

St. Pius X Parish



Visitation Parish

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

◇ Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts ◇

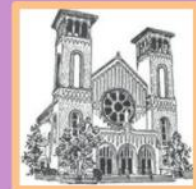
Parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg

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

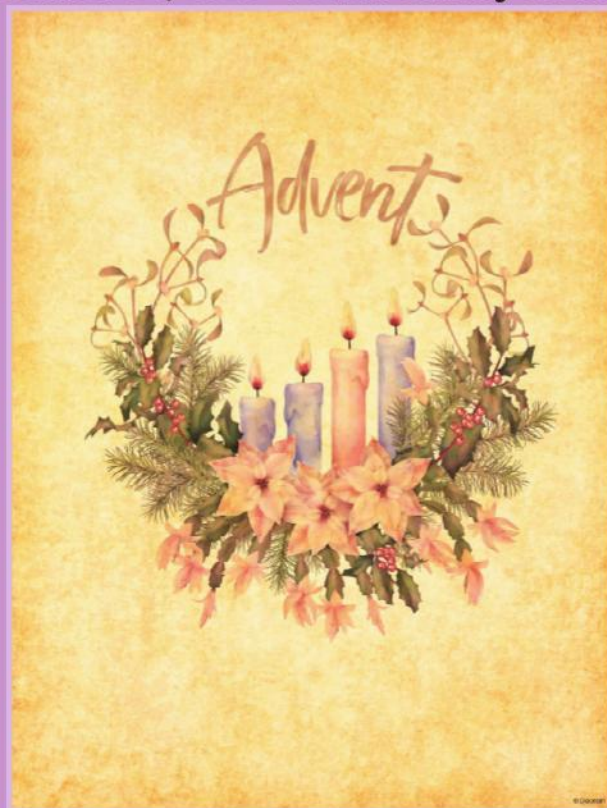
Phone: 724-547-1911 **Fax:** 724-547-2630

Visit us at: www.mpcatholicchurches.org

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



December 24, 2023 - Fourth 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. 12/25 **CHRISTMAS**
St. Pius X midnight– For all the parishioners of both parishes
Visitation 10:30 a.m. For the intention of those who gave for Christmas flowers
- Tues. 12/26 **Visitation**
 7:00 a.m. Joseph & Violet Bauer– son Joe, Lois & family
- Wed. 12/27 **Visitation**
 7:00 a.m. Sarah Minick– Sam & Carol G.
- Thurs. 12/28 **Visitation**
 7:00 a.m. Stephen Harvan– daughter, Genevieve
 John Robert Stefl– Barbara & Jim Stefl
- Friday 12/29 **Visitation**
 7:00 a.m. Ray Bann, II– wife & children
- Sat. 12/30 **Visitation**
 4:00 p.m. Sarah Minick– Jim & Marlene Sebek
- St. Pius X**
 6:00 p.m. Margaret Dolan– Gertrude Klocek
- Sun. 12/31 **Visitation**
 8:30 a.m. Sarah Smetak– Kate Bannon
- St. Pius X**
 10:30 a.m. Helen Miller– Pauline Pfeifer
- Vigil for Solemnity of Mary**
St. Pius X 4:00 p.m. For all parishioners

OUR STAFF

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

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

Administrative Assistant: Erin Knizner
eknizner@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance Supervisor: Joe Bauer
jbauer@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Office Assistant: Theresa Turner
tdturner@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

Ministry of the Altar

- Sat. 12/30 **Visitation 4:00 p.m.**
 Greeters: volunteers
 Lector: David Brooks
 Eucharistic Minister: Ray Gamrat
 Servers: Caleb & Clara Stewart, Colton Golobish
 Cantor: Jaime Golobish
- St. Pius X 6:00pm**
 Greeters: volunteers
 Lector: Connie Barnhart
 Eucharistic Ministers: Dan Copeland, Chris DeFlitch
 Servers: Braxton Pastore, Ava & Sophia Coppola
 Cantor: Kristin Guynn
- Sun. 12/31 **Visitation 8:30 a.m.**
 Greeters: volunteers
 Lector: Colleen Pernelli
 Eucharistic Minister: Kim Sirianna
 Servers: Ty Whoric, Addison & Sophie Grenda
 Cantor: Phil Brown/choir
- St. Pius X 10:30am**
 Greeters: volunteers
 Lector: Becky Czekaj-Dengler
 Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Anna Maria, Ted Czekaj
 Servers: Michael Hegyes, Nolan Davis, vol.
 Cantor: Pat Martinoski

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary– Margaret Dolan– Thomas & Marian Klocek

Blessed Mother– Ricotta family– sister

St. Joseph– Frank & Rose Marne– family

Our Lady of Czestochowa– Sarah Minick– Barbara Niezgoda

Visitation

Sanctuary– Edmond Rosky– Lois Swiderski

Blessed Mother– Pytlak & Vella families– family

St. Joseph– Earl, Andy & Evelyn Zemba– Zemba family

Madonna & Child– Charles M. Swiderski– Lois Swiderski

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

*From
the Desk
of
Fr. Dan*

Exactly 800 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi preached on Christmas Eve Mass in the small town of Greccio. What made this particular Mass so noteworthy was not the message he gave. It was the presence of something new.

It was the very first manger scene. St. Francis felt that in seeing physically the face of the Christ child, hearts would be enlightened as to the great gift given to us in the Incarnation – the fact that God Himself became man.

The Israelites tended to keep God at a distance out of reverence for his holiness. As a sinful nation, Israel knew that they could not be in God's presence in their sin lest they die. The prophet Isaiah expresses this when he has a vision of being in God's presence. "Woe to me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips." (Is 6:5) The same applies to us as sinners. We do not belong in God's presence unless we're freed from all sin.

Despite this truth, God himself chose to come down from heaven to dwell with sinners. The Pharisees were shocked when Jesus shared his meals with sinners because of social protocol. Never did they imagine the true scandal of God sharing a place at table with sinners who do not belong in His presence. This is the power of the Incarnation. This is the power of Christ becoming one of us.

When we gaze upon the face of the Christ child, we remember what a gift it is that God choose to come down and dwell with us sinners. He walks with us, despite our imperfections and impurities. We don't need to find Him. He came and found us.

My hope is that of St. Francis - that by coming to Church on Christmas, approaching the manger scene, and gazing on the face of the Christ child, you will remember what a gift He is for us. God does not stay off at a distance and wait for us to be ready to come to Him. He comes to us amid our sinfulness to forgive us, walk with us, and call us to something more. Merry Christmas and God bless.

*Notes from our Administrator,
Fr. Paul:*

"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 innkeeper 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 are happy and were cheerful toward others. We can give kindness. Yes, there is a too, too 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 may 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

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.

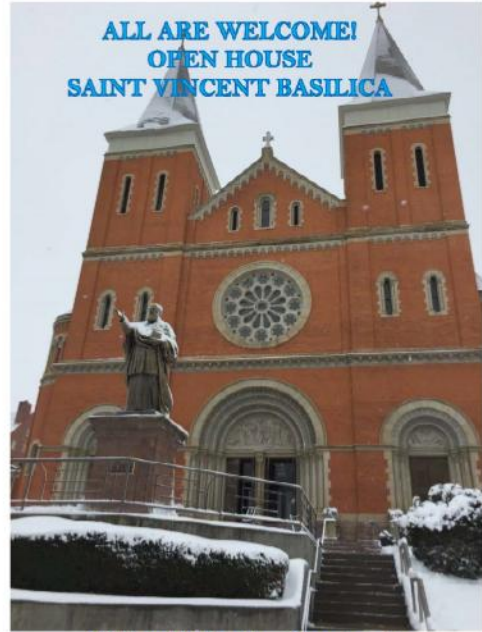
OFFICE CLOSURE for Christmas: The parish office will be closed Friday, December 22 through Tuesday, December 26. The office will reopen Wednesday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m. Thank you for your understanding as we allow our staff to celebrate with their families.

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.

RIBBON 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.

Christmas is more than store windows, sales and Santa Clauses. 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 nights out...

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 to earth and angels singing "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among men of good will."



Visit on Wednesday, December 27
between 1:00 and 4:00 PM to tour
Saint Vincent Basilica, a local historic treasure.
The perfect family holiday outing! Light refreshments will be served.
No reservations necessary.

Contact Erin at the Parish Office for more information
794-539-8099 ext. 10; erin.colcunbe@stvincent.edu
Hosted by Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650

Consecration to the Holy Family

**The Feast of the Holy Family
Is Celebrated on December
30 & 31.**

**Bring your Families to Mass
this weekend as The
Knights of Columbus will
pray the
Consecration to the Holy
Family after all Masses!**

**The booklet the Family Fully
Alive will also be distributed
after Mass.**



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. ~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!



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the Brooks Funeral Home, Galone-Caruso Funeral Home and Slater-Rega Funeral & Cremation Services for their continued generosity in providing religious calendars for our parishioners. The 2024 calendars are in the back of our churches. Please take one home with you. Also, if you have a friend or relative who is homebound, please take them a calendar, also.

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas. ~Charles Dickens



Please pray for our departed loved ones:

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., 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 Ruskowski, Liz, Brenda, Paul, Bertie Zaucha, Barry Stanziana, David & Kitty Jensen, Donna Zemba, Ryan Snyder & family, Margie, Sue Ruskowski, 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, 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, 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. Tickets are now available at the office!



UPCOMING BULLETIN TIDBITS: Due to the Christmas season, our bulletin printing company has issued early deadlines for submission of our weekly bulletins. Please be aware that items can no longer be accepted for either the DECEMBER 31 or JANUARY 7 bulletin. Thank you for your understanding and for all those who sent things to the office right away! We'll be back to a more "normal" schedule after the New Year.



The Children & Family Services Appeal reminds us of Jesus' teaching to put the needs of the poor ahead of our own. As Bishop, it is one of my most important duties to call to mind our fundamental responsibility as Catholics to care for the needs of those who are too often forgotten and marginalized. I ask you to support this appeal and pray that Christ's peace and joy remain alive in you. Thank you.

~The Most Rev. Larry J. Kulick, Bishop of Greensburg



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

Weekly Offering- December 10, 2023

Visitation Parish

Weekly.....	\$5,357
Capital Improvements.....	\$33
Growing/debt reduction.....	\$154
Catholic Accent.....	\$40
Children & family services.....	\$70
Initial offering.....	\$20
Immaculate Conception.....	\$827
Christmas.....	\$390
Christmas flowers.....	\$751
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$15
All Saints.....	\$10
Total envelopes: 315	

St. Pius X Parish

Weekly.....	\$7,114
Capital Improvements.....	\$25
Catholic Accent.....	\$45
Christmas.....	\$125
Christmas flowers.....	\$571
Immaculate Conception.....	\$521
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$10
Initial offering.....	\$15
Total envelopes: -	

Thank you for your generosity!

ST. PIUS X

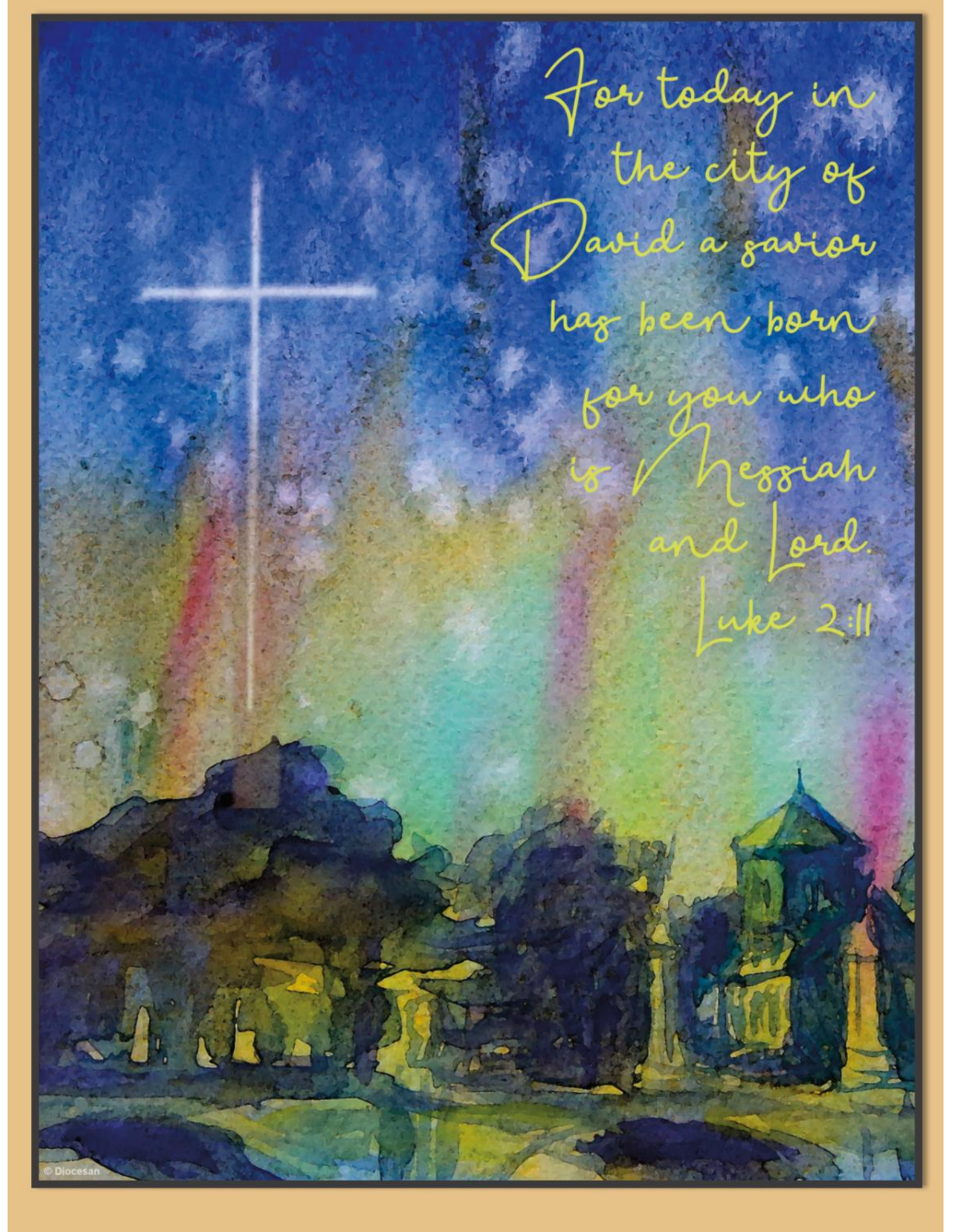


VISITATION



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.





For today in
the city of
David a savior
has been born
for you who
is Messiah
and Lord.
Luke 2:11

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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