St. Pius X Parish



Visitation Parish

224 Summit Street ◊

Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania

740 West Walnut Street

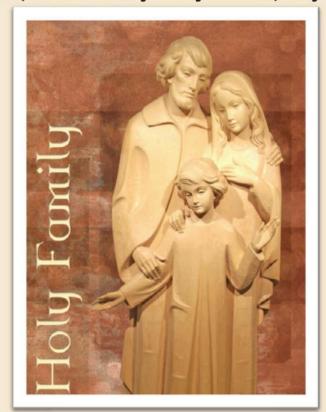


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Office Hours: Mon.-Thu.: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



December 31, 2023 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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. I/I Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Visitation

10:30 a.m. For peace throughout our country and world

Tues. 1/2 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Giuseppe & Rosetta Tribuzio-Sr. M. Letizia Tribuzio

Wed. I/3 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Lealonie Dombrosky– FCSLA Branch #44

Thurs. 1/4 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Mary Martha Toczek- Dorothy Taylor

Friday 1/5 **Visitation**

7:00 a.m. For Fr. Dan's intention

Sat. 1/6 Visitation

4:00 p.m. Michelle Jurkovic– Fahrion & Hresko families

St. Pius X

6:00 p.m. Joan Wawrzyniak– St. Pius X Christian Mothers

Sun. 1/7 Visitation

8:30 a.m. Pro populo

St. Pius X

10:30 a.m. Tatsuko DeCarlo- Camille & John



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

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Office Assistant: Theresa Turner tdturner@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

Ministry of the Altar

Sat. 1/6 Visitation 4:00 p.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Brian Hunter

Eucharistic Minister: Yvonne Hunter Servers: Bobby Smithnosky, Owen & Lily Spires

Cantor: Joanne Geckle

St. Pius X 6:00pm

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Joe Klocek

Eucharistic Ministers: Sandy Coppula, Paul

Servers: Sophia & Ava Coppula, Emma Ersick

Cantor: Phil Brown

Sun. 1/7 Visitation 8:30 a.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Tereasa Rerko

Eucharistic Minister: Vince Mascia Servers: Clara & Caleb Stewart, Grant Zahrobsky

Cantor: Sharon Stewart

St. Pius X 10:30am

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Michael Hricik

Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Juliana, Ray Gamrat Servers: Jaxon Farino, Camden Stouffer, vol.

Cantor: Kathy Demagall/choir

Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary- Robert Prickett- Karen

Blessed Mother- Jonathan DiPasquale- John DiPasquale & family

St. Joseph- Steve & Fran Tlumac- daughter, Carol

Our Lady of Czestochowa – Joan Wawrzyniak – Ed & Charlotte Hendricks

Visitation

Sanctuary- Mary Martha Toczek- Dorothy Taylor

Blessed Mother– Living & deceased members of the Visitation Rosary Altar Society– V.R.A.S.

St. Joseph- Kubic & Barrick families- family

Madonna & Child- Pauline Baluh- Joe & Theresa Baluh

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

From the Desk of Fr. Dan I have already received many, many questions and comments regarding the Pope, same-sex couples, and blessings in the last several weeks. If you read the headlines, you'll think that the Pope is approving blessings for same-sex couples and paving the way for same-sex marriage. I'd like to help offer some clarification here.

The document that was released is called Fiducia Supplicans (English title: "On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings") and it elaborates on the theology of blessings and their meaning and purpose. As you probably know, anyone can offer a blessing to anyone. At the end of Mass, the priest offers a blessing to everyone in the congregation. We say "God bless you" all the time when someone sneezes. These blessings don't require anything to be received. They don't have prerequisites like the sacraments. I cannot anoint people going into surgery who aren't Catholic, but I can bless them. We don't need to be baptized to receive a blessing. We don't need to be in a state of grace either. Obviously, the closer to God we are and the more we follow His commandments, the more effective a blessing will be. A blessing is simply about inviting God into a place. Jesus Himself ate with sinners during His earthly ministry - to help them know how much he loves them and to call to them repentance. God does the same with every one of us every single day of our lives.

The point of this document is to explain that a same-sex couple (or anyone in an "irregular situation" such as married outside of the Church, divorced and remarried, etc.) can receive a spontaneous blessing. God is still working and operative in their lives. However, the document also clarifies that this blessing is not to legitimize the irregular situation the person is in. So, for example, a blessing of a same-sex couple cannot:

- · resemble in any way a rite of marriage.
- · accompany a ceremony of civil union.
- \cdot be performed with any clothing, gestures, or words that are proper to a wedding.
- · be formalized with any kind of widespread church ritual.

In other words, by saying that same-sex couples can receive a blessing, we are saying that God is operating and working in their lives. We are not condoning something contrary to the Church's teaching by doing so.

The point of the document is that God blesses everyone no matter how grave a sinner. He sows the seeds on all sorts of ground – even the rocky or infertile ground. A blessing is a sign of this. Anyone can ask for a general blessing, even if they are living in sin. The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum of saints. We cannot and should not stifle anyone's wish to grow closer to God by asking for a blessing.

Notes from our Administrator, Ir. Paul:

TODAY, DECEMBER 31, 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 filled with feast days. The first Sunday of the season is the Feast of the Holy Family. Holy Family Day is a favorite time for family reunions. Students are home from school and many people have extra days off 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 St. Pius X and Visitation families truly model the Holy Family during this joyous time of the year.

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 the 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 in carrying our crosses.

Help our family 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.



I always get mixed feelings every year at this time; They come as I reflect on the days I've left behind. It seems like just yesterday that New Year's Day was here; But here we are again beginning another year. 365 days were given me with opportunities galore; One by one they have gone never to be restored. Time is a gift from God allotted to every man; It is mine to use and do the best I can. It is not in the past that I'll seek to stay; It is in the future which begins with TODAY! ~J.J. Turner

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.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024, to allow our staff to welcome the New Year with their families. The office will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

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.



PRO LIFE MASS

January 13th

Rosary for Life 9:30am

Mass 10am

St Francis of Assisi Masontown Worship Site

Main Celebrant Fr Daniel Carr ProLife Director at Diocese of Greensburg

Hosted by SFOA Youth Ministry

RSVP for reception afterwards to KStavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org by January 6

The St. Pius X Holy Name Society will be having their "All-You-Can-Eat" omelet breakfasts in the St. Pius X social hall for 2024 on the following Sundays: January 21 & February 4. 8:00 a.m. to noon, adults \$10, children 3-12 \$3, under 3 FREE! A 50/50 drawing will also take place. Come hungry!



The ST. PIUS X CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, January

7, 2024, noon, at the Pleasant Valley Golf Club.

MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington DC, Friday, January 19, 2024. Two parish-based groups will be sending buses: One is going from St. Bernard in Indiana, with departure at 6:30 a.m. from Indiana Alliance Church. Please contact Bill Ager at 724-465-4522. The second is going from Mother of Sorrows in Murrysville, with departure at 5:30 a.m. Please contact Barb Koury at barbkoury@gmail.com or 412-480-6490.

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.

Words can never really convey how I feel when offering my sincere thanks to all who made Christmas at our parishes a very joyous one. As one begins to reflect on all that took place, it seems impossible to make a listing and not overlook anyone or anything. From the tremendous happiness you gave to so many through Christmas baskets, cards, and letters to our shut-ins—to the efforts of decorating the Churches and to the hours of practice and labor of love on the part of the music department—the choirs, the instrumentalists, music directors—to all the lay ministers, the entire staff, and all those "behind the scenes" who did so much to make sure that everything was ready and in good order. Sincere thanks to all who attended the Masses at our Churches, for the cards received, for your many acts of kindness, for the sincere words of support and gratitude for the pledge of prayers—for all this and more, I am most grateful and thank you from the bottom of my heart. The spirit of Christmas allows us to realize how truly extra special the families and spirit of our parishes continues to be evident in the spirit of loving, caring, sharing and praying with one another. Please be assured that I am indebted to all for your generosity and expressions of love and joy. A continued Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year to you and your family on this Feast of the Holy Family, from your priests. As the year ends, we offer thanks! This Christmas season offers us an opportunity to rejoice above all in the Life of the Lord. In us He inspires an outpouring of "thank yous" for so many blessings, both recognized and unrecognized. So, we end 2023 with a prayer of gratitude:

For the many expressions of loving thoughtfulness by our people to one another, we give thanks. For the Christmas messages and gifts we shared with one another as signs of remembrance (including the many to Fr. Paul & Fr. Dan), we give thanks. For the wonderful offerings over Christmas to sustain our parishes, to house the orphans, feed the starving, and help the needy, we give thanks. For the exceptional weather, safe trips, and coming together of families, we give thanks. For the many blessings we recollect and for those we've forgotten, we give thanks. Thank you, Lord, who lives and blesses in us and through us and for us. For everything from You who does all that is good, a humble & heartfelt "Thank You". Fr. Paul



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.

Please pray for our departed loved ones:
Joseph Fiedor and Steven Rerko.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in
peace. Amen.



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, 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, 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.

VISITATION PARISH EVENT



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 issued an early deadline for submission of our weekly bulletins. Please be aware that items can no longer be accepted for the 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 object of a new year is not that we should have a New Year, but rather that we should have a new soul.

Weekly Offering- December 17, 2023

.\$5,041
\$13
\$10
\$65
\$200
\$75
\$750
\$170
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St. Pius X Parish

Weekly	\$6,196
Capital Improvements	\$50
Poverty relief	\$5
Children & family services	
Christmas	\$285
Christmas flowers	\$237
Immaculate Conception	\$11
Total envelopes: -	•

Thank you for your generosity!







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ST. PIUS X







Our decision to financially support the Church stems from our commitment as Christian stewards of God's many blessings. An added blessing this year, is that your gift may qualify for a tax break, when you itemize deductions on your federal tax return. If you are thinking of making a year-end gift to support our parishes, other than cash, such as a gift of stock, please contact the parish office. As always, your generosity during the Christmas season is sincerely appreciated.



MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024, is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God.



Some people think that Christmas is one holiday and New Year's is another, but the Church keeps the First of January as one of the days of Christmastime. The rejoicing of December 25 belongs to January 1 as well. The Gospel for Mass on January 1 is short, also, but it gives us the reason for the many different titles that the First of January has held over the years. The Gospel, from the second chapter of Luke, is a continuation of the story we began at midnight Mass on Christmas. Today, we hear that the shepherds did what the angels told them to do. They found Mary and Joseph and the newborn Jesus. Then, they went to tell their neighbors that a Savior was born.

Many treasured what was said about the Child. In joy, the shepherds sang the angels' song of glory in heaven and peace on earth. Eight days after His birth, Jesus was circumcised and received His name, which means, "Savior." January 1 is World Day of Peace. For Roman Catholics, Monday is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. For over 1,500 years, we've celebrated that Mary is indeed the Mother of God!

NEW YEAR'S DAY



On New Year's Eve, some people "pray" in the New Year. Church bells peal out the old and ring in the new. With noisemakers and fireworks, people make a racket to try to scare away their trouble. The next morning, many people attend Church services. It is the Roman Catholic Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Lutheran and Episcopalian Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus and the Byzantine Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus. In Greece, January 1 is also St. Basil's Day. A bread, vasilopita, is baked with a coin in it; whoever gets the coin is crowned king and queen for the new year. (The name Basil means "royalty".) In some countries, January 1 is the official day to exchange Christmastime gifts. Everywhere, feasting is customary. In Japan, where pink & red are colors of good fortune, a pink fish called red snapper is served. People call on the folks they want to spend time with during the next year. Many pay a visit to their Godparents. Hospitality is the rule of the day. At the new year, many people make a special effort to be loving and outgoing. Perhaps extra good will on this day is a Christmastime hope that this spirit will last all year long.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Because this feast falls on a Monday this year, the obligation to attend Mass is dispensed. The Mass scheduled for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is a Vigil Mass at St. Pius X at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2023, and Monday, January 1, 2024, 10:30 a.m. at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please note there will be no other Mass on January 1st.



St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin

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