



Saint Gertrude Parish

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

December 30, 2018

The Holy Family

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
(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



**Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.**

— 1 John 3:2a

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
John G. Dettore
By
Rick and Marlene Arduino*

Treasures from Our Tradition

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom. In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition. There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage--the journey to holy places that is a symbol of

our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Today's Readings

First Reading -- Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm -- Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord

(Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading -- See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel -- The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

Home is where the family is

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family. Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always get it right, but they always tried to. These three amateurs were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation--to do his Father's work--but he also returned home with his parents.

January 5th & 6th

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

8:00a.m. ~ Kyle & Peter
Poremski

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

Collection December 15th & 16th

Envelopes ~ \$4,148.75

Children's ~ \$5.00

Loose ~ \$355.10

Church Restoration ~ \$18.00

Utilities ~ \$114.00

Christmas Flowers ~ \$211.00

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.

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

Catholic Daughters of America

The CD of A has five cookbooks left for sale. Maybe you didn't have a chance to get one earlier

in the year. Well now is your chance! And they are reduced in price! They are only \$12.00 each. Maybe you still need a hostess gift or a gift for someone you will see for New Year's. This CD of A cookbook has had great reviews so get your copy now. Only 5 left so if you are interested please call Michele Jones at 724-567-3325 or Kathy Policicchio 724-777-1220.

Home Blessing Kits

The feast of the Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus. It is also the time the church traditionally blesses homes. As in the past, Epiphany home blessing "kits" are available in the back of the church. If you would like to bless your home, we invite you to pick one up. Please return the kit to the back of the church or parish office after you have blessed your home so that we may reassemble them for others to us.

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas celebrations. A special thank you to those dedicated volunteers who prepared our church space so beautifully and to the choirs. I am especially appreciative to those who were scheduled to be ministers and fulfilled their obligation. On behalf of the parish I thank you for your efforts. God bless and job well done

Fr. James

Calendar of Faith Formation Session for December 2018/Spring

2019 (6:00-7:30 PM)

December 30th—No class

January 13th & 20th

February 10th & 17th

March 10th—Mardi Gras Pancake breakfast before Faith Formation (includes 6th-12th) & 17th

April 7th & April 14th—Seder Dinner (includes 6th-12th)

*This does not include event dates

**Occurs on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays except for April

You were e-mailed a calendar with these upcoming dates for the next semester.

Be sure to check KDKATV for snow cancellations.

FUSED 4 ~ December & January LIFETEEN/EDGE CALENDAR

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

December: ~ 30th—NO SESSION

January: 6th—No Session ~ 13—Session ~ 20—Session ~ 27—Youth

Mass

You were e-mailed a calendar with upcoming dates for the next semester.

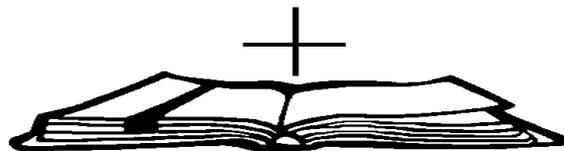
6th-12th graders: Please make sure that you are subscribing to our specific "LIFETEEN" or "EDGE" and "LIFETEEN AND EDGE" classes on remind.com. Not sure? Text Katie Tylinski at 724-212-6740 to find out. This is how we will let you know about snow cancellations. Be sure to check KDKATV for snow cancellations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

Update: You can apply for Francis Funds for BOTH the Winter Retreat & NCYC. Francis Fund Application Deadlines: Winter Retreat 1/1 & NCYC-6/15. If applying for both you'll need to wait until June to apply for the NCYC Francis Funds. Winter Retreat \$30 & NCYC \$100 deposit due 1/20.

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**. Even if you are attending NCYC please apply for Francis Funds for the retreat. 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. 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.

Mass Intentions



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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

Wednesday, January 2, St. Basil
9:00a.m. †Frank & Kathy Bruno

Thursday, January 3, Christmas Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Friday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:30a.m. †Louis and Mary Ann Scanga

Saturday, January 5, St John Neumann
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ The King

Saturday, January 5, Vigil, Epiphany of the Lord
4:00p.m. †Angie Tinelli

Sunday, January 6, Epiphany of the Lord
8:00a.m. †Living and Deceased of Our Parish
10:30a.m. †Chester & Mary Rukas