

January 5-6, 2019



OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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



Baby, it's COLD in there!

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. 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 HAMPSHIRE'S GARAGE.

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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NEVER BE AFRAID
TO TRUST AN
UNKNOWN
FUTURE
TO A
KNOWN
GOD
corrie ten boom

**END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS WILL
BE MAILED TO YOU
BY THE END OF JAN.**
No need to call the office.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE. Due to
an early print deadline, offertory
amounts from the DEC 22-23
and DEC 29-30 collections will
be reported in a future bulletin.

**St. Aloysius children's offertory
envelopes are available for pick-up
in the church social hall.**

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 SECRET PLAN

The birth of Jesus became the worst kept secret in the history of the world. All along, people knew God had a plan. God had told everyone from Adam and Eve, to Abraham and Sara, to Moses and Miriam, to David and Bathsheba, to Hosea and Gomer, to Mary and Joseph that there was a plan. Nobody fully understood it. Nobody knew how God would bring the plan to fulfillment. But they all believed. They had seen God work mighty deeds in their lives, and they believed that one day the promise of redemption would be fulfilled.

Jesus was God's secret. When Jesus was born in humble surroundings outside of royalty and pagentry, only a handful of people even began to realize what God had done.

But the secret got out. Angels appeared in the sky. Shepherds showed up. And Magi traveled from a faraway land. Everyone was



finding out God's two great surprises: Jesus was born as the promised Messiah, and he came not just for his own race, but for all the people of the world.

The Letter to the Ephesians says, God's mystery "was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Jesus was born, and he came to save each of us, no matter what family we came from, what we believed, or how we behaved. The mystery of God's love is open now to the whole world. That is the epiphany, the revelation of God's secret.

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**When you think of stewardship,
what comes to mind?**

The reality is that many of us Christians don't understand the true meaning of stewardship. Stewardship is managing God's blessings for Gods' glory. God commands us to be stewards over everything He blesses us with - *Everything*.

**That means our time, talents, treasure, relationships,
jobs and, yes, stuff.** It's all God's, and He trusts us with it.

Did you catch that? We get to manage all of the Creator's stuff. How awesome is that? It's both an honor and a serious responsibility!

When we get that in our spirit, well, it changes things. It changes our perspective on our family budgets, our daily decisions, even our purpose in life.

When we understand true, biblical stewardship, the trajectories of our lives change with every decision we make.

We begin to build a legacy of stewardship in our families. We treat our spouses and kids differently. We approach our work with a new sense of purpose. We become grateful for everything we have. We live within our means. We have more money to give. And we have hope for the future.

It's up to each of us to make sure we understand God's role as owner, and our role as stewards. When we get to heaven and have to give an account of how we managed God's resources wouldn't it be wonderful to hear Him say **"Well done, good and faithful servant."**

Excerpted from Chris Brown, of Stewardship.com, a Christian organization helping individuals live intentionally in all areas of life



THE WOMAN AT THE WELL: THIRSTING FOR TRUTH

For most of us, Christmas has come and gone. Directly after Christmas day and New Year's festivities, we are ready to get back to normal routines and the busyness of life. Even so, today is one of the greatest feasts of the Church year...Epiphany; which literally means *sudden realization*! Today for the Western Church marks the end of the Christmas season. For the Eastern Church, Epiphany is the day of Christmas itself, which means that millions of believers are celebrating the birth of our Savior with their family and friends!

Unfortunately, the significance of the Epiphany is somewhat lost in our Western culture. It becomes just another *nice* day. The **ONLY** thing I remember about the Epiphany as a child is that we were permitted to move the 3 wise men from our Nativity set closer to Jesus in the manger...IF our manger was still out at that point!!

Yet now as an adult, I more fully appreciate the rich significance that the Magi hold to the story of our tiny King. Something that I find absolutely fascinating is that the Magi were **NOT** Jewish...and yet they recognized something special and unique in Jesus. They kneel down before him and offer gifts showing

the importance they place on him.

This is the first indication we have in the life of Jesus that his ministry will not be just for Israel, but for people of all nations. Although it took his followers many years to see it, this was the moment where it was first revealed that the Messiah would come not only for the Jewish people but for people of all backgrounds, ethnicities and nationalities. This was the moment at which Jesus began to be revealed as the Messiah for the whole world. The *sudden realization* theme is clear- God is making known that something new, different, and exciting is going to happen through Jesus, and **THIS** is the Good News that has been passed down to us and which we celebrate at the Epiphany!


It is also absolutely amazing that these Magi knew to even look for a



star to signify the birth of the newborn Jewish king. How did they even notice the star in the first place? Well, they were **LOOKING**! The Magi were learned men at the time and astrology was part of their study. They kept their eyes **FIXED** on the heavens. In ancient astrology, the appearance of a new star meant the birth of a king, and the magi ascertained that this new king had been born in the kingdom of Herod based on their observation of the star's position. Thus they deduced that this new king

must be king of the Jews.

One of the great lessons for us to take away as we celebrate the Feast


**WISE
MEN**
STILL
**SEEK
HIM**

of Epiphany and commemorate the journey of the Magi is that we too must **always be looking!**

We need to look beyond ourselves to our ultimate goal, keeping our eyes fixed on the heavens and open to the signs that God gives us to show us the way.

We need to look more deeply into our faith so that we can interpret those signs and know where they lead.

And, above all, we need to look to Christ, the supreme revelation of God and His will for us, to see who God really is and to learn our place in His plan.

As we conclude the Christmas season, in which we, like the Magi, have gazed on the newborn king of the Jews, may we renew our commitment to keep our gaze on Him and follow Him evermore faithfully through the New Year.

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

What's Happening at home

Our Children's Choir will rehearse on SAT, JAN 12 at IC's Sciberras Hall. The choir will also sing for the 5pm SAT, JAN 12, Mass at St. Al. Children in grades 3-6 are eligible to join the Choir.

In addition, 7th and 8th graders and senior high students may join as cantors and leaders of song.

A few frozen pirohi are still available at St. John for \$10/dozen. They may be purchased SUNs in Moravek Hall from 10:30-11am before Mass and from 12:30-1pm after Mass, until sold out.

IC Holy Name will meet MON, JAN 7 in Sciberras Hall at 7pm. All men are welcome.

Next Foundations of Faith will be WED, JAN 9 at Geibel, from 5:45-8pm. Dinner will be from Keedy's - chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, anti-pasti salad and dessert.



to all of you who blessed us with cards and gifts, special food, sweet treats and well wishes throughout the Christmas season. We are indeed grateful! Fr. Bob, Fr. Dan, Fr. Julius

St. Rita Holy Name will meet on SUN, JAN 13 in Bucci Hall, after 8am Mass at St. Rita. Coffee and donuts will be served. New members are always welcome. \$3 dues may be paid now, by placing payment in envelope marked "SR Holy Name" in collection basket.

Our next mandatory 2nd grade parent/child meeting is SUN, JAN 13 beginning with Mass at Saint Aloysius at 9am and ending around 11:30am.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for our 2nd Grade Class is SAT, JAN 19 at Saint Rita's at 9:30am.

St. Rita Holy name pancake, buckwheat, sausage breakfast, SUN, JAN 20 in Bucci Hall, 7am-12 noon. \$6/adults, \$2/children under 12. Men/youth are asked to help set up on SAT, JAN 19 at 9am, and also for the breakfast itself.



SAT, JAN 19, 2019 in Sciberras Hall. \$10 cost includes 1 horse + 4 admissions. Get your tickets now in Sciberras Hall after SAT 6pm and SUN 9:30am Masses.

Make your reservations NOW for IC's Anniversary trip to see "JESUS" on SAT, AUG 10, 2019 at the Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA - a \$25 deposit payable to IC holds your spot! Tickets are limited, so call Guy Rose at 880-5885 or Patty Rose at 880-4919 ASAP. Cost of \$150 includes bus, show and dinner. Envelopes marked "Jesus" may be put in the collection basket or dropped off at the DeVivo Centre parish office. Balance of payment is due by JUN 1.

One of the most beautiful traditions of our Catholic heritage is the BLESSING OF OUR HOMES, which is done near Epiphany Sunday. Below is a blessing you can use for your own home:



Lord, God of heaven and earth you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After praying, if you have holy water, sprinkle some in each room, then place the following above your doorway:

20 + C + M + B + 19

This marking means your home was blessed in the year 2019.

The letters represent the traditional names of the 3 wise men: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar.



Nar-Anon, WED, JAN 9 at St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

NO JAN Grief Support meeting for those who have lost a loved one to addiction. The next meeting will be TUE, FEB 5 in St. Rita's Bucci Hall (note venue change).

Natural Family Planning CM-BBT instruction will be MON, FEB 4 at 6pm in the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Please call Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 837-1840, x1658 for additional info or to register.

**! If you need pastoral care,
PLEASE have someone call the
parish office. Due to HIPPA**

Please feel free to come down to the social hall following Mass to welcome them. We would like to sincerely thank the parish family at St. Al for their gracious hospitality during the first leg of our travels. You made this introduction to life in our Connells-ville parishes one of warmth and welcome. And thanks to all those who provided coffee and other refreshments to make our time extra special.

TUE: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44; Mk 6:45-52

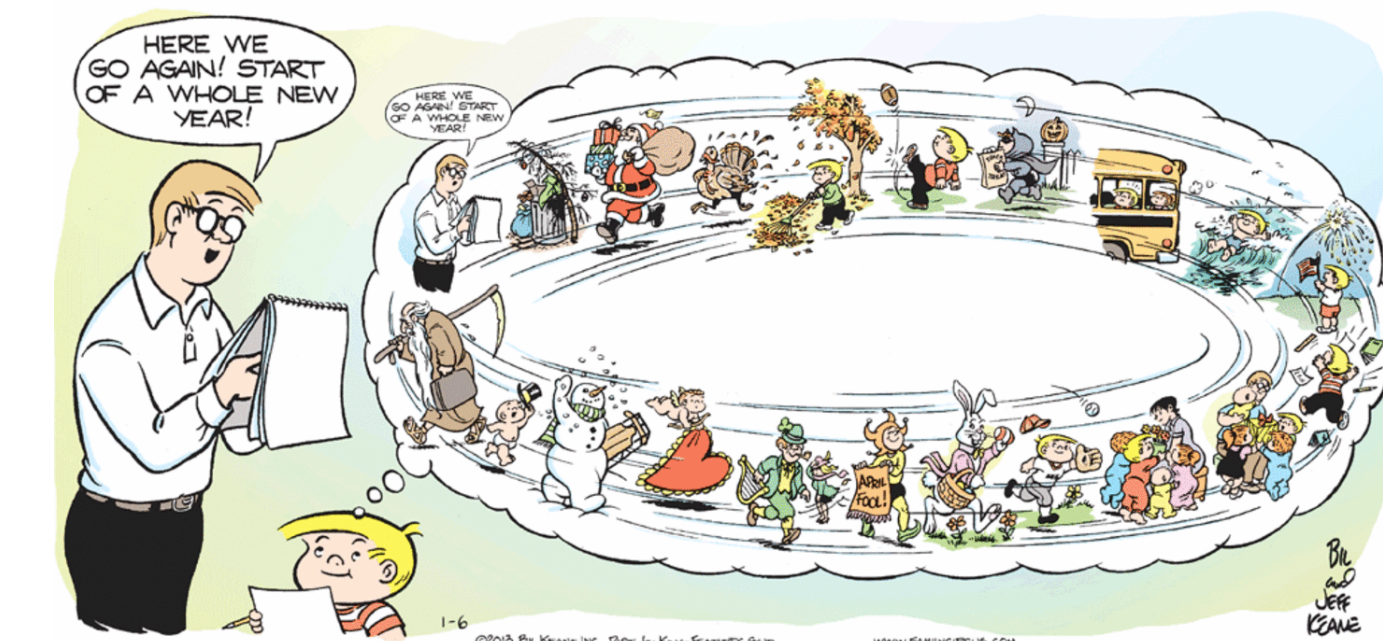
THU: 1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

FRI: I Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

SAT: Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

SUN: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

During times of extreme cold weather it doesn't take long for someone to find themselves in real physical danger, especially if they are sick, older or are a person with a disability that restricts mobility. If you are aware of someone in these categories, please reach out to them, give them a call, or somehow check on them to make sure they are keeping warm safely and have sufficient food and water to withstand brutal weather. It only takes a few minutes to do this, but it could save a life!



The RCIA is on the move! During the month of JAN, our RCIA candidates and catechumens are being dismissed from the Mass at St. John's. They will share the Liturgy of the Word with the assembly and then go to break open the readings they have heard.

Interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about your faith?
Mary Sampey would love to talk to you!
You can reach her at the DeVivo Centre at 628-6840.



2019 calendars are now available at the entrances of all 4 of our churches.

Thanks to:

Brooks Funeral Home, Inc.
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Richard Kucera Funeral Home
Vito C. Martucci Funeral Home

FYI ... If your schedule does not allow you to make regular Mass times, Regional Masses are celebrated on Sunday evenings at 5:30 at SS Cyril and Methodius in Fairchance and 7:00 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in G'burg.



TUE & THU Masses will be held at ST. RITA if the Connellsville School District has a delay or cancellation for winter weather.

Watch the morning news or listen to your favorite radio station when the weather is bad!

JAN Ministry schedules are on www.youghcatholic.org.

Contact Chris Sparks at 628-7510 or crsparks1@zoominternet.net with any questions, or if you cannot serve when scheduled.



MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS



MON, JAN 7		ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT, PRIEST
8:00am	St. Rita	Michaline Natale (Don Natale & Family)
8:30am	St. Al	Kenneth Tomasic (Rick & Linda Martin & Family)
TUE, JAN 8		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	John Depto, Jr. (Betty Sabatine, Sister)
8:30am	St. Al	Diletta Orlando (Family)
WED, JAN 9		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Paul A. Nagy, Sr. (M/M Alan Daugherty)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
THU, JAN 10		WEEKDAY
8:00am	IC	Frank Ernesty (M/M Fran Domaracki)
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	Glenn Gallentine (Connellsville Parish Staff)
FRI, JAN 11		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Angela Marie Phillips (Family)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	Thomas Bell (Marlene Scarry)
SAT, JAN 12		VIGIL
4:00pm	St. Rita	Pro Populo
5:00pm	St. Al	William & Coletta Connell (Jerry & Renee Connell)
6:00pm	IC	Richard Guynn (Rita Shubert)
SUN, JAN 13		BAPTISM OF THE LORD
8:00am	St. Rita	Robert Skowronek (Bertha & Len Ruper)
9:00am	St. Al	Shirley Wallace (Ed, Joy & Shaun)
9:30am	IC	Robert Rugg (Immaculate Conception Choir)
11:30am	St. John	Hilda Onusko (JoAnne & Robert Ruck & Family)

ST. AL MINISTRY SCHEDULE		
SAT, JAN 12 - 5PM		
ALTAR SERVER C Tabaj O Tabaj W Trimbath	LECTOR S Lincoln	EX MINISTER J Goodwin T Nedrow M Vinoverski
SUN, JAN 13 - 9AM		
ALTAR SERVER J Hustosky J Hustosky M Cree	LECTOR D Pierce	EX MINISTER T Dull J Grover A Trimbath
ROSARY SCHEDULE		
SAT, JAN 12 P Herron	SUN, JAN 13 E & D Gmitter	

IC, ST. JOHN, ST. RITA MINISTRY SCHEDULE				
	ACOLYTE	EX MINISTER	CROSS BEARER	LECTOR
JAN 12 SR-4pm	L Geary E Armstrong	D Grenaldo K Grenaldo M Sabatula	A Geary	G McDowell
IC-6pm	N Spotto S Spotto	D Calinao P Calinao J Geary	O Spotto	L Grinko
JAN 13 SR-8am	M Waggett S Harbaugh	C Porter B Bielecki N Stasia	E Lewandowski	R Kozel
IC-9:30am	D Piasecki M Speeney	J Miller J Baluch C Baluch	L Tomasko	L Galiardi
SJ-11:30am	L Thomas I Burd	B Knizner J Kosinski L Martin	M Burd	R Marciante



RAMBLES & RAVES

OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH'S PASTOR
SHOUTS THE

GOOD NEWS

OF THE SPIRIT'S STIRRINGS IN THE
CONNELLSVILLE- DUNBAR METROPLEX!

BACK TO THE FUTURE! With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Tuesday AND with Tuesday being "bulletin day" (the day on which the bulletin must be sent to the publisher) AND with Karen our superbly skilled secretary off on Fridays we are way, WAY, **WAY** ahead of ourselves with bulletins. With this Epiphany bulletin we have reached the peak of the "peering into the future" insanity. I am writing this nearly a week **BEFORE** Christmas and you are reading it nearly two weeks **AFTER**! Thus I am going to write about things that from **YOUR** perspective dear reader are past, but from my perspective are still to come. And things may **NOT** turn out the way I am assuming that they will!

One of our long-standing traditions here in the Jewel of the Yough is the New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge. I have "enjoyed" taking part in this hollowed custom since my first year in your midst, this being my **EIGHTH** refreshing January "dip" in the clear, pure waters of the beautiful Youghiogheny. I have tried for the past three years to convince Father Dan of the soul-cleansing **BLISS** of this year-beginning ritual. Without success. He always makes sure that one of the Holy Day Masses is scheduled so as to give him an excuse! And I didn't even **TRY** to persuade Father Julius! Hailing from the tropical clime of Mindanao he can't even endure our normal "room temperature"

without his winter coat; I was afraid that he would get frostbite merely **WATCHING** the adventurous souls who braved the cold ...

Since the Plunge hasn't actually occurred yet (from my perspective) I hope I didn't meet an unfortunate end in the freezing waters of the river that runs through our fare Ville! You, though, can help assure a positive outcome for this what-some-may-think **FOOLHARDY** undertaking on your Pastor's part. **HOW?** By stopping **RIGHT NOW** and saying a little prayer for me. That might sound like a counter-intuitive thing to say, but hear me out. God does not exist **IN** time; like everything else that is **NOT** God, time is a created reality. Thus God exists **OUTSIDE** time. So when we talk to God (which is all that prayer really is) that conversation likewise takes place **OUTSIDE** time. So praying **AFTER THE FACT** is **NOT** a pointless endeavour. Such prayer can actually influence a situation that has - from **OUR** time-bound perspective - already occurred. In case you think I have **TOTALLY LOST IT** (yet **AGAIN!**) let me assure you that this conclusion is inescapable given what we believe concerning the nature of God. And it gets even **BETTER!**

Some years back I read about a scientific study done to test the efficacy of prayer. Other such studies have been done but this particular one had a unique twist. The investigators split a group of patients who

had surgery into two groups. A group of "prayer warriors" prayed by name for one group, but the other (the control group) received no prayer. The study concluded that those for whom prayer was offered did statistically **MUCH** better in terms of recovery versus the control group. Impressive enough. But here's the twist: all the praying took place (without the "prayer warriors" knowing the fact) a considerable time **AFTER** surgery, when the patients had either recovered. Or died. So I wasn't just blowing smoke!

So if I am hale and hearty this glorious Epiphany Day, it may very well be due to **YOUR** prayers dear parishioners, the prayers you **JUST NOW** offered for me. If my New Year's flirtation with the icy Yough led me to the Father's House, well, it has been nice serving yinz guys n'at!

EPIPHANY: As I have stated *ad nauseam* in the past, Epiphany celebrates **THREE** different "epiphanies" (i.e. revelations) of Jesus. In the west we focus - almost exclusively - on the visit of the Magi. But the great feast (one of the four most important in the Church's calendar) also commemorates the Baptism of Jesus and the Miracle at Cana. The three commemorations are given more equal treatment in the East. Actually, that's not quite accurate. The Feast of the Theophany (the term but which Eastern Christians refer to the Epiphany) focuses more on the Baptism than the other two aspects. Which is way in Orthodox countries rivers and waterways are oft blessed on this day. There is not a *direct* connection but it seems a fitting tie-in to my words about and cover picture of the Polar Bear Plunge, when I, in a manner of speaking, "blessed" the waters of the Yough.