



Saint Gertrude Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
303 Franklin Ave • Vandergrift, Pennsylvania 15690

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

Fr. James Loew, O.S.B. *Pastor*,
(724) 568-2331 Fax: (724) 568-2030

Sr. Mercy Francis, S.M.I.,
Pastoral Minister

Katie Tylinski (724) 212-6740
Regional Director of Faith Formation
ktylinski@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. James Peterman
Assistant to the Regional Director of Faith Formation
(724) 568-2331 or (724) 845-8191.

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



First Sunday of *Advent*

December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36

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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.

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

*Sanctuary Lamp
In Memory of
Eugene Milie
By Fran*

*Memorial Candle
John Dettore
By Brian & Paolette May*

*Memorial Candle
Gene Travaglia
By
Rosalind*

Treasures from Our Tradition

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santa's sleigh at the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesn't catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new-fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation. Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do

with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Today's Readings

First Reading -- The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah

(Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm -- To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading -- Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 -- 4:2).

Gospel -- Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

The Promise of Justice

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course.

God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind. Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them. Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

Cardinal Maida Academy

Cardinal Maida Academy will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 9th at St. Gertrude's Parish. All you can eat pancakes will be served from 9 to noon. All are welcomed! Children will have an opportunity to visit with Santa and make a craft. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 3 to 12 and free for children under 3! Please contact the school office with any questions 724-568-3304.

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone – please contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221.

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

December 8th & 9th

4:00p.m. ~ Derek & Zachary
Hald

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

10:30a.m. ~ Domenic
Dellemonache
Lauren Paullet

Collection November 17th & 18th

Envelopes ~ \$4,989.00
Loose ~ \$295.00
Church Restoration ~ \$60.00
Utilities ~ \$155.00

Poverty Relief

Envelopes ~ \$641.00
Loose ~ \$375.00

Collection November 24th & 25th

Envelopes ~ \$5,023.00
Children's Collection ~ \$5.00
Loose ~ \$476.00
Church Restoration ~ \$25.00
Utilities ~ \$96.00

Update on Our Higher Standards

Bishop Malesic asked that we keep you informed about the Diocese of Greensburg's higher standards for protecting children. He understands that survivors, parishioners and the public want to see proof that every diocese has taken sweeping, decisive and impactful action to make children safer. That is why 15,000 people in the

last 15 years have been background checked and trained to recognize the signs of abuse in our Diocese. As you probably saw in the news, the Diocese received a subpoena from federal investigators. This was no surprise considering the horrific misconduct detailed in the statewide Grand Jury Report. The Diocese sees this as another opportunity to be transparent about the changes that have been made. The Diocese will fully cooperate with this federal subpoena and will provide all the information requested, including details about our zero tolerance policy for any violation of the Code of Pastoral Conduct. For more information about the Church's higher standards for protecting children, please visit ww.dioceseofgreensburg.org

World Youth Day

Registration deadline for World Youth Day event in Washington, D.C., is Jan. 3. 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 live stream of Pope Francis' Mass in Panama. Cost, including overnight accommodation, is \$160 per person, \$95 per person for double occupancy. Visit ww.dioceseofgreensburg.org/WYD for information. The registration deadline is Jan. 3, 2019.

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.



With the joy of Baptism we welcome into the family of God:

Kolcun Edward Good Son of Jeffrey Adam Good & Kaycee Lyne Lewandowski. We offer our love and best wishes to this child and his family.

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)

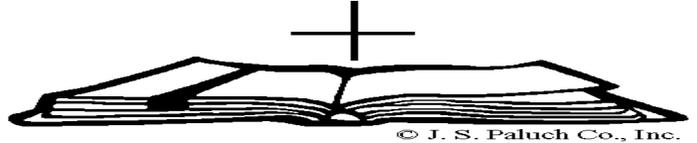
December: 2nd—GOLDEN AGERS--NO LIFETEEN/ NO EDGE SESSION ~ 9th— *Session* (EDGE Movie Night Note the time difference for EDGE: 6:00-8:15 PM) ~ 16th—EDGE/LIFETEEN Christmas Party at CTK/Caroling at Bishop Morrow ~ 23rd—NO Youth Mass ~ 30th—NO SESSION

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



Saturday, December 1, Vigil First Sunday Of Advent
4:00p.m. †Donald Toy

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday of Advent
8:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:30a.m. †John Golembiewski

Monday, December 3, St. Francis
8:30a.m. †Dolores Dezzutti

Tuesday, December 4, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Wednesday, December 5, Advent Weekday
9:00a.m. †James & Helen Loew

Thursday, December 6, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Friday, December 7, St. Ambrose
8:30a.m. †Margaret Gabelli

**Friday, December 7, Vigil Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**
6:00p.m. †Mark Mazgaj

**Saturday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
9:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of our Parish

Saturday, December 8, Vigil Second Sunday of Advent
4:00p.m. †Nick Loperfito

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent
8:00a.m. †Regina Wisniewski
10:30a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish