

December 22-23, 2018



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

PEOPLE
LOOK
EAST,
THE
TIME
IS
NEAR



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 CATHOLIC MATCH, 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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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE. Due to an early print deadline, offertory amounts from the DEC 15-16 collections will be reported in an upcoming bulletin.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**FATHER BOB
DEC 23**

The annual **CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES APPEAL COLLECTION** to support the work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg will be taken at all Christmas Masses in the diocese DEC 24 and 25.



Christmas reminds us of the gift of God's own Son, Jesus Christ, given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility. You are asked to support this appeal to help change the future of an individual, family or child through the good work of our diocesan Catholic Charities.

The DeVivo and Brady Centre parish offices will be closed:



**MON, DEC 24
TUE, DEC 25
WED, DEC 26
MON, DEC 31
TUE, JAN 1
WED, JAN 2**

Praying God's best blessings to you at Christmas and into the new year.

Fr. Bob, Fr. Dan, Fr. Julius
and the ministry and office staffs
in Connellsville and Dunbar.



Hebrews 10:5-10 WHY JESUS WAS BORN

The Letter to the Hebrews explains why Jesus was born. It quotes two phrases from the Book of Psalms. In the first, the psalmist says that God is displeased with sacrifices. Some people had been offering sacrifices without much meaning. They went through the ritual, but they put no heart into the words and actions. The psalmist sings, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire." Whatever they were doing to please God wasn't working.

In the second phrase, the psalmist has a new idea - a different offering that might please God. What is

this new offering? The psalmist is. "Behold, I come to do your will." If God was not pleased with the smoke of dead animals, perhaps God would be pleased with the obedience of a living psalmist.

Hebrews recalls these two phrases as they reflect on the birth of Jesus. Jesus came because whatever we were doing to please God was not working. He came and said, "Behold, I come to do your will." He has taken away the old sacrifice and replaced it with himself. The new sacrifice involves heart: having the intent to do God's will.

Because Jesus came into the world, Hebrews says, "We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ." We celebrate the birth of Jesus this week, but we also celebrate our consecration as the people of God. In thanksgiving, let us resolve to do God's will.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MON: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

TUE: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

WED: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

THU: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

FRI: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

SAT: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

SUN: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MON, DEC 31
6pm Vigil at St. John

TUE, JAN 1
9am Mass at St. Rita 10:30am Mass at St. Al



The other night, for the umpteenth time, they were showing “It’s a Wonderful Life” on TV. It is rightfully considered a classic. But, to me, it is more than a Christmas movie.

It is an Advent movie. It is a movie about expectations and dreams. It’s a movie about waiting for a future that seems never to come - and it’s a story about finding, in the end, redemption.

Significantly, as we draw closer to Christmas, it reminds us of how one life can make a difference in the world.

When I was watching it the other night, I noticed something that had escaped me the other times I’d seen it. Moments into the movie, after the opening credits, the first name you hear mentioned is George Bailey.

But the second name you hear is St. Joseph. His name is invoked in a prayer. And from that moment on, “It’s a Wonderful Life” becomes the story of a “righteous man” and an angel. It becomes a parable of sacrifice and self-denial, of generosity and love, the story of a man who spends his life providing for others, forsaking whatever dreams he might have had so that he can

fulfill some greater dream, some greater call. When you think about it, this isn’t that different from the story of St. Joseph.

I wonder if St. Joseph ever knew, like George Bailey, the frustrations, and anger, and temptations of life.

And I think he probably did. He was human. He was flawed. He was probably prone to doubt, and anger, and selfishness, and sin - just like all of us. He may have spent a lot of his time praying for patience, or a job, or good health - just as we all do. He may well have known fear and even despair.

But more importantly St. Joseph also knew trust. And though he never uttered a word in the gospels, he spoke eloquently with his actions. St. Joseph listened and he responded to what he heard. He dared to believe the unbelievable and surrender his doubt to God, taking to heart the message of an angel.

And not just any message. Joseph took a leap of faith, echoing Mary’s own Magnificat: “I am the servant of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word.” And as a result of this moment, a family was formed - a Holy Family. God’s great plan could be fulfilled.

Isn’t it that way with all of us?

God’s work can only be accomplished, his will can only be fulfilled, when we give our assent. We are called, like Joseph, to cooperate with God and to collaborate with him in his plan.

We are called to fulfill a dream: God’s dream for us.

Doing that often demands the hardest thing many of us can muster: trust.

But all we need to do is turn our eyes toward the manger to be reminded of what that kind of trust can accomplish.

All we need is to raise our eyes toward the consecrated host to realize, with a humbling clarity, what can come from dreaming, and listening, and responding to the will of God.

Do we do that? Can we even try?

These final hours of Advent offer us an opportunity to make ourselves fully ready for God to enter our world.

But Advent also asks us to do something more than prepare the way of the Lord. It asks us to do what St. Joseph did: to prepare ourselves for God’s will for our lives.

Pray that we learn from Joseph’s example. Seize these days. Make them matter. Prepare. Get to confession. Find time for quiet reflection away from the noise and the distractions and the stress of the season. Listen. And trust.

We need to make ourselves ready for Christ - the life that came into the world and gave new life to all of us!

If we had any doubts, the approach of Christmas reminds us: *that truly IS a wonderful life - the most wonderful, in fact, of all.*

*Excerpted from a homily
by Deacon Greg Kandra, of Aletea*

What's Happening at home

Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community Children's Choir will NOT rehearse on SAT, DEC 29, but they WILL sing at the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass at IC. 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.

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.

St. Aloysius children's offertory envelopes are available in the church social hall. Please stop by to pick yours up *Thanks.*

Many thanks to all who signed up for a time on our Eucharistic Adoration schedule. We currently have 2 people for each timeslot - but there's always room for more! **Special thanks to Judy Colvin and Pam Akers who have agreed to be coordinators for this ministry.**

If you have questions about Adoration, or wish to volunteer for this ministry please contact Judy at 626-1292 or Pam at 628-1599.

No need to call the parish office.



The choir from St. Joseph Church in Everson will present kolęda, traditional Christmas carols in Polish, on SUN DEC 30 at St. John Connellsville, beginning at 11:10am.

NO Nar-Anon meeting ON DEC 26. Next meeting will be WED, JAN 2 at St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

The diocese is looking for coaches and players for a CYO high school boys basketball league. The league is open to Diocese of Greensburg parishioners in grades 9-12 who meet eligibility requirements. The season will run from JAN through the CYO state tournament in MAR. Games will be played THU and SAT evenings at the Queen of Angels Catholic School gym in North Huntingdon. Contact Jeff Wilkins at wilkinsjjj@windstream.net for full details. All coaches must comply with diocesan clearance policies.



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.



Get Catholic news every day on Twitter @ CatholicAccent and Diocesan news at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org.

In a troubled marriage? A Retrouvaille weekend can offer you help. retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org.

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 office at 628-6840, x108.

You can 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/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.



MARY & ANDY SAMPEY WITH THEIR CHILDREN, AVA, NOEL & ANDREW

I don't know about you, but I have been in Walmart about 30 times in the past week. Honestly, I should own stock in it by now. With 3 children under 7, the holidays have become a marathon. Beginning with a runner's perfect pace, I promise myself that **THIS YEAR** will be the year I have everything together. Cool as a cucumber, I will **NOT** let Christmas beat me! Yet without fail, somewhere around the 2nd week of Advent, I panic. My pace becomes more of a mad dash, and I quickly hit the wall physically and emotionally. Between working full time, school parties, after school activities, capturing the perfect family picture in matching outfits, trying to remember that my husband does in fact want to **TALK** to me sometimes, and questioning, "**DID I MOVE THE ELF?**", and, "**WHEN was the last time I washed my hair?**", I am left feeling completely inadequate and exhausted.

SOMEWHERE off in the distance I see someone standing at the finishing line: Jesus born in a manger to save us; to save **ME**. But instead of my focus being on

Him, it is on all of the million other little details, stress and pressure that I have put on myself. Even going to Church with 3 tired kids in tow becomes *just one more thing that we need to do and fit into our schedules...* and I **WORK** for the Church for crying out loud!

So honestly, if you make it a priority to come to Church this Christmas, **THANK YOU**. No, we do not care that daughter's leggings have a tear in them, or that you had to argue with your son for 10 minutes to put his shoes on. We don't care that your child is crying in Mass, and neither does Jesus!

As inadequate as you may feel, **REST** in the peaceful assurance that Jesus **LOVES** you unconditionally! He loves you **SO** much that He humbled Himself and became human to save you from your sin so that you could be with Him forever! You don't need to be perfect for Jesus. He loves you as **HIS** child that **HE** created, and He strongly desires for you to simply come to Him as you are in full surrender.

This Christmas, surrender all of your stress and anxiety to Jesus! When we surrender to Jesus, our lives are by no means suddenly perfect, but they become perfectly imperfect! We will **NEVER** be perfect for Jesus, but knowing that His love is nothing but pure **GRACE** gives us the freedom to keep our eyes fixed on the **ONE** that will **NEVER** leave our side.

It is also not just about "**YOU** and Jesus" or "**ME** and Jesus." It is **ALSO** about **WHO** we are together; the body of Christ! Jesus loves you so much that He even gave you extra special **BONUS** help; the

Church! With the grace we receive in the Sacraments at Mass and the support of our community of faith, we are better able to become more Christ-like not just with our mouths, but with our lives.

If you are visiting us for the first time, or you have not been to Mass for quite some time, please know that our faith community genuinely welcomes you without **ANY** prejudice. The Church is here for you with open arms and loves you unconditionally, too.

If you attend Mass regularly but do not feel the presence of Jesus in your life right now, I encourage you to reach out. Life is hard enough, but life without Jesus and the support of others is practically impossible!!

If you are one of the **REALLY** blessed ones that have found the peace, joy and complete fulfillment in Jesus and His Church; **SHARE IT** with **OTHERS**! Many Christians have left the Church because the Christians inside it behave and act worse than the unbelievers outside it. This un-Christ-like behavior causes many brothers and sisters to get disillusioned. Such beloved people look for the love that Jesus has, and thus the best way to reach out to them would be *Christ-like love*.

And lastly, invite Jesus into your **MESS**! He wants to be a part of it and dwell wherever you are.

May the peace and love of Christ
be yours this Christmas,
Mary Sampey
Director of Evangelization

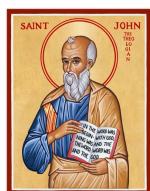


TUE & THU Masses will be held at ST. RITA if the Connellsville School District has a delay or cancellation for winter weather.

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

No changes needed for St. Al Masses.

In celebration of St. John's Patronal Feast there will be light refreshments in Moravek Hall following Mass on THU, DEC 27.



the repose of the souls of **ORVAL (GLENN) GALLENTINE, III,**

PATRICIA LUBIC (Aunt of Fr. Bob) and EVAN NARDONE, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

Ministry schedules are on the parish website at 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, DEC 24		VIGIL/NATIVITY OF THE LORD
4:30pm	IC	For the Parishioners
4:30pm	St. Al	For the Parishioners
5:00pm	St. John	For the Parishioners
7:30pm	IC	For the Parishioners
TUE, DEC 25		NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Midnight	St. Rita	For the Parishioners
9:00am	St. John	For the Parishioners
9:30am	St. Al	For the Parishioners
WED, DEC 26		ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR
8:00am	St. Rita	Angeline Colatch (Ed Rosso)
8:30am	St. Rita	Adoration until 4:30pm
THU, DEC 27		ST. JOHN APOSTLE, EVANGELIST
8:00am	St. John	Maycovich Family (Rose & Joe Kosisko)
Note change of location		
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	John Canada (Dale Malinzak)
FRI, DEC 28		THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
8:00am	St. Rita	Mark & Sadie Hanlon (Daughters, Rose M. Galik & Cathy Kumor)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	James Bufano (Nancy & Rob Hudock)
SAT, DEC 29		VIGIL/ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR
4:00pm	St. Rita	Anthony & Roberta Mongelluzzo (Children)
5:00pm	St. Al	Florence Cope (Ray & Marge Dunaway)
6:00pm	IC	Robert T. & Margaret J. Shaffer (Children & Grandchildren)
SUN, DEC 30		HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
8:00am	St. Rita	Peggy Goberni (Joe Goberni)
9:00am	St. Al	Stephen Mullaney (Mom, Cheryl)
9:30am	IC	Pro Populo
11:30am	St. John	Keith Hillen (Family - Earl Galik, Wife, Kathy, Children, Emily & Marney)

ST. AL MINISTRY SCHEDULE		
SAT, DEC 29 - 5PM		
ALTAR SERVER C Tabaj O Tabaj	LECTOR S Lincoln	EX MINISTER J Goodwin P Herron M Vinoverski
SUN, DEC 30 - 9AM		
ALTAR SERVER H Judy L Judy	LECTOR G Heller	EX MINISTER T Dull J Grover J Wallace
ROSARY SCHEDULE		
SAT, DEC 29 Volunteer	SUN, DEC 30 Volunteer	

IC, ST. JOHN, ST. RITA MINISTRY SCHEDULE				
	ACOLYTE	EX MINISTER	CROSS BEARER	LECTOR
DEC 29 SR-4pm	K Callahan K Callahan	D Grenaldo K Grenaldo M Sabatula	J Domer	B Sheehan
IC-6pm	M Martray A Lincoln	J Kramer P Akers M Pieczynski	A Zavatchan	R Goron
DEC 30 SR-8am	M Waggett S Harbaugh	C Waggett N Stasia B Bielecki	E Kozel	B Casey
IC-9:30am	E Prestia J Prestia	M DeFazio I McKenna S Reagan	M Burd	E Loyal
SJ-11:30am	D DePaul C Jones	B Knizner J Kosinski T Martin	D Firestone	A Shoemaker



RAMBLES & RAVES

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

GOOD NEWS

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

WE HAVE EYES, BUT DO WE SEE? Our first regional Penance Service was celebrated the Monday before last at Saint Florian Church in United. As I began hearing confessions I noticed a young man on crutches, patiently waiting for his turn to confess. I couldn't help but wonder why the people ahead of him didn't invite him to the front of the line. After all wouldn't that have been the Christian thing to do? And shouldn't people waiting to confess their sins want to do the CHRISTIAN thing?

A moment of reflection, however, turned my eye from the behaviour of "them" to MY own behaviour. How many times have I - due to impatience, carelessness, self-absorption, or any other of a myriad of excuses - failed to SEE the needs of those around me? On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, with the Birthday of Love-made-flesh but days away, let us all pray that our eyes might be ever more open to the opportunities to concretely SHARE His love with others. **MY** eyes certainly need to be more open ...

A THANK YOU: As you may recall a donation was made to the Landman family, who lost their home in a fire this past summer, from the proceeds of the Saint John-Immaculate Conception Festival. Recently (well, not that recently ... as always I am woefully behind) I received this note from them:

I just wanted to thank you, Mary, the staff, and parishioners for the overwhelming donation that was given to us. The entire community has been so loving and generous to our family. It certainly gives me faith in humanity to know how wonderful people really are in this world. We will certainly be paying it forward!

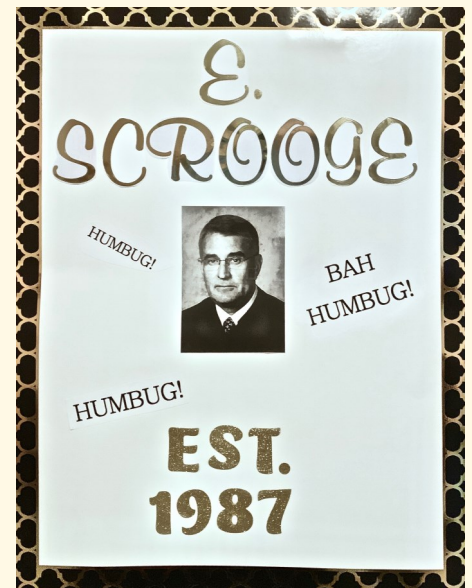
"Paying it forward" is a wonderful practice for ALL of us to adopt. And there's no better time of year to start than the Season of gift-giving and gift-getting into which we are about to enter.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS! On behalf of Fr. Dan, Fr. Julius, and the staffs at DeVivo Centre and Brady Centre I wish each and every one of you, and all whom you hold in your hearts, Merry Christmas! Nollaig Shona dhuit! Frohe Weihnachten! Buon Natale! Veselé Vianoce! Buon Natale! Boldog karácsonyt! Wesołych Świąt! Sretan Božić! ¡Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Maligayang Pasko! счастливого Рождества! عيد ميلاد مجيد God Jul! Vesel Božić! Giáng sinh vui vẻ! Selamat Hari Natal! щасливого Різдва! il-Milied it-tajieb! めりくります! Linksmų Kalėdų! Καλά Χριστούγεννα! Zalog Kerstfeest! Craciun Fericit! Feliz Natal! Kristos Razhdayetsya!

If I forgot your particular ethnic Christmas greeting, please - in a spirit of Holiday cheer! - forgive me.

I tried to recall EVERY SINGLE ethnic group I knew to be represented in Our Lady, Queen of the Yough Catholic Community, but undoubtedly I forgot some!

COVER PHOTO: On Saturday 1 December I had the joy of attending the 10th annual "Magic and Mistletoe" celebration at the Fayette County Courthouse (Nick Bell's Geibel Showstoppers were performing). It was my first time in attendance and I was truly impressed. Each courtroom was decorated and there was a door-decorating contest. My favourite was President Judge Wagner's door (shown below; his late wife was a life-long Saint Rita parishioner)



but this scene I snapped outside the Sheriff's office was PERFECT for this week's cover. (To be honest, I was ASTONISHED to see such overtly religious displays in our county's main public building. Although I imagine that it was all gone by Monday morning so as not "to offend.")

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.