### St. Pius X Parish



# Visitation Parish

224 Summit Street ◊

Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania

740 West Walnut Street

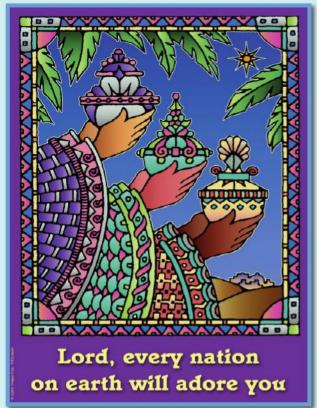


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Office Hours: Mon.-Thu.: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



### January 7, 2024 - The Epiphany of the Lord



**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. 1/8 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Chris Ann Wilson– Fahrion & Hresko families

Tues. 1/9 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Virginia Chlebowski- Briercheck

family

Wed. I/I0 Visitation

7:00 a.m. family & friends, living &

deceased- John & Donna Zemba

Thurs. I/II Visitation

7:00 a.m. Tatsuko DeCarlo- Isabel &

John Brodak

Friday 1/12 Visitation

7:00 a.m. Joan Wawrzyniak- Joan Orlando

Sat. 1/13 Visitation

4:00 p.m. Edward Sandzimier- brother,

Bob & Barb

St. Pius X

6:00 p.m. Helen Miller-Joe & Kim Halula

Sun. 1/14 Visitation

8:30 a.m. Andy & Earl Zemba- Mom &

Dad

St. Pius X

10:30 a.m. Pro populo



#### **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. I/I3 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- John Ricotta- Marie

Blessed Mother– Elizabeth Lucotch & Maria Bozzeralli– Karen Newill

St. Joseph- Alex & Rose Wisnewski- daughter-in-law, Carol

Our Lady of Czestochowa- Paul & Mary Hendricks- family

#### **Visitation**

Blessed Mother- John T. Toczek- children & grandchildren

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

From the Desk of Fr. Dan

One of the most popular contemporary understandings of God in our world today is one that sees God as an allencompassing spirit who is in all things and connects all people together. This spiritual being is not connected to any one religion but is present in all religions. This theology

fits in quite nicely with our secular and pluralistic culture. With this idea of God, we can appreciate all faith beliefs and backgrounds, because they all equally participate in God.

As nice as this sort of understanding of God is, there is one glaring problem: it does not correspond with our experience of love. One could say that the first step of love is in recognizing the presence of our parents – their faces, their voices, their smells, and their embraces. Soon after comes knowing their name, which is why so often the first words of a child are "Mama" or "Dada".

This is where the all-encompassing spirit idea seems to fall apart. If we believe that God is love and that He loves us each personally, how can we believe that He would not want us to know His name or to hear His voice?

The profound, loving act of God revealing Himself to His people is what we celebrate on this feast of the Epiphany. God desires that all His children should come to know Him – in every time and place. This is why He reveals Himself to us in many ways – including His Word in the Scriptures. But the most powerful way we know God is through Jesus. This is the truest and fullest Epiphany of God.

Three biblical events traditionally belong to the Epiphany as a part of God revealing Himself in Christ. The first is the three wise men arriving at the humble stable – the moment when God reveals His face to the whole world. The second is Jesus' baptism – the moment when the Spirit comes down on Jesus and we hear the Father's voice saying "This is my beloved Son." The third is the wedding feast at Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle by turning the water into wine and began his earthly ministry. All three of these events show how God reveals Himself to us definitively, as we would expect a parent to do with a child. It is the greatest example of God's love for us that He chooses to share His Son with us and join us to His family.

Jesus came to be with us, to live among us, to speak with us. He longs for a true personal, loving relationship with us. And He invites all of us as brothers and sisters to be baptized into this family of love where we can come to know Him more and more each day.

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

TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD. This feast is an important event in Christ's life which brought about a change in the world which affects our lives today. It's hard to talk about Epiphany without sounding like we're exaggerating. Today is a day of superlatives. Epiphany is the grandest, merriest, brightest and best day of Christmastime.

According to legend, the Wise Men were considered royal personages. The names were traditionally given as Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar. Melchior was supposedly an old man with long hair and a white beard. His gift of gold was said to be testimony to the royalty of Christ. Caspar is usually pictured young and beardless. Tradition says his gift of incense was a token of Christ's divine nature. Balthasar is pictured with a black complexion and a full beard. The myrrh he held is said to have prefigured the death of Christ. Epiphany means "appearance" and "revelation" and "manifestation". In the Gospel stories of Epiphany, we hear that God appears in creation. God is revealed in a star, in the waters of the river, in the shining skies, on the wings of a dove, in stone jars of everyday water.

In many families, a famous Epiphany tradition is to have a party in honor of the visit of the Magi. A special cake in which a bean or coin has been hidden is served. The lucky person who finds this object in his or her slice of cake is crowned king or queen for the evening! This person leads everyone in the dancing procession that tops off the fun.

The head of the house has two major responsibilities. One is to host the Carnival Party before Lent begins. The other is to lead the blessing of the home for the New Year. The numerals of the year are written with chalk over the front door. The initials of the legendary names of the Magi are added—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The home is dedicated to hospitality.

In a sense, at Epiphany all of us are queens and kings. In Baptism, we were anointed to be God's royal people. Now the star shines over us, we who are baptized, we who bear the name of Christ.

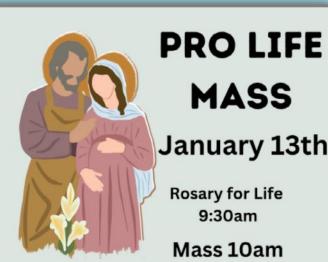


**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** St. Pius X Fish Fry starts Friday, February 16, 2024. Watch upcoming bulletins for more detailed information.



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 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!



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 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.

The local St. Vincent De Paul Society exists to assist those experiencing financial hardship due to illness, job loss or other unforeseen circumstances. Assistance is provided based on need, with no regard to religious affiliation. Confidentiality is strictly maintained. If you or someone you know needs a helping hand, please call 724-547-0413.

#### **GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.**



and 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.

### **NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS**

Mary's example is a good one to emulate as we begin a new year. This is an opportunity to reflect on the past—the good and the bad—and use those insights to help us shape the future. In other words, we can use our New Year's Resolutions to help us grow closer to God. What can we do to make our lives better reflect God's vision for us? Try these tips to make your spiritual goals "stick" this year: Be specific. Nebulous goals, like "grow closer to God" are next to impossible to fulfill.

Break them down into specific pieces; specific goals are, by definition, measurable! Being able to gauge your progress helps you

stay motivated. Be realistic. If you overreach, you're likely to burn out. Call for help when the going gets tough!



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.

### TOMORROW, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



When Advent began we heard the words of Isaiah: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!" Jesus goes into the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Suddenly the skies open. God's spirit comes down in the form of a dove. Then, God speaks for everyone to hear: "This is my Beloved." In the fifth century, Bishop Maximus of Turin wrote that we have every reason to celebrate this day with the joy of Christmas: "At Jesus' birth, His Mother, Mary, held her child close to her heart. So, the Father holds his beloved Son for all people to adore. Jesus is baptized so all Christians may follow Him with confidence."

In Hebrew, the name of Jesus is Joshua. This name means Savior. A thousand years before the time of Jesus, in the days of the Exodus, after Moses died, a man named Joshua became the leader of the Hebrew people. Joshua led the people through the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

Our Savior Jesus is a new Joshua. Jesus leads us into the Jordan of Baptism. We pass through the water to enter a new life. Sweetened dairy foods such as cheesecake and eggnog are customary during Christmastime in honor of our Savior, who leads us into "a land flowing with milk and honey."

### **ATTENTION!**

All lectors, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers are able to volunteer to cover a position for which you have not been scheduled, if you happen to attend a Mass when this happens. Know that all the guidelines are the same for each Mass so that you are able to feel at home whenever you come and can help when all the ministries are not covered for a Mass. In this way, we show that we are faithful and are members of these parishes. Fr. Paul thanks you for helping to create a good liturgy.

Please pray for our departed loved ones: 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.



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	Weekly Offering- December 24, 2023	
	Visitation Parish	
	Weekly	\$6 219
	Capital Improvements	
	Growing/debt reduction	
	Catholic Accent	
	Immaculate Conception	\$10
	Christmas	\$25
	Christmas flowers	
	Solemnity of Mary	
	Initial offering	
	Total envelopes: 204	
	St. Pius X Parish	
ß		ΦΟ 404
	Weekly	
	Christmas flowers	
	: Immaculate Conception	\$20
	Catholic Accent	
	Total envelopes: 228	
	Total envelopes, 220	

96
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92
3

Thank you for your generosity!



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







THANK YOU! I just want to mention how beautifully our churches were decorated for Christmas. I was very pleased with the trees, lights, wreaths, bows and flowers, all arranged perfectly. I was most happy to see that each nativity set was the focal point for our Christmas Liturgies, up front where they could not be missed. I thank all the parents and grandparents for bringing the children forward to see the stable. The looks on their faces are priceless. I thank all those who helped in any way with the decoration process. Your time and effort were well spent and I deeply appreciate it. Thank you also in advance for helping us to "undecorate". It was truly a beautiful Christmas season here in Mt. Pleasant!

Fr. Paul



### **EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING**

Items needed: chalk and a small bottle of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

**Leader:** In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: *Christus mansionem benedicat.* May Christ bless this house, Amen.

With chalk we sign this doorway, along with four crosses of the seasons and the numerals of the new year. [20+C+M+B+24]

**Leader:** A reading from the Letter to the Galatians. So then, while there is time, let us do good for all people, especially those who are the household of faith. The Word of the Lord.

Each room is sprinkled with holy water.

*Living room:* Bring us to live with you one day in heaven. Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

*Kitchen:* You prepare for us a heavenly banquet. Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

*Dining room:* Feed us at your celestial feast. Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

**Bedrooms:** In you alone we rest peacefully. Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

**Bathroom:** Cleanse us from all uncleanliness. Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

All return to the front door to pray the Our Father together. All are sprinkled with holy water. Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.



# SEVEN WAYS TO KICKSTART YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE IN 2024

- 1. **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION.** If you've never considered spiritual direction before, make this the year.
- 2. **DAILY QUIET.** In the digital age, every waking moment is filled with stimulation. Take ten minutes a day, or even five, to "be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).
- 3. **ATTEND WEEKDAY MASS ONCE A WEEK.** The crazier life is, the more important that brief respite from the things of the world becomes.
- 4. CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION MORE FREQUENTLY. For many, communal penance services offered during Lent and Advent are less than satisfying. Instead, make time to go to the weekly confession times in your local parish.
- 5. *GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PARISH.* If you already volunteer, examine your commitments to be sure you are making the best use of your time and unique gifts.
- 6. **EXPLORE A TEACHING OF THE CHURCH THAT IS DIF- FICULT FOR YOU TO ACCEPT.** Approach the topic with a mind willing to learn and a heart willing to hear the voice of God. Study the catechism or papal writings, and don't be afraid to be honest with God in prayer.
- 7. **SET ASIDE SUNDAY AS A TRUE DAY OF REST.** Stay off work e-mail. Minimize shopping, lest Sunday becomes "errand day." The Sabbath was made for us (Mark 2:27) because we need it. Use it!



# St Pius X & Visitation Parish's Sunday Bulletin





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