

St. Pius X Parish



Visitation Parish

224 Summit Street ◇ Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania ◇ 740 West Walnut Street

◇ Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts ◇

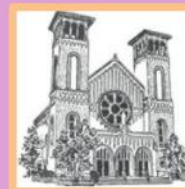
Parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg

Office: 740 W. Walnut St. Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

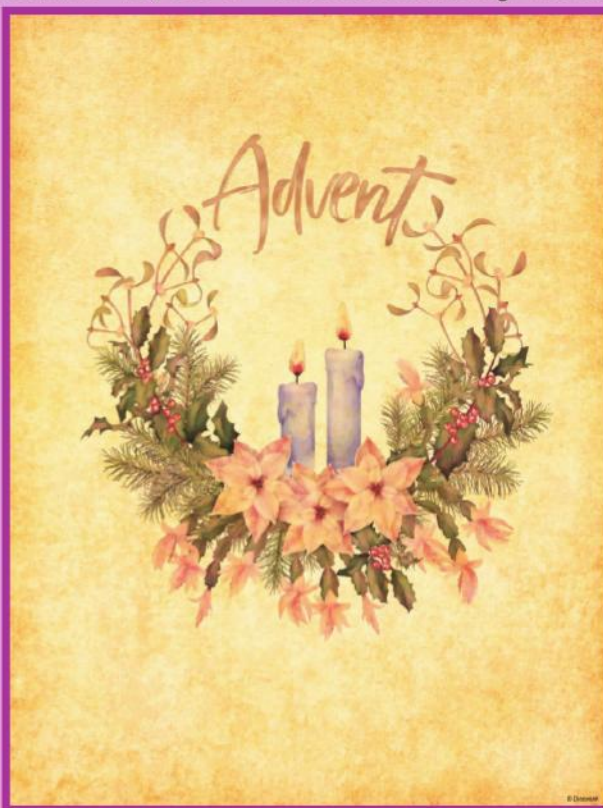
Phone: 724-547-1911 **Fax:** 724-547-2630

Visit us at: www.mpcatholicchurches.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Thu.: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday of Advent



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. at Visitation; 6:00 p.m. at St. Pius X

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. at Visitation; 10:30 a.m. at St. Pius X

Weekday Mass: 7:00 a.m. at Visitation

Administrator: Very Rev. Paul A. Lisik, V.F.
plisik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Daniel E. Carr
dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mass Intentions

- Mon. 12/11 **Visitation**
7:00 a.m. James Tylka– family
- Tues. 12/12 **Visitation**
7:00 a.m. Steve Melega– daughters
Richard Sofranko– family
- Wed. 12/13 **Visitation**
7:00 a.m. Charles Gelet– son, Bill
Patty & Albert Chlebowski–
John & Denise Zozula
- Thurs. 12/14 **Visitation**
7:00 a.m. Dolores Sann– daughter, Susan
Thomas & family and daughter, Diane
Otolski & family
Amy Peifer– Roger & Cindy
Haines and Larry Hornick
- Friday 12/15 **Visitation**
7:00 a.m. Mary Martha Toczek– Andrew,
Martha & Andrea Garbon
- Sat. 12/16 **Visitation**
4:00 p.m. M/M Leonard Czekaj– Jan &
David Brooks
- St. Pius X**
6:00 p.m. Bartolo & Philomena Cesario
and Ross & Bette Smith– son &
daughter
- Sun. 12/17 **Visitation**
8:30 a.m. Sarah Smetak– Barbara
Niezgoda
- St. Pius X**
10:30 a.m. Antonina Zodda– daughter,
Angela

OUR STAFF

Facilities and Business Manager: Joy Wallace
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Director of Religious Education: Mary Allison
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Ministry of the Altar

- Sat. 12/16 **Visitation 4:00pm**
Greeters: volunteers
Lector: Robert Manjerovic
Eucharistic Minister: Marlene Cibulas
Servers: Colton Golobish, volunteers
Cantor: Jaime Golobish
- St. Pius X 6:00pm**
Greeters: volunteers
Lector: Kim Sirianna
Eucharistic Ministers: Connie Barnhart, Paul
Klaus
Servers: Emma Ersick, volunteers
Cantor: Pat Martinoski
- Sun. 12/17 **Visitation 8:30am**
Greeters: volunteers
Lector: Stanley Kapella
Eucharistic Minister: Joann Maholtz
Servers: Addison & Sophie Grenda, Grant
Zahrobsky
Cantor: Peggy Tepper
- St. Pius X 10:30am**
Greeters: volunteers
Lector: Robert Davis
Eucharistic Ministers: Ray Gamrat, Madonna
Mullin
Servers: Camden Stouffer, Michael Hegyes,
Nolan Davis
Cantor: Linda Goodlin/choir

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary– Don & Louise Bales– family

Blessed Mother– Peggy Pence-Dropik– children

Visitation

Sanctuary– Stephen J. Zubach– family

St. Joseph– Special intention

**St. Vincent de Paul, Mt. Pleasant: Please call
724-547-0413 for local assistance.**

*From
the Desk
of
Fr. Dan*

One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. – Mark 1:7

Although we don't wear sandals as often as people did in Jesus' day, I think this statement makes a lot of sense to us. Loosening the thongs of one's sandals means removing them. People wore sandals in the region because it was hot and sandy. Normally when entering a house (if the person was well off enough), a slave would come and wash the guest's feet, taking their sandals off to do it. This is what makes Jesus' gesture of washing the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper so striking and why Peter says, "You will never wash my feet."

While this passage seems to speak of John the Baptist's humility and recognition about not being the foretold Christ, there is something more going on here with this language. In the book of Deuteronomy, this phrase is used in an unexpected way. In Deuteronomy 25, a law is given about what is called a Levirate marriage. A Levirate marriage was what happened when someone's brother died without any children. It was the responsibility of the oldest surviving male to take his brother's wife as his own and have children with her for his brother's sake. While this seems really messed up to us today, men could have many wives in those days and the Jewish people did not originally believe in the resurrection. If your only way of living past death was through descendants, this was how someone's brother helped them to live on after a premature death.

The law in Deuteronomy says that a brother could refuse to take up this duty of marrying the widow of his brother. If so, this would happen: *If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her," his sister-in-law, in the presence of the elders, shall go up to him and strip his sandal from his foot and spit in his face, declaring, "This is how one should be treated who will not build up his brother's family!" And his name shall be called in Israel, "the house of the man stripped of his sandal."*

After this, the wife is then free to marry the next-older brother (or someone else if there are no other brothers). The removal of someone's sandal means taking away his right to be the bridegroom of the widow. John the Baptist is using this phrase not merely to describe humility and lowering of himself compared to Jesus. He is making a point that we're talking about a marriage here. Jesus comes to be the Bridegroom of the Church. And for John the Baptist, taking up that mantle is an impossibility. He is not worthy to be the bridegroom – only Christ can be that.

Jesus' love for his people is like that of a groom for his bride or a husband for his wife. Do we appreciate that kind of love that God has for us? And do we love Him in the same way in return?

*Notes from our Administrator,
Fr. Paul:*

SOMETHING NEW: "A NEW SPIRIT"

Life is lived on many levels. Almost everyone has times when they feel "at the bottom of the heap". But also times when we feel "on top of the world". In between, we vary between discouragement and hope, optimism and depression. Since we all have "down" times, what does faith offer to help us get "up"?

First of all, we need to take stock of where we are. This is what Advent is for. Christmas usually is an "up" time, but how do we get there? We do well to take off both the blinders and the rose-colored glasses. We may not have some dire thing wrong that we need to confess or a major fault that we need to correct. But most of us carry some burdens that weigh us down. A health problem may diminish our energy. A difficult family member or business associate may keep us from feeling that we can never relax. It helps to identify what hinders us.

Second, we can gain help by asking ourselves, "Can I do something about the burden I am carrying? Are there things that I can change?" Take a fresh look! Is there some new approach and remedy to try? If nothing still seems able to solve the problem, can we find a new way to cope with it, live with it? Sometimes, simply finding something else creative to do gives us new perspective. Endure what we can. For the rest, find someone to talk with. Sharing your feelings helps to make the burden lighter.

Third, remember that God is near and can be called on. Pray with the Psalmist, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." The Psalms deal with the many levels of our living in remarkable ways. Reading them can provide a background that makes our praying more effective.

Finally, remember that God came to earth to live out, in Christ, a life that was victorious despite all its complications and burdens. Through Him, our own spirits may be renewed. All of these can be accomplished by making a good confession during this Advent season. Please see the list of regional Penance services in this bulletin.

In & Around Our Neighborhood...



We have opened the Mass book for 2024. Intention request sheets may be found in the back of both churches. All Mass intentions have to be submitted in writing on the reservation sheet. Please read the **DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!** No Masses will be scheduled over the phone. Thank you for your understanding.

These are the Regional Penance Services scheduled during the Advent Season. Please set aside some time during this busy season for confession. There will be extra priests at these services to accommodate the penitents. Please note the date and time of each service, as they are not all the same.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

- St. Florian (United), Mon. Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
- St. Raymond (Donegal), Tues. Dec. 12, 6 p.m.
- St. John (Connellsville), Sat. Dec. 16, 11 a.m.
- Visitation (Mt. Pleasant), Tues. Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
- St. Aloysius (Dunbar), Thur. Dec. 21, 7 p.m.
- St. Joseph (Everson), Sat. Dec. 23, 11 a.m.



THE ST. PIUS X CHRISTIAN MOTHERS will have their Christmas holiday brunch at the Pleasant Valley Golf Club on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at noon.

SCOTSDALE AREA CHORAL SOCIETY

Christmas Concert Series:

SUN. Dec. 10 at St. Pius X RC Church, Mt. Pleasant, PA

MON. Dec. 11 at Grace Fellowship Church, Everson, PA

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. & admission is free.

AN ADVENT REFLECTION on December 17, 2023

6:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in Scottdale, PA.

An evening of lessons and carols with music provided by the Partner Parishes of St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph combined choir.

Also, **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**, hosted by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Lambing #314, at 5 p.m. on December 10 at St. John the Baptist in Scottdale, PA. All are welcome!



Limited Bags of Cavatelli for Sale!

Approximately 4.5 pound bag, \$15 apiece. If interested, please call Kathy at 724-547-2432.

The *Visitation Christian Mothers* sold Colebrook Chocolates, and the pick-up date for the candy will be Saturday, December 16, at the Visitation community center from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The ongoing support from parishioners and community members is greatly appreciated. Thank you! *Jan*

Christmas devotional candles are now available at both of our churches! Please call the office at 724-547-1911 to reserve one. The cost is \$10 per candle, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

All are welcome to attend the St. Pius X Holy Name Society's Night of Reflection on Monday, December 11 at St. Pius X Church. The rosary will be said at 6:10 p.m., followed immediately by the remainder of the program.

Confessions heard at Visitation every Saturday, beginning at 3:15 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month at St. Pius X, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

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

~Fr. Paul

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 p.m. @ St. Pius X, 6 p.m. @ Visitation

CHRISTMAS DAY: midnight @ St. Pius X, 10:30 a.m. @ Visitation.



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, but will also alter the focus of our surroundings from negativity and disregard to kindness and caring. This will allow others, family, friends, and strangers, to open their hearts to the Christ Child.

ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, our second graders made their First Penance. They worked hard toward this goal over the past few months with workshops and religious education classes. We ask that our parish families keep them in your prayers, especially as they will now begin preparation for receiving their First Holy Communion in the spring. We congratulate them on this step in their journey of a lifetime of faith. May our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, keep them ever close to Him as they prepare to welcome Him into their hearts.



Please pray for our departed loved ones:
Patricia Bienia, Irene Patrick & Michael Cysak.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.



Join us every
Wednesday to pray the
rosary for peace:
11:30 a.m. at
Visitation.

Please pray for the wholeness and healing of:

Zippy, Robert Atz, Mike Curci, Arthur & Joann Kiliany, Liam R., Luca I., Tom O'Brocto, Sr., Irene, Stephen H., Blue, Bryce, Lisa C., Terry Griffith, Mike Hauser, Pete Rerko, Bart Z., Sharon Golobish, Ronald Burke, Janet, John, Annette Phillips, Flo M., Lisa, Lucius, Stanley P., Steven Kitko, Mary Jane Pawlikowski, Louann Y., Peggy, Sharon & Russ Gonda, Mike, Patty & Dan Gonos, Pat, Bill, Connie Zemba, Ray B., Andrew, Bob Sandzimer, Fetti Kramarski, Joann L., Knox, Phillip, Baby Parker, Greg Pfeifer, Ken Keslar, Jen, Dwayne Thomas, Regis Melego, Mary Rose, David Gillott, Patricia Burke, Carol K., Frank Chain, David, Gene, Edward P., Janet Pfeifer, Elizabeth E., Don Seder, 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, 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., Mercedes Isola, Georgia, 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, Betty Mencer, Bridget Nitkiewicz, Dorothy Nitkiewicz, Ginny Grenda



SAVE THE DATE & STUFF YOUR STOCKINGS!

Visitation Parish's Cash/Purse Bash has been scheduled for Sunday, March 3, 2024, in the St. Pius X social hall, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and the cost is \$35 apiece. There will be four numbers per ticket, and the 4:00 p.m. drawing will be for \$1,000! Please call Barb at 724-547-3903 or Kathy at 724-547-2432 for information or to buy tickets.



UPCOMING BULLETIN TIDBITS: Due to the Advent & Christmas season, please be aware that submissions for bulletins will be due as listed below:

- ◆ for the December 24 bulletin, please submit no later than **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13**
- ◆ for the December 31 bulletin, please submit no later than **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20**

Space is at a premium at this time of year, and we'll do our best to accommodate requests. Thank you for your understanding!

Weekly Offering— November 26, 2023

Visitation Parish

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Weekly..... | \$4,835 |
| Capital Improvements..... | \$20 |
| Growing/debt reduction..... | \$10 |
| Catholic Accent..... | \$23 |
| Christmas flowers..... | \$10 |
| Children & family services..... | \$10 |
| Poverty relief..... | \$10 |
| Immaculate Conception..... | \$25 |
| Christmas..... | \$65 |
| Christmas flowers..... | \$10 |
| Solemnity of Mary..... | \$5 |
| Total envelopes: 167 | |

St. Pius X Parish

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Weekly..... | \$6,930 |
| All Saints'..... | \$10 |
| All Souls'..... | \$20 |
| Capital Improvements..... | \$10 |
| Catholic Accent..... | \$30 |
| Poverty relief..... | \$100 |
| Children & family services..... | \$10 |
| Christmas..... | \$250 |
| Christmas flowers..... | \$60 |
| Immaculate Conception..... | \$15 |
| World Mission Sunday..... | \$10 |
| Total envelopes: 219 | |

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!

Please scan the appropriate QR code below or go to www.mpcatholicchurches.org to begin giving online.

ST. PIUS X



VISITATION



JUST A REMINDER that there is an envelope in your packet for Christmas flowers & decorations. 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. A special Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day for all who gave and for their intentions.

If you are out of town for the holidays, one suggestion is to keep your unused envelopes and bring your contributions up to date when you return. Your help will still be needed to meet current expenses. May God bless you for your generosity.



NEW LECTOR WORKBOOKS may now be picked up in the sacristies of both churches!





Advent Household Table Prayer

*Come to us, O Lord!
Come to us, O Lord!*

*Be present here, O Lord!
Let this mealtime recall your generous love
for us. Come to us, O Lord!*

*Be present here, O Lord!
Let your mercy and justice be seen in your
Church. Come to us, O Lord!*

*Be present here, O Lord!
Make us one in you, let your presence end
all discord. Bless this meal, and all who
wait for you. Come to us, O Lord!*



ANNUAL WIGILIA DINNER ON DECEMBER 15, 2023

The Polish Heritage Club, Inc. invites you to relive the tradition of an authentic Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve dinner). Learn the meaning of the customs, traditions, and folklore of Old Poland.

Wigilia begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 15, at the Uniontown Polish Club, 229 South Mount Vernon Avenue, Uniontown, PA.

For more information and reservations, call Barb at 724-438-1036. All are invited to enjoy this annual tradition.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Every year pilgrims stream to a great church near Mexico City. There, over the altar, is a simple tilma (a cloak) made from two pieces of cactus cloth. Though that kind of cloth seldom lasts 20 years, this tilma has survived intact for centuries.

In 1531, the tilma belonged to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian. Juan had been baptized a Christian after the Spanish invaded Mexico. One December morning he was walking past an old shrine of the Aztec goddess of the corn harvest. The Spanish had smashed the shrine and renamed the place Guadalupe. There Juan saw a vision of Mary, the mother of God. She was dressed as an Aztec princess. She had olive skin and black hair like an Aztec. She was clothed in magnificent colors. Around her waist was a sash, which women wore when they were pregnant.

Mary spoke to Juan with affection. She gave him a message for the local bishop. Mary wanted the bishop to build a church where she stood. She promised to grant help to all who called on her there. When Juan Diego delivered the message, the bishop didn't believe him. Mary provided Juan with a sign to take to the bishop. She guided Juan to a spot where wild roses were blooming. He was amazed to see roses in winter.

Juan Diego gathered an armful of flowers into his cloak and hurried off to show them to the bishop. But when he opened his tilma in the bishop's house, an even more amazing sign had been provided. Somehow the image of Mary, just as she looked when she appeared to Juan, filled the tilma.

The Mother of God brought this bright message, one of hope and compassion. She is honored throughout the Americas and all over the world.



DAILY PRAYER for ADVENT

God of eternal mercy and love, I lift my heart in prayer to you throughout these Advent days.

Grant me patience as I prepare the way for the Christ's coming. Inspire me with hope to await eagerly the return of Christ in glory.

Fill me with joy to cry out with the whole Church:
Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Diocesan is proud to now be printing

St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin

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Korey "CHOPS" Mullin



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