rightly teaches that all sexual activity must be UNITIVE and PROCREATIVE. This means it must be only between one man and one woman, open to conception. Even though the couple might not desire a child at that time, they leave it in God's hands and work with his creating power. This is the PROCREATIVE aspect. The act must also mirror Christ's love for his Church, which is a complete outpouring of self for the other person and include a life-long commitment (i.e. marriage).

Cohabitators often use the excuse of convenience (it's cheaper to split the bills) or testing (make sure I really want to marry this person). Neither of these are UNITIVE, and most times, because of the use of birth control, are not PROCREATIVE. Yes, by waiting for marriage, you may pay a few bucks more a month to live separately. But that's an investment in your marriage and your life together. I think you are both worth the investment, don't you?

Annual 40-Hours Eucharistic Devotions

We have scheduled our Annual 40-Hours Eucharistic Devotions for Friday, November 5, Saturday, November 6, and Sunday, November 7. Please join us for our devotions as we continue to celebrate this Year of the Real Presence. More information to follow.

ChristLife Volunteers Needed

Holy Family Parish is blessed to be hosting the ChristLife series this fall. Sessions will be on Mondays at 6:30 PM beginning September 20 and ending on November 1st, All Saints Day.

ChristLife equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that all people might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into his missionary disciples.

ChristLife fits perfectly with our Parish Mission Statement to be dedicated to growing in our faith and spreading the Gospel in our community.

Our team is coming together nicely, but we are still in need of volunteers to help with the dining team and greeters. Please contact Julie Reiner at reiner90@comcast.net or (717) 580-1997 if you can help us out!

**MASS UPDATE— Annual
Schuylkill County Firemen's
Convention!!**



Minersville is hosting the annual County Firemen's Convention next weekend. Part of the Convention includes a parade on Saturday, September 11. Sunbury Street, Lewis Street, North Street, and River Street will be closed to ALL TRAFFIC from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

As such, we will be canceling the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, September 11. We will have our other Masses: Saturday 5:30 PM St. Matthews
Sunday 8:30 AM St. Matthews and 10:30 AM St. Michaels

We encourage you to attend the parade and support our local first responders and to attend one of the other Masses next weekend.

Sip, Savor, and Share

Please join the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Women's Society of Giving for **Sip, Savor, and Share** evenings. Our goal is to unite as women from all over the Diocese and support organizations and ministries that need our help. Please join us at one of our information sessions to learn more about our society, enjoy female fellowship and refreshments! Your involvement will make a difference!

Thursday, September 16th— St. Ambrose,
Schuylkill Haven, 6:30– 7:30pm
Other locations and dates also available.

Please RSVP to stewardship@allentowndiocese.org
or call 800.831.4443

Attention Altar Servers

Altar Servers will be reintroduced back into Mass beginning in October. Please contact the Parish Office with your Mass preference.

Deacon candidate Bo Reiley will lead a Bible Study on God's mercy in both the Old and New Testaments. These sessions will take place on Thursday September 16th and 23rd at 6:30 pm in St. Matthew the Evangelist Church. All are wel-



Holy Family Parish AA Meetings

Holy Family Parish is hosting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Mondays at 7:00 PM. Meetings are open to everyone and will be held in our Parish Office & Religious Education Center using the Lewis Street entrance.

**Homemade Apple Dumplings Now on
SALE!**

Members of Holy Family Community Outreach Program will be taking orders for Apple dumplings before and after Masses in the vestibule of both Churches starting the weekend of August 28th through October 10th. The cost is \$5.50 for Plain and \$6.00 for Sugar Free. Payment is expected when the order is placed.

Delivery Date is Wednesday, October 27th. Your generous support of our Outreach Program will benefit the needy of our area.

Young At Heart Club

The Young At Heart Club will meet for lunch on Tuesday, September 7th at Noon at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant



**SAVE THE DATE!
September 27, 2021**

Diocese of Allentown—Annual Golf
Tournament
Steel Club
Proceeds to benefit Seminarian & Catholic School
Education

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Coordinator: Sr. Catherine Therese Brennan, SSJ
E-mail ~ HolyFamilyK6Prep@gmail.com
Grades K – 6



CONFIRMATION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Coordinator: Sr. Mary Jane Dunleavy, SSJ
Email ~ HolyFamilyConfirmationPrep@gmail.com
Grades 7- 8

PREP begins on September 7th!

PREP NEWS:

Registration forms can be found in the vestibule or can be printed from the Parish Facebook page and website.

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) Helpers ~ for Grades 3, 4, and 6. Interested adults wanting to share our Faith with the youth of our Parish, please contact

Sister Catherine Therese as soon as possible @ 570-544-4741 x 4.

Our Prep Program for all students



Grades 4-K to Grade 8 will start on Tuesday, September 7th with ALL STUDENTS and PARENTS present for Evening Prayer and Benediction at St. Michael the Archangel Church of Holy Family Parish of Minersville (6:00 PM). This is our PREP kick-off (and attendance it is not optional).

Afterwards, everyone will come to the cafeteria across the street for an ice cream party. Please save the date.

DEVOTIONAL LAMP INTENTIONS

St. Matthew the Evangelist Church of HOLY FAMILY PARISH

† **Blessed Virgin Mary**
Special Intention
Sally Gober

† **Saint Joseph**
For the Health of Mrs. Jean Messaros Family

Flower Intentions:

† **Blessed Virgin Mary**
In Loving Memory of Jean R. Lauck
Daughter, Carol and Son, David

St. Michael the Archangel Church of HOLY FAMILY PARISH

† **Holy Family**
In Loving Memory of Lillian M. Heffner (Birthday)
George and Jean Heffner

† **Saint Theresa**
Pet (Birthday 9/15 and Woody O. Leach (Birthday 9/8)
Daughter-in-Law, Kathi, and Grandson, Anthony Leach

Flower Intentions:

In Memory of Marie Wozniski and Irene Dewald
Nancy and Joseph Kohutka