



Saint Gertrude Parish

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

December 23, 2018

Fourth 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
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Mr. James Peterman
Assistant to the 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



Fourth Sunday of
Advent
December 23, 2018

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”
Luke 1:41-42

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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
Victor DeSantis
By Rosalind Riley*

*Memorial Candle
Joe Civitillo
By
Wife Marge*

Treasures from Our Tradition

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on. Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in **finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church.**

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: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2,

21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Today's Readings

First Reading -- From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a). Psalm -- Lord, make us turn to

you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80). **Second Reading** -- We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10). **Gospel** -- Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

Memories and Dreams

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go. Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected. Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

Knights of Columbus

Due to the Christmas Holiday, the date for our December monthly meeting has been moved to Wednesday, January 2, 2019 and it will be held at Assumption Hall at Christ the King.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

December 29th & 30th

4:00p.m. ~ Maria Safranyos
Ashley Scanga
Cara Walker
Lauren Paullet

Domenic Dellemonache

8:00a.m. ~ Nicholas & Joey
DiFilippio

10:30a.m. ~ Renee & Casey
Tomiczek

Monday December 31, Vigil, Solemnity of Mary

4:00p.m. ~ Maria Safranyos
Ashley Scanga
Cara Walker

Tuesday January 1, Solemnity of Mary

9:00a.m. ~ Domenic
Dellemonache
Lauren Paullet

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.

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."

St. Emma Monastery

St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg, will hold "Visit and Vespers" Dec. 29 from 1-4:30 p.m. The event will feature the Bethlehem Express train, carols, cookies, tours of the monastery's bed and breakfast, and more than 300 Nativity scenes. The Bethlehem Express will also be in operation, with viewing of the Nativity scenes, Jan. 5 from 1-3 p.m. Admission is free. For information, www.stemma.org.

Year-end charitable giving

As the end of the year approaches, there are ways you can make a gift to support your parish and the church and receive a tax benefit, even if you don't itemize deductions. If you

are 70 ½ or older and required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA by the end of the year, present law allows use of an IRA charitable rollover without having to pay tax on the withdrawal for gifts to specific charities. For information, contact your IRA administrator or The Catholic Foundation at 724-552-2504 or jdimar-io@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Children and Family Services

The annual Children and Family Services Appeal collection to support the work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg will be taken at all Christmas Masses in the diocese Dec. 24 and 25. Christmas reminds us of the gift of God's own Son, Jesus Christ, given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility. You are asked to support this appeal and make your contribution to help change the future of an individual, family or child through the good work of our diocesan Catholic Charities.

Outreach Ministry for LGBT people and families

Always God's Children, a ministry to LGBT people and their families, will be held Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Saint Vincent Grove, Latrobe. For more information, contact Alecia Moss at leashmo@hotmail.com or 724-433-1857.

6th-12th graders: Please make sure that you are subscribing to our specific “LIFETEEN” or “EDGE” and “LIFETEEN AND EDGE” classes on remind.com. Not sure? Text Katie Tylinski at 724-212-6740 to find out. This is how we will let you know about snow cancellations. Be sure to check KDKATV for snow cancellations as well.

WINTER RETREAT

All youth of the Diocese in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for the Diocesan High School Winter Retreat, *Fully Known*, sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg. Come pray, share, learn, and take time to be with God. Join us March 1-3, 2019 at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant. Register now at the FUSED 4 Youth Ministry Office. The cost of the retreat is \$120. You may apply for Francis Funds in the amount of \$60. For more info about Francis Funds visit: <https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/formation/Pages/franciscfund.aspx>. Applications must be submitted by **January 1, 2019**. After \$60 from Francis Funds and \$30 from FUSED 4 Youth Ministry subsidization; your cost for the retreat is \$30. The cost includes all lodging, meals and supplies for the weekend. If you do not apply for Francis Funds you will be responsible for paying \$90. Francis Funds will require a letter from your pastor so please request this from him well in advance. In order to register for the retreat, you must turn in your check payable to St. James. Please register for the retreat by Sunday, January 20th. No refunds.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is the largest Catholic youth gathering in the U.S., with over 20,000 young people, clergy and religious, and adult chaperones attending from all over the country. A pilgrimage of faith, NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for Catholic teenagers addressing a wide variety of topics including Catholic spirituality and prayer, social justice issues, sexuality and leadership. NCYC features a huge interactive village where hundreds of exhibitors, musicians, games, hot meals and learning centers of all types will be available throughout the conference. NCYC 2019, will take place in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 21 through Nov. 23, 2019. Information is available here:

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/NCYC. This event is for current 8th-11th graders. NCYC registrations will be accepted until January 20th, 2019. In order to register for the NCYC you must turn in your check payable to St. James in the amount of \$100. Cost is \$785 but you are eligible to apply for Francis Funds in the amount of \$235. If you don't apply for the Francis Funds you will be responsible for the entire amount. The application for Francis Fund must be submitted by **January 1, 2019** For more info about Francis Funds visit: <https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/formation/Pages/franciscfund.aspx>. We will be fundraising as well. No refunds.

An applicant for Francis Funds is eligible to receive only one scholarship up to \$300.00 during any fiscal year of July 1st thru June 30th.

If finances are an issue for the retreat or NCYC, please see Katie. You can earn money towards them by volunteering at BINGO at Our Lady Queen of Peace on a Youth Ministry weekend.

Mass Intentions



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, 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

Wednesday, December 26, St. Stephen

9:00a.m. †Dom Caratelli

Thursday, December 27, St. John

8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Friday, December 28, Holy Innocents

8:30a.m. †Robert Querio

Saturday, December 29, Fifth Day within the Octave Of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ The King

Saturday, December 29, Vigil, The Holy Family

4:00p.m. †Richard Kardos

Sunday, December 30, The Holy Family

8:00a.m. †Louis and Mary Ann Scanga

10:30a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish

Monday, December 31, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30a.m. †James & Helen Loew

Monday, December 31, Vigil Solemnity of Mary

4:00p.m. †Living and Deceased of our Parish

Tuesday January 1, Solemnity of Mary

9:00a.m †Pearl Miller