

FEB 8-9, 2020



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• THE LIGHT



of the world

----- & -----



THE SALT •

of the earth

_____ o o o _____

To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC

Confession

and by appointment

We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. Their number is 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is Valdiserri's Bakery, LLC.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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SAT-SUN, FEB 1-2, 2020 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult	\$5,827.00
Loose	436.75
Maintenance	<u>382.00</u>
Total	\$6,645.75

Cemetery	\$57.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Mission Co-Op	\$25.00
Eastern Europe	\$553.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult	\$3,253.00
Loose	134.00
Children/Young Adults	9.00
Parish Improvements	7.00
Energy	<u>15.00</u>
Total	\$3,418.00

Initial Offering	\$9.00
Solemnity of Mary	410.00
Accent	\$21.00
Eastern Europe	\$242.00



ST. JOHN

Adult	\$2,475.00
Loose Collection	293.00
Maintenance	<u>311.00</u>
Total	\$3,079.00

Cemetery	\$65.00
Mission Co-Op	\$10.00
Eastern Europe	\$252.00



ST. RITA

Adult	\$4,235.00
Loose	354.00
Maintenance	<u>520.00</u>
Total	\$5,109.00

Cemetery	\$102.00
Christmas flowers	\$20.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$10.00
Mission Co-Op	\$20.00
Eastern Europe	\$454.00



SUN, FEB 9, 2020

5th SUN
IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 15:15-20 MAKING CHOICES

You have probably said this before: "I had no choice." You may have said it about a decision you did not want to make, one that made you unpopular, or one that felt wrong. If you have no choice, you have no blame. We can more easily accept a difficult decision if we feel as though it were the only one.

But we almost always have choices. Some of them are not very good. We reject them without much thinking about them. They are even worse than the choice we make. Or they are more difficult to enact. Our brains process some choices so quickly that it feels right to say, "I had no choice."



MARIE MARTIN and VIVIAN McDERMOTT, new additions to our prayer list.

But we usually do.

God gives us free will to make choices. "If you choose you can keep the commandments," says the Book of Sirach. "God has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand." Many choices stand before us: "life and death, good and evil." We get whichever one we choose.

God does not command us to act unjustly. We are free. But our freedom is not a license to sin. Our freedom is the environment in which we make choices. And God is hoping - as each of us hopes - that we will only choose what is good. Some of our choices may feel impossible or uncomfortable, but if we pick the best choice, it is often right.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the 1st/2nd Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON:	I Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
TUE:	I Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13
WED:	I Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
THU:	I Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30
FRI:	I Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37
SAT:	I Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10
SUN:	Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; I Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg offers faith-based assistance with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, interpersonal conflicts, recovery support, parenting and family issues, anger management, and other personal and family issues. Counseling is provided by licensed, professional, experienced therapists. Fees are low and many insurances

are accepted. Offices are located in Greensburg, Indiana, Uniontown, Kittanning and New Kensington. For more information or an appointment, please call 837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.



What's Happening at home

Today we celebrate **SCOUT SUNDAY**. We recognize all the Cub and Boy Scouts, Brownies and Girl Scouts and their leaders from our own parishes and our area. Scouting programs help boys and girls grow spiritually, morally, emotionally



and physically. I congratulate each child who has made a commitment to these programs. I have been impressed with the number of young men who have become Eagle Scouts. This is a tribute to them and their parents for choosing the path less traveled. I also thank all the adults who helped with the local scouting programs. Some have not had a child in the programs for years, but have stayed active because of their love of scouting. This is a tribute to the goals and precepts of America's Scouts. I thank all the scouts for all they do for our parishes, our parishioners and our communities. Continue to live well the principles and points of the Scout oaths and laws. Fr. Paul

Our next Foundations of Faith is THIS WED, FEB 12 at Geibel Catholic from 5:45-8pm This is a FAMILY session. Please bring your child's textbook. Our family meal will be pasta, antipasti salad and cookies. Father Dan Carr will be leading the adult discussion on "Dying to Self" in preparation for the upcoming season of Lent.

THU night RCIA will be held on FEB 13 in St. John's Moravek Hall, from 6:30-8pm.

St. Al's FRI morning Bible study will be held on FEB 14 in the social hall following 8:30am Mass.

Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community Children's Choir will rehearse on SAT, FEB 15 at 11am in IC's choir loft. Children in grades 3-6 from all 4 parishes are eligible for membership. Junior/senior high students may serve as leaders and cantors for the Children's Choir.

St. Al is holding a bake sale after 5pm Mass on SAT, FEB 15, and again on SUN, FEB 16 after Mass, and during their Ethnic Festival, to 2pm.

St. Rita Holy Name will have a Pancake, Buckwheat, Sausage Breakfast on SUN, FEB 16 in Bucci Hall, 7am-noon.
\$6 adults, \$2 children under 12.



Our first mandatory 2nd grade parent/child meeting for the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be SUN, FEB 16 beginning with 9:30am Mass at IC. Refreshments and meeting will continue after Mass until 12pm.

**COME ONE
COME ALL**

St. Al's Ethnic Festival is NEXT SUN, FEB 16 in their social hall, 11am-2pm. Menu features a variety of ethnic favorites including halupki, pirohi, haluski, tacos, various Italian favorites, creamed chicken and biscuits, hot sausage, kolbassi, chopped salad and more. Other highlights include a bake sale and raffles.

St. Al's Altar Rosary Society will meet MON, FEB 17 in the social hall, at 6:30pm.

Fr. Dan's next talk will be on VIDEO GAMES, on MON, FEB 17 in St. Rita's Bucci Hall, 7-8pm.

St. John's Fundraising Committee will be making pirohi on TUEs, FEB 18, 25, MAR 3, 10, 17 at 8:30am in Moravek Hall for their upcoming Lenten sale. Any help is always appreciated, whether it be volunteering your time or making a monetary donation to help defray food costs. Checks (payable to St. John and marked St. John fundraising donation) or cash may be put in the collection basket or dropped off at the DeVivo Centre. **Frozen pirohi will go on sale on SUNs before mass (10:30-11am) and after Mass (12:30-1pm) starting on MAR 15.** Cost is \$10/dozen.

St. Rita Christian Mothers will hold a Pre-Lenten Covered Dish Dinner and meeting on TUE, FEB 25 at 6pm in Bucci Hall.



Don't forget to check out Conn-Area's Open House THIS SUN, FEB 9 at 1pm.

THE WELL Men's Conference (for 18+) will be held SAT, MAR 21 at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood. The event includes workshops, discussions, reconciliation and adoration, and a 4pm concluding Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic. Speaker is WTAE's Mike Clark. Doors open at 7:15am; conference starts at 8:30am. Registration due by MAR 11 at dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL. \$50 fee includes breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available. Apply at dioceseofgreensburg.org/franciscfund by MON, MAR 2. Questions? Email THEWELL@dioceseofgreensburg.org.



This TUE, FEB 11, is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

On FEB 11, 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous was gathering wood with two other girls at a small rock cave near the town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees Mountains of southern France. Suddenly she saw what she described as “a girl in white, no taller than I, and beautiful”.

The young woman spoke to Bernadette in the dialect used in her little village. She addressed her with great courtesy. This made a tremendous impression on Bernadette who was a below-average student and the daughter of poor parents. She was not used to being treated with such respect.

Bernadette saw the vision 18 times. When she asked the woman who she was, she responded, “I am the Immaculate Conception,” using a term Bernadette had never heard. During one of the later appearances the woman in the vision told Bernadette to dig for water with her hands. When the girl did so, she uncovered a spring. The spring still flows at the rate of 27,000 gallons daily. Many people have come to Lourdes in the years since the appearances to bathe in the spring and to pray for healing from all kinds of diseases.

Bernadette never wanted the fame that the appearances brought her. She retired to a convent where she spent her days living as simply and humbly as possible. She was very ill throughout her short life, and died in 1879 at the age of 35. She was declared a saint in 1933.

Many Catholics who are not active in the Church will still seek out ashes on Ash Wednesday. Likewise, many Jews who are not otherwise observant will follow Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, with great exactness, fasting and refraining from work and entertainment. People customarily dress in white as a symbol of purity and a reminder of God’s promise that our sins will be made white as snow.

While the overture to Ash Wednesday for Christians may be a festive Mardi Gras celebration, for Jews it is the New Year feast of Rosh Hashanah. The days before the Day of Atonement to God, people are expected to repair breaks in human life. These are days for offering forgiveness and seeking to repair harmed relationships. Everyone is expected to seek out someone and “clear the air” by asking for understanding for any mean words or thoughtless deeds in the past year.

Perhaps the ashes you receive on WED, FEB 26 will be invested with deeper meaning if you follow a similar plan. A conversation with some Jewish friends or neighbors about their experience of a season of repentance may be a blessing on your Lent.



7 WAYS TO BE A PEW POTATO

1. Make an excuse; say you’re too busy when asked to help.

2. Volunteer someone you know who is “just right for the job.”
3. Leave church right after Mass, so that no one can ask you to help.
4. Never attend church meetings or functions.
5. Only talk to your own family.

THU, FEB 14, is Valentine’s Day.

This special day is attributed to the actions of St. Valentine, a priest/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 FEB 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.

May St. Valentine teach us to share God’s gift of love with everyone we meet on Valentine’s Day and always. As each of us celebrates this day with gifts of cards, candies, flowers, may we remember that our gifts are only the outward sign of the love we have for those around us, imitating the love Christ has for each of us.



From all of us at the parish offices,
Happy Valentine’s Day!

Please pray for the repose of the souls of TILER GUTH (son of John Baldwin) and BARB MADORE, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.



Both parish offices will be closed on MON, FEB 17. Bulletin info for the weekend of FEB 22-23 is due by THU, FEB 15.

6. Never participate in questionnaires regarding the use of God-given talents and gifts.
7. Never attend an adult education session to attain a greater understanding of Christian responsibility.



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: THIRSTING FOR TRUTH

Our Gospel from Matthew today is taken toward the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, immediately following the Beatitudes. Jesus proclaims that we are to be “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth.” Forgive this musical theatre girl for REALLY wanting to belt out the lyrics to Godspell’s “You are the Light of the World...”

*You are the light of the world!
You are the light of the world!
But if that light is under a bushel
It's lost something kind of crucial
You got to stay bright to be the light
of the world*

*You are the salt of the earth, you are
the salt of the earth
But if that salt has lost its flavor, it
ain't got much in its favor
You can't have that fault and be the
salt of the earth!*

*So let your light so shine before men
Let your light so shine
So that they might know some kind-
ness again
We all need help to feel fine
(Let's have some wine!)*

Yes, I was in that musical in college ... and yes, I was donning crimped teased hair a multicolored jumpsuit with an attached feather boa. It was glorious. But I digress.

Christ's proclamation is continuing the theme of *light* that we have

been following and reflecting on for weeks now. When we think of what we are called to do as Christians every day, we usually DO think of being a LIGHT to others so that we may bring the kingdom of God to the here and now. This theme of “light” brings another word to mind; JOY. But sadly, we often forget ourselves and forget the JOY that is OURS in Christ Jesus.

In a 2013 Mass in Vatican City, our Holy Father Pope Francis used a term the term “*sourpusses*” when describing Christians who have confused the culture’s view of happiness with the pure joy that comes from belonging to Christ. He used this term again in his apostolic exhortation, “*The Joy of the Gospel*.” Using a phrase that translates literally as “*the face of a pickled pepper*,” Pope Francis said that when Christians have more of a *sourpuss* than a face that communicates the joy of being loved by God, they harm the witness of the Church.

“While happiness is a good thing”, the Pope said, “it’s not the same as the profound joy that comes from “the certainty that Jesus is with us and with the Father.” If one tries to be happy all the time, he said, happiness ends up “transforming itself into superficiality and leads to a state of lacking Christian wisdom; it can make us fools.”

“Joy is something else. Joy is a gift from the Lord. It fills us from the inside.” The joy the Lord gives cannot be “bottled up so we can keep it with us,” he said. “If we want this joy just for ourselves, in the end it will make us sick and our hearts will shrivel up and our faces will not transmit that great joy, but nostalgia, that melancholy that isn’t healthy. Rather, true and authentic joy naturally leads to generosity, he said.

Pope Francis said joy is a “pilgrim virtue,” one that moves Christians to journey out into the world preaching the Gospel and proclaiming Christ.

Joy, he said, “is one of the virtues of the great,” of those who don’t allow themselves to get caught up in silly little annoyances or in “little things inside the community of the church; they always look to the horizon.”

If you were at Saint Aloysius for the 5pm Mass a few weeks ago, you had the JOY of experiencing THIS JOY firsthand. One of our preschool parishioners spent the ENTIRE Mass singing and praying her little heart out, MUCH to the delight of the entire congregation. She was very clearly sharing her joy with all around her. She couldn’t bottle it up inside. All I can say to her parents is, “GREAT job! TEACH ME your ways!” This little firecracker is obviously experiencing the joy that Christ brings through her parents’ example. I cannot remember the last time SO many people SMILED during Mass! Joy is contagious after all. Thank you for showing us what being the light of the world truly means. What a little disciple in the making. Now if all of us could have 1% of the joy this little girl has at Mass, we would indeed be the light of the world!

Christ’s peace
and our Mother Mary’s love,
Mary Sampey



If you've still not received your IC anniversary book please pick it up at the DeVivo Centre ... **FREE** if you placed an ad or attended the dinner. Otherwise just \$5. Books will also be on hand at IC's Fish Dinner on Ash **WED, FEB 26.**

ATTENTION ALL LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND ALTAR SERVERS:

Please know that if you attend a Mass where you are not on the schedule and your ministry is not covered, you may volunteer to cover that position. Know that all the guidelines are the same for each Mass so that you should be able to feel at home.

Fr. Paul, Fr. Julius and Fr. Dan thank you for helping us celebrate a good liturgy.

TUE & THU Masses will be held at ST. RITA if the Connellsville School District has a delay or cancellation for winter weather. Watch the news on TV or listen to your favorite radio station if the weather is bad.



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON, FEB 10		ST. SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN
8:00am	St. Rita	Anthony Dellavechia (Hisako Mongell)
8:30am	St. Al	Raymond Polakovsky (God-daughter, Lou Ann Lauffer)
TUE, FEB 11		OUR LADY OF LOURDES
8:00am	St. John	John, Sr. & Donald Haney (Virginia)
8:30am	St. Al	Rose Novak (Rita & Richard Sidow)
WED, FEB 12		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Thomas Marchewka, Jr. (Family)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
THU, FEB 13		WEEKDAY
8:00am	IC	Ron Tannehill, Marcia & Dutch Bartholomai (P.A. Tannehill & Family)
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	Billy J. Dull (Billie Staszal)
FRI, FEB 14		STS. CYRIL, MONK & METHODIUS, BISHOP
8:00am	St. Rita	John "Jay" Orazi (Mom, Dad, Sisters, Christina & Janelle, & Families)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	Stephen Holup, Jr. (Mary Petzel)
SAT, FEB 15		VIGIL
4:00pm	St. Rita	Amato & Jennie Natale (Mike & Cathy Natale)
5:00pm	St. Al	Florence Cope (Sonny & Janet)
6:00pm	IC	Jim Flynn (Betty & Family)
SUN, FEB 16		6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00am	St. Rita	Pro Populo
9:00am	St. Al	Joseph, Jr. & Helen DeOre (George, Chris & Holly)
9:30am	IC	Connie Hatter, 50th Anniversary Remembrance (Husband, Francis & Family)
11:30am	St. John	Keith Hillen (Kathy, Emily, Marney & Grandchildren)

Altar flowers at St. John are in memory of Ted Koval, given by his wife, Retha and Family.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - FEB 15				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - FEB 16			
	SR-4PM	ST. AL-5PM	IC-6PM	ST. RITA-8AM	ST. AL-9AM	IC-9:30AM	ST. JOHN-11:30AM
ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	S Bandemer A Bandemer	C Tabaj E Bohinski	S Pleva G Galley	D Long J Long	M Speeney M Speeney	B Petrone P Scarry	L Colland R Knizner
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	R Pratt L Sparks J Rittenhouse	T Nedrow T Bohinski K Andolino	E Aquino P Calinao D Calinao	C Waggett L Lauffer L Kozel	T Grover S Smith J Goodwin	P Akers M Lazor J Miller	B Knizner J Speeney E Smith
CROSS BEARERS	A Geary	O Tabaj	E Pleva	A Long	F Vinoverski	D DePaul	R Gaudiello
LECTORS	C Sparks	T Szepesi	D Mulligan	E Long	N Gallis	T Severin	E Knizner
ROSARY		Volunteer			T Grover		



This weekend all of the couples who are engaged to be married this year will be gathering at the St. Rita Mass at 4:00 PM. At Mass they shall receive a special blessing and afterward they will be welcomed into the social hall for a dinner and discussion about the details of their wedding and marriage preparation.

In having a wedding blessed by the Catholic Church, these couples have decided to follow a Catholic marriage preparation program that will call upon them to reflect on themselves and their relationship so that they can prepare more fully to enter into their marriage. This program is not simple or always easy. It will demand sacrifices of the couple and require them to talk about challenging issues with one another and perhaps reveal difficult things about themselves. In other words, their path to their wedding day is not a simple one.

And that's not even considering the wedding planning itself! Once the wedding planning begins there can be a great deal of tension between the couple's dream for their wedding and the Catholic wedding rite. This rite is rooted in beautiful, symbolic actions and Scripture-based gestures that carry and convey deep, rich meaning. But in a world of Pinterest and "Say Yes to the Dress", many dream-wedding ideas may look exciting and desirable despite being incompatible with or even contrary to the Catholic wedding rite itself.

In light of these things, it's understandable why many Catholics do not have their marriage blessed by the Church. Civil marriages can take place within weeks, if not days, without requiring much, if any, preparation or formation. Other wedding rituals are more flexible and allow the couple to choose more broadly their own meaningful words, music, and gestures. When you add in difficult logistics, financial challenges, family expectations, bad experiences with priests, and disenfranchisement with organized religion, it seems that the reasons not to involve the Church are many.

But there is one good reason to do so: to invite Jesus into your wedding and into your marriage. At the wedding feast of Cana the couple invited Jesus (Jn 2:2).

And it's a good thing they did because they ran out of wine. Wine was an ancient symbol of joy. (Psalm 104 praises God's goodness and thanks Him for many good



things, including "wine to gladden their hearts"). The couple who has run out of wine at their wedding is symbolic of a couple whose marriage has run out of joy. Every couple is vulnerable to this situation because joy is not something we can calculate, earn, or obtain. In inviting Jesus to the wedding, the couple does not get stuck in joylessness but is rescued by Jesus who not only brings them the gift of joy but a superior joy at that. ("You have kept the good wine until now" says the headwaiter.)

If you have been married and have not had your marriage blessed by the Church, I implore you to get in touch with me about it. I realize that many situations are complicated but no situation is too complicated for Christ's grace. No matter what your experience has been and no matter what your fears might be, Jesus desires to receive a formal invitation to your marriage. By entering into the sacrament of marriage, you are inviting Christ and saying "we are not strong enough to never run out of wine. Please help us, Lord." And by His grace, He will do it.

Please pray for our engaged couples and for all preparing for marriage. May they realize the importance of their preparation and truly "engage" with it. May they recognize the rite of marriage for its truthfulness and enter into its beauty. But above all else may they experience the rich joy that Jesus brings to all who invite him to their wedding feast.

TAKE AND DRINK ... RECEIVING FROM THE CUP.

Our parishes, like others, are trying to respond positively to the encouragement of our bishops to offer the Cup at every Liturgy. As a Church, we have "forgotten" that Communion from



the Cup belongs to all the baptized. The fundamental reason to do this is because Jesus asked us to do so. In 1963, the Vatican Council encouraged Church leaders to "restore (this practice) to the vigor it had" in the traditions of the early Church. The practice was reintroduced, at first only for

specific persons and special occasions. But in 1984, the Vatican encouraged bishops to allow Communion from the Cup at every Eucharist. Participating fully in the Eucharistic meal of bread and wine is our baptismal right, and enables us to participate more fully in the covenant established by the Lord.