

ST. PIUS X PARISH



VISITATION PARISH

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Parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg

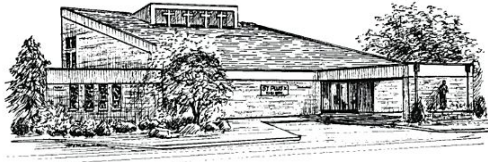
Office: 740 W. Walnut St. Phone: 724-547-1911 Fax: 724-547-2630

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 18, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent



Be vigilant at all times

LUKE 21:36

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

Facilities and Business Manager - Joy Wallace - jwallace@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Director of Liturgical Music - Sheryl E. Nagy - snagy@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Secretary: Linda A. Amdy - lamdy@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Office Assistant: Connie M. Barnhart - cbarnhart@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance Supervisor: Joe Bauer - jbauer@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mass Intentions

Mon.	12/19	Visitation 7:00am Barbara Kaper - Kathy Dick & Don Kaper, Jr. Teresita Pulido - family
Tues.	12/20	Visitation 7:00am Warren Leeder - Janice & Sandra
Wed.	12/21	Visitation 7:00am Richard Williams, Sr. - family
Thurs.	12/22	Visitation 7:00am Parish Families
Fri.	12/23	Visitation 7:00am Mary Lou Grosser - Marie Sofranko Martha Yourish - St. Pius X Christian Mothers
Sat.	12/24	St. Pius X 4:00pm Bill & Florence Potoka - family
		Visitation 4:00pm Joshua Brent Marker - mother, father & brother
		Visitation 10:00pm Richard & Ann Kowash - son, Ken
Sun.	12/25	Visitation 9:15am Your Special Intention
		St. Pius X 10:30am Your Special Intention



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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.

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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.

Ministry of the Altar

Sat.	12/24	St. Pius X 4:00pm Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Eric Poole Ministers: Sandy Coppula, Ted Czekaj Servers: Lucas Poole, Langdon Thomas, Amelia Thomas Cantor: Peggy Tepper
		Visitation 4:00pm Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Kate Bannon Minister: Marlene Cibulas Servers: Ty Whoric, Colton Golobish, Caleb Stewart, Owen Spires, Lily Spires Cantor: Jaime Golobish
		Visitation 10:00pm Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Brian Hunter Minister: Yvonne Hunter Servers: Sophia Smithnosky, Robert Smithnosky Cantor: Kathy Demagall/Choir
Sun.	12/25	Visitation 9:15am Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Stanley Kapella Minister: Joyce Guthrie Servers: Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer Cantor: Sharon Stewart
		St. Pius X 10:30am Greeters: Knights of Columbus Lector: Kim Sirianna Ministers: Madonna Mullin, Sister Juliana Servers: Michael Hegyes, Nolan Davis, Volunteer Cantor: Eric Harris/Choir



*Welcome to the parish family, Carter Graham and Grayson Cole Dible, twin sons of Adam & Carrie Ann Palanko, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, December 10th at Visitation Church. **May God bless them.***



Schedule Update

All organizations of our parishes are asked to please submit to the parish office as soon as possible, an updated schedule of their 2023 meetings and events. If you have any changes to your schedule throughout the year, please promptly notify the parish office.

**From the
Desk of
Fr. Dan**

The hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, is a Christmas staple. Not many people know that it's actually an Advent hymn. Even fewer people understand what it is and where it comes from: The O Antiphons.

The O Antiphons are based on some of the titles of Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel; He is Wisdom; He is the King of Nations. Although it is not an exhaustive list of titles, these particular seven were compiled in the seventh century (and they are probably even older than that). They were preserved by the monks as a part of the Church's liturgy and each title is connected to a day leading up to Christmas Eve.

December 17: O Wisdom
December 18: O Adonai
December 19: O Root of Jesse
December 20: O Key of David
December 21: O Dayspring
December 22: O King of Nations
December 23: O Emmanuel

Each of these titles has a rich depth of meaning and are connected with the person of Jesus Christ as revealed by Scripture. They can provide a fresh way for us to contemplate the coming of Christ and to understand the gift that He is to us from the Father.

For your reflection, I have recorded mini-lessons on each of these titles and will be publishing them on our Facebook page on the date that corresponds with each title (and you don't need to have Facebook to watch them). This will give you something to learn and to think about this week as we approach Christmas.

I encourage you to take 10 minutes to sit down, either by yourself or as a family or household, light your Advent wreath, sing along to the verse of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, and then watch the video to learn about what you just sang and what it means.

Find the videos on our Facebook page:
[https://www.facebook.com/
StPiusXandVisitationparishesMountPleasantPA/](https://www.facebook.com/StPiusXandVisitationparishesMountPleasantPA/)

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**Reminder for all
Ministers of the Altar**



Please contact the parish office ASAP with your availability to minister so that the January schedule can be prepared. Thank You!

**Merry
Christmas**

*How silently, how
silently, the
wonderous gift is
given! So God
imparts to human
hearts the blessings
of His heaven. No
ear may hear His
coming, but in this world of sin. Where meek souls
will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Fr. Dan, the entire parish staff and I, wish that you allow the Christ child to renew your love on this Christmas Day and flowing into the New Year. May we all see the miracle in our lives as we venerate our King at the Manger. Merry Christmas! May you have a blessed, joyful and hopeful season with your family and friends. May God grant joys to you during these beautiful days. Merry Christmas from all of us!

Fr. Paul



Nativity Scene

The tradition of having some kind of Nativity scene, also known by its French name (crèche), in churches and homes evolved during the Middle Ages, first in churches as a prop for nativity plays associated with Mass. A crèche is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with images of Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, animals and Magi. St. Francis of Assisi popularized this custom with a living nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223. You are encouraged to make a "visit" to the nativity scene in our churches. You are particularly invited to bring the children "up close" and spend some time in prayer.



**Ribbons and
Bows**

The practice of gift wrapping is a fairly recent phenomenon in American life. It started at the turn of the century, when people stopped giving handmade gifts and instead began exchanging factory-made items. To some, these gifts seemed cold and less intimate, and so, to restore some kind of personal touch, retailers encouraged their customers to wrap their presents.

Something New

“A Newborn Baby”

Of all the varied Christmas decorations, nothing can convey the true meaning of this time as well as a crèche. Be it a picture, wooden carving or even a crèche with live



people in front of a Church, here is the Good News that God has come to us in the form of a little newborn baby.

“Joy to the World! The Lord is come!” One dictionary gives an interesting definition of “newborn.” It is :

1.) Recently born; 2.) Born anew. Sometimes, as we look at a crèche and marvel at God’s gift, our faith is born anew within us. It is not that our old faith has died, but it has been renewed. It might be compared to a fire in a fireplace, which is still giving out heat but has burned down to glowing embers. Then someone adds a new log and soon flames curl up and around it, brightening the room and giving greater warmth. When we celebrate Christmas with our focus on the newborn Jesus, our faith can be renewed and our hearts warmed. Newborn! How we need to let the miracle happen within us! It does not take a lot of work on our part. We do not earn a miracle. We may not even feel that we deserve it, but God gives it to us. God’s love and human love are miraculous, wonderful gifts. In order to receive this gift, it may help if we let our minds and spirits grow quiet. Wait for God’s gift to be reborn within us!

Penance Service

There is one remaining Penance Service in the area: Tuesday, Dec. 20th at St. John, Connellsville at 7:00pm.

Thank You

2023 Church Calendars
Through the courtesy of
Brooks Funeral Home, Inc.,
Galone-Caruso Funeral
Home, Inc.,
and Saloom - Rega Funeral Services, Inc.,
we once again have our parish
calendars.

They are in the back of the churches. The ushers will help distribute them after all the Masses. We thank our sponsors for their generosity and the beautiful Catholic Calendars.



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

Weekly Offering - December 11, 2022

Visitation Parish

Weekly.....\$5,169.00
Capital Improvements.....\$30.00
Growing.....\$99.00
Accent.....\$93.00
Immaculate Conception..\$1,258.00
Solemnity of Mary.....\$25.00
Child./Family Services.....\$35.00
Christmas.....\$545.00
Christmas Flowers.....\$766.00
Uplift Our Faith.....\$150.00
Total Envelopes: 340

St. Pius X Parish

Weekly.....\$8,456.00
Capital Improvements.....\$55.00
Accent.....\$78.00
Child./Family Services.....\$10.00
All Saints.....\$10.00
Christmas Flowers.....\$752.00
Christmas.....\$100.00
Solemnity of Mary.....\$20.00
Immaculate Conception..\$1,255.00
Uplift Our Faith.....\$345.00
Total Envelopes: 374

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Christmas Schedule

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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., Jennie Ann Hurt, Julia, Beth, Margaret Fox, Corinne M., Laurie Deery, Susie Wiltrout, 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, 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 Bernard Atz, Rose Marie Pisula, Philip Black and Neal Genemore who have been laid to rest recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful



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 your for your understanding as we allow our staff to celebrate with their families.

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary - In memory of Emil & Rose Rinaldi - children

Blessed Mother - In memory of Patricia Pisula - Al Pisula family

St. Joseph - In memory of Victor Kulczak - wife, Rosemary

Our Lady of Czestochowa - In memory of Allan G. Ferens

Visitation

Sanctuary - In memory of Filicky family - Mary Griffitt

Blessed Mother - In memory of James & Martha Palanko - Jim & Adeline Palanko

St. Joseph - In memory of Adam & Viola Rudzinski - Connie & Bob

Madonna & Child - In memory of Case Duggan - Aunt, Christa



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, Jim Dzurica and
Jonathan Lang***



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.

Children and Family Services Appeal

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.



This Thursday, December 22, is the Winter Solstice

Today marks a turning point in the year. For people of the Northern

Hemisphere, the winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night. From now on, days will lengthen. For the ancient peoples of Europe, the winter solstice was one of the greatest feasts of the year, Once the harvest was in, there was little farm work to do, and so there was plenty of time to relax and celebrate. Sometimes the festivities lasted for two months! Many northern Europeans called these days. "Yule," from the word "wheel." They thought that the year was like a wheel. When the days started to get longer it was as if someone had given the year a fresh turn. At Yuletide, there were special songs, dances, and hospitality. Circle dances called carols helped to celebrate the renewal of the circle of the year.

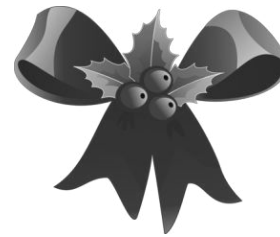


Just a little reminder... There is an envelope in this month's packet for Christmas flowers. We will continue to accept them through out the coming weeks.

Donations may be given in memory of a deceased loved one, the sick, or your own intentions, etc. There will be two special Masses on Christmas Day for atthese intentions.

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

Donations accepted - No set price



Wednesday, December 21, is the Feast Day of St. Peter Canisius, presbyter, religious, doctor of the church (1521-1597)

The town where Peter Canisius was born, Nijmegen, was then a German town.

Peter's father was a town leader who thought his son should be a lawyer. Peter chose to become a priest of the Jesuit Order, newly founded at that time. He committed himself to a life of prayer, study, reflection and writing. However, he also spent a lot of time visiting the sick and people in prison. People came in large numbers to hear Peter preach. He also founded colleges and seminaries. He became known as the second apostle of Germany. (The first was Boniface, June 5.) Peter's letters fill 8,000 pages. He had many friends and wrote to people of every walk of life. Some of his letters were criticisms addressed to church leaders, but even here Peter was tactful. One of Peter's greatest concerns was instructing people in their faith. During the course of his life, he wrote three books called catechisms to fill this need. Even in the last years of his life, when he had been paralyzed by a stroke, he worked on a very simple catechism for children. Throughout his life he wrote many other works, and he encouraged others to write as well. For that reason, he is considered one of the founders of the Catholic press.



Mark Your Calendar for the New Year The Purse/Cash Bash is Back!!!

Sunday, March 12, 2023

1pm - 4pm @ St. Pius X Social Hall

Donation \$35 each - 4 numbers per ticket

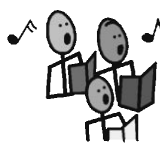
Need not be present to win.

Makes a great Christmas gift!!!

Tickets will be available soon.

Contact Barb @ 724-547-3903,

Kathy @ 724-547-2432, Isabel @ 724-547-9964
or the parish office for tickets.



St. Pius X & Visitation Choir Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 24

10:00pm @ Visitation Church

Sunday, December 25

10:30am @ St. Pius X Church

Arrive at church a little early to enjoy the beautiful Christmas music of our Choir!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
- Friday: St. John of Kanty
- Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas
- Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Last minute Christmas Gifts

Conn-Area Catholic still have a few lottery tickets available for January 2023. These calendar tickets make great gifts or stocking stuffers. Each calendar features a three digit number for every day in January 2023. Tickets are available for \$20. Contact the school office at 724-628-5090 for more information.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society Donation Container

The container for donations is on the right side of the garage in the Visitation Church parking lot. You can continue to assist the Society by placing your donations of clean, gently used clothing and shoes into the container. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Parish Registration

If you have completed high school, or are over 18 years old, you must register at your home parish as an adult. When you are asked to be a sponsor or Godparent, you must present proof of membership in a parish. Your membership in the parish will not be verified if you are still listed as a child on your parent's registration. Call the parish office at 724-547-1911 for more information.

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.

St. Vincent de Paul

The local St. Pius X St. Vincent de Paul Society exists to assist those experiencing financial hardship due to illness, job loss or other unforeseen circumstances. Assistance is provided based on need, with no regard to religious affiliation. Confidentiality is strictly maintained. If you or someone you know needs a helping hand, please call 724-547-0413.

Anointing of the Sick

If you will be going to the hospital for elective surgery, please contact Fr. Dan to receive the Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick. Please do not wait until you arrive at the hospital to call a priest for the sacrament. Fr. Anthony visits patients at Frick Hospital and provides pastoral care for the Catholic patients each week. Also, family members should not wait until the last minute to call a priest to come and celebrate the sacraments. The sacrament of the sick is given to the sick and dying as part of the Church's comprehensive care of the person from sickness and dying to death and burial. Your help in this very important matter is appreciated.

Diocesan is proud to now be printing

St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!

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Korey "CHOPS" Mullin



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