St. Pius X Parish



Visitation Parish

224 Summit Street ◊

Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania

740 West Walnut Street



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



December 17, 2023 - Third 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

'arocniai vicar: Rev. Daniei E. Cari *dcarr@dioceseofgreensburg.org*

Mass Intentions

12/18 **Visitation** Mon.

7:00 a.m. Bob & Cindy Cronin-Paul &

Peggy Tepper

Tues. 12/19 **Visitation**

7:00 a.m. Barbara Kaper- Kathy, Dick &

Don Kaper, Jr.

Wed. 12/20 **Visitation**

7:00 a.m. Warren Leeder-Janice &

Carole Echard- Tom & Ginger

Thurs. 12/21 **Visitation**

7:00 a.m. Vincent & Charlene Prosnik-

cousin, Mary Jane Pawlikowski & family

12/22 Visitation Friday

7:00 a.m. parish families

Sat. 12/23 Visitation

4:00 p.m. Sarah Minick- Kathy & Ray

lanesko

St. Pius X

6:00 p.m. Joseph & Violet Bauer- son &

family

12/24 **Visitation** Sun.

8:30 a.m. Sarah Smetak-Loretta Keefer

St. Pius X

10:30 a.m. Helen Miller- M/M David

Brooks

CHRISTMAS EVE- St. Pius X

4:00 p.m. for the intention of all who gave for Christmas flowers

Visitation 6:00 p.m. for the celebrant's

intention

OUR STAFF

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

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

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Director of Religious Education: Mary Allison mallison@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Ministry of the Altar

Sat. 12/23 Visitation 4:00pm

Greeters: volunteers

Lector: Kate Bannon

Eucharistic Minister: Barb Sandzimier Servers: Lily & Owen Spires, Bobby

Smithnosky

Cantor: Chris DeFlitch

St. Pius X 6:00pm

Greeters: volunteers

Lector: Barb Dropik

Eucharistic Ministers: Hank Rose, Kim Sirianna Servers: Braxton Pastore, Emma Ersick, vol.

Cantor: Phil Brown

Sun. 12/24 Visitation 8:30am

> Greeters: volunteers Lector: Denise Moyemont

Eucharistic Minister: Patricia Thomas

Servers: Ty Whoric, Amelia & Langdon

Thomas

Cantor: Sharon Stewart

St. Pius X 10:30am

Greeters: volunteers

Lector: Acacia Houck

Eucharistic Ministers: Pat Gaal, Cindy

Copeland

Servers: Michael Hegyes, Camden Stouffer,

volunteer

Cantor: Joanne Geckle

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

St. Joseph- Kendal Dusenbery- Ann Landy, sister-in-law

Our Lady of Czestochowa - Emil & Rose Rinaldi - family

Visitation

St. Joseph- Adam & Viola Rudzinski- granddaughter, Connie & family

> Madonna & Child- James & Martha Palanko-Jim & Adeline Palanko

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

From the Desk of Fr. Dan When things happen to you that you can't change, you can either choose to be happy about them or choose to be sad about them. – my mom

As a child, I can remember my siblings and I being upset over stupid, little things. You know how kids can be. If we didn't get our way or something we wanted, we made a big fuss out of it and moped and sighed for a while.

This is when my mother would tell us that we should choose to be happy instead of sad. While anyone who has dealt with depression knows it's not as simple as choosing to be happy or sad, there is a theological truth hidden in her motherly wisdom. I would call it the difference between happiness and joy.

Although you can quibble with my use of terms, let's just say that happiness is something that you feel. Some days we feel happy, and some days we don't. Usually, it's connected to how our day is going. If we have an unexpected, pleasant surprise, it brings us happiness and delight. If we have an unexpected, unpleasant surprise, it often takes our happiness away. So, happiness depends upon our circumstances in life which can change and fluctuate seemingly at random.

Joy is different from this. Joy is something deeper. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit that resides within us and transcends mere emotion. It does not change with the random effects of life.

Someone who is joyful is not simply ignorant of the bad things that happen to them. They are simply aware that, in the grand scheme of things, they are nothing compared to what they have that is everlasting – God's love. You can be both sad and joyful at the same time – sad that something is not right or perfect, but joyful that God is still present in the sad moments of life. In fact, although I am not a psychologist, I believe that joy is the truest answer to depression – a deep, abiding knowledge of God's love can penetrate any sadness that we might have.

I think this joy is what my mother meant. On this Gaudete Sunday, we tell the world to "Rejoice". Not because we feel wonderful today. Not because everything is going our way. It's because deep within us remains a sense of God's love that brings us joy. We pray for an abundance of that gift of joy, so that no matter what our life's situation might bring, we might look forward to singing "Joy to the World" when our Savior comes on Christmas.

Notes from our Administrator, Ir. Paul:

SOMETHING NEW: "A NEWBORN BABY"

Of all the varied Christmas decorations, nothing can convey the true meaning of this time as well as a creche. Be it a picture, wooden carving or even a creche 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 the creche and marvel at God's gift, our faith is born anew within us. It is not that our old faith has been denied, 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 spirit grow quiet. Wait for God's gift to be reborn within us!



How silently, how silently, the wondrous 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.

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 <u>DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!</u> 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

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.

OFFICE CLOSURE for Christmas: The parish office will be closed Friday, December 22 through Tuesday, December 26. The office will reopen Wednesday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m. Thank you for your understanding as we allow our staff to celebrate with their families.

LAST CALL for Christmas devotional candles!
Please call the office by Monday, December 19 at 724-547-1911 if interested. The cost is \$10 per candle, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.



Limited Bags of Cavatelli for Sale! Approximately 4.5 pound bag, \$15 apiece. If interested, please call Kathy at 724-547-2432. The ST. PIUS X CHRISTIAN MOTHERS'
Christmas Party will be held on Sunday,
January 7, 2024, at the Pleasant Valley
Golf Club. \$15.00 grab bag! RSVP to
Millie at 724-875-2174 by
December 27, please.



Thank you to the following "bell ringers" who lucked out this year with great weather: Charley, Kate, Karen, Carol, Dan, Audrey, Marsha, Tom, Dave, Vicki, Pat, Russ, Leah, Mike, Chris and Al. You've made a difference in many lives this Christmas with the gift of your time. Thank you for a job well done!

Pai

Some of the stirring images of the Advent Scriptures were long encapsulated in the "O Antiphons".

Here they are, in order...

Dec. 17: O Wisdom of the Most High God, you rule with gentle might. (Come and save us, O Lord our God.)

Dec. 18: O Lord of Israel, you gave us the law on Sinai.

(Come with your power to redeem us.)

Dec. 19: O Flower of Jesse's Stem, you are the sign of salvation. (Come and deliver us; do not delay.)

Dec. 20: O Key of David, you open and close by your

Dec. 21: O Daystar, you are the eternal light, the sun of justice. (Come and cheer us; dispel the darkness.)

Dec. 22: O Desired One of the Nations, you are the King of Peace. (Come and make us one.)

Dec. 23: O Come, Emmanuel! You are God with us!

(Come be one with us that we may be one with You.)

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.

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.



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 of 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!

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 do this. 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 are ways to thank Our Father.

Please pray for our departed loved ones:
Mitchell Levendusky.

Eternal rest grant unto him, 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., Terri 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 Sandzimier, 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, 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 Plazza, Rob & family, Mary, Artie, Loretta & Alan Ambrosa, Betty Mencer, Bridget Nitkiewicz, Dorothy Nitkiewicz, Ginny Grenda, Ray G.

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 approaching Advent & Christmas season, please be aware that submissions for bulletins will be due as listed below:

- for the December 31 bulletin, please submit no later than MONDAY, DEC. 18
- for the January 7 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- December 3, 2023 Visitation Parish

Tiolianoli i alloli	
Weekly	\$5,553
Capital Improvements	\$101
Growing/debt reduction	\$25
Catholic Accent	\$165.50
Children & family services	\$75
Poverty relief	\$30
Immaculate Conception	\$115
Christmas	\$290
Solemnity of Mary	\$10
All Saints	\$15
Retired religious	\$10
Total envelopes: 261	

St. Pius X Parish

Weekly	\$9,928
Capital Improvements	\$812
Catholic Accent	\$160
Poverty relief	\$10
Children & family services	\$15
Christmas	\$235
Christmas flowers	\$465
Immaculate Conception	\$65
Solemnity of Mary	\$5
Total envelopes: 292	·

Thank you for your generosity!



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

ST. PIUS X







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.









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!



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!





MORE THAN THE MANGER

Amid the bustle of December, it's easy to forget that our Advent preparation is about more than the arrival of a baby in a manger. In the early Church, all of life pointed toward Christ's second coming, which Christians expected to occur within their lifetimes. Not until the fourth century did the feast of the Nativity take root, and with it, the time of preparation: Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, or coming.

To meditate on the end times is to discern whether we are truly prepared to meet God, if we are living out our faith or simply going through the motions. Admitting our own weakness calls us to act, to prepare...even to repent. This is a word we don't often associate with Advent, but which is implicit in the Scriptures we hear early in the season.

This Advent, take time to seek stillness and hear the Lord speaking. Pray. How else will you prepare to welcome "God with us"?

BLESSING THE MANGER

(Each prayer is said as the figure it names is placed in the manger scene.)

Bless this manger, O Lord, a sign of your love for us in Christ.

(Blessing Mary & Joseph)

Bless this household of faith as you blessed Mary & Joseph.

(Blessing the angel)

Bless these Advent days; guide the world with your angel messengers.

(Blessing the shepherds)

Bless our daily work; may it always point the way to Christ.

(Blessing the animals)

Bless all earthly humbleness; fill the world with your presence.

(Blessing the magi)

Bless all who seek you; make your Church a true witness.

(Placing the Christ child)

God of all joy and peace, hear the prayers we offer today and each day, God among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.



St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin

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