## St. Pius X Parish



# Visitation Parish

224 Summit Street

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Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania

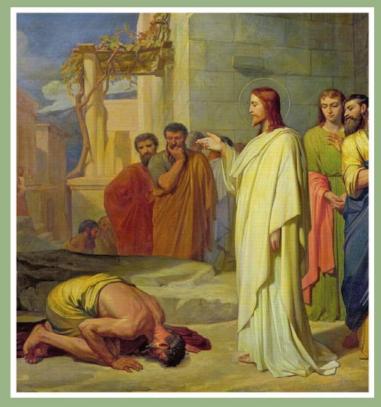
740 West Walnut Street



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.



#### February 11, 2024 - Sixth 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.	2/12 <b>Visitation</b> 7:00 a.m. Jacob & Stella Rysz– daughter, Loretta
Tues.	2/13 <b>Visitation</b> 7:00 a.m. Sarah Smetak– Patsy Sofranko
Wed.	2/14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Visitation 7:00 a.m. Dennis Baluh– Phyllis Zelenak <b>St. Pius X</b> 6:00 p.m. William Farino, Sr.– the Farino family
Thurs.	2/15 <b>Visitation</b> 7:00 a.m. Paula Torcaso– Jim Torcaso Dolores Vissari– Rich Nedrow
Friday	2/16 <b>Visitation</b> 7:00 a.m. Bernard & Elizabeth Bellish– John & Terri Baluh
Sat.	2/17 <b>Visitation</b> 4:00 p.m. Joseph Gazda– Shawn, Michelle, Caleb & Clara Stewart
	<b>St. Pius X</b> 6:00 p.m. Bernard J. Paglio– Connie, Kim & Kelly
Sun.	2/18 <b>Visitation</b> 8:30 a.m. Pro populo
	<b>St. Pius X</b> 10:30 a.m. Andrew & Helen Farino-, daughter

10:30 a.m. Andrew & Helen Farino– daughter, Mickey O'Brocto & 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. 2/24 Visitation 4:00 p.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Kate Bannon E.M.: Barb Sandzimier, Ray Gamrat, volunteer Servers: Colton Golobish, Owen & Lily Spires Cantor: Phil Brown

#### St. Pius X 6:00pm

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Lisa Sestak E.M.: Sandy C., Paul K., Hank R. & Cindy C. Servers: Emma Ersick, volunteers Cantor: Kristen Felentzer

#### Sun. 2/25 Visitation 8:30 a.m.

Greeters: volunteers Lector: Stanley Kapella E.M.: Marlene Cibulas, Joyce G. & Joann M. Servers: Sophie & Addison Grenda, Braxton P. Cantor: Chris DeFlitch

St. Pius X 10:30am Greeters: volunteers Lector: Becky Czekaj-Dengler E.M.: Audrey S., Pat G., Connie B. & volunteer Servers: Lucas Poole, Michael Hegyes, Jaxon F. Cantor: Pat Martinoski

#### Candles this Week



St. Pius X

Sanctuary– Eunice & Rick Wood– John & Sandy DiPasquale & family Blessed Mother– Paula Torcaso– Jim Torcaso

**St. Joseph–** Nellie & Donato DiPasquale– John & Sandy DiPasquale & family

Our Lady of Czestochowa- Edward Kapelewski- family

#### Visitation

Sanctuary- Kramarski, Pytlak & Vella family- family

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



I'd like to address some of the mistaken attitudes that many Catholics have about Lent. I'm not suggesting that most people don't do the right things during Lent, but some probably don't get the real intention behind doing these things. Take Lenten sacrifice for example. Every-

one knows that Catholics sacrifice during Lent. We give up things that we enjoy or do things that we don't want to do. But why?

Some think that it's because we are supposed to feel miserable during Lent. While that's a common consequence of sacrifice, that is only a side-effect and not a reason. Sacrifice is not about misery. When parents sacrifice for their children, it often brings them joy, not misery. That is not the key.

Others believe that Lent is supposed to be a selfimprovement project. "I'm going to give up this unhealthy thing and it will make me a better person." Again, that might be a consequence of sacrifice, but it is not the primary reason for doing what we do during Lent. As I often say, Lent is not a self-improvement project but a God-improvement project.

So, if those aren't guite right, what is? As I see it, the number one reason for Lenten sacrifice is to help us reprioritize. God gives us many good things to enjoy on this earth and in this life. But too often, we place too much emphasis and importance on these things rather than the things that point us to eternity. Lent is about remembering what really matters. The things of God are far more important than things of the world. So, during Lent, we give up some things of the world so we can focus more on things of God.

One year for Lent I gave up video games. It seemed like an excellent (and difficult) sacrifice. Trouble is, I spent most of that Lent just watching more YouTube instead. That was not a helpful Lenten journey. I sacrificed, but I didn't reprioritize at all. I would have had a much better Lent if I still played video games but spent 30 minutes each day dedicated to prayer, reading Scripture, or volunteer service instead of entertainment. Although it would technically have been a lesser sacrifice, it would have better accomplished the purpose of Lent: deepening our relationship with God and reprioritizing. During Lent, we set aside good things in anticipation of better things to come in the Kingdom of God. We reset our priorities to focus on the things of God instead of worldly things. I encourage you to choose mortifications and sacrifices that will truly bring you closer to God this Lent.

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Notes from our Administrator, Fr. Paul:



#### THIS WEDNESDAY,

FEBRUARY 14, is traditionally St. Valentine's Day. There were probably two Valentines, both martyred around the year 269. One of them may have been the bishop of Terni.

Italy. In those days of persecution, Christians met secretly and hid their faith to protect their lives. Bishops were unable to hide and were often the first Christians in their communities to be tortured and killed. Often a bishop died in the hope that other Christians would not be hunted out.

The other Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. A legend says that he sent letters of love and encouragement to the people of his community who lived in fear of persecution. From that legend, the practice of sending valentines on his feast day may have begun. But there is another explanation for the custom of sending valentines. In the Middle Ages, people believed that on February 14, the day St. Valentine died, birds began choosing their mates for the springtime. So, this day came to be thought of as the perfect day to choose a sweetheart.

Fr. Paul and all the priests, deacon and staff extend our prayers and wishes for a very happy and loving Valentine's Day.



LENT leads us to Church more often for prayer. The sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist should be especially close to us as they enable us to effect a change in ourselves. These sacraments are building blocks, not only for the parish, but for ourselves, as they

sanctify our existence in this world. Take the opportunity to receive penance at least once during Lent, maybe at the beginning, and see if we can live a different life for the remainder of the 40 days. Make the journey to additional Masses to receive the Holy Eucharist other than at Sunday Mass, spend additional time before the Blessed Sacrament which can only deepen the sense of faith, and spend time in journeying with Christ through the Stations of the Cross. Let us remember that Easter is our return every year to our own baptism, and Lent is our preparation for that return-the slow and sustained effort to perform, at the end, our own passage into the new life of Christ.

**TOTAL GIVING REPORT:** Contribution statements were sent out recently to every parishioner, and you should have received yours. If you did not, please contact the parish office. We are grateful to all who give.

# In & Around Our Neighborhood...

**BIBLE STUDY,** beginning this Tuesday, February 13! Fr. Dan will offer a six-week course which will look at passages from the Old & New Testaments to study the biblical roots of the Mass. Classes will run from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the St. Pius X school building.

**WOMEN needed to lead the Marian Stations of the Cross** on March 1 & 22. Please call the office if you'd care to assist in this beautiful devotion.



**THE ST. PIUS FISH FRY NEEDS YOU!** Please consider being a volunteer on Friday nights to help serve the delicious menu. You can volunteer for as many evenings as you like! Jobs are

aplenty! Many hands lighten the work for everyone. Please sign up in the back of church or call the office.

**YOU** are also needed to create your favorite recipe for a cake, pie or any other dessert each Friday. Needless to say, the desserts are always a highlight of the meal. They can be delivered each Friday to the St. Pius social hall, beginning at noon. Your kindness is so appreciated!

**PLEASE** spread the word to family & friends about the menu for the fish fry: WEEKLY, dinners will include fried or baked fish, coleslaw, green beans, a breadstick, dessert & a drink; FEB 16, MAR 1, & MAR 15- -piroghi; FEB 23, MAR 8 & MAR 22- -haluski; FEB 23 & MAR 22- -pasta special/gnocchi. Every week a fish sandwich w/coleslaw, green beans, dessert & drink will be available. Dinners cost \$15. Sandwiches are \$11, and a child's meal is \$8.

**YOUR** willing hands, contributions of oil, butter, flour, green beans & dessert, and patronizing the dinners will lead to success. Thank you!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST,** St. Rita social hall, Sunday, FEBRUARY 18 from 7-11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the St. Rita Holy Name Society. \$7 adults, \$2 for kids 12 and under! **Saint Vincent College** cordially invites you to attend the 2024 Rabbi Edelstein lecture, "Lent and Easter Through Jewish Eyes: Liturgies of Purification, Both Catholic and Jewish", presented by Dr. Ruth Langer, professor of Jewish studies in the Theology Department at Boston College. The lecture will take

place at 7 p.m. in the Fred Rogers Center on Wednesday, February 28, and will be preceded by a reception, beginning at 6 p.m. Registration is appreciated, but not required: 724-805-2814.





By planning with the Diocese, the Visitation Christian

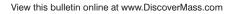
Mothers are offering "The Last Supper Traveling Exhibit" to all parishioners. The exhibit will be on display in the Visitation Community Center on the following dates: Sat., Feb. 17, after the 4 p.m. Mass; Sun., Feb. 18, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass; and Wed., Feb. 21, after the 6 p.m. Mass. The exhibit includes "a 16-foot mural of the Last Supper—its original was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci, along with six other versions for you to compare and contrast." Members of the Christian Mothers will be present to guide you through the exhibit. They will also provide light

refreshments. The dates of the event were chosen by the Christian Mothers as a beginning to our Lenten journeys.

# The Last Supper and the Gift of the Eucharist



Join us for a one-of-a-kind experience about The Last Supper mural painted by Leonardo da Vinci! Vatican Art Historian Dr. Elizabeth Lev recorded a captivating talk for you about the scriptural nuances of this historic piece of art. This is a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the Eucharistic Revival!



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.

#### THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY,

**FEBRUARY 14.** On this day, ashes, symbolic of penance, are traced in the form of a cross on the foreheads of Catholics, who are reminded, *"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"* or *"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."* 

#### - ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES:

7 a.m. Mass & ashes at Visitation 12:10 p.m. Liturgy of the Word & ashes at Visitation 6 p.m. Mass & ashes at St. Pius X

LENTEN GUIDELINES- Abstinence: Catholics in the U.S. age 14 and older are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. The church law forbids use of meat but does not prohibit eggs, milk products or condiments made with animal fat. Fasting: Catholics in the U.S. from the day after their 18th birthday until the day after their 59th birthday, are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The church law allows for only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit the taking of some food in the morning and evening. The combined quantity of the two meals should not exceed the quantity eaten at the full meal. The drinking of ordinary liquids does not break the fast. Note: Persons taking medication or with health concerns should follow their doctor's advice.

**Prayer/Almsgiving:** Abstinence and fasting should lead Catholics to a deeper prayer life. Almsgiving provides an opportunity for a deeper understanding and response to the needs of the poor.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS is a popular devotion (also called the Way of the Cross) in honor of the Passion and death of Christ. It consists of meditating on 14 "stations" or "stages" in the Passion of Christ, such as His condemnation by Pilate, His scourging, His journey to Calvary, and the tomb. The stations are wooden crosses, often inserted in paintings or sculptures, and may be attached to walls of a church or oratory, or erected outdoors. The stations must be Iawfully erected and blessed by one who has the authority to do so (CCC2669). Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a devotion centering on the Eucharist and approved by the Church for certain occasions and under certain conditions. It consists of the benediction (blessing) of the people with the sacred host (usually contained in a monstrance); the blessing is to be preceded by readings from the Word of God, hymns & a suitable time for silent adoration.

Stations of the Cross will be offered each Friday during Lent at 12:05 p.m. at Visitation and at 6 p.m. at St. Pius X. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Alexander Kubic, Ronald Mehall, Isabelle McElfresh and Constance Steiner. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

> 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, 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., Dolores Solinski, 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., Nancy K., James P., R.J., Aggie Farcosky

**BLESSED PALMS** from last year (or older) may now be brought to either church or the office for proper disposal. Thank you.

#### **UPDATES:**

# FAITH FORMATION

#### ELEMENTARY/FIRST COMMUNION



#### • VOCATIONS Night: St. Bernard Parish in Indiana has invited our families

to join for a Vocation's Night on Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm. • Sunday, February 4 was the 1st Communion Workshop for Connellsville area families

#### CONFIRMATION

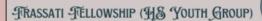


#### · VOCATIONS Night! (See above)

- The canceled workshop (due to weather) will likely be in March. Date coming soon.
- The next workshop is Saturday, February 17 from 9am to 11am at St. Pius X Hall.

#### COMPANIONS (M& YOUTH GROUP)

- There is NO Companions on 2/7: instead, your family is invited to the Vocations Night!
- Keep practicing our virtue of **diligence**. Our challenge is to do our chores without being asked.



- 2/14 Youth Group will start with Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Rita's at 6pm. All teens are invited to sit with the youth group in the reserved seats. We'll have food and fun afterwards.
- Join us for the Vocations Night!



#### Weekly Offering– January 28, 2024

#### **Visitation Parish**

violation ranon	
Weekly	\$5,846
Capital Improvements	\$5
Growing/debt reduction	\$35
Catholic Accent	\$83
Ash Wednesday	\$45
Solemnity of Mary	\$20
Easter	\$100
Christmas	\$100
Immaculate Conception	\$25
Easter flowers	
Christmas flowers	\$10
Assumption	\$50
All Souls	
Holy Thursday	\$50
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$50
Central & Eastern Europe	\$15
Initial offering	
Total envelopes: 178	·

#### St. Pius X Parish

Weekly	.\$5,920
Capital improvements	
Accent	\$107
Solemnity of Mary	\$67
Central & Eastern Europe	\$35
Initial offering	\$13
Total envelopes: 214	'

#### Thank you for your generosity!

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

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

ST. PIUS X

VISITATION







#### FOR TAX PURPOSES:

If you wish to verify your total donations to the St. Vincent De Paul Society in 2023, please call 724-547-0413.

### Geibel Catholic Open House





Open the door to......**Our Difference** Open the door to......**Faith, Service, Academics** Open the door to......**Your child's future!** 

When: Thursday, February 15th, 2024 Time: 6:00-8:00pm

> To register, please visit: www.geibelcatholic.org

#### A PRAYER FOR PENITENCE

Dear Heavenly Father, on this day and in the days ahead, we remember that your Church, through the centuries, has called today "Ash Wednesday". As ashes are the traditional symbol of penitence & humility, we pray that we may place ashes on our pride, and upon everything else that separates us from your loving will. We recall that the prophet Isaiah long ago cried out with a broken heart, "All we like sheep have gone astray, and everyone has turned aside into his own way." Forgive us, dear Lord! We cast ourselves entirely on your mercy and loving kindness. We remember, too, with wondering gratitude, that you did place upon Your Son, Jesus Christ, the iniquity of us all. So, in an amazing way which we cannot understand, "He has borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows...wounded for our iniquities and bruised for our sins...and that it was for our peace that He was chastised."

Grant, dear Father, that we may accept with everlasting gratitude the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf, and your amazing love in offering Him to us. Resolving by Your grace to be new and better persons, we shall "keep a good Lent", doing everything we can to help people in need. We shall renew our loyalty to your Church and her divine mission. The Lenten season, dear God, is a token of our desire to be good and to do good. We want to be sure that we speak loud and clear for the accomplishment of all that is in your blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Regional penance services will begin on March 7. Please check future bulletins for details.

#### EUCHARISTIC ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TUE, FEB 13 @ 6 p.m.: Bible study, Eucharist #1 in StPX social hall
SAT, FEB 17 @ 5:15 p.m.: Last Supper event in VIS comm. ctr.
SUN, FEB 18 @ 9:45 a.m.: Last Supper event in VIS comm. ctr.
MON, FEB 19 @ 5:30 p.m.: Adoration & reflection #1 @ VIS
WED, FEB 21 @ 7:00 p.m.: Last Supper event in VIS comm. ctr.
TUE, FEB 27 @ 6 p.m.: Bible study, Eucharist #2 in StPX hall
MON, FEB 26 @ 5:30 p.m.: Adoration & reflection #2 @ VIS





### The Businesses listed above make this bulletin possible. Please support them when you can.

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