

ST. PIUS X PARISH



VISITATION PARISH

◇ Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts ◇

Parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg

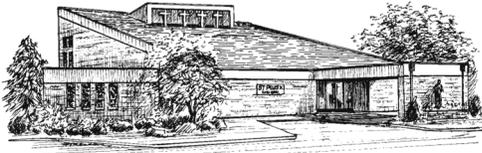
Office: 740 W. Walnut St. Phone: 724-547-1911 Fax: 724-547-2630

St. Pius X Parish Ctr.: 724-547-0950

St. Vincent de Paul Society: 724-547-0413

Visit us at: www.mpcatholicchurches.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30am - 11:30am & 12:30 pm - 3:00pm



224 Summit Street ◇

Mt. Pleasant, PA ◇

740 W. Walnut Street

December 11, 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30pm - Visitation Church; 6:00pm - St. Pius X Church

Sunday: 9:15am - Visitation Church; 8:00am - St. Pius X Church; 10:30am - St. Pius X Church

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the parish office to begin preparation for this sacrament.

Weekday Mass - 7:00am - Visitation Church

Confessions - Saturday - 3:30pm - Visitation Church

Administrator - Rev. Paul A. Lisik - plisik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Dan E. Carr - dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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Maintenance Supervisor: Joe Bauer - jbauer@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mass Intentions

Mon.	12/12	Visitation 7:00am Steve Melega - daughters Joseph Taylor - Dorothy
Tues.	12/13	Visitation 7:00am Charles Gelet - son, Bill Edward Gorecki, Sr. - Visitation Bowling League
Wed.	12/14	Visitation 7:00am Michelle Jurkovic - Mary Lou Kurimcak Martha Yourish - Louise & Margie Andros
Thurs.	12/15	Visitation 7:00am Parish Families
Fri.	12/16	Visitation 7:00am Cheri Busatto - Kathy & Ray Jerry Lucia - Rita Gyurke
Sat.	12/17	Visitation 4:30pm Helen & Leonard Czekaj - Jan & David Brooks St. Pius X 6:00pm Margaret Dolan - John & Maureen Hannel & family
Sun.	12/18	St. Pius X 8:00am Talia Maria Zerbe - Rick & Lori Ann Chaussinand Visitation 9:15am Mary Ann Leshko - Cheryl & Robert Siwula St. Pius X 10:30am Antonina Zodda - daughter, Angela

Ministry of the Altar

Sat.	12/17	Visitation 4:30pm Greeters: Volunteers Lector: David Brooks Minister: Felicia Seder Servers: Anthony Grippo, Lily Spires, Owen Spires Cantor: Joanne Geckle St. Pius X 6:00pm Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Kim Sirianna Ministers: Hank Rose, Paul Klaus Servers: Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer Cantor: Phil Brown
Sun.	12/18	St. Pius X 8:00am Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Colleen Pernelli Ministers: Stanley Kapella, Sister Anna Maria Servers: Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer Cantor: Sharon Stewart Visitation - 9:15am Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Tereasa Rerko Minister: Patricia Thomas Servers: Amelia Thomas, Langdon Thomas, Volunteer Cantor: Eric Harris/Choir St. Pius X - 10:30am Greeters: Knights of Columbus Lector: Becky Czekaj-Dengler Ministers: Ted Czekaj, Sister Juliana Servers: Michael Hegyes, Nolan Davis, Volunteer Cantor: Chris DeFlitch



Welcome to the parish family, Avery Rose LaBella daughter of Michael & Laura Wall LaBella, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, November 27th at St. Pius X Church. May God bless her.

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Visitation Family Christmas Tree The tradition continues!



The family Christmas tree is up and ready for decorations. Please bring your ornaments to place on the tree.

Christmas Devotional Candles



Again, this year we will be having candles in the windows of both churches. If you would like to reserve a candle for a loved one, both living and deceased, please contact the parish office. These candles will burn between Christmas and New Years Day. Donation is \$10.00 per candle and they are on a first come/first served basis.

Visitation Christian Mothers

Directions To Laurelville Small Dining Facility:
A left at the intersection of 31E. and 982. A right at the sign for Laurelville; .5 of a mile. In .2 of a mile another right into the Laurelville entrance. Approximately 200 yards, on the right, is the Dining Hall, clearly marked. The entrance to the "Small Dining Facility" is near the end of the building on the right. Parking is limited at the Dining Facility. Additional parking is available at the "Welcome Circle," on the left, directly before the Dining Hall. There are gravel "Pull In" parking spots all around the circle.

*From the
Desk of
Fr. Dan*

***Are you the one who is to
come or should we look for
another?***

This is the question that John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus because he is stuck in prison and wants to know if he is truly the Messiah. It is a fundamental question that every Christian must ask at some point in their faith journey. Are you really Him? Are you really the one in whom I should place my faith? The one I should spend my life seeking? Or, should I look somewhere else?

Recently when my nephew, Andrew, hears something he doesn't want to hear, he puts his hand in his mouth. That's his coping mechanism. Life is hard and brings us problems. We try to deal with them ourselves, but at some point, we find ourselves not strong enough. When we can't seem to do it on our own, we turn to many things and people for help. The world is constantly offering me things to cope with my problems. Many of these things may help me for a time, but in the end, they are fleeting and do not last. At some point we crave a real solution. We want something or someone who can truly help us, that knows what we need, that will always be there for us. We are tired of looking and looking for an answer only to find things that claim to help but never do in the end.

Amid this desperate search, we come to the feet of Jesus and ask this question. Is it you, Lord? Are you truly the solution to my problems, the answer to my prayers? Or should I keep looking? Jesus' answer to John is this: *Go and tell John when you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.* He does not directly say "Yes", but he tells us to look around us. Look at how many people have come to Jesus and found an answer. How many people in history have turned their lives around because of His love and mercy for them? How many people came to Him with all sorts of problems and found healing and help? If he could do it for them, he can do it for you. Our faith in Christ is not blind – it is based on the witness of millions throughout history.

We need look no further for help. The search for answers is over. He is the one who can help us – who can save us. Come to Him. Set your heart on Him and Him alone, and you can get through anything.



**This past Monday,
December 5th, our
second graders
made their First
Penance.** They have

been working hard toward this goal over the past few months with workshops and religious education classes. I would ask that both of our parish families keep them in your prayers as they now begin their preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion in the spring. We congratulate them on completing this step in their journey of a lifetime in their faith. May our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, keep them ever close to Him as they prepare to welcome Him into their hearts.

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Please remember with every kind act we perform this Advent Season, we will not only make positive changes to the persons and alter the focus of our surroundings from negativity to kindness and caring. This will allow others, family, friends, and strangers to open their hearts to the Christ Child. Each adult and child can participate in the "bedding" of the mangers in our hearts. It would be a great tribute to our parishes love of our Savior by making sure the mangers are filled with our acts of kindness during the Advent Season as we prepare the Way of the Lord in our area.



Just a little reminder... There is an envelope in this month's packet for Christmas flowers. We will continue to accept them throughout the coming weeks. Donations may be given in memory of a deceased loved one, the sick, or your own intentions, etc. Two special Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Day for all who gave and their intentions.

Oplatky: Christmas Wafers (Oplatky) are available in the parish office.

Donations accepted - no set price



**Reminder for all
Ministers of the Altar**

Please contact the parish office by December 15th, with your availability to minister so that the January schedule can be prepared. Thank You!

Something New

“New Wine In Old Wineskins”

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins: if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed.” When people squeezed the grapes and put them into skins to ferment, they learned that you could not use old wineskins. This was an instance where recycling was not good. Only new skins could withstand the pressure. Jesus uses this fact for an interesting parable. In no way was he finding fault with old wine. He was simply saying that there are times when we need to treat the new in fresh, unrestricting ways. What does that mean for our life of faith? As we grow up and learn about faith, we are instructed about how God and religion can be helpful parts of our daily lives. We learn to pray and worship. We gain insight into the nature of God’s working among us. But then things happen that challenge our thinking. Bad things happen to good people. Well laid plans do not work out. Some prayers do not seem to be answered. What has happened? The wine of childish understanding of faith is good. It helps us to see the world and life as a whole as good. Adults, though, need new understandings. God is not Santa Claus. God does not protect us from every possible harm. But God does walk with us as we travel life’s journey. God does guide us and help us get up again if we fall. As we begin to put the wine of our faith into new wineskins, we come to Advent and see God coming to us in a new way. The God, who seemed to be growing more distant, comes near to us in a little baby. Here is new wine, offering us a richer understanding of the fact that God is love. The little baby is vulnerable, as we are vulnerable, but God is in that baby. God is with us. Let us be open to new insights and to new understandings of how our loving God lives among us.



Our Area Advent Penance Services

Please plan ahead to make full use of our Advent Penance Services. There will be extra priests at these services to accommodate the penitents.

Mon.	Dec. 12	St. Florian, United	6:30pm
Tues.	Dec. 13	St. Aloysius, Dunbar	7:00pm
Thur.	Dec. 15	Visitation	7:00pm
Fri.	Dec. 16	St. Raymond of the Mountains, Donegal	7:00pm
Sat.	Dec. 17	St. Joseph, Everson	11:00am
Tues.	Dec. 20	St. John, Connellsville	7:00pm



Rosary for Peace
*Everyone is invited to
 Visitation Church every
 Wednesday @ 11:30am to
 pray the Rosary.*

Weekly Offering - December 4, 2022

Visitation Parish

Weekly.....	\$7,994.00
Capital Improvements....	\$172.00
Growing.....	\$35.00
Accent.....	\$223.00
World Mission.....	\$20.00
Retired Religious.....	\$30.00
All Souls.....	\$40.00
All Saints.....	\$45.00
Immaculate Conception..	\$118.00
Christmas.....	\$205.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$328.00
Diocesan Poverty.....	\$28.00
Uplift Our Faith.....	\$100.00
Total Envelopes:	270

St. Pius X Parish

Weekly.....	\$10,192.00
Capital Improvements....	\$714.00
Accent.....	\$158.00
Diocesan Poverty.....	\$315.00
Child./Family Services.....	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$485.00
Christmas.....	\$170.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$10.00
Immaculate Conception..	\$107.00
Uplift Our Faith.....	\$200.00
Total Envelopes:	296

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I ask you to take time amidst everything to plan on attending a Christmas Mass here at our parishes. We believe with the various times you will be able to plan on attending one of our parishes' Christmas Liturgies as we celebrate this Holy Day together. I share the Christmas schedule with you so that you may prepare your personal schedule.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4:00pm	St. Pius X Church
4:00pm	Visitation Church
10:00pm	Visitation Church

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

9:15am	Visitation Church
10:30am	St. Pius X Church

Please pray for the wholeness & healing of

Greg Pfeifer, Ken Keslar, Jen, Dwayne Thomas, Regis Melego, Mary Rose, Jeff Landy, David Gillott, Patricia Burke, Gina M., Carol K., Frank Chain, David, Amil Z., Jimmy Z., Gene, Edward P., Janet Pfeifer, Elizabeth E., Philomena Grohal, Don Seder, Joan K., Colleen, Jeff, William Pakulski, Kathi Kappel, Danny & Elaine Kurpiel, Brenda, Dorinda O., Patty, Gary French & family, Paul, Mike Ruszkowski, Liz, Andy, Brenda, Paul, Bertie Zaucha, Barry Stanziana, David & Kitty Jensen, Donna Zemba, Ryan Snyder & family, John Ristway, Dolores Sann, Margie, Sue Ruszkowski, Jeff Kiral, Isaac Donaldson, Amber, Susan Shafley, Ken E., Kim R., Jennie Ann Hurt, Julia, Beth, Margaret Fox, Corinne M., Laurie Deery, Susie Wiltout, C. R., Nancy P., Brian McLaughlin, Arnold Donaldson, Mike H., Terri Ferko, Ron D., Eileen S., Bill Vance, Laurie, Jenny Batchko, Fr. Greg Premoshis, Fr. John Moineau, Janey, Linda G., Mary Keto, Susan, Jim G., Pam, Karen, Amanda Dennis, Jadon Michael Kalp, Denise Mastro, Rita, Kim, Mike Kristoff family, Natalie & family, James, Natalie W. & her father, Richard P. & family, Ray, Donald B., George Ozegovich, Lou Zaucha, Mark Sosko, Loretta Stana, Amber Harbak, MaryAnn, Isabel B., Elsie & Ed, Nicholas, Louise A., L.G., Thomas J., Doug P., Dolores Solinski, Faith P., Logan S., Rita, Ruth, CJ, Kim, Rita, Charles C., Richard & Sally B., Elizabeth & Edward Kendi, Remington Bazzar, Alvin Jaworski, Beth, Mark S., Carmelita, Mercedes Isola, Georgia & Adrian, Debbie Poklembo, Leo R. Rudnik, Sr., Gary Dorman, Carmen Tarasky, Louise A., Pat, Diane R., Patricia Skero, Neal, Michael Tarasky, Sr., Logan, Anna Marie Petras, Bill Rodgers, Special Intention, Angela Hurt, LeeEtta, Chuck, Christie, Malachi, Frank & Deb Piazza, Rob & family, Mary, Artie, Loretta & Alan Ambrosa. **We pray for all our homebound and hospitalized parishioners and all who need physical, spiritual and mental healing.**

Recent Deaths

Please pray for Carol Dawson who has passed away recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest forever in the peace of the Lord.



We have opened the Mass Book for 2023.

Requests sheets may be found in the back of both churches. Please pay attention to the directions for filling out the forms. All Mass intentions have to be submitted in writing on the reservation sheet. **No Masses will be scheduled over the phone.** Thank you for your understanding.

Parish Office Hours

Because of the celebration of the special season of Christmas, the parish office will be closed Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th. The office will re-open Tuesday, December 27th at 9:30am. I share this with you so you can be prepared. Please know that we are always available for emergencies. Thank you for your understanding as we allow our staff to celebrate with their families.

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary - In memory of Margaret Dolan - Gertrude Kloeck

Blessed Mother - In memory of James Tylka - family

St. Joseph - In memory of Pete L. Ricotta - sister

Our Lady of Czestochowa - In memory of Mark Krystyniak - family

Visitation

Sanctuary - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Kempiesty - granddaughter, Theresa Shepeck

Blessed Mother - In memory of Cheri Busatto - Ray & Kathy

St. Joseph - In memory of Sophie & Walter Shutty, Sr. - Love, Sandy & Steve

Madonna & Child - In memory of Richard Sofranko - family



Please keep in your prayers these active military personnel who continue to give so much to our country:

***Jacob Ruben Johnson,
Jacob Shafley, Alex Shafley,
Jared Yester,
Stephen Shallenberger,
Drew Sheldon and Jim Dzurica***

Christmas Offering

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The Christmas Collection in our parishes has always been a tradition of your generosity to our parishes! Your continued and increased generosity will help us to meet some large bills and assessments that are due at this time of the year. We once again ask you to be as generous as you can, and may the Christ Child continue to bless and reward you. The Christmas Feast commemorates the gift given to each of us by God without question or our merit or eligibility. Your support is needed this year during the Children and Family Services Appeal. Please help change the future of a child with your gift in the second collection at Christmas. Thank you! Please be as generous as you can. Our Sunday offertory collections have risen in recent weeks. But I trust you notice that we are not yet where we need to be in order to meet ordinary expenses with our ordinary income. I am truly grateful for the effort and ask everyone to continue doing what you can to insure the financial viability of our two parishes. As you should well know the heating bills are starting to rise with the cold weather. Please continue to be generous to our parish every weekend and most especially this Christmas.



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This Tuesday, December 13, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Lucy.

According to legend, St. Lucy was a young woman born in Syracuse, Italy. One day she went to the shrine of St. Agatha in Catania with her mother, who suffered from uncontrolled bleeding. While praying at the shrine, Lucy's mother was cured. Lucy decided to give up her worldly goods to serve the poor, took a vow of virginity, and broke off her impending marriage to a young nobleman in order to give her life entirely to God. Her suitor was incensed at her action and accused her before the Roman consul of being a Christian who would not honor the laws of the Empire. Bravely confessing her faith, Lucy was sentenced to be tortured by fire and boiling oil. She was unmoved by the ordeal and showed no sign of weakness. "God has granted that I should bear these things in order to free the faithful from the fear of suffering," she said. Though a sword was thrust through her throat, the young girl lived until communion was brought to her for her final journey to heaven. She died during the persecution under Emperor Diocletian in 304.



As you place the manger in a place of prominence in your home, here is a family blessing you may use.

Advent Prayer: Blessing the Manger

(Each prayer is said as the figure it names is placed in the manger scene; the Christ child is placed with the final prayer.)

We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ!
Let us hold you in our hearts,
as did **Mary**, your mother.
Come, Emmanuel!

We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ!
Let us care for your children in the world
as **Saint Joseph** cared for you.
Come, Emmanuel!

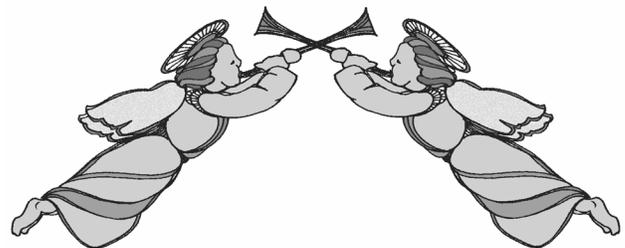
We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ!
Let us sing joyfully of your glory as did your
angels in Bethlehem.
Come, Emmanuel!

We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ!
May we kneel to adore you
as did the lowly **shepherds**.
Come Emmanuel!

We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ!
You are the Morningstar who
guided the **magi**, guiding us still.
Come, Emmanuel!

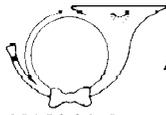
We prepare your way, O **Christ** child, God's
Word in our human flesh, through the power of
the Holy Spirit, God among us, forever and ever.
Amen.

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

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ADVENT

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This Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, after the Third Sunday of

Advent, are the Winter Ember Days.

All Wednesdays and Fridays of the year used to be fasting days. On these days people tried to pray more, give more to charity, and eat less. Many people still keep this custom. The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday before the fourth Sunday of Advent were the winter Ember Days. In lands around the Mediterranean Sea, olives are harvested at this time of year. So the winter Ember Days were days of thanksgiving for the olive harvest. (The word “ember” means “season.”) The bishops of the United States have not yet set special dates for the Ember Days. Many people try to fast and pray and give extra charity on three weekdays before Thanksgiving. Christmas, too, is a harvest festival. That is why we bake and serve so many good, rich foods. Perhaps, keeping the 12 Days of Christmas is like saying a long grace before the meals that have fed us in the past year, and like saying grace before the meals that will feed us in the new year to come. Extra prayer, fasting and giving thanks during Advent is a way to thank Our Father.

Polish Wigilia, December 16 in Uniontown

The Polish Heritage Club will host an authentic Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve dinner) Friday, December 16, at 6pm at the Uniontown Polish Club. Door prizes, basket auctions and a 50/50 raffle are planned. For information or reservations, call 724-438-1036.

“The Accent On-Air: The Symbols of Christmas,”

explores the popular symbols of Christmas, including St. Nicholas, one of the most recognizable figures in the world. Bishop Larry J. Kulick talks about his visit to the Vatican, his audience with Pope Francis and the importance of the gift of the Eucharist. Plus, learn about the meaning behind the Christmas decorations in your home; the wreath, Christmas tree and luminary lights are all steeped in symbolism. Bells will be ringing this season as churches across the Diocese join together to ring church bells as a reminder to many to celebrate the birth of our Savior. And Bishop Kulick is back in the kitchen with a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve soup. “The Accent On-Air” is always on at TheAccentOnline.org.

Cavatelli/Spaghetti Dinner Update

Thank You

A few weeks ago Visitation Parish hosted a Cavatelli/ Spaghetti dinner. We have calculated the finances for the fundraiser and I am happy to share them with you. The total income for the evening was \$3,682.00 and the expenses were \$382.58. The total profit for the dinner was \$3,299.42. I thank all those who worked or contributed to this project. I personally thought the desserts were excellent and the variety wonderful. Thank you for all you do for God’s church and may God continue to bless you.

Fr. Paul



Sunshine, rain, wind or cold weather did not hamper the volunteers who rang the bell the last two weeks for the Salvation Army Kettle drive. Thank you for your time and energy. Many local families will be the recipient of your good works. See you next year.



The Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary at 8:30am, on Sunday, December 18th at Visitation Church. Please join us in prayer!

Christmas program Dec. 19 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville

The four partner parishes of the Yough Catholic Community of Connellsville and Dunbar will present a Christmas Program of Scripture and Song on Monday, December 19 at 7pm at Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville. Choirs, cantors, musicians and lectors from the parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. Aloysius, St. Rita and St. John the Evangelist will join for the program, which will also be livestreamed on the parish website, youghcatholic.org and the Yough Catholic Community page on Facebook. The program is open to the public.



**Visitation Parish Burse Bash
Sunday, March 12, 2023
St. Pius X social hall
\$35 each/4 numbers
Tickets will be available soon.**