



Saint Gertrude Parish

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

December 9, 2018

Second 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



Second Sunday of *Advent*

December 9, 2018

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children gathered
from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Baruch 5:5

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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
Carmelina DiBiasio
by Brian & Paolette May*

*Memorial Candle
Bill Mendicino
By Family*

*Memorial Candle
John Lucas
By Family*

Treasures from Our Tradition

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

Today's Readings

First Reading -- Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm -- The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading -- I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel -- The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

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.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt

17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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.

Awaiting the Salvation of God

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters. According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees. It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.

December 15th & 16th

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

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

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

Collection December 1st & 2nd

Envelopes ~ \$5,123.00

Loose ~ \$300.00

Church Restoration ~ \$200.00

Utilities ~ \$30.00

Christmas Flowers

Envelopes ~ \$732.00

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.

Saint Vincent DePaul

The St. Gertrude Conference of St. Vincent dePaul will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. at Fran Milie's house with a social to follow. All members are urged to attend.

Spaghetti Dinner

Ministries asked to provide dessert and/or work at December 13th Spaghetti Dinner ~ the Eucharistic Ministers and Arts & Environmental.

Knights of Columbus

Christmas Party/Steeler Game Sunday, December 16th -- 3:30 pm at St. Gertrude Hall Open to KofC Members - Guests - & All Parishioners. Come and celebrate the Christmas Season and watch The Steelers vs. The New England Patriots Food and drinks will be provided. The cost of \$5 per person or \$10 per family can be paid at the door.

Confirmation

Congratulation to the following who received the Sacrament of Confirmation November 16 at Christ the King from Bishop Edward Malesic. Please keep these newly

Confirmed and their families in your prayers that the Holy Spirit will strengthen their faith and continue to inspire them to live out their faith commitment made at Confirmation. Aidan Dehnert, Connor Kirkland, Mckenzie Kuth, Ethan Mamros, Evan Mamros, Zachary Myers, Robert Nix, Laci Safranyos, Montega Sippel, Devan Sonafelt, Adam Sproat, Parker Sterlitz

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

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)

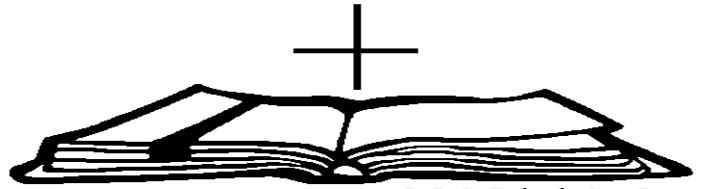
November: 11th ~ 8th graders, parents and sponsors—practice etc. at CTK @ 2:00 PM, NO EDGE, LIFETEEN—meet at King's during the session time ~ 16th—Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation (8th graders/sponsors) at 7:00 PM at CTK (arrival time TBA) ~ 18th—Session ~ 25th—Youth Mass at 5:00 PM with After 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 8 Vigil Second Sunday Of Advent
4:00p.m. †Nick Loperfito

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

Monday, December 10, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †John Gadola

Tuesday, December 11, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ the King

Wednesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00a.m. †Josephine & Robert Querio

Thursday, December 13, St. Lucy
10:30p.m. †Anointing Mass at Christ the King

Friday, December 14, St. John the Cross
8:30a.m. †Carmelina DiBiasio

Saturday, December 15, Advent Weekday
8:30a.m. †Mass at Christ The King

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