



Saint Gertrude Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

303 Franklin Ave • Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. James Loew, O.S.B. *Pastor*,
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Sr. Mercy Francis, S.M.I.,
Pastoral Minister

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Regional Director of Faith Formation
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Cardinal Maida Academy
Mrs. Patricia Visnick, *Principal*
School Phone (724) 568-3304
School Fax (724) 567-1900

Baptisms
By appointment. Baptismal preparation is necessary. Call for classes

Marriage Arrangements must be made at least 8 months in advance. No marriage dates will be given until meeting with the priest and all preparation is ready.

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. During School Year
Holy Day Mass Schedule
Holy Day ~ 9:00 am, 6:00 pm

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00
Friday- Closed
Confessions Saturday ~ 3:15-3:45pm or by appointment



Third Sunday of

Advent

December 16, 2018

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Luke 3:16

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Pastoral Council Mission Statement

We, the partnered parish communities of St. Gertrude and Christ the King, are faith-filled Catholics who have been called by our Baptism and empowered by the Good News of Jesus Christ to be Church for all. Although made up of multi-cultural faith communities we are ever united by our common faith.

We are committed to "building up the Body of Christ" through Word, Worship, Evangelization, Leadership, Service, Stewardship, and Fellowship. Dedicated to deepening our love of Christ and one another, together we strive to become a living reflection of Christ for our region.

We willingly accept our obligation to be the "Light of the World" for others and in that spirit we promise to use our resources to practice gospel justice, to heal divisive wounds among God's People and to join with all people of good will in addressing the spiritual and physical needs of all.

*Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of
Patrick Dawson
by Mom*

*Memorial Candle
Angie Tinelli
by
Edith Tinelli*

Treasures from Our Tradition

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, Gaudete Sunday, is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice! This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy. Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some col-

ors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

World Youth Day

The Diocese of Greensburg is sponsoring a trip for young adults (ages 18-39) to a one-day Catholic festival at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Jan. 26, 2019, in conjunction with World Youth Day in Panama. The event will include a livestream of Pope Francis' Mass in Panama. Cost, including overnight accommodation, is \$160 per person, \$95 per person for double occupancy. Visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/WYD for information. The registration deadline is Jan. 3, 2019.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Today's Readings

First Reading -- Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm -- Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading -- Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel -- Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

Rejoice!

Today has traditionally been called Gaudete Sunday. The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to rejoice always in the Lord, and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work. Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy. This, we are assured on all sides, is the season of joy. Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

December 22nd & 23rd

4:00p.m. ~ Lauren Pullet
Ashley Scanga
Domenic Dellemonache

8:00a.m. ~ Maria Safranyos
Cara Walker

10:30a.m. ~ Derek & Zachary
Hald

December 24th

4:00p.m. ~ Ashley Scanga
Domenic Dellemonache

December 25th

Mass of the Night Midnight

10:00p.m. ~ Renee & Casey
Tomiczek

9:00a.m. ~ Kyle & Peter
Poremski

Collection December 8th & 9th

Envelopes ~ \$5,909.00
Loose ~ \$192.00
Church Restoration ~ \$55.00
Utilities ~ \$109.00

Christmas Flowers

Envelopes ~ \$201.00

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg offers faith-based assistance with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, interpersonal conflicts, recovery support, parenting and family issues, anger management and other personal and family issues. Counseling is provided by

licensed, professional and experienced therapists. Fees are low, and many insurances accepted. Offices are located in Greensburg, Indiana, Uniontown, Kittanning and New Kensington. For more information or an appointment, call 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Saint Gertrude Lottery Ticket

St. Gertrude is selling a Three month lottery ticket. If you would like more tickets please call the rectory. They make great Christmas gifts! Tickets are for the months of January February and March cost is \$25.00.

Knights of Columbus

Don't forget about our annual Christmas Party / Steeler Game today (Sunday) at St. Gertrude Hall. Time: - Starting at 3:30 pm. Cost: - \$5 per person or \$10 per family payable at the door. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to members, guests, and all parishioners.

Sisters of Charity

Coupon Fundraising Book
"Enjoy 2019" coupon books are available from the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill through Dec. 29 for \$30. For additional information or to reserve a book, call Sister of Charity Agnes Steedle in Greensburg at 724-836-0406, ext. 6646, or Sister Patrice Hughes in the Pittsburgh area, 412-343-1382.

Advent Penance Service

Happy New Liturgical Year! Advent is a time of preparing spiritually for Christ's birth. With this in mind, please take note of the following scheduled Penance Services for our Deanery:

Thursday, December 13th; 7 PM at St. James, Apollo

□ Monday, December 17th; 7 PM at St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell

□ Tuesday, December 18th; 7 PM at Mt. St. Peter, New Kensington

□ Wednesday, December 19th; 7 PM at Christ the King, Leechburg

Natural Family Planning

Natural Family Planning CM-BBT instruction will be Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. in the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Please call at least one week prior to the instruction date to preregister. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, ext. 1658 for additional information or to register for this or an upcoming class. For more information about Natural Family Planning and the CM-BBT method, visit www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org and link into Natural Family Planning under "Services."

People of all ages are welcome to attend our Youth Mass on Sunday, November 25th at 5:00 PM at St. James. There is an After Mass Party (AMP) immediately following Mass in the church hall. Families with a last name beginning with (A-P) are asked to bring a side dish and last name beginning with (Q-Z) are asked to bring a dessert. We are looking for readers, altar servers, ushers and greeters in 6th-12th grades for the Youth Masses. We need volunteers for the AMP in order for it to continue. Please sign up ASAP.

Region 2 Faith Formation Calendar of Sessions for Fall 2018 (6:00-7:30 PM at the former St. James School) for grades K-5

November: 18th

December: 2nd & 16th

Attention Parents of 2nd graders:

Please save the dates for the following *mandatory* events:

November 17th, 2018—9:00 AM-Noon—First Penance Workshop at St. James Parish Center for parents and 2nd graders.

FUSED 4 ~ November/December LIFETEEN/EDGE CALENDAR

(EDGE: Grades 6th-8th/LIFETEEN: grades 9th 12th ~ St. James Parish Underground/Upper Rooms ~ 6:00-7:30 PM)

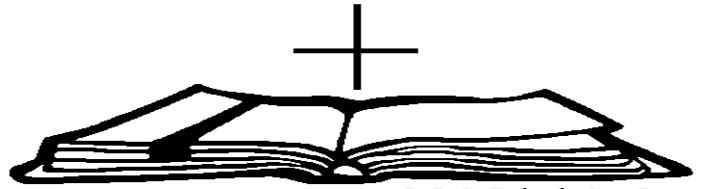
November: 11th ~ 8th graders, parents and sponsors—practice etc. at CTK @ 2:00 PM, NO EDGE, LIFETEEN—meet at King's during the session time ~ 16th—Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation (8th graders/sponsors) at 7:00 PM at CTK (arrival time TBA) ~ 18th—Session ~ 25th—Youth Mass at 5:00 PM with After Mass Party (AMP) to follow in the hall ~ 29th—Volunteer at St. Gertrude's Spaghetti dinner (EDGE/LIFETEEN)

December: 2nd—GOLDEN AGERS--NO LIFETEEN/ NO EDGE SESSION ~ 9th— *Session* (EDGE Movie Night Note the time difference for EDGE: 6:00-8:15 PM) ~ 16th—EDGE/LIFETEEN Christmas Party at CTK/Caroling at Bishop Morrow ~ 23rd—NO Youth Mass ~ 30th—NO SESSION
Other: Golden Agers Setup—Saturday, December 1st and Golden Agers Lunch—Sunday, December 2nd at St. James Parish Center

Volunteers in grades 9-12 are needed to help with the Spaghetti Dinner at St. Gertrude's on Thursday, November 29th from 3:45 PM-6:30 PM. Please sign up by Sunday, November 21st.

Looking for ways to help pay for activities/conferences/retreats? We are excited about an upcoming year-round fundraising opportunity! We are looking for parents to volunteer to help with BINGO roughly once a month at Our Lady Queen of Peace for a few hours on a Sunday. Please contact the Faith Formation Office if you are interested in being put on the schedule. This is a great way to earn money towards youth events. **Please sign up ASAP. Volunteers are needed soon!**

Mass Intentions



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Saturday, December 15, Vigil Third Sunday Of Advent
4:00p.m. †Robert Querio

Sunday, December 16, Third Sunday of Advent
8:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:30a.m. †Mary Mottola

Monday, December 17, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Marlene Dawkins

Tuesday, December 18, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Wednesday, December 19, Advent Weekday
9:00a.m. †David & Ann Guerrera

Thursday, December 20, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Friday, December 21, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Anthony Calderazzo

Saturday, December 22, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ The King

Saturday, December 22, Vigil Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00p.m. †Mark Maszgay

Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:30a.m. †DoloresDezzutti

Monday, December 24, Late Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Pete DeFilippi

Monday December 24, Vigil Nativity of the Lord
4:00pm. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:00p.m. Intention of Celebrant

Tuesday, December 25, Nativity of the Lord
9:00a.m. Intention of Celebrant