

# 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](http://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 25, 2022 - The Nativity of the Lord

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## Welcome And Merry Christmas

We at the Churches of St. Pius X and Visitation are delighted to welcome each and every one who has come to celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child with us on this Blessed Day.

Whether you are a family member, friend, familiar face, or visitor, know that your presence enlivens our Liturgy and our parish family.

It is great to have you home in our Parish for Christmas.

### 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](mailto:plisik@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Dan E. Carr - [dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

Facilities and Business Manager - Joy Wallace - [jwallace@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jwallace@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

Director of Liturgical Music - Sheryl E. Nagy - [snagy@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:snagy@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

Secretary: Linda A. Amdy - [lamdy@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:lamdy@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

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Maintenance Supervisor: Joe Bauer - [jbauer@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jbauer@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## Mass Intentions

Mon.	12/26	<b>Visitation</b> 7:00am Joseph & Violet Bauer - son, Joe & family  Kaminski family - Dorothy
Tues.	12/27	<b>Visitation</b> 7:00am Joan Moore - Sandra Lincoln
Wed.	12/28	<b>Visitation</b> 7:00am Stephen Harvan - daughter, Genevieve  Carol Gradler - Frank & Mary Beth
Thurs.	12/29	<b>Visitation</b> 7:00am Ronald Magyor - Paul Klyka  Peg Detling - Leonard Biller
Fri.	12/30	<b>Visitation</b> 7:00am Parish Families
Sat.	12/31	<b>Visitation</b> 4:30pm Lori Cernuto Hyde & Brian Hyde - Linda, Chris, Melissa & Susan  <b>St. Pius X</b> 6:00pm Dale R. Callaghan - wife, Mary Sue Callaghan
Sun.	1/1	<b>St. Pius X</b> 8:00am Patty & Jimmy Di Michael - sister, Kathy Tylka  <b>Visitation</b> 9:15am Walter Witek - First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association  <b>St. Pius X</b> 10:30am Lowell Briercheck - Connie & Bob Cope

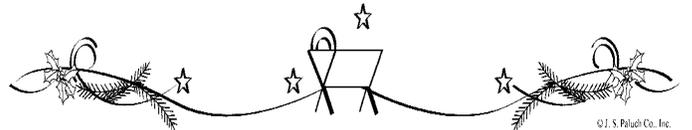


### CHRISTMAS IS FOREVER

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
To make music in the heart.*

## Ministry of the Altar

Sat.	12/31	<b>Visitation 4:30pm</b> Greeters: Volunteers Lector: David Brooks Minister: Barb Sandzimier Servers: Colton Golobish, Owen Spires, Lily Spires Cantor: Kristin Guynn  <b>St. Pius X 6:00pm</b> Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Michael Hricik Ministers: Hank Rose, Paul Klaus Servers: Ava Coppula, Sophia Coppula, Volunteer Cantor: Kristen Felentzer
Sun.	1/1	<b>St. Pius X 8:00am</b> Greeters: Knights of Columbus Lector: Colleen Perneli Ministers: Sister Anna Maria, Chris DeFlicht Servers: Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer Cantor: Pat Martinoski  <b>Visitation 9:15am</b> Greeters: Volunteers Lector: John Zemba Minister: Patty Thomas Servers: Langdon Thomas, Amelia Thomas, Volunteer Cantor: Phil Brown/Choir  <b>St. Pius X 10:30am</b> Greeters: Volunteers Lector: Acacia Houck Minister: Madonna Mullin, Sister Juliana Servers: Nolan Davis, Michael Hegyes, Volunteer Cantor: Joanne Geckle



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### CHRISTMAS POEM

*Christmas time is a joyful season,  
And we must not forget the reason,  
Why we celebrate Christ's birth,  
The time when he came down to earth.  
It's not in giving some gift or toy,  
That we wind a lasting joy.  
Just remember what God has done,  
He gave to us His only Son.*



## “Take My Room!”

Christmas pageants can be happy, but they can also be devastating when something goes wrong. The director has frazzled nerves and anxious parents sitting on the edge of their pews, hoping that Johnny and Susie won't forget their lines. Somehow, usually things turn out all right, and by the Grace of God the beautiful message of Christmas joy shines through.

Billy had been assigned the role of the inn-keeper of Bethlehem. He was supposed to say, “I’m sorry, but there is no room. We’re all filled up. Go out to the stables. You can find shelter there.” Instead Billy forgot his lines and became confused. With tears in his eyes, he blurted out, “Please don’t go away! You can have my room!” That is true devotion, and it speaks to our condition today. What can we give? There are three things, among others, that we certainly can give. We can give cheerfulness. Even if we are not feeling good ourselves, it is amazing what a pleasant change will occur within our souls if we act as if we were happy and were cheerful toward others. We can give kindness. Yes, there is a kind of condescending solicitude like that of the man who wanted to shield some ducks from the rain with his umbrella! Just simple, thoughtful kindness will radiate the joy of Christmas, and all will light around us. We can be helpful to others. We can’t do everything, but we can do something. Guided by the Lord, as we seek His will, we shall be doing the right thing. Fr. Dan and I pray that each of you make “room” in your heart for the Christ Child and invite Him into it. May you be enveloped by the Joy of Christmas today and throughout the coming year as you share kindness, cheerfulness and a helping hand to those you share time with together. Please know that we are remembering you in our Christmas Masses. May the Christ Child bless you for your gift of yourself. On behalf of our entire parish staff, may you and your family have a Blessed and Holy Christmas

**Fr. Paul**

LET US  
ADORE HIM  
*Christ the Lord*

*From the  
Desk of  
Fr. Dan*

We don't really know on what day Jesus was born. It's not in the Bible anywhere. No one has found an ancient papyrus birth certificate saying “Jesus of Nazareth” or “Jesus, son of Joseph” anywhere (which would be incorrect – it should say “Jesus, Son of God”!) If that is so, why is Christmas celebrated on December 25?

Christmas was first celebrated in Rome on December 25 in 336, but *The Commentary on the book of Daniel* by Hippolytus of Rome, written around 204, mentions December 25 as the date of Christ's birth. Hippolytus does not explain his reasoning, but some in those days believed that the world came into being on March 25, the vernal equinox. So, it would be fitting that the Savior of the World would come into the world on that date, incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Mother. Do the math, and Jesus' birthday would then be on December 25.

Some historians are quick to point out that many pagan cultures celebrated holidays like Sol Invictus and the birthday of Mithras in late December. Christianity tended to take existing pagan rituals and “baptize” them rather than making brand new rituals. Some suggest that the date of Christmas was set up as a response to those holidays, which would fit that historical narrative. Whether or not that's true, I think this puts into perspective an important reason for Christmas being the date that it is: the very earth itself is connected to the great mysteries of our faith.

In the darkest and coldest of days of the year, humanity knows that it needs a reason to celebrate and be festive. Most cultures have some sort of celebration in the dead of winter – including pagan cultures. These celebrations satisfy the human need to have a reason to hope and rejoice when the world around us is so lifeless. Because God loves us, He gives us what we need to satisfy these human needs. So, he gave us a reason to rejoice during this season. He gave us the gift of the Christ child in December because we need it then the most. (Well, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, but that's a whole other story. Although we do not have historical certainty about the date of Christmas, we can be certain that Jesus Christ comes to be the light of the world. And it is fitting that the Light of the World would come to us when the darkness around us is the heaviest.

May the light of Christ brighten your hearts and your homes on this Christmas day.



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**This Friday, December 30, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family**

From Christmas Day to New Year's Day is the Christmas octave. Octaves are eight-day weeks. Of course, an ordinary week is seven days. It's what we expect. But eight days? That's something strange and wonderful.

In Christian symbolism, eight days represent eternity. Maybe that's because an eight-day period begins and ends on the same day of the week. (Christmas and New Year's always fall on the same day of the week.) Christmastime is a season to live with one foot in eternity. Christmastime is filled with feast days. The first Sunday of the season is the Feast of the Holy Family. (Unless Christmas Day is itself a Sunday, then the feast is kept on December 30.) Friday, we celebrate this special feast. Holy Family Day is a favorite time for family reunions. Students are home from school and many people have extra days off from work. Like every day of Christmastime, it's an occasion for feasting and caroling and relaxing. Some people say that the nicest part about Christmastime weekends is that there's finally some time to sit back and enjoy the decorations and music and good company. May the families of our parishes truly model the Holy Family during this joyous time of the year.

**Weekly Offering - December 18, 2022**

**Visitation Parish**

Weekly.....	\$4,932.00
Capital Improvements.....	\$35.00
Growing.....	\$50.00
Accent.....	\$25.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$15.00
Immaculate Conception...	\$25.00
Christmas.....	\$960.00
Child./Family Services...	\$200.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$274.00
Uplift Our Faith.....	\$325.00
Total Envelopes:	191

**St. Pius X Parish**

Weekly.....	\$6,562.10
Capital Improvements.....	\$10.00
Accent.....	\$15.00
Diocesan Poverty.....	\$10.00
Child./Family Services.....	\$55.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$599.00
Christmas.....	\$295.00
Immaculate Conception....	\$50.00
Uplift Our Faith.....	\$270.00
Total Envelopes:	220



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. Please visit the Nativity in our Churches.

**Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule**

Because New Year's Day falls on Sunday, January 1, this year, the Mass schedule next weekend will be the same as the normal weekend schedule in our parishes. Please make the concerted effort to attend Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God and begin the year 2023 asking God to hear our prayers for peace here and around the world!

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

**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.

***Please pray for the wholeness & healing of***  
 K. S. D., Beverly Rogacki, 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, 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.**



***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***

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
 +  
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**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 Monday, December 26th. The office will re-open Tuesday, December 27th at 9:30am. We will also be closed December 30, 2022 & January 2, 2023. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 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 Frank & Rose Marne - family  
**Blessed Mother** - In memory of Joshua Brent Marker - mother, father & brother
- St. Joseph** - In memory of Joshua Brent Marker - mother, father & brother
- Our Lady of Czestochowa** - In memory of Larry Rega - daughter, Kristi & boys
- Visitation**  
**Sanctuary** - In memory of Richard & Ann Kowash - son, Ken  
**Blessed Mother** - In memory of Patricia Pisula - Al Pisula family
- St. Joseph** - In memory of Daniel Kaczmarek - siblings  
**Madonna & Child** - In memory of Kramarski, Pytlak & Vella family - family

## December 26-January 6 THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

*When Christmas's tide comes in like a bride with holly and ivy clad, Twelve Days in the year much mirth and good cheer in every household is had.*

Christmas is not a day, but a season! It lasts from Christmas Day until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the year 567, the church council of Tours called the 13 days between December 25 and January 6 a festival season. Up until that time, the only other joyful church season was the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Almost everyone knows the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas." In England they begin counting the 12 days on December 26, making January 6 the 12th day. The stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve is the center point. In most of Europe they begin counting the 12 days on December 25. That makes January 6 the 13th day. Either way, we have a "baker's dozen" of days for announcing the good news of the birth of Christ. Some families make it their custom during this time to cluster around the Christmas crib for prayers each evening. The Christmas tree is lighted each night while folks pray and sing carols. On Christmas Day the figures of the magi are placed far away from the crib, then moved a little closer every day until Epiphany, when they arrive in Bethlehem. The Christmas story can be told and retold in plays and pageants. An old proverb says that "a guest in the home is Christ in the home." Maybe the most important Christmas customs are to invite guests and to be a guest.

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### Prayer for the Family

Heavenly Father, most good and gracious God,  
sustain our family in Your love.  
Make it a place where holiness and love abound.  
Help us to learn to be like Jesus in all our actions.  
aid our family to imitate the Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.  
Help us to learn from example of others  
and to give good examples to everyone.  
Assist us in learning  
to bear our pain and suffering as Jesus did.  
Aid us in overcoming difficulties  
and carry our crosses.  
Help our family life to lead only to Jesus, the  
source of true happiness. Please give wholesome  
habits to our family.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Christmas a Season of Visiting

Since the first Christmas, when shepherds, angels and Kings came to visit the Holy Family, Christmas has been a time to share joy and love with one another both by welcoming guests into our homes and by visiting family and friends. God has come to be with us; now we come together to share this love with one another. There are many Christmas visiting traditions.

- ◆ Celebrate the feast of the Holy Family by visiting extended family.
- ◆ "Visit" distant family members by setting aside an evening for writing letters, sending e-mails or chatting online.
- ◆ Bring gifts of cookies, flowers or photos to share with neighbors.
- ◆ "Visit" our soldiers overseas by sponsoring a USO care-package (go to <http://www.uso.org/operation-uso-care-package.aspx>).
- ◆ Visit shut-ins living in your parish.
- ◆ Carol for the elderly living in a neighborhood assisted living home.
- ◆ Consider becoming a minister of care at your parish.



### "What Christmas Means..." On the Surface

Christmas is more than store windows, sales and Santa Claus. More than cards and candy; more than packages in bright wrappings and fancy ribbons. Christmas is more than trees, trains and trimmings; more than ice cubes, cocktails and night clubs...

### Deeper Meaning

Christmas is Mary in blue, Joseph in brown and the Child in white. Christmas is humility with shepherds and kings on their knees. Christmas is friendliness, neighborliness and thoughtfulness. Christmas is Christ leaving heaven and coming to save us from our sins. Christmas is contrition and Confession; forgiving and forgetting. Christmas is clear minds and clean hearts. Christmas is changing our way of living, making room in our hearts for Christ. Christmas is generosity and joy with Christ at Mass and Communion. Christmas is God coming on earth and angels singing "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among men of good will."



**Adoration: First Friday, January 6th**  
**Visitation Church**

Adoration is on the first Friday of each month following morning Mass until noon.

**Confessions: First Saturday, January 7th**

12noon @ St. Pius X Church

3:30pm @ Visitation Church

(Each Saturday, 3:30pm @ Visitation Church)



***All You Can Eat***  
***Omelet Breakfast***  
***Sunday, January 15, 2023***  
***Sponsored by St. Pius X***  
***Holy Name Society***

8am - 12noon @ St. Pius X social hall

Adults/\$8.00, children(3 - 12)/\$3.00, under 3/Free

Tickets will be sold at the door.



**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.

**An Invitation To Be Catholic...**

Are you interested in knowing more about the Church? Do you know someone in your family, among your friends or neighbors, who might be interested in joining the Catholic Church? Have you been away from the Church and are considering returning? Are you a member of the church and would like to update your understanding of the faith? The process of active participation is one of prayer, reflection, discussion, inquiry, learning and celebrating. Sessions for those who are interested in this journey of faith are ongoing. They are designed to help each person grow in a personal relationship with God, and better understand what our faith believes and teaches about God, Jesus and human life. More information is available by contacting Fr. Dan at 724-547-1911.

**From Christmas Eve Until**  
**The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord...**  
**is the Christmas Season.**

In the Northern Hemisphere, during the last week of December and the first weeks of January, the days ever-so-slowly begin to lengthen. That is when the Church keeps Christmas. In these merry days we Christians welcome our Lord, who comes as a tiny child, in mercy and gentleness and compassion. But make no mistake, this newborn is our God and Lord, our Savior and our Judge. And so we sing out loud, "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" in words of Psalm 96, "O Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the world justice, who comes to judge the people with truth." To announce God's epiphany - the glorious appearing of heaven on earth - we give gifts and greetings. We drive away the winter with lights and flowers. We gather around the shining tree of life, and we open our homes to every guest. But the keeping of Christmas is not easy. On the day after December 25, the after Christmas sales begin, as if Christmas were over. But it's not over, It's just begun! We Christians have to rely on our own resources when it comes to keeping our festivals. And we have so many days to keep! There's the Feast of St. Stephen, when "Good King Wenceslas looked out." There's St. John's Day, when people toast each other's good health. There's the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the sad day of the season. Christmastime includes the New Year celebration, when we ring out troubles and ring in blessings. Then there's Epiphany, the merriest day of our merry Christmastime, when we follow a star to our heart's desire. The Christmas Season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast usually falls on the second Sunday in January. But the season echoes again on February 2, Candlemas, when we praise Christ, the light of the world. Think how much we'd miss if we ended Christmas on December 25. Advent and Christmastime - the preparation and the celebration - brings us from old year to a new. The Christian year is not a circle, leading nowhere. Rather, our years form a twisted spiral, like the ladder of angels in Jacob's dream. The ladder of the year leads us out of time, ever upward into God's bright eternity.

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# St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin

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Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will

For further information, please call the parish office.



**Korey "CHOPS" Mullin**

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