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Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch into a living relationship with the person of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,

Service and Fellowship.

www.youghcatholic.org



"THE GODFATHER!"

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 / I-4pm FRI 8:30am-Ipm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

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



We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul

to help our neighbors in need. You may call them at 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers

on pages 4 and 9, who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is LEAF GUARD.

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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SUN, FEB 24, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult	··\$4,427.00
Loose ······	320.00
Maintenance ·····	
Total:	·\$4,777.00
Cemetery ······	\$34.00
Cemetery	

ST. ALOYSIUS	
Adult ·····	··\$4,077.00
Loose ······	·····166.40
Children/Young Adults · · ·	16.00
Parish Improvements ·····	40.00
Energy ·····	····· <u>344.00</u>
Total: ·····	··\$4,643.40
Accent ······	\$4.00

St. John

Adult	\$2,224.00
Loose Collection ······	178.00
Total:	··\$2, 4 02.00
Cemetery ·····	\$25.00
Accent ······	

ST. RITA

<u>31. KITA</u>	
$Adult \cdots \cdots$	···\$4,379.00
Loose Collection · · · · · ·	373.00
Maintenance ·····	····· <u>10.00</u>
Total:	··\$4,762.00
Cemetery ·····	
Accent ······	\$361.75
Eastern Europe · · · · · · · · ·	00.012

THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COLLECTION will be taken at all Masses MAR 9-10.

Funds benefit dioceses in the US that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help.



Sirach 27:4-7 THE BENT OF ONE'S MIND

We do it all the time - we size up people by the way they look. We judge their character by their face - the light of their eyes, the turn of their mouth. We make presumptions about people's abilities by seeing their height and weight. We categorize them by race and ethnicity. We predetermine the wisdom they have by guessing their age. We make a lot of ridiculous judgments before we even meet people.

And other people do the same to you. They make unfair assumptions before you open your mouth. It is not right.

But once you say something - well, then people learn a lot more. "The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind."

Ouch. That piece of wisdom from the Book of Sirach reminds us that what we say reveals a lot about who we are. Sometimes we think more of ourselves than our speech discloses. When we say something we do not mean, it reveals something about ourselves to others. It is not always good. "When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do one's faults when one speaks."

It is not right to form prejudices against other people, but it is healthy to realize that each one of us has strengths and weaknesses. Our own character will be revealed the more we speak.

We can all shape ourselves into better people if we think before we speak.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MON: Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27 TUE: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31

WED: JI 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THU: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

FRI: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

SAT: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

SUN: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13



"Open your heart to HOPE", the 2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal, helps parishes build HOPE. As the Lenten season approaches, we are once again a people in need of God's grace. We work on our relationship with God through prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Prayer can be so powerful, especially for those struggling with their faith after such a difficult time in the Church. I want to assure you that I have great hope for the future of our Church. Every day, I work to move us forward. But I can only continue to do that with your help. That is why I am asking you to *Open Your Heart to Hope*.

+ Bishop Edward C. Malesic



IC Holy Name will meet on MON, MAR 4 in Sciberras Hall. All men are welcome.

St. Rita Christian Mothers will hold their Pre-Lenten Covered Dish Dinner and meeting on TUE, MAR 5 at 6pm

in Bucci Hall. Members are asked to bring their favorite covered dish.

St. John's Fundraising Committee will be making pirohi on TUEs MAR 5 and MAR 12 at 8:30am in Moravek Hall for their upcoming Lenten sale.

Any help would be greatly appreciated, whether it be volunteering time, or making a monetary donation to help defray food costs. Cash or checks payable to St. John, may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the DeVivo Centre. Pirohi will go on sale on SUNs before Mass, 10:30-11am and after Mass, 12:30-1pm, starting MAR 17, until sold out.

IC Christian Mothers Ash WED Fish Dinner will be held MAR 6, in Sciberras Hall, llam-2pm and 4-6:30pm. Menu includes baked/fried fish, mac and cheese or potatoes, green beans, coleslaw or stewed tomatoes, dessert and drink. \$10 adults/\$4 kids under 12. Eat in or call 628-9795 for take-out.

Our next Youth Group meeting will be WED, MAR 6 beginning at 6pm at the former CAPS building. We'll walk over to Saint Rita Church to attend 7pm Ash WED Mass as a group. Pickup will be around 8pm as usual. Please be sure your child eats dinner prior to Youth Group, as we will not have any snacks, to observe the Lenten requirement for the day.



A FRI morning Bible study on the Gospel of John, will L be held at St. Al beginning MAR 8 immediately after 8:30 Mass. Classes will be informal and will last I hour. Study No previous Bible study is required or assumed. No cost, no registration - just bring a Bible and a note-

book. Molli Vassar will lead the study. For questions or more info call her at 366-9552.

St. Rita Holy Name will meet on SUN, MAR 10 in Bucci Hall, after 8am **Mass.** New members are always welcome. Coffee and donuts will be served. Remember, unity makes strength.

There will be a meeting to plan St. Al's 2019 Calendar Party on SUN, MAR 10 following 9am Mass. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend. Tentative timeframe for the event is late SEP/early OCT.

Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community Children's Choir will resume rehearsals SAT, MAR 16 at 11am in IC's **Sciberras Hall.** All children in grades 3-6 are eligible to join the choir. In addition, 7-8th graders and senior high students may join as cantors and leaders of song.

We need at least 4 more Eucharistic Ministers for SUN 11:30am Masses at **St. John.** Your willingness to be part of this ministry would mean that no one should have to serve multiple times each month, as our current servers do. Call Sr. Donna at the DeVivo Centre at 628-6840 to volunteer.



\$10 adults, \$4 kids 12/under. Meal includes 1/2 a baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, salad, roll/butter, dessert/beverage. Eat in or take-out.

St. John's fundraising committee will be accepting donations of baskets for the raffle to be held with their chicken dinner. Baskets may be dropped off at Moravek Hall on SAT, MAR 23, 10am-noon, Call Stephanie Kostelnik at 628-8878 or Carol Cunningham at 628-9415 with any questions.

> St. Rita Christian Mothers' annual Women's Day of **™■** Recollection will be held on SUN, APR 7. beginning at 1:30pm at **St. Rita Church.** Msgr.

Roger Statnick will be Retreat Master. !Women of all area parishes are invited to this devotional day, which will include a Time for Reflection, Rosary, Benediction (no Mass) and la catered dinner in Bucci Hall. Cost Ifor the day is \$18 (payable by APR 1) ito St. Rita Christian Mothers) and includes a coffee and cinnamon roll break, plus dinner. For reservations I call Mary at 628-6832. Please plan to attend so we can enjoy a spirit of i community and faith.

Only a few seats are left for IC's trip to see "Jesus" at Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA. Call Guy Rose at 880-5885 or Patty Rose at 880-4919 to make your reservation. A \$25 deposit holds your spot. Total cost of \$150 includes bus, show and dinner. Payment may be put in collection basket.



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: THIRSTING FOR TRUTH

THE PEACE PROMISE

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye, when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?" You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye.

Two years ago, Lent was about to begin and admittedly, I had not put very much thought into the upcoming season. My sister had passed away a few months earlier, and I was in the midst of a very deep, very dark depression. At the same time, I was experiencing deep conflict in several relationships in my life, both personally and professionally. I desperately wanted and needed certain things from certain people, and no one seemed to measure up. I could not understand at the time WHY these individuals who claimed they cared for me were hurting me on a deeply personal level in my weakest and most vulnerable state! So, in desperation, I purchased a book I had found online called, "The Peace Promise" by Catholic author John Kuypers.

In this powerful book, Mr. Kuypers coins the term "The Peace Promise" to the very teaching we hear today

in the Gospel: "First remove the wooden beam from your eye; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brothers eye." For Kuypers, a wooden beam is a judgment. A splinter is a fault. When we see a fault that bothers us, we judge it because we do not like it. We have a prejudicial view about what we think SHOULD be happening. These biases about others' behaviors rob us of our peace.

Kuypers explains that through the practice of the Peace Promise, Jesus gives us a path to the promise of his healing and nourishing peace on ANY given issue! In other words, Jesus offers us a teaching about how we can actually cause a change in the person or situation stealing our peace IF we are FIRST willing to change something in ourselves. In plain English, it means that we must first get neutral about outcomes. When we get neutral, we will see clearly what to do.

When I first read this, it seemed impossible! How could I get neutral about things/people that were hurting me the most? Wouldn't that make me a doormat? And I certainly didn't want to hammer out my demands in order to get what I wanted either! The more I discovered about the Peace Promise, however, the more I realized that getting neutral meant doing what Jesus taught; to forgive and to seek forgiveness. One reason getting neutral works is that we set others free to make their own choices. Rather than pressuring them to please us or causing them to react defensively against what we want them to do, our unbiased stance causes them to take ownership of their choices and the resulting risks and consequences. When we are neutral about outcomes, we stop taking things personally. We stop blaming others. We become reconciled with our own faults and inadequacies.

To truly get neutral, we must first set aside our ego and become extremely aware of who we truly are (and that God loves us anyway). By doing this, we see our own faults and begin to love others mercifully as God loves us. We begin to remove the biases of how we believe others should behave. We begin to accept the fact that people have the right to make mistakes, even when those mistakes hurt us.

Getting neutral does not mean accepting bad behavior or doing nothing. Getting neutral simply means to temporarily get centered so that we have time to spiritually discern what we need to do to respond wisely to the challenge facing us. We see clearly what we need to do and we are ready to take confident action. By getting neutral, we open our mind, heart and soul to how God wants us to respond. We are surrendered. We are at peace with uncertainty and the possibility of things not working out. We are more present for others. We respond gracefully in brave new ways.

I got neutral about my personal situation. I realized that in my grief, I was imposing impossible standards on my loved ones while at the same time, not communicating what I needed most. Rather, I believed that they "should know" what I needed. How incredibly unfair to them! I got neutral and accepted that the ONLY perfect person that could give me true peace and complete wholeness was lesus Christ, and that I needed to lean on HIM ALONE while freely accepting and being grateful for any help offered by my family and friends.

This Lent, I encourage you to practice the Peace Promise! You do not need to purchase the book to live this most important teaching of Jesus!

> Christ's peace and our Mother Mary's love, Mary Sampey



NO Nar-Anon, WED, MAR 6.

Mass at IC on SAT, MAR 9 in obser-

vance of Girl Scout Sunday. Anyone interested in earning Girl Scout Catholic awards may call Joan Emanuel at 628-0130 from 10am to 5pm.



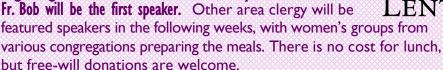
The Ministerial Association's Ash WED Liturgy of the Word/ Wednesday Worship Service with distribution of ashes (no Eucharist) will be held at IC, MAR 6, beginning at 12:10pm.

Parking is available along Crawford Avenue, in the city lot across the street, and in the parish lots between

Cottage and Prospect Streets behind the church.

Please do not park in the pre-school area on Prospect Street as school is in session.

The Connellsville Area Ministerial Association's Lenten Lunches will be held TUEs, noon-Ipm (except Holy Week), beginning MAR 12 at Connellsville Presbyterian Church.





RCIA Moves Again - this time to IC, for our last stop on what one of our participants wisely called "our pilgrimage". St. Rita parishioners were so kind to us, and it was great to enjoy their wonderful hospitality and get to meet some of the wonderful members of their parish community. Our thanks to all who made us feel so welcome.

RCIA during Lent. The period of Lent is known in the RCIA as Purification and Enlightenment. This is the time when the candidates and catechumens are not given a focus on the acquisition of knowledge as much as they are being drawn into the prayer life of the Church. The emphasis is now, as it should be for all of us, on prayer, fasting, almsgiving and preparing themselves for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. They have been given journals to record their private thoughts and feelings during these days of journeying with the Lord, and we will be talking to them about the various forms of prayer in the Catholic Church. Especially, this will be a time when their sponsors and godparents will be taking care to introduce them to some of the activities and practices known and loved in our Faith.

This period starts with a Celebration of the Rite of Sending which we will celebrate on SUN, MAR 10 at the 9:30 Mass at IC. At this Mass, we as the faith community of Our Lady Queen of the Yough will present 17 people for sending to Bishop Malesic for the Rite of Election. At that time, we affirm our belief that these people who have been journeying with us through-out this year, are now ready to be received into full Communion with us at the Easter Vigil. It begins a beautiful and holy time for all of us.



Congratulations to MASON THEODORE, son of Joshua and Mary Lee Roe baptized FEB 23 at IC.

ASH WEDNESDAY (MAR 6) SCHEDULE

8:00am

St. John

9:30am School Mass at IC

12:10am **Immaculate Conception** Liturgy of the Word

w/Cvlle Area Ministerial Assoc.

No Eucharist

5:00pm St. Aloysius 7:00pm St. Rita

IC, St. John and St. Rita parishioners are reminded to pick up their year-end giving statements at the DeVivo Centre parish office, MON-FRI, 8:30am-4pm/FRI, 9am-noon.

Please remember RUTH LONIGRO, IAMES MARNELL, PATTY ZELMORE and SAMMY ZORICHAK, new additions to our prayer list.



Congratulations to LANDEN JACOB, son of Chad and Sherry Schradel, baptized FEB 24 at IC.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR CATHOLICS

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.
Catholics, age 14 and older, are obligated to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

FASTING. Catholics from the day of their 18th birthday, until the day before their 60th birthday, are obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of CATHI MONGELL, BENEDETTA MUTNANSKY & DOROTHY YAKIMICK, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.



Altar flowers at IC last weekend were in memory of Michael & Anna Mary Canada, from Family.

St. AL	MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	
	SAT, MAR 9- 5PM		
	LECTOR S Lincoln	Ex Minister J Goodwin T Nedrow M Vinoverski	
SUN, MAR 10 - 9AM			
ALTAR SERVER J Hustosky J Hustosky F Vinoverski	LECTOR G Heller	Ex MINISTER T Dull J Laurion J Wallace	
ROSARY SCHEDULE			
SAT, MAR 9 P Herron		SUN, MAR 10 E & D Gmitter	

11:30am

St. John

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS MON, MAR 4 St. Casimir Nancy Miller (Ginny McDowell & Children, Sean & Lara) St. Rita 8:00am 8:30am St. Al Lawrence & Rosemary Bruno (Daughters, Laureen, Regina & Mary Pat) TUE, MAR 5 WEEKDAY 8:00am St. John Frank, Margaret & David Dursa (Joseph & Janet Simko) 8:30am St. Al Richard H. Garland (Jen Mallow) WED, MAR 6 Ash Wednesday St. John Janet Marie Goretsky (Officers & Members of the 8:00am Polish Club) 8:30am St. Rita Adoration until 6:45pm Marge Soisson (The Harry Soisson Family) 9:30am IC IC 12:10pm Liturgy of the Word 5:00pm St. Al Angelo & Eleanor Alesantrino (Kayle Basinger) St. Rita Adeline George (Christopher Mickey) 7:00pm THU, MAR 7 STS. PERPETUA & FELICITY, MARTYRS 8:00am IC Emily Ernesty (Elizabeth Slaughter) 8:00am St. Al Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions Diletta Orlando (Toni Schiavoni & Lou Durbin) 8:30am St. Al FRI, MAR 8 ST. JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS 7:10am Geibel Chapel Margaret DiRisio (Mr. Samuel C. Brooks & Family) 8:00am St. Rita J. Robert Oglevee (Dick & Kathy Oglevee) 8:15am St. Al Divine Mercy Chaplet St. Al Sturge Hughes (John & Marilyn Nedrow) 8:30am 1:50pm Geibel Stations of the Cross 6:30pm St. John Stations of the Cross SAT, MAR 9 St. Rita 11:30am Confession VIGIL/ST. FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS 4:00pm St. Rita E.J. & Anna Sirianni (Family) 5:00pm St. Al Pro Populo 6:00pm IC Margaret Caringola (The Casey Girls) SUN, MAR 10 IST SUNDAY OF LENT Wilbur & Caroline Mickey (Joseph & Jane Mickey) St. Rita 8:00am Genevieve Logan (The Coligan Family) 9:00am St. Al George & Dolly Leary (Don & Mary Lou DeFazio) 9:30am IC

IC, St. John, St. Rita Ministry Schedule				
	ACOLYTE	EX MINISTER	CROSS BEARER	LECTOR
MAR 9	D Long	D Grenaldo	A Long	C Sparks
SR-4pm	J Long	K Grenaldo		
		M Sabatula		
IC-6pm	N Spotto	A Shroyer	O Spotto	M Lazor
	S Spotto	E Aquino		
		J Geary		
MAR 10	T Barrett	B Bielecki	D Barrett	P Stefano
SR-8am	E Armstrong	L Lauffer		
		N Stasia		
IC-9:30am	B Petrone	E Loyal	D DePaul	S DeSimone
	D Piasecki	B Molitor		
		l McKenna		
SJ-11:30am	I Burd	J Speeney	M Burd	E Knizner
	A Bandemer	J Kosinski		
		L Martin		

Joseph A. Speeney (Children & Grandchildren)



LENT: We are days away from entering into the "desert" of Lent. If you've been with us on that journey in the past you know that we make profound changes to the celebration of the Mass. Since the beginning of my priesthood I have been a FIRM believer that the Sacred Mysteries should reflect the particular Liturgical Season in which they are being celebrated. Thus, during Lent, the liturgy is much more austere whereas during Easter we pull out all the joyful stops.

As an aid to those new to our community, particularly the parishioners of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga - and as a refresher for everyone else for whom this is old hat - this week's bulletin features an insert offering a more in-depth explanation of what we do and why.

Next week there will be an insert detailing all the spiritual offerings Our Lady, Queen of the Yough community will be providing to help enrich our experience of this important season of the Church's year. Lent is a time we are challenged to do MORE, to go DEEPER, to reach HIGHER. Hopefully everyone reading this - if indeed anyone DOES read this drivel! - will take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual growth.

SAINT RITA SCHOOL BUILDING: When Connellsville Area Pre-School closed and we regained use of the old Saint Rita school building I was thrilled to have all that extra meeting space. But oft-times silver-linings are surrounded by dense CLOUDS!

And the clouds in this case quickly showed themselves.
As youth ministry - DESPER-ATELY in need of more space - took up residence within its walls it became clear that if we are going to fully utilise

the space some renovation will be necessary. We have already made preparations to replace the roof; now we are beginning the process of identifying and prioritising the other needed renovations. What ultimately happens will depend on the COST. I am hoping that we CAN accomplish this; there is NO DOUBT that we need the space. I have some ideas as to how the necessary funds might be obtained. Please pray that I am successful!

COVER PHOTO: Before anyone FREAKS OUT and lodges an official complaint because *their* baptism photo didn't make the front page, let me assure you that I am **NOT** playing favourites. NO parishioner's baptism photo has graced the front cover. This one is an exception because the people pictured are NOT parishioners (they live outside of Baltimore); it is only because I made the pic that it gets top billing! (In case you missed it, that was A JOKE!)

Seriously, here is the story ... back in June, when I was holidaying with one of my best friends in Deep Creek he and his wife asked me to be Godfather to their not-yet-born daughter. We and their two sons were chilling in the swimming pool at the time and I was rendered SPEECHLESS. (Surely you can imagine what a miracle THAT was for a loquacious chap like me!) But how could it have been otherwise? Never before had anyone bestowed such an honour on me.

At the 4pm Saint Rita Mass last Saturday my Goddaughter Sadie Rose Meyer was baptised. I celebrated the Mass but since I couldn't be both Godfather AND Minister of the Sacrament Fr. Dan graciously concelebrated the Mass and performed the baptism. I messed up the whole Mass rotation and am EXTREMELY grateful to Fr. Dan for his willingness to adjust. And for the WONDERFUL job he did with the baptism. I learned a few things from him!



Jon and I go way back. His father was the Director of Religious education at Saint Barbara in Harrison City (for 35 years!) where I served as a Deacon in 1995-96 and then as Parochial Vicar from 1999-2005. (I had always wanted to go back for a third go-round, taking the one remaining role - head honcho - but that was BEFORE I alighted in the lewel of the Yough!) He has truly been a GREAT friend, overlooking my own friendship fails. I have been honoured to witness his marriage to Meghan (the technical term for a priest "celebrating" a wedding; remember, the COUPLE THEMSELVES are the ministers of the Sacrament of Matrimony), to baptise his sons Chase and Lincoln, and now to be Godfather to his daughter. Good friendships are one of the ways I keep myself SANE in the midst of my crazy life as a priest!