# St. Pius X **Parish**



# **Visitation Parish**

224 Summit Street

Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania

740 West Walnut Street



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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.



### January 14, 2024 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

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

#### **Mass Intentions**

Mon. 1/15 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Sarah Minick-Barbara Niezgoda

Tues. 1/16 **Visitation** 

7:00 a.m. Sarah Smetak- Lay Apostles Prayer Group

Wed. I/I7 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Tatsuko DeCarlo- Mary Ann Arrigo

Thurs. I/18 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Joseph D. Malego, Sr.– Dennis, Joe & Janice

Friday 1/19 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Loretta Briercheck- Lee & Dorothy

Sat. 1/20 Visitation

4:00 p.m. Pro populo

St. Pius X

6:00 p.m. Joan Wawrzyniak – Delores, Kim & Debbie

Sun. 1/21 Visitation

8:30 a.m. Sarah Minick- Bev & Bo Schroll

St. Pius X

10:30 a.m. Esther L. Czekaj– Ted Czekaj & family



#### **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. 1/13 Visitation 4:00 p.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Robert Manjerovic Eucharistic Minister: Sr. Anna Maria Servers: Clara & Caleb Stewart, Colton G. Cantor: Jaime Golobish

**St. Pius X 6:00pm** Greeters: volunteers Lector: Kim Sirianna

Eucharistic Ministers: Hank Rose, Cindy C. Servers: Emma Ersick, volunteers

Cantor: Kristen Felentzer

Sun. I/I4 Visitation 8:30 a.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: John Zemba

Eucharistic Minister: Donna Zemba

Servers: Sophie & Addison Grenda, volunteer

Cantor: Eric Harris/choir

St. Pius X 10:30am

Greeters: St. Pius X Holy Name

Lector: John DiPasquale

Eucharistic Ministers: Kristen Rega, Madonna Mullin

Servers: Michael Hegyes, Volunteers

Cantor: Pat Martinoski

### Candles this Week



#### St. Pius X

Sanctuary- Joan Wawrzyniak- Rosemary Carolen

Blessed Mother- In thanksgiving, Bill & Kathryn Grabiak- friends

St. Joseph- Joan Wawrzyniak- Delores, Kim & Debbie

Our Lady of Czestochowa- Joan Wawrzyniak- Dan & Sue Geary

#### **Visitation**

Blessed Mother- Stanley Fiedorczyk- Joe & Theresa Baluh

Madonna & Child- Ann D. Pinsky- Cindy Crossland, Kim Michael & James McKenna

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

From the Desk of Fr. Dan In our first reading this weekend, Samuel hears the voice of God for the first time. He isn't quite sure that it's God – he thinks it's Eli, his fosterfather. I think we can all find ourselves in that place where we hear SOMEthing but aren't sure if it's God. God can speak to us in dreams, in the words of others, and in "thoughts of the heart" – an experience that can defy words. But

what if it's not God? Maybe it's my own thoughts in my own head. Maybe it's just something I ate. How do I know if what's going on in my head is God or someone else?

Unfortunately, there's no definitive way to answer that question. However, that doesn't mean that we can't use some methods of determining if God is behind it.

The first rule of thumb: God doesn't ask us to sin. If we seem to have an inclination toward doing something we know is wrong and shouldn't do, then it's probably not of God. This may seem obvious, but we can find ourselves confused when it's not clear that a sin is wrong. If it goes against God's commandments, it's probably not of Him.

The second rule of thumb: God wants to bring us into His Church. Sometimes we can get frustrated with the Church. Whether it's the Pope, our bishop, our pastor, or the people with whom we worship. This is not unusual. Remember that the Church was founded by Christ on Peter, whose name means "rock". The Church is founded on solid rock. It has been around for nearly 2,000 years now. Regardless of the people who are leading the Church at the moment, God is never trying to steer us away.

The third rule of the thumb: God does not use scare tactics like fear, shame, or guilt to get us to do something. These emotions are good ones because they are a first line of defense against evil. As much as we talk about Catholic guilt, it's primarily function is to keeping us from doing something we shouldn't. But if we are praying about what to do, feelings of shame or guilt are often not of God. In my experience, God uses peace, calm, and joy to communicate his desires in intimate conversation.

Silence is a condition for prayer. Talking to God requires being attentive to the more subtle ways that he speaks to us. Samuel's experience of the Lord happened late at night as he was sleeping in the presence of the ark of the covenant. I find that if I'm too distracted by the noise of my life or too tired to pray, it's harder to hear God speaking to me. It's harder to know if it's Him.

I hope that one of your New Year's Resolutions is to get to know God a little more this year. If it is, remember Samuel's experience. Spend more time in silence and look for the more subtle expressions of His love.

### Notes from our Administrator, Fr. Paul:

**ORDINARY TIME:** There are five church seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Paschal Triduum (a three-day season) and Eastertime. There are two blocks of Ordinary Time. First, in winter, come the weeks between Christmastime and Lent. Then in summer and fall, come the weeks between Eastertime and Advent. That's over half the year! On most days, in Ordinary Time, green vestments are worn. Ordinary Time isn't a season, just a way to describe the weeks between seasons. The word "ordinary" means regular, plain, run-of-the-mill. It also has another meaning. It means "counted". "Ordinal" numbers are first, second, third, fourth and so on. We count each week. There's the First Week in Ordinary Time, which begins right after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The 34th week of Ordinary Time comes right before Advent begins. We count the Sundays, too. The Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord is called the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, because it begins the second week in Ordinary Time. We do all this counting to keep track of the weeks so we know which scriptures to read when we assemble for the Liturgy. Each year at Sunday Mass, during Ordinary Time, we read bit by bit through one of the Gospels. One year, we read through the Gospel of Matthew. The next year, we read Mark's Gospel. The next year, Luke's Gospel is read. Then we read through Matthew's Gospel again.

The Church's biggest feast during these winter weeks of Ordinary Time is the Presentation of the Lord, on February 2. Like Carnival, the Presentation is a turning point. We look back to Christmastime. We look forward to Lent and Easter.

TOTAL GIVING REPORT: As you know, We do not publish a parish report of individual contributions in any kind of public way. We feel that your giving is honest and that it is between you and the Lord. We will be sending a statement to every parishioner at the beginning of February. Please be patient as the office staff prepares to send out over a thousand statements. We are grateful to all who are generous and

statements. We are grateful to all who are generous and we pray that your generosity continues so that our parishes can continue to grow and perform God's work.

This reminds me of a story. A priest got a call, and the man at the other end of the line said, "I'm Robert Jones and I work at the IRS. I'm calling confidentially about one of your parishioners, Mr.\_\_\_\_, who claimed on his tax return that he donated \$15,000 to your church last year. Could you please confirm that contribution?" "Well," said the Pastor, "if you call me back tomorrow about this same time, I can assure you that the answer will be yes.



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 Mt. Pleasant Knights of Columbus will lead the Nine Days for Life Novena at Visitation Church, beginning Thursday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. and continuing every night at 6:30 p.m. through Friday, January 26. Please join us as we pray for the unborn, in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington D.C.

#### DCCW Pray for Life Day, Jan. 19 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg

Everyone is invited to join in a day of prayer hosted by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) on Friday, January 19, the day of the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The day will begin with the rosary for priests at 11:30 a.m., followed by Mass at noon, rosary for life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m., Litany for Life at 3:30 p.m. and closing prayer at 4:00. There is no cost, and those attending can stay all day or part of the day. The DCCW will also be accepting donations of baby items for pregnancy centers in the Diocese.



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 winter 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!

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.

ONLY A MONTH AWAY! St. Pius X Fish Fry starts Fri., February 16, 2024. Please consider helping on a few Fridays. What a great Lenten sacrifice!

#### **GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN**,



an ecumenical social outreach mission of St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown and Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, offers monthly meetings to provide grandparents useful information and time to interact with one another. A hot

dinner and child care are provided. For information, call 724-423-3777 or 724-537-7358.

MONTHLY MEETING for the St. Pius X Holy Name Society, SUNDAY, January 14 at 8:45 a.m. in the church hall, followed by attending the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Anyone who wishes to find out what we are about is encouraged to attend this meeting.

CASH BASH in the school hall of St. John the Baptist on South Broadway in Scottdale on Saturday, February 3, 2024. The Partner Parishes of St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph welcome all! Doors will open at 5 p.m., and drawings will begin at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 and includes food & beer. Three numbers per ticket...only 333 tickets sold! Call 724-887-6321 for more information.

*CARD PARTY* at St. James Parish in Apollo! This will be held in the activities center on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with food available for purchase. Card games of players' choice will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is just \$5! A 50/50 drawing will be held and \$1 instant tickets will be available. For further details, call 724-882-8776.



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.

JANUARY 19 IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUPREME COURT RULING that made abortion legal in the United States of America.

#### THE TRUTH OF ABORTION

Abortion is a terrible and shameful end for a child whose parents did not intend. That child could have lived for years ahead. They selfishly chose death instead. God's law is clear, it is a sin and a crime to take someone's life at anytime. If I would kill my child after it was born, I'd be looked upon with shame and scorn. When a doctor performs that sinful deed, he is rewarded with money he did not need.

The decision and its subsequent results are deeply troubling. We ask: What can I do? Some are responding to that question by going to Washington to present their quiet objection with others from across the country. Our area has parishioners and others going to represent our position to elected officials. Some are responding by learning more about the facts of human life and teaching others. Some work to restrict abortions from indiscriminate availability. Some are working and praying for unborn children and their mothers. Not all might be able to make all these efforts. But everyone can do something. And so we ask again: What can I do?

Even though the Supreme Court recently reversed their decision, individual states are enacting their own abortion laws. We still have our opportunity to continue to pray for the protection of all human life.



#### **MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST**

Rizzo's Malabar Inn, Crabtree January 27 at 9 a.m.

The Greensburg chapter of Magnificat—A Ministry to Catholic Women- will hold this event on Jan. 27, with guest speaker Jennifer Wilson. \$25 (\$20 for students) To register, visit magnificatgreensburg.com or call Brenda at 724-836-2094. Deadline is Jan. 22!

Please pray for our departed loved ones, especially Dennis Baluh.

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.



Weekly Offering- December 31, 2023
Visitation Parish
Weekly\$3,662
Immaculate Conception\$25
Christmas\$520
Children & family services\$70
Total envelopes: 147
St. Pius X Parish
Weekly\$4,985
Christmas\$795
Children & family services\$43
Total envelopes: -

### Thank you for your generosity!

New Year offering– January 1, 2024
Visitation Parish
Weekly\$55
Capital improvements\$25
Debt reduction\$10
Catholic Accent\$20
Solemnity of Mary\$1,050
Initial offering\$478
Total envelopes: 103
St. Pius X Parish
Weekly\$540
Capital improvements\$188
Catholic Accent\$27
Solemnity of Mary\$1,067
Initial offering\$512
Total envelopes: -

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!



# Lenten Dinners Win

The St. Pius X Fish Fry "ship" is getting ready to set sail for the Lenten season. But, first we must get prepared. We need to load up donations of oil, butter, green beans and flour. Please drop them off at the church office. Of course, monetary donations for other items are always welcome. Please consider helping to provide the "cargo". A crew is needed on Friday nights. Volunteers can do a variety of jobs. All that is needed are willing hands and a smile. Sign up in the back of St. Pius X Church or call the office. Volunteering can be for one, several, or all the Fridays. The "ship" needs a willing crew. Please, come join us!

Passengers with hearty appetites are needed to enjoy our famous fish fry meals. Cost of the dinner will be \$15 per adult and \$8 per child. Following is the dinner schedule:

Each week we will serve fried or baked fish with coleslaw, green beans, breadstick, a drink and homemade dessert. Pierogies or halushki will be served with the dinner every other week. Pierogies– Feb. 16, March 1 & 15; Halushki– Feb. 23, March 8 & 22.

On Feb. 23 and Mar. 22 you'll be able to order our homemade gnocchi dinner OR our fish fry dinner. Fish sandwiches on a homemade bun will be offered every week for \$11. This includes coleslaw, a drink & homemade dessert. AHOY! Come to the St. Pius X Fish Fry dinners.

#### **ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE!**

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

ST. PIUS X



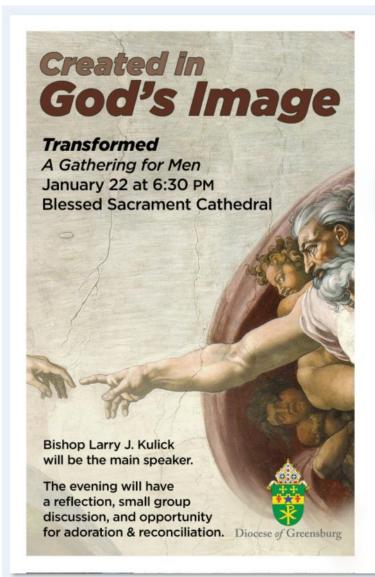
**VISITATION** 

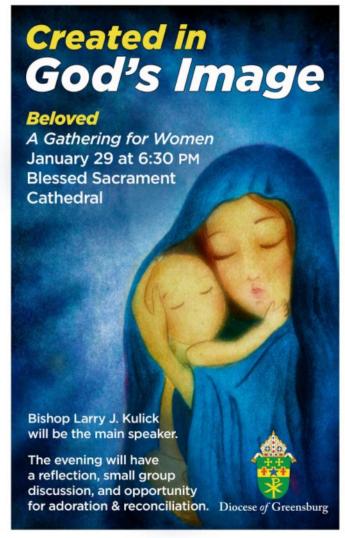


#### **OUR PARISH CEMETERIES**

Please remove your Christmas decorations from our parish cemeteries by TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024, if you wish to retain them. The 14th of February begins the season of Lent. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

During this time of extremely cold weather, it doesn't take long for someone to find themselves in real physical danger, especially if they are sick, older, or are a person with a disability that restricts mobility. If you are aware of someone in this category, please reach out to them, give them a call, or somehow, otherwise check on them to make sure they are keeping warm SAFELY!





#### PRAYER GATHERINGS WITH FEATURED SPEAKER, BISHOP LARRY KULICK

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Mondays, January 22 & 29 at 6:30 p.m.

A gathering for men called "Transformed" on the 22nd, and a gathering for women called "Beloved" on the 29th.

There is no cost. However, RESERVATIONS are required. Opportunities for confession will be available, as well as Eucharistic adoration, small group discussion, and more!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME! Parents do a wonderful task every Sunday in guiding their children from infancy to be aware of the wonderful surroundings of the church as they teach their children to be attentive at Mass. Sure, there are a few times when a parent has to temporarily walk out of church with a crying baby or young child, and come back shortly after the child is settled—this is normal. I encourage families with young children to sit closer to the altar. Young children become fascinated with watching, praying and singing at Mass, and therefore they are learning that their family is a part of God's family.

ATTENTION! Any parishioner who is in the ninth grade through adulthood and has received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Holy Eucharist but has not received Confirmation, should contact our Director of Faith Formation, Mary, at the parish office. There will be Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost, which will be celebrated this year on May 19th at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Please do so by January 31st in order to complete the registration and preparation process. Thank you.

# St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin





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