



THE MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh Catholic

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Renewed in Hope

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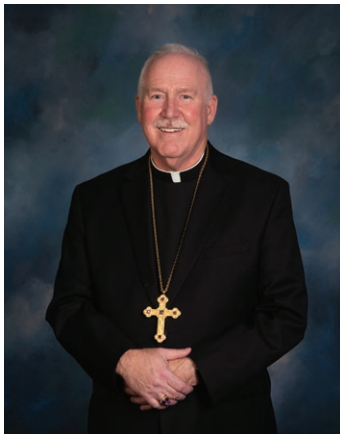
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Serving in Faith and Charity

BY BISHOP MARK ECKMAN

It is a privilege to write to you as we enter this holy season and stand at the threshold of a new year together. This marks my first Advent and Christmas as your bishop, and I approach it with a deep sense of gratitude, anticipation, and, yes, a little bit of awe. I feel that awe each time I celebrate Mass, visit a parish, or meet with people who love the Church. To see the depth of faith and generosity alive in our diocese fills me with both humility and hope.

In Advent we wait. Advent is not a passive waiting; it is an active hope, a time to look for the quiet ways God is already at work among us. Our world often feels noisy, rushed, and fragmented. Yet this season invites us to slow down and clear a space in our hearts so that Christ may enter.

Then comes Christmas, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us. We gather with family, sing carols, light the lights, and share meals. My hope this year is that, more than the lights and the gifts, we open ourselves to the One who wants to be born again in our hearts. Christ still comes, not only in Bethlehem long ago, but in our lives, in our parishes, in the neighbor who feels alone, the young adult seeking direction, and the man or woman discerning a vocation.

When a young person says yes to the priesthood or religious life, the whole Church is renewed. There are young people among us who are listening for God's call. Our task is to accompany them, encourage them, and create the kind of communities where the Lord's invitation can be heard. We will have an opportunity to identify and encourage vocations on the weekend of

January 24th and 25th as each parish conducts "Called by Name," which invites all Catholics to consider how God is calling us to serve in His Church.

Our young adults are not simply the future of the Church; they are the *now* of the Church. I have met with several young adult groups and I am encouraged by their interest in the faith and their desire to know and serve the Lord.

The works of mercy, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming the stranger, are not just extra things we do at Christmas. They are the heart of what it means to live hope. Whenever we serve one another with love, Christ becomes visible again in our world.

In the new year, I will begin visiting parishes throughout the diocese. My goal is to listen, to learn, and to hear your stories, your dreams, and your challenges. I am certain that, along the way, I will also witness remarkable examples of hope in action; how faith is lived and shared each day.

I am also looking forward to celebrating the sacrament of confirmation in 25 parishes during 2026. These celebrations remind us that the Holy Spirit continues to renew the Church. Each young person who receives the sacrament is a visible sign that Christ is alive among us.

So, in this holy season, let us wait with open hearts, greet the newborn King with joy, and step into the new year filled with hope that does not disappoint. May our parish communities reflect that hope. May our homes be places of welcome and mercy. And may everyone who meets us know that God is truly with us.

May this Advent and Christmas be rich in God's presence for you and your loved ones. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, guide us. May the Holy Spirit renew us. And may we, together, live always in faith and charity. †



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FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Reader,

Welcome to this special December–January edition of Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine. As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas and bring to a close the Jubilee Year of Hope, we come together as a Church renewed in faith, inspired by service, and filled with gratitude for the many ways God continues to move in our lives.

Our theme, *Renewed in Hope*, captures the spirit that runs through every page of this issue. Hope has been the word that carried us through the past year, and now it becomes the light that guides us into the new one. Throughout our diocese, we've seen how hope comes alive in worship, in education, in service, and in simple moments of grace.

Bishop Mark Eckman reflects beautifully on this in his column, as he celebrates his first Advent and Christmas as our bishop. He shares his joy and gratitude for the people of this diocese who live their faith with compassion and generosity. His message reminds us that hope grows strongest when we serve one another with love, and when we see Christ present in the everyday kindness of others.

This issue also looks back on the Jubilee Year of Hope with gratitude and joy. Across parishes, schools, and ministries, the Jubilee has been a time of prayer, pilgrimage, and community. In our feature on Jubilee highlights, you'll see the many ways people of all ages and backgrounds have shared that hope, from school celebrations and pilgrimages to parish service projects and diocesan events.

Our cover story focuses on the upcoming Feast of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, celebrated on December 12. Bishop William Waltersheid helps us rediscover Mary as "the mother of everybody," whose message of love and unity continues to bring comfort and hope to the Church

today. Her story reminds us that no matter where we are or what we carry, Mary gently leads us closer to her Son, the true source of joy and peace.

In this season of renewal, we also highlight new efforts to care for one another in our Catholic schools. Every student now has access to emotional and spiritual support, ensuring that faith, learning, and well-being grow together. You'll also read about creative ways teachers are helping young learners build confidence through new early-education approaches that replace grades with encouragement, helping each child see progress, purpose, and God-given potential.

Another story, *Called by Name*, invites all of us to play a role in fostering future vocations. As you'll read, we will all soon be encouraged to prayerfully consider who in their lives might have the gifts for priesthood and to submit their names for a personal invitation from Bishop Eckman. It's a powerful reminder that God is still calling, and that each of us can help nurture those calls.

Of course, no December–January issue would be complete without celebrating the birth of Jesus. Inside, you'll find Christmas Mass schedules from our parishes across the Diocese, with many opportunities to come home for Christmas. Whether you're attending with family, visiting from out of town, or returning after time away, you have a place here.

Each story in this issue, in its own way, points back to hope; the kind that renews hearts and strengthens faith. Hope is what unites us, what keeps us moving forward, and what reminds us that God's promises endure.

As you turn the pages, may you feel the same sense of renewal that has carried our diocese through this Jubilee year. May you see the light of Christ shining in every story.

From all of us at *Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine*, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year filled with faith, gratitude, and the gift of hope.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! †

Jennifer Antkowiak
Editor-in-Chief



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ACROSS THE DIOCESE

► READ HOW PARISHES HAVE CELEBRATED THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

■ Saint Paul Cathedral welcomed a steady stream of pilgrims throughout the Jubilee Year.

“As pastor, I was struck most by the deep desire in the hearts of all who came praying that the hope and joy of Christ would fill their hearts,” said Father Kris Stubna, the rector. “I had many conversations, heard confessions, extended blessings and prayed with people – all seeking the mercy and love that only God can bring.”

The Jubilee invited everyone to experience the hope of salvation for those who turn to Jesus.

“And beautifully, that was exactly what happened,” he said.



▲ Catholic author Mike Aquilina speaks to pilgrims at Saint Paul Cathedral

GREENE COUNTY

■ The Jubilee Year celebration for Saint Matthias Parish changed dramatically on Labor Day weekend when an arsonist set a fire that badly damaged Saint Ann Church, Waynesburg.

“But the spirit of the founders of Saint Ann Church is also the spirit of today: to persevere in faith, live in hope, and always act in God’s love,” said Father Tom Lewandowski, pastor. “May we continue to show that the Catholic faith is very much alive in our hearts and in our churches: Saint Ann, Saint Hugh, Saint Ignatius and Saint Marcellus.”



▲ Father Tom Lewandowski inspects the restoration progress of Saint Ann Church

BEAVER COUNTY

■ The Jubilee year drew many pilgrims to Saint Augustine Parish. They came to venerate relics of Saints Augustine and Monica, pray in the Saint Joseph Perpetual Adoration Chapel, receive inspiration from the Saint Carlo Acutis eucharistic miracles display and seek strength from the Saint Joseph Terror of Demons shrine.

“This Jubilee has been a season of great fruitfulness, marked by a record number of baptisms, weddings, and OCIA candidates,” said Father Kim Schreck, the pastor. “Truly, the gift of hope continues to enliven our parish’s charisms: total eucharistic devotion, radical service to the poor, and the joyful building of a vibrant Catholic culture.”



▲ Visitors celebrate at the eucharistic procession as part of this Jubilee Year of Hope at Saint Augustine Parish

LAWRENCE COUNTY

■ Pilgrims to the Holy Spirit Parish pious visit site had opportunities to meditate on momentous spiritual events.

“What a source of joy and hope to see Saint Mary Church open to the public and its pews occupied,” said Father Ben Barr, the pastor.

“We have had much to pray for - the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, the election of Pope Leo XIV, for those who suffer the ravages of war, for an end to division in our country, and the countless personal intentions of the faithful. Everyone came for their own reasons and prayers and left renewed in hope.”



▲ Bishop David Zubik greeted visitors following his celebration of the Mass of the Holy Year for the parish, as part of its designation as a pious visit site.

BUTLER COUNTY

■ Holy Year pilgrims at Saint Peter Church of All Saints Parish were drawn to the Stations of the Cross and stained-glass windows.

“During their visits, the sun has streamed through the windows, accenting the vibrant colors,” said parishioner and volunteer Lois Cramer.

Joanna Skrzpek, another volunteer, added, “Visitors were able to see the keys to the church, the baldacchino above the altar, and the historic architecture. We thank all those who visited and pray that they were blessed by their time at Saint Peter Church.”



▲ Father John Bayer speaks to a group of visitors at Saint Peter Church

WASHINGTON COUNTY

■ Saint James Parish welcomed more than 2,000 pilgrims from the United States, Canada and Mexico to Immaculate Conception Church in Washington during the Holy Year.

“Our dedicated volunteers who provided church tours enjoyed the opportunity to welcome, pray with and accompany all the visitors as pilgrims of hope,” said Father Edward Yuhas, the pastor. “Witnessing the faith, love and hope the pilgrims shared during their visits has inspired our parish faith community.”



▲ Pilgrims from Saint Paul Cathedral, Christ the King, Saint Padre Pio and Mary Mother of God parishes visited Immaculate Conception Church



HOPE

in uncertain times

BY JENNIFER ANTKOWIAK

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about hope. Maybe you have, too. It's a word we hear often in Christmas songs, on greeting cards, and in conversation. But if we're honest, hope can feel fragile. When the news is heavy, when life feels uncertain, or when we're walking through something hard, hope can feel distant.

For me, this past year has held both joyful milestones and unexpected hardships. Through it all, I've come to understand that hope is the hand you hold even when you can't see the way forward.

Our faith reminds us that hope is more than a feeling.



JENNIFER ANTKOWIAK
executive director of the
Department of Communications
and Community Relations;
diocesan spokesperson

It is one of the theological virtues, a gift from God that allows us to trust in His promises and look forward to eternal life. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls it "the confident expectation of divine blessing." Hope anchors us in God.

Science echoes this. Research shows that hope grows when we set goals, notice possibilities, and take the next small step. People who live with hope tend to have stronger relationships and a deeper ability to recover from stress. Hope isn't something we simply *feel*, it is something

we practice.

That is why Advent and Christmas are such beautiful seasons for renewing hope. Each week we light one more candle and watch the glow increase. We remember those who waited: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the prophets. Hope was not an idea for them. It was lived in ordinary days, in uncertainty, in trust.

Mary said "yes" to something she couldn't fully understand. Joseph followed a dream that changed his plans. The shepherds left familiar fields at night because they believed God's message. Their hope looked like trust in God's presence, even before they saw the whole picture.

So how do we live that kind of hope?

First, make space for quiet. Hope often begins in stillness. Breathe, and rest for a few minutes. Even a short pause can open room for God.

Second, notice small graces. A kind word. A moment of laughter. Warm light in the kitchen at the end of a long day. These are reminders that God is near. Gratitude strengthens hope.

Third, show up with love. When we sit with someone who is struggling, when we choose compassion, when we pray for someone who feels alone, we extend the hope of Christ simply by being present.

The story of Christmas is the story of hope fulfilled. In a quiet stable, God came close to us. And He remains close.

This season, as you place your nativity, pause for a moment. Let it speak to your heart. Christ is here. Hope is here.

As we enter a new year, may that truth stay with us. Our routines will resume, schedules will fill, and life will unfold in its own ways. Yet the invitation of hope remains to trust that God is already at work in the ordinary. Hope grows right where we are, in our homes, our relationships, our faith, and in the small choices we make each day to trust in God's goodness.

May the God of hope fill your heart with peace this season. And may your home be a place where hope takes root and grows.

A Prayer for Hope in the New Year

*Dear Lord,
as one year closes and another
begins,
anchor our hearts in hope.
When life feels uncertain,
remind us that Your promises
are steady.
When our plans change,
guide our steps with peace.
When we grow weary,
renew our spirits.
Fill our homes with gentleness,
our days with gratitude,
and our choices with love.
Draw us closer to You,
the true source of our hope.
Amen.*

GOOD LIFE

Recapture the childlike wonder of Christmas

BY THERESA BREITENBACH

When a radio station in my Upstate New York hometown would switch to full-time Christmas music for the holidays, one of its taglines was: "This time of year was meant for kids." While God's saving love comes for everyone at Christmas, the wonder of Christmas captivates children in a special way. This wonder can erode as years go by. What if this Christmas, you chose to recapture that wonder in a way that was childlike but not childish? Here are a few tips to help.

Let Saint Nicholas inspire you to be generous

As a child, did you put your shoe outside on the eve of Saint Nicholas' December 6 feast, awaiting a gift from the kindly saint? Did you jump from bed the next morning, anxious to see what goodies he had left? Ponder that excitement. How can you give that as a gift to someone else this Advent and Christmas? Schedule a visit with someone who is lonely, promise someone their favorite Christmas dessert, plan a family Christmas movie night that everyone anticipates.

Actively enter into the waiting

The weeks until Christmas may seem to slip by in a flurry of baking, cooking, entertaining, cleaning, card writing, shopping, wrapping and so much more. Amid it all, turn your focus to the Advent wreath. When you were younger, did the weeks between candle lighting seem to last forever? Were you thrilled to finally reach the third week pink candle or the fourth week purple one? Pay close attention as candles are lit each Sunday at Mass. Pray about what you need most from

Jesus when He comes this year: peace, healing, forgiveness, love, acceptance. Anticipate His coming with childlike urgency.

Allow yourself to feel genuine joy

Does the stress of the holidays overtake your joy? Have the sorrows you've endured this year made celebration feel impossible? Experiencing joy does not mean that life is perfect; it's the knowledge that God never leaves us alone, no matter what life brings. Stress and sorrow may steal your happiness; do not let them have your joy. Know that whatever this season brings, you face nothing alone.

Feel the holiness of Christmas Mass

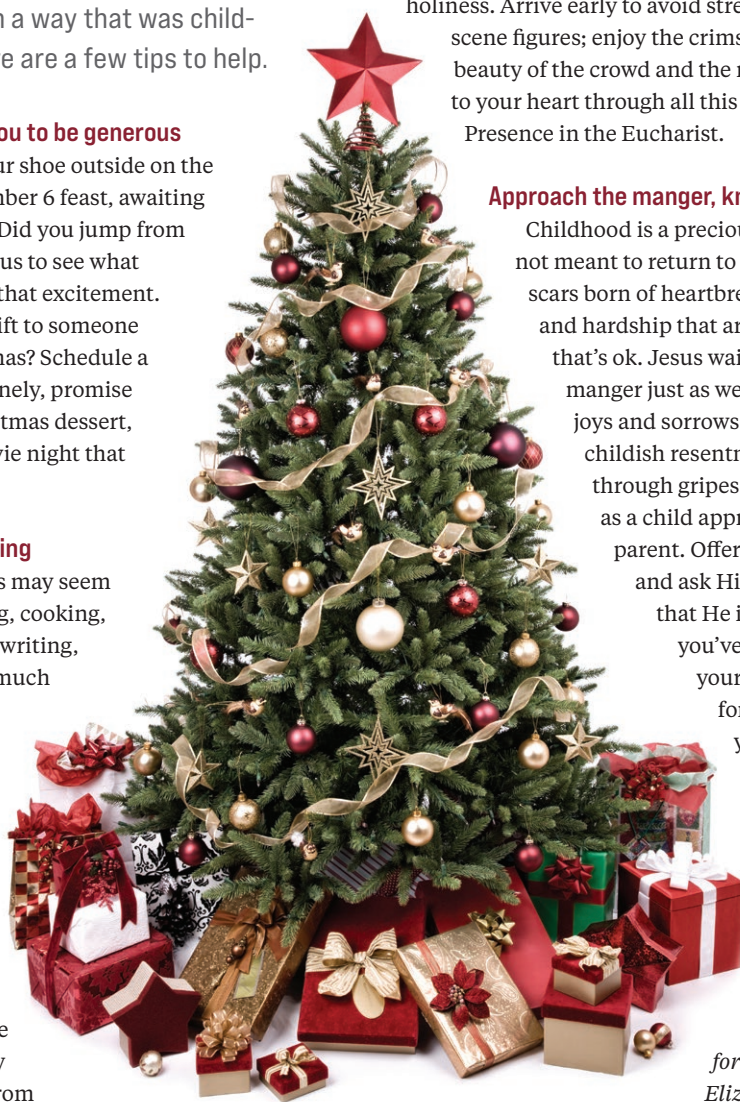
Think back to Christmas Masses of your youth. Did you sing in a children's choir, participate in a pageant, or read at Mass? Did you dress up in a special Christmas outfit? Did you hold a lit candle, awestruck by the majesty of the Midnight Mass, while trying not to drip wax? Did it feel like Christmas Mass held a holiness that you never felt at any other time? Maybe Christmas Mass has become something to fit into a busy schedule or a time to elbow your family through large crowds. Refocus on its holiness. Arrive early to avoid stress. Delight in the nativity scene figures; enjoy the crimson poinsettias; admire the beauty of the crowd and the music. Invite God to speak to your heart through all this glory and through His Real Presence in the Eucharist.

Approach the manger, knowing you are loved

Childhood is a precious, finite time that we are not meant to return to in its totality. Each of us has scars born of heartbreak, loss, disappointment, and hardship that are never truly erased. And that's ok. Jesus waits for us to approach the manger just as we are: smooth edges and scars; joys and sorrows. Don't come to Him with childish resentment, mumbling prayers through gripes and grudges. Come to Him as a child approaching a loving, trusted parent. Offer Him the hurts of your heart and ask Him to tend to them. Know that He is not the source of any pain you've endured; He has never left your side through it. Thank Him for the good things He's given you. Let His Love be the greatest gift you receive this Christmas. †

Written for our daughter Elizabeth AnneClare Breitenbach, on her first Christmas.

We are so grateful to God for our Christmas miracle. Elizabeth, you are so loved.



FAITH FORUM



▲ The “Heavenly Trinity” joined to the “Earthly Trinity” through the incarnation of the Son – *The Heavenly and Earthly Trinities* by Murillo (c. 1677)

A The Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide the Scriptural context of what has become the familiar “Christmas Story.” Saint Luke wrote his infancy narrative through the eyes of the Blessed Mother and included the events in Bethlehem. Saint Matthew, on the other hand, wrote his account through the eyes of Saint Joseph, including events that fulfill Old Testament prophecies.

Saint John, writing a generation later, responded to different questions, including “where was Jesus before Bethlehem?” His Prologue to the

Gospel provides us with a profound and beautiful answer: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Later in his Gospel, Saint John wrote, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Thus, John’s Gospel provides us with a more complete picture of what we celebrate each December 25. Not only do we proclaim the beauty and joy of the feast of the birth of the Savior, but

also the mystery of the Incarnation, which grounds all our celebrations in a theological reality of immense meaning.

The prophets foretold that God would send “Emmanuel,” which means “God with us.” (Isaiah 7:14) John reflected on the fulfillment of that prophecy when he wrote: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:14)

Emmanuel is God’s loving, merciful response to people who feel He is remote and distant. Emmanuel places God in the middle of everything we experience. With Jesus – Emmanuel – God is with us. The Incarnation marks the Divine entry into our humanity.

How do we engage the Incarnation? The reality is that the Incarnation has already engaged us and that engagement is both personal and communal.

The personal aspect echoes that of the Virgin Mary. As she prayed, the angel spoke to her asking her to be the mother of the Incarnate Word. So the Incarnation took place in the stillness of prayer. The quiet was broken as the gift of the Word made flesh. God is present to us in the silence of an empty church, during a solitary walk or the moments before surgery. In such silence, do we seek to truly welcome the voice of God?

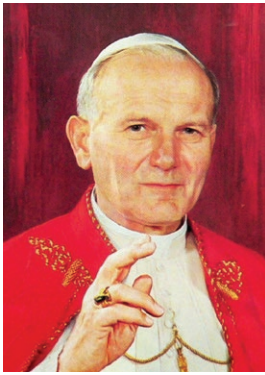
Neither the silence of the Annunciation or the birth at Bethlehem remained personal. They burst forth to the shepherds and the wise men with this message: “this child is not for the few but for all.”

Thus, during this season of the Incarnation, we should take time to ponder both a beautiful feast and a great mystery. For on that first Christmas, the eternal God became like us in all things but sin, and would grow to walk among us as our friend, brother and savior. †



FATHER CHARLES BOBER
is pastor of Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish. He has written his column for the *Pittsburgh Catholic* newspaper and online since 1983.

FIRE UP YOUR FAITH



66 In Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it. As it does every year, this event will take place on the night of the Lord's birth. The shepherds will hasten to the stable in Bethlehem; later the magi will arrive from the East. Both the one and the other in a certain sense symbolize the entire human family."

-SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Happy 25th Anniversary of Ordination, Deacon Mitchell M. Natali! ▶

Please say a prayer for Deacon Natali as he celebrates this milestone. Deacon Natali serves at All Saints Parish, Butler County.



What is Advent?

The Advent season is a time of prayer and reflection, when we joyfully anticipate the birth of Jesus. As we light the candles of the Advent wreath, we anticipate Jesus' coming as a light in the darkness. Pray about what each lit candle represents in church or at home with your family:

- Week 1, Sun., Nov. 30: the purple candle of hope
- Week 2, Sun., Dec., 7: the purple candle of peace
- Week 3, Sun., Dec. 14: the pink candle of joy
- Week 4, Sun., Dec. 21: the purple candle of love

Register for daily inspirational Advent texts

Text ADVENT2025 to 84576 to receive daily Advent texts to help you cultivate hope during the Jubilee Year of Hope as you await Christ's coming.

Mark your calendar:

- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Mon., Dec. 8, 2025:** We celebrate that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin. **This is a Holy Day of Obligation and all Catholics are required to go to Mass.**
- **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026:** We honor Mary, born without sin, and her giving birth to Jesus, who was fully human and fully divine. **This is a Holy Day of Obligation and all Catholics are required to go to Mass.**
- **Epiphany, Tues., Jan. 6, 2025:** We remember the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe

This Mass will be celebrated on Dec. 12 in Saint Paul Cathedral, beginning with adoration at 5:30 p.m., Rosary at 6 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m.

The Light is On For You

The Light is On For You is Wed., Dec. 17, 2025. Every parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh will have an opportunity for confession. Check with the parish of your choice for times and locations.

Closing Mass for Jubilee Year of Hope: Dec. 28, 2025

Bishop Mark Eckman will celebrate the Closing Mass of the Jubilee Year of Hope on the Feast of Holy Family. The Mass takes place at noon at Saint Paul Cathedral. Come to thank the Lord for all He has done during this special year of prayer and conversion.

Special Collections:

- ▶ **Dec. 6-7:** A collection will be taken for the 100th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated inside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Support our nation's pre-eminent shrine to the Blessed Mother, honoring her as patroness of the United States.
- ▶ **Dec. 24-25:** At Christmas Masses, the Diocese of Pittsburgh will take an annual collection for multiple diocesan ministries that serve local children and youth.

- ▶ **Jan. 17-18:** A diocesan collection will support the work of the Saint Anthony School Programs and the DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, which educate children and teens who have either intellectual disabilities or hearing loss.

Poverty Awareness Month

Each January, the Catholic Church observes Poverty Awareness Month, to deepen our understanding of those in need and to improve their lives. Look for ways to help those less fortunate than you.

Martin Luther King Day is Jan. 19, 2026

Pray for deeper understanding and healing of racial divisions. Check with your parish and local community for events.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Jan. 18 – Jan. 25, 2026

Observed since 1908, it's a time to pray for the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper: "that they all may be one."

January 22-23, 2026:

National March for Life events

Jan. 22: National Prayer Vigil for Life begins at the Basilica for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Scan QR code for details.

Jan. 23: The National March for Life on the National Mall: www.marchforlife.org. Check the March for Life website or your local parishes for bus information.





▲ Callan Dickman, 13, admiring the Chapel of Our Lady of La Vang in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Reaching the apex of the year-long Jubilee of Hope

During the 2025 Holy Year Pope Francis and Pope Leo invited everyone to walk together as “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Across the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Jubilee of Hope included prayer and action, with love conveyed in word and deed. The faithful were drawn deeper into a relationship with Jesus Christ, the true source of mercy and forgiveness.

Some diocesan pilgrims traveled to Rome to celebrate with the Holy Father and receive the graces of entering four major basilicas through the Holy Doors. Others journeyed to

Washington, DC, to encounter Jesus and his mother at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Countless parishioners experienced blessings at the six churches in our diocese that were designated as pious visit sites for local pilgrimages.

People streamed in to adore the Blessed Sacrament, consecrated themselves to Christ and experienced the mercy of confession. Students in Catholic schools prayed for the grace to carry the light of faith into the future.

The Holy Year was one of sorrow and joy for the universal Church. Catholics mourned the passing of Pope Francis, then rejoiced in the

election of Pope Leo, the first American pontiff. They acclaimed the canonization of two young saints, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, who remind us that ordinary people are called to holiness.

Momentous transitions also took place in the Church of Pittsburgh. Pope Leo accepted the resignation of Bishop David Zubik after 18 years of faithful service and appointed Bishop Mark Eckman as the 13th Bishop of Pittsburgh. The farewell and inaugural Masses at Saint Paul Cathedral overflowed with grace as the faithful gathered to honor a devoted shepherd and embrace a new one.

Holy Year 2025 will draw to a close on December 2025, but the pilgrimage of hope is meant to continue for a lifetime.



▲ Making a pious visit to Saint Peter Church in Butler. Left to right: Len and Melaine Kachmar, Stephanie and Lloyd Lamperski

Come join the closing Jubilee Mass

Bishop Mark Eckman will celebrate the Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope, in which the parishioners and clergy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will give thanks for the many blessings of Holy Year 2025, Sunday, December 28, 2025, at noon in Saint Paul Cathedral.

Each of the six counties in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh had one church designated as a “pious visit” site for local pilgrims: Saint Paul Cathedral (Allegheny County); Saint Monica Church (Saint Augustine Parish, Beaver County); Saint Peter Church (All Saints Parish, Butler County); Saint Ann Church (Saint Mattias Parish, Greene County); Saint Mary Church (Holy Spirit Parish, Lawrence County); Immaculate Conception Church (St. James Parish, Washington County). Updates on page 28

A quilt of pilgrimage memories

Just as medieval pilgrims stitched images from their journeys into tapestries, Melaine Kachmar stitched memories of her family's pilgrimages to the diocese's six Jubilee churches into quilts.

They are displayed in her home and that of her brother.

"We weren't going to go to Rome or anything, but we said we can do these six churches for our own little pilgrimage," said Melaine, who attends Saint Jude Parish in the East End



▲ The back of the quilt, including squares with the Jubilee logo, along with their names and the timeframe of their visits to the six pious visit churches

with Len, her husband of 50 years. They traveled with her brother and sister-in-law, Lloyd and Stephanie Lamperski.

The first visit was on April 25 to Saint Mary Church in New Castle, Lawrence County. It has a first-class relic of Saint Padre Pio – whose father had worked nearby to earn his son's seminary tuition. At Saint Monica in Beaver Falls, Beaver County, they were delighted to find an exhibit based on the eucharistic miracles research of Saint Carlo Acutis.

"It was really neat praying in each church," Melaine said.

The foursome made a day of each visit, going to lunch and perhaps antiquing. Melaine decided to commemorate their pilgrimage using photos, which Len printed on fabric. She stitched them onto backing that had a stained-glass print.

"We have a good memory of each of the churches, and how much we enjoyed going to each one," she said.



▲ The quilt commemorating the Kachmar and Lamperski family pilgrimage to all six pious visit churches in the Diocese of Pittsburgh



▲ Callan Dickman, 13, with Emeritus Bishop David Zubik on the diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

A teen draws closer to the Church on pilgrimage

When Callan Dickman saw the Facebook ad for a diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, the eighth grader from Brookline Middle School knew he wanted to go.

"I thought it would be interesting because it had so many chapels. It was just so big – and it was my first Jubilee," said Callan, 13.

Remarkably, Callan wasn't Catholic. He enrolled in OCIA at Saint Michael the Archangel shortly after returning with 150 other pilgrims from the one-day pilgrimage, on which his mother, Maureen, accompanied him.

Maureen is Catholic but her husband is not, and they didn't raise Callan Catholic. But Maureen's aunt began taking him to Mass, where "he fell in love with the architecture and the images and the stained glass," Maureen said.

At one Mass he met Bishop David Zubik, who complimented Callan on his bow tie. They struck up a conversation that has evolved into a friendship. Callan likes to go to Masses where Bishop Zubik will be present, so the pilgrimage was a natural.

In the upper church of the basilica, Callan was awed by the enormous image of a powerful resurrected Christ.

"His emotions and his body language showed his two natures" depicting judgment and mercy, Callan said.

In the many chapels dedicated to saints he paid special attention to St. Pius X because a church in Brookline was dedicated to the 19th century saint. He was intrigued by an exhibit of items connected to the popes – including chairs that Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis sat in when they visited the basilica.

"It's so big and there as so much to see that it was really hard to take it in," Callan said. "Going back there would be amazing.

Children celebrate the Jubilee and give to help the poor

On October 26, 2025, Saint Paul Cathedral was filled with children, teens and their families for a Mass marking the worldwide Jubilee of Children. Young Catholics filled the liturgical roles for laity and formally presented Emeritus Bishop David Zubik with \$25,000 raised by students in Catholic schools for the diocesan medical mission in Chimbote, Peru.



▲ Children and teens filled the liturgical roles of the laity during the Mass for the Jubilee of Children on October 26

▲ Children from Catholic schools in the diocese present Emeritus Bishop David Zubik with a check for \$25,000 to help the poorest of the poor who are served by the Pittsburgh diocese's medical mission in Chimbote, Peru



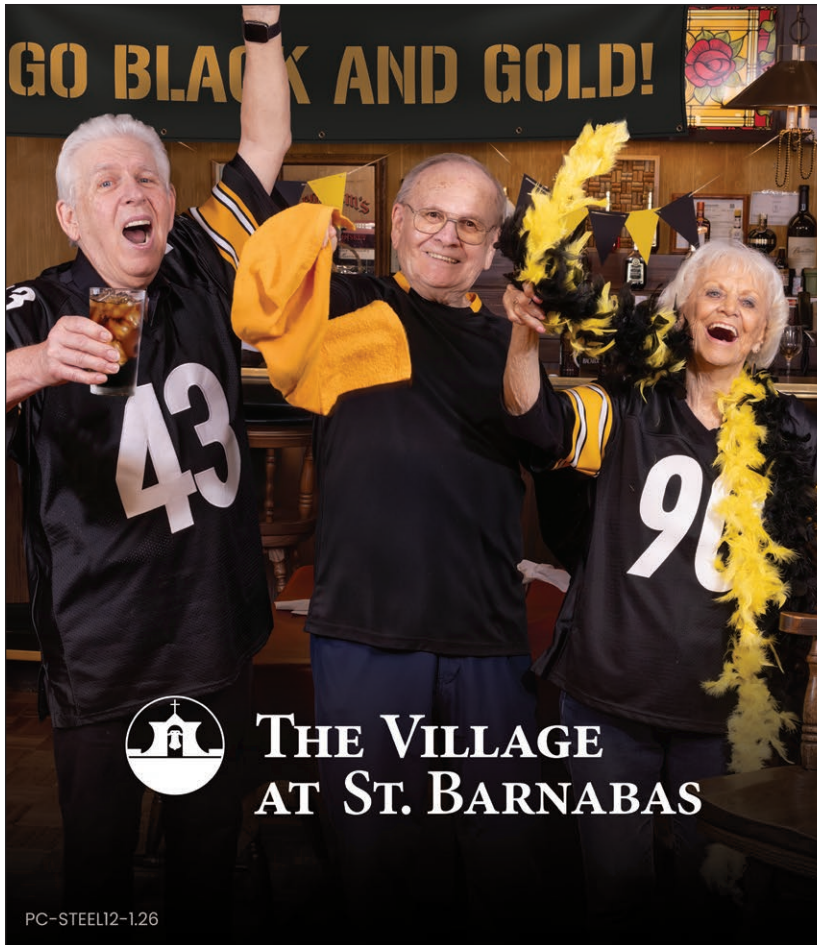
▲ Main: The 80 pilgrims on the diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy gathered in front of the Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome. Inset: Bishop Eckman prays as he enters the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome during the diocesan Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy.


Remembering the Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy

Over 10 days in March 2025, 80 people from the Diocese of Pittsburgh made a Holy Year pilgrimage to Italy, under the spiritual leadership of then-Auxiliary Bishop Mark Eckman. They visited holy sites related to Saint Francis of Assisi, Blessed Carlo Acutis, Saint Padre Pio, Saint Benedict, the Blessed Mother and more – before reaching Rome and entering its Holy Doors.

“Although it was relaxing, it wasn’t a vacation or a tour – they were there for spiritual enlightenment,” Bishop Mark said.

GO BLACK AND GOLD!



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All I want for Christmas is a date night with you!

From the live music of Brother Time at the BASH to the sacred beauty of our Candlelight Renewal of Vows Mass, join Pittsburgh married couples discovering how faith and fun keep love strong.

JINGLE BINGO BASH!

With Mass celebrated by Father Scott Seethaler
Featuring Live Music from Brother Time &
Rounds of Speed Bingo with Fabulous Prizes

Sat., Dec. 13th
Hyacinth Epp Hall
Lawrenceville



Valentine's RENEWAL OF VOWS MASS by Candlelight

Celebrated by Fr. Mike Ackerman
With a Pittsburgh Cookie Table reception!



Sat., Feb. 14th
Resurrection Parish
St. Thomas More Church
Bethel Park



Ask your spouse out on an unforgettable Date Night!

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Celebrate the Mother of Everybody

Honor the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY ANN RODGERS

Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid is mostly German and Irish but is deeply devoted to the Polish “Black Madonna” and to Our Lady of Guadalupe – who appeared in what is now Mexico and will be honored in Saint Paul Cathedral on her December 12 feast day.

As patroness of the Americas, she watches over the United States. No matter where she appears or what language she speaks, her words are for everyone, Bishop Waltersheid said.

“We celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes when we may not be French; we celebrate Our Lady of Fatima when we’re not Portuguese. This is about celebrating her who is the mother of everybody,” he said.

Her message is especially important as the Jubilee Year of Hope concludes.

“Our hope is Christ, and where she comes, He is there,” he said. “Especially for people who have difficulties or any kind of life issues or family problems – take them to Our Lady of Guadalupe and she brings you right to hope Himself.”

Over four days in December 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego, an Indigenous man born before the Spanish conquest and among the few Aztecs who had converted to Christianity.





Celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe: Dec. 12, 2025 at Saint Paul Cathedral

Eucharistic adoration:
5:30 p.m.; Rosary: 6 p.m.;
Mass: 7 p.m.

Mariachi musicians
play for the procession
as people carry flags
of the Americas and
sing hymns in several
languages.

Led by the bishop,
participants present
flowers to Our Lady of
Guadalupe.

The Rosary and homily
are bilingual.

All are welcome.

► Photos from the 2023 Mass,
clockwise from top left: Children
often dress as the Blessed Mother
and Saint Juan Diego for the Mass.
Flowers to honor Our Lady. Mariachi
musicians lead hymns. Bishop
Mark Eckman and Bishop William
Waltersheid kneel before the image
of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



As Juan Diego walked to Mass, Mary appeared to him on Tepeyac Hill. Dressed as Aztec royalty and apparently of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry, she addressed him in the Nahuatl language. He was to tell the bishop to build a shrine to her on Tepeyac so that everyone in America would see God's mercy.

Juan Diego obeyed. When the bishop asked for a sign, she made Spanish roses bloom in winter and arranged them in Juan Diego's cloak for him to carry to the bishop. When the cloak was opened, the roses fell away, revealing her brilliantly colored image. The bishop built the shrine, which draws up to 20 million visitors yearly.

The cloak is venerated there, though it should have disintegrated centuries ago. No one understands how the image was made.

"The image itself is like a catechism lesson for the Aztec people," Bishop Waltersheid said. "The remarkable thing is that it also speaks to the Europeans."

Her hairstyle indicated virginity, but the band tied above her abdomen was a sign of pregnancy – and why she is patroness of the unborn. The stars on her robe mirror those in the sky on December 12, 1531. Her reddish tunic symbolized earth.

"Her clothing represented the incarnation – the wedding between heaven and earth and God becoming one of us," Bishop Waltersheid said.

She stood in front of the sun, the most powerful god in the Aztec cosmos.

"What that said to the Aztecs is that this lady is greater than the sun god," he said.

In less than a decade more than 8 million Aztecs became Christians.

Her demonstration of reaching across cultures and enmities is why Saint John Paul proclaimed her Star of the New Evangelization and patroness of the Americas.

"We reckon our course by her," Bishop Waltersheid said, "because she always brings us to Jesus." †





▲ Father Jim and former St. Paul Cathedral organist Brian Gurley in front of the organ in the crypt church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC, after leading the music for the 2022 diocesan pilgrimage Mass

Glory to God in the Highest

FATHER JIM CHEPPONIS REFLECTS ON
A LIFETIME OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC

BY THERESA BREITEBACH

Father Jim Chepponis has always given his musical gifts back to the Lord.

For 13 years, he directed, conducted and co-produced an ecumenical Christmas Festival at Heinz Hall: a prayer service with music and Scripture readings. Eventually, the event featured

300-400 singers and a 25-piece orchestra from 10 Christian religious traditions. Attendees packed the seats every year.

For good reason, he struggles to choose his favorite Christmas hymn.

“The joy comes from hearing people together singing the well-loved Christmas carols and the faith

that goes behind the singing,” he said.

Father Jim, senior parochial vicar of Resurrection Parish in the South Hills, celebrated his 40th anniversary of priesthood this year. Since 1996, he has served as the diocesan music director, a position from which he will soon retire. With more than 100 published compositions, his music has been performed in Carnegie Hall and at Masses celebrated by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

He directs the diocesan choir for major liturgical events at Saint Paul Cathedral, including the episcopal ordinations and installations of Bishop David Zubik and Bishop Mark Eckman—Father Jim’s classmate. He composed original pieces encapsulating both bishops’ episcopal mottos: “Nothing is Impossible with God” and “To Serve in Faith and Charity,” respectively. He has also directed the choir for the Golden Wedding Anniversary

Mass, the Rite of Election, priestly ordinations, and the Chrism Mass, among other liturgies.

From an early age, he exhibited remarkable musical talent. When young Jim Chepponis attended Saint Augustine Grade School in Lawrenceville, the school gave the boys the choice of altar service or singing in the choir.

He chose the choir. The songs he learned inspired him to tickle the ivories on his home piano. When his parents realized he could play by ear, they enrolled him in piano lessons in fourth grade.

He was preparing for choir one Sunday when his piano teacher, Sister Frances Clare, sat him at the organ—which he had never played before.

“She said to me: ‘Jimmy, you can play the closing hymn for us,’” Father Jim recalled.

He played *Holy, Holy, Holy* as the Mass ended.

As 8th grade ended, his parents asked what graduation gift he would like and he requested *The People’s Mass Book* hymnal. Unsure



▲ Father Jim directs the choir at Bishop Mark Eckman’s installation as Bishop of Pittsburgh on July 14, 2025 at Saint Paul Cathedral

of where to acquire one, his mother called the diocese and got advice from its then-musical director, Father John Mihoch. Father Mihoch became a musical mentor to Jim and helped to inspire his priestly vocation. He would eventually preach at Father Jim's first Mass.

In 1970, Jim enrolled in minor seminary at Saint Fidelis High School in Herman, where he was a student organist. The new English liturgy from Vatican II was being finalized, providing new opportunities to worship through music.

"The role of cantors was just being revived. New music was being written," he said.

The school lacked a music instructor. Learning of Jim's abilities, the principal appointed Jim to teach the new music to his fellow students.

After high school, he

continued at Saint Fidelis College Seminary, which was in consortium with Slippery Rock University. Jim majored in music at Slippery Rock while taking classes at the seminary. He initially studied for the Capuchin priesthood, then changed to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

"I felt whatever talents God gave me, I could use best as a priest, including music in some way," he said.

He began composing and submitted pieces for publication. In 1980, his first composition was accepted: the "Magnificat," which he dedicated to his parents.

In 1985, Father Jim was ordained alongside now-Bishop Mark Eckman. His original composition, "Go up to the altar of God," was played at their ordination.

During his first priestly assignment he started a parish choir. On weekends, he

would celebrate some parish Masses, and direct the choir at others.

In September 1996, he was appointed the diocesan director of music, tasked with directing the diocesan choir, as well as helping parishes with musical administration. He has maintained that position in both full-time and part-time capacities.

**"I FELT WHATEVER TALENTS
GOD GAVE ME, I COULD USE
BEST AS A PRIEST, INCLUDING
MUSIC IN SOME WAY,"**

In 1999, he was commissioned to write "Festival Alleluia," for a Mass that Pope John Paul II celebrated in St. Louis, Mo.

"The Mass is inherently musical. Music is part of the liturgy and part of the priesthood," he said.

To any young man discerning the priesthood, Father Jim recommends that he first pray about it. Then he should talk to others, such as parents, a parish priest, or a spiritual director.

"Don't be afraid to take the next step forward," he advised. "You never know until you discern. If it's not meant to be, it means that God wants to use your talents for something else."

Father Jim sees his talents as gifts from God to be used for His glory.

"I'm grateful to God for giving me a talent to use to praise Him and to help other people to worship God," he said.

"Any time someone creates—whether it's music, art, or a good meal—they're participating in God's act of creation, bringing something to life. It reflects the goodness of our Creator." †

Father Chepponis, diocesan cantor Candace Erb, and former cathedral organist Brian Gurley after leading music for the June 28, 2025 priestly ordination at Saint Paul Cathedral





A BOLD NEW STEP IN SCHOOL SUPPORT FOR EVERY CHILD

BY PAM SURANO

The Diocese of Pittsburgh, together with all other diocesan Catholic school systems in Pennsylvania, has launched powerful new tools to identify students who are struggling emotionally as well as academically, and provide them with support.

“We are building a system that sees the whole child,” said Sharon Loughran Brown, diocesan assistant superintendent of Catholic schools. “Our Catholic identity calls us to do everything possible through instructional support plans, medical support plans, and creative interventions so every student can succeed.”

These new efforts, which began with the 2025-2026 school year, are intended to provide a consistent framework for student support at every diocesan Catholic school in the state.

At the heart of the framework is the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). All students participate in screenings designed to identify academic and behavioral risks early. If problems are flagged, the school can provide tailored interventions and monitor progress.

One of the most important is a screening for emotional well-being, which gives educators real-time insight. Educators of all kinds have seen increases in anxiety, social pressures and stress, often linked to academic expectations and social media. The screening examines all of that, in order to identify ways to help.

This program isn't just about intervention.

"It's about hope," Sharon said. "It's about ensuring every child knows they belong, they are loved, and their Catholic school is walking alongside of them every step of the way."

At Saint Wendelin School in Butler, it's clear that "there's absolutely more need for support now than twenty years ago," said JoLynn Clouse, the principal.

"Family dynamics have changed, many homes have two working parents, there's less downtime, and more screens."

With the same screenings used across all dioceses, educators can collaborate, share best practices and work to address problems before they escalate.

Academically, new software aids teachers in swiftly identifying the best ways to help students improve.

"Growing up happens fast, and we can't waste time standing still. We want to get right to their needs," said Will Merchant, principal at Seton LaSalle Catholic High School in Mt. Lebanon.

This framework of support has three tiers that teachers can use from pre-school through 12th grade, including Advanced Placement classes.

Tier 1 provides basic support for all students, with the goal of ensuring that lessons meet each learner's needs. Tier 2 provides targeted help for students in need of extra support with academics or behavior. Tier 3 is for students who need one-on-one attention and intervention.

The goal is to meet every child where they are and support them, Will said.

When an issue is flagged at Seton LaSalle High School, the Academic Behavioral Council (ABC), led by Patrick McKay, the director of school counseling, swings into action. Any time a parent, teacher or counselor notices something concerning, they use a link on their desktop to report it to the ABC, which meets weekly to look at referrals, grades, behaviors, attendance, and go over next steps. If progress stalls, the student is referred to the Student Support Team for a more personalized plan.

Parents are invited into the process from the beginning, Patrick said.

"Our student support coordinator is reaching out to families, asking what's working. It's often the combination of academic help and emotional encouragement that turns things around,"

The new student support framework helps teachers respond early and compassionately, JoLynn said.

"We had one middle school student falling behind in reading and withdrawing socially, but our teachers were able to flag it early. We built a plan that paired reading in small groups."

As a result, "We saw his confidence grow, not just in the classroom, but also on the playground."

Having a small school means that teachers know the families.

"We meet regularly to talk about what's working and what's not, academically and emotionally," she said.

This consistent focus on the whole student means, "we're moving beyond what the rest of the world calls education," Will said. "When students are healthy academically and emotionally, we can reach them spiritually and help them understand they're a child of God. He created them on purpose for excellence." †



"BADGING" RECORDS AND REWARDS EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is one of the first in the nation to replace traditional pre-K and kindergarten report cards with colorful badges highlighting each child's academic, social, emotional, and faith development.

The badges recognize specific accomplishments.

"Our new system, designed by our own teachers, highlights important milestones such as reciting the alphabet, leading a prayer, or working cooperatively with classmates," said Suzie Liebscher, diocesan director of curriculum and assessment.

"Badging celebrates what a child can do while also helping us notice their needs early, ensuring they are supported and encouraged every step of the way."

Students are taking ownership of learning, said Kimberly Stevenson, the principal at John F. Kennedy Catholic School in Washington.

Teachers have seen children run to their buses shouting, "I got my badge!" The badges also show parents what their children are learning.

"It's a program with defined objectives that ensure children are ready for first grade," Kimberly said.





CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

COMPILED BY BILL HILL

FIND A MASS at a parish near you for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Be sure to check with the parish for any changes.

Allegheny County

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL PARISH

www.ArchangelGabrielParish.org; 412-787-2140

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Trinity Church; Saint Malachy Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church
- 9 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Trinity Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Malachy Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Holy Trinity Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church
- 12:30 pm on Dec. 25: Holy Trinity Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 25: Holy Trinity Church

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH

www.blessedtrinitypgph.org; 412-884-7744

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Albert the Great Church; Saint Basil Church; Saint Sylvester Church; Holy Angels Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Sylvester Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Basil Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Albert the Great Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Basil Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Holy Angels Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Sylvester Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Albert Church

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR PARISH

www.cospgh.org; 412-761-1552

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Peter Church; Saint Boniface Church; Saint Cyril Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Boniface Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Boniface Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Peter Church
- 11:00 am on Dec. 25: St. Cyril Church

CHRIST THE DIVINE SHEPHERD PARISH

www.christthedivineshepherd.org; 412-373-0050

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bernadette Church
- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Susanna Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bernadette Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bernadette Church

- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Susanna Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bernadette Church

CHRIST THE KING PARISH

www.christthekingpgph.org; 412-963-8885

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church (main church); Saint Scholastica Church
- 4:15 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church, basement of main church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Edward Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Edward Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Scholastica Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 11:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

(churches located in Allegheny and Washington counties)

www.corpuschristipgh.org; 412-221-5213

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Child Church; Saint Barbara Church; Saint Mary Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Barbara Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Child Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Holy Child Church

DIVINE MERCY PARISH

www.divinemercypgh.org; 412-471-0654

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Epiphany Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Epiphany Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Epiphany Church
- 12 pm on Dec. 25: Saint Mary of Mercy Church

DIVINE REDEEMER PARISH

www.divine-redeemer.com; 412-741-6650

- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint James Church
- 5 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint James Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church

- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint James Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint James Church

GUARDIAN ANGELS PARISH

www.guardianangelspgph.org; 724-226-4900

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Most Blessed Sacrament Church; Our Lady of Victory Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Most Blessings Sacrament Church; Our Lady of Victory Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Most Blessed Sacrament Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Victory Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Most Blessed Sacrament Church
- 11:30 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Victory Church

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

www.holyfamilypgph.org; 412-793-4511

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John the Baptist Church; Saint Joseph Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Irenaeus Church; Our Lady of Joy Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Irenaeus Church; Our Lady of Joy Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint John the Baptist Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Joy Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Irenaeus Church

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

www.pgshshrines.org; 412-231-2994

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PARISH

www.marymotherofgod1.org; 412-672-9641

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Angela Merici Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Patrick Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Angela Merici Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Patrick Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Angela Merici Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Patrick Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Angela Merici Church

MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

www.mqpeace.org; 412-481-8380

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Adalbert Church; Saint Mary of the Mount Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary of the Mount Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Adalbert Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary of the Mount Church (Interpreted in American Sign Language)

MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

www.pgshshrines.org; 412-231-2994

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Most Holy Name of Jesus Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Most Holy Name of Jesus Church

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS PARISH

www.mostpreciousbloodparish.org; 412-761-1508

- 12 am on Dec. 25: Most Precious Blood of Jesus Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Most Precious Blood of Jesus Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Most Precious Blood of Jesus Church

MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH

www.mshj.org; 412-264-2573

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Margaret Mary Church; Saint Catherine of Siena Church; Saint Joseph Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Catherine of Siena Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Margaret Mary Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Margaret Mary Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Catherine of Siena Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Margaret Mary Church

OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH

www.olhpgph.org; 412-833-0661

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Gabriel Church; Saint Germaine Church; Nativity Church; Saint Valentine Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Valentine Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Gabriel Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Germaine Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Nativity Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Valentine Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Gabriel Church

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

www.mountcarmelpgh.org; 412-367-9001

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Athanasius Church; Incarnation of the Lord Church; Saint Sebastian Church; Saint Teresa of Avila Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Sebastian Church; Saint Teresa of Avila Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Sebastian Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Athanasius Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Teresa of Avila Church

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

www.olphpggh.org; 412-486-4100

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary of the Assumption Church
- 5 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ursula Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary of the Assumption Church (Children's Mass)
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ursula Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary of the Assumption Church
- 7:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ursula Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary of the Assumption Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ursula Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary of the Assumption Church

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES PARISH

www.ollakes.org; 724-265-2070

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Victor Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Transfiguration Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Transfiguration Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Transfiguration Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Victor Church

REGINA COELI PARISH

www.reginacoelparish.org; 412-766-6660

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Assumption Church; Saint John Neumann Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Sacred Heart Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Assumption Church; Saint John Neumann Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint John Neumann
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Sacred Heart
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Assumption Church

RESURRECTION PARISH

www.resurrectionpgh.org; 412-833-0031

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Thomas More Church
- 5 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John Capistran Church
- 6:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Thomas More
- 9 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John Capistran Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Thomas More Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Thomas More Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint John Capistran Church

SAINT AIDAN PARISH

www.saintaidanparish.org; 724-935-4343

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Alphonsus Church; Saint Alexis Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Alphonsus Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Alexis Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Alphonsus Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Alexis Church

SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR PARISH

www.sbtmparishpgh.com; 412-281-3141

- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Benedict the Moor Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Benedict the Moor Church

SAINT CATHERINE LABOURÉ PARISH

www.sclpgh.org; 412-833-1010

- All Masses are at Saint Louise de Marillac Church.
- 4 pm on Dec. 24
- 4 pm on Dec. 24 (in gym)
- 6 pm on Dec. 24
- 8 pm on Dec. 24
- 10 pm on Dec. 24
- 12 am on Dec. 25
- 8 am on Dec. 25
- 10 am on Dec. 25
- 12 pm on Dec. 25

SAINT ISIDORE THE FARMER PARISH

(Churches located in Allegheny and Washington counties)

www.stisidorethefarmer.org; 724-695-7325

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Alphonsus Church; Saint Columbkille Church; Saint Michael Church

- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Saint Columbkille Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ann Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Patrick Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Columbkille Church

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH

www.sjwpitt.org; 412-271-0809

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John Fisher Church
- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Maurice Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John Fisher Church (Croatian Mass)
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Anselm Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint John Fisher Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Maurice Church

SAINT JUDE PARISH

www.saintjudepgh.org; 412-661-0187

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Sacred Heart Church; Saint Raphael Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Sacred Heart Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Sacred Heart Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Raphael Church

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

(Churches located in Allegheny and Beaver counties)

www.saintluke.net; 724-935-2104

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church; Good Samaritan Church
- 4:15 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church, Upper Cardinal DiNardo Center
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Good Samaritan Church (English & Spanish)
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 9:30 pm on Dec. 24: Good Samaritan Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saints John & Paul Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Good Samaritan Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saints John & Paul Church

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE PARISH

www.saintmarymagdalenepgh.org; 412-661-7222

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bede Church
- 6 pm pm on Dec. 24: Saint James Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bede Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bede Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint James Church

SAINT MATTHEW PARISH

www.saintmatthewpgh.org; 412- 821-2351

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: All Saints Church; Saint Aloysius Church; Saint Bonaventure Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bonaventure Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Holy Spirit Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: All Saints Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bonaventure Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Holy Spirit Church

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

www.smapgh.org; 412-561-3300

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Bernard Church; Saint Bernard Church campus, Clairvaux Hall; Our Lady of Grace Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Our Lady of Grace Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bernard Church
- 7 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bernard Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Grace Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Bernard Church

SAINT NICHOLAS PARISH

www.pghshrines.org; 412-231-2994

- 9 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Nicholas Church

SAINT PATRICK – SAINT STANISLAUS KOSTKA PARISH

www.pghshrines.org; 412-231-2994

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church
- 6 am on Dec. 25: Saint Patrick Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church

SAINT PAUL CATHEDRAL PARISH

www.ghocatholics.org; 412-621-4951

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Paul Cathedral; Saint Rosalia Church

- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Paul Cathedral
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Paul Cathedral
- 6:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Paul Cathedral
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Rosalia Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Paul Cathedral
- 12 pm on Dec. 25: Saint Paul Cathedral; Saint Rosalia Church (Spanish Mass)

SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH

www.stpaulofthecross.com; 412-531-5964

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Anne Church
- 5:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Winifred
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Anne Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Anne Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Anne Church
- 11:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Winifred Church

SAINT PHILIP PARISH

www.saintphilipchurch.com; 412-922-6300

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Philip Church; Ascension Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Ascension Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Philip Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Philip Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Ascension Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Philip Church

SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA PARISH

www.padrepioparish.org; 412-682-0929

- 4 pm and 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Augustine Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Augustine Church

SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

www.straphaelcgs.org; 412-857-5356

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church; Saints Simon and Jude Church; Saint Margaret of Scotland Church
- 10:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Margaret of Scotland Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saints Simon and Jude Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Margaret of Scotland Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

SAINT TERESA OF KOLKATA PARISH

www.stteresakolkatapgh.org; 412-531-2135

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Catherine of Siena Church; Saint Pius X Church
- 6:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Catherine of Siena (Spanish Mass)
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Pius X Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Catherine of Siena Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Resurrection Church
- 1 pm on Dec. 25: Saint Catherine of Siena Church (Spanish Mass)

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

www.thomastheapostle.net; 412-462-8161

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Trinity Church; Saint Therese of Lisieux Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Therese of Lisieux Church
- 8:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Agnes Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Rita Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church
- 11:15 am on Dec. 25: Saint Therese of Lisieux

SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE PARISH

www.joachimandannediopitt.org; 412-751-0663

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Michael Church; Saint Eugene Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Queen of the Rosary Church (broadcast KDKA 1020 AM and 100.1 FM)
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Michael Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Queen of the Rosary Church

SAINTS MARTHA AND MARY PARISH

www.stsmarthaandmaryparish.org; 412-486-6001

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Catherine Church; Saint Richard Church
- 6:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Catherine Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Richard Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Catherine Church
- 9:15 am on Dec. 25: Saint Catherine Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Richard Church

TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH

www.triumphoftheholycrosspgh.org; 412-755-2046

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Clare of Assisi Church; Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church; Saint Thomas à Becket Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Thomas à Becket Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Clare of Assisi Church; Saint Thomas à Becket Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church

Beaver County

MARY, QUEEN OF SAINTS PARISH

www.maryqueenofsaints.org; 724-775-6363

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Frances Cabrini Church; Saint John the Baptist Church; Our Lady of Fatima Church; Saint Titus Church
- 6:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Frances Cabrini Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Our Lady of Fatima Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Titus Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint John the Baptist Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Fatima Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Titus Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Frances Cabrini Church

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY PARISH

www.olotv.org; 724-775-4111

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Cecilia Church; Saint Felix Church; Holy Family Church; Saints Peter and Paul Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Cecilia Church; Saints Peter and Paul Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Holy Family Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saints Peter and Paul Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Felix Church

SAINT AUGUSTINE PARISH

www.SaintAugustineParish.com; 724-846-7540

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Monica Church (main church); Saint Monica Church (Founders Hall)
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Blaise Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Monica Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Monica Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Monica Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Blaise Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Monica Church

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

(churches located in Allegheny and Beaver counties)

www.saintluke.net; 724-935-2104

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church; Good Samaritan Church
- 4:15 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church, Upper Cardinal DiNardo Center
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Good Samaritan Church (English & Spanish)
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 9:30 pm on Dec. 24: Good Samaritan Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saints John & Paul Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saints John & Paul Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Good Samaritan Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saints John & Paul Church

Butler County

ALL SAINTS PARISH

www.allsaintsbutler.org; 724-287-1759

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Paul Church; Saint Conrad Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Michael the Archangel Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Paul Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Conrad
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Peter Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Conrad Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Paul Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Conrad Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Andrew Church

DIVINE GRACE PARISH

(churches located in Butler and Lawrence counties)

www.divinegracepgh.org; 724-776-2888

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ferdinand Church; Saint Ferdinand Church (Oldenski Hall)
- 5 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Redeemer Church; Saint Gregory Church

- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Gregory Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Redeemer Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Gregory Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Holy Redeemer Church; Saint Gregory Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

www.saintclareparish.com; 724-445-3713

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Wendelin Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Mater Dolorosa Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Wendelin Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Mater Dolorosa Church

SAINT FAUSTINA PARISH

www.stfaustinaparish.org; 724-794-2880

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Peter Church; Saint Louis Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Peter Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Christopher Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Anthony Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Peter Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Louis Church

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

www.saintfrancisparish.net; 724-352-2149

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint John Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Joseph Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Joseph Church
- 8:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint John Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church

SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST PARISH

www.saintmark.org; 724-625-1665 x 2108

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Kilian Church; Holy Sepulcher Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Kilian Church; Holy Sepulcher Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Kilian Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Kilian Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Kilian Church; Holy Sepulcher Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Kilian Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Holy Sepulcher Church
- 12 pm on Dec. 25: Saint Kilian Church

Greene County

SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH

www.stmatthiasgreene.org; 724-966-7270

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ann Church; Saint Hugh Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ignatius Church; Saint Marcellus Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ann Church; Saint Hugh Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ignatius Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Marcellus Church

Lawrence County

DIVINE GRACE PARISH

(churches located in Butler and Lawrence counties)

www.divinegracepgh.org; 724-776-2888

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ferdinand Church; Saint Ferdinand Church (Oldenski Hall)
- 5 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Redeemer Church; Saint Gregory Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Gregory Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Redeemer Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Gregory Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Holy Redeemer Church; Saint Gregory Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Ferdinand Church

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

www.hsplc.org; 724-652-3422

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Vitus Church; Saint Mary Church; Saint Camillus Church

- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Camillus Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Vitus Church

Washington County

SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH

www.saintandrewmidmon.org; 724-258-7794

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi; Saint Damian Church, Monongahela; Our Lady of the Valley Church, Donora
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Saint Damian Church, Monongahela
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi
- 11:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Damian Church, Monongahela

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

(churches located in Allegheny and Washington counties)

www.corpuschristipgh.org; 412-221-5213

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Child Church; Saint Barbara Church; Saint Mary Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Barbara Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Mary Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Child Church
- 9:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Barbara Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Saint Mary Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Holy Child Church

SAINT ISIDORE THE FARMER PARISH

(churches located in Allegheny and Washington counties)

www.stisidorethefarmer.org; 724-695-7325

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Alphonsus Church; Saint Columbkille Church; Saint Michael Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Saint Columbkille Church
- 8 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Ann Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Patrick Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Columbkille Church

SAINT JAMES PARISH

www.catholicpartnerparishes.org; 724-225-1425

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Immaculate Conception Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Hilary Church
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Immaculate Conception Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Immaculate Conception Church
- 12 am on Dec. 25: Immaculate Conception Church
- 8 am on Dec. 25: Saint Hilary Church
- 10:30 am on Dec. 25: Immaculate Conception Church

SAINT JOHN XXIII PARISH

www.john23.org; 724-941-9406

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Francis of Assisi Church; Saint Benedict the Abbot Church; Saint Benedict the Abbot Church Hall
- 6 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Benedict the Abbot Church; Saint Francis of Assisi Church
- 10 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Benedict the Abbot Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Saint Francis of Assisi Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Saint Benedict the Abbot Church

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

www.catholicpartnerparishes.org; 724-209-1370

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Bentleyville Main Church
- 4:30 pm on Dec. 24: Richeyville Mission Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Richeyville Mission Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Bentleyville Main Church

SAINT OSCAR ROMERO PARISH

www.romeroparish.org; 724-745-6560

- 4 pm on Dec. 24: Holy Rosary Church; Our Lady of the Miraculous Church Medal; Saint Patrick Church
- 7 pm on Dec. 24: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church (Spanish Mass)
- 10:30 pm on Dec. 24: Saint Patrick Church
- 9 am on Dec. 25: Holy Rosary Church
- 10 am on Dec. 25: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
- 11 am on Dec. 25: Saint Patrick Church



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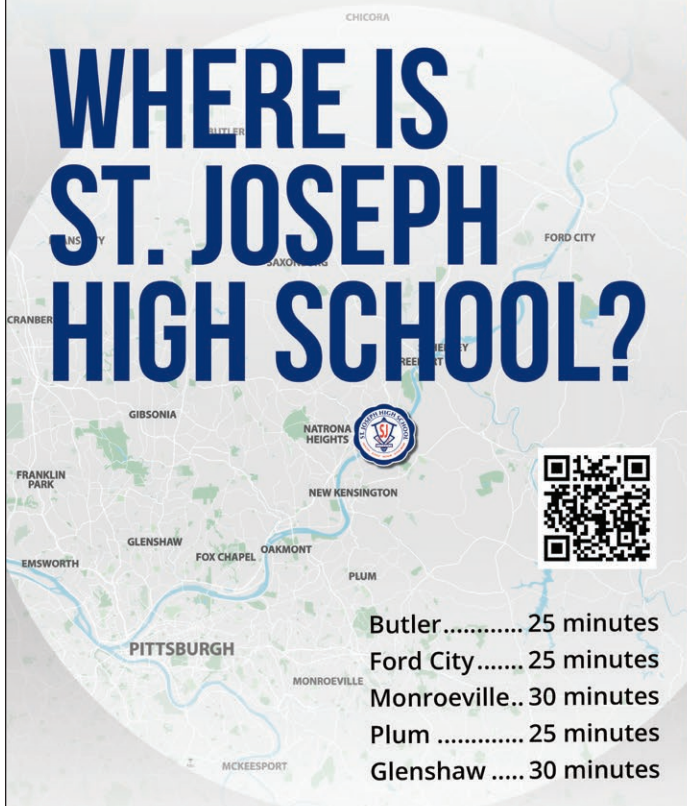
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How is God calling you?

Diocesan Vocations Office wants to help you find out

BY THERESA BREITENBACH

***“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.”
-Isaiah 43:1***

Every person has a vocation – a specific call from God – to live in service to Him and to their neighbors.

The diocesan Office for Priestly Vocations is committed to helping people discern and discover their vocation. While the office primarily focuses on priestly vocations, its staff can help anyone discover what God is calling them to be.

The Catholic Church recognizes four main vocations: priesthood; diaconate and consecrated life; married life; and single life. Finding one’s vocation takes dedicated discernment, spending time in honest prayer, asking God “what is your plan for my life?”

Such discernment takes time. Embracing and living a vocation does not mean that someone lives a perfect life, but that they have found the path of holiness to which God has

called them. Finding that path brings peace and fulfillment.

Currently, the diocese has 34 men in its Pre-Ordination Formation Program, but many more are needed. Priests are retiring, falling ill, or passing away at a faster rate than new priests are being ordained.

Entering seminary does not mean that a man will become a priest. It means that he is open to God’s will for his life and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

“We are excited to walk with them to altar of God on their ordination day, but we would also be excited to walk with them to the altar on their wedding day,” said vocations director Father Kevin Dominik.

To help men discern, the Vocations Office is hosting numerous events and initiatives. All Catholics are invited to prayerfully consider participating or encourage others to do so.

Saint Joseph Guild

High school, college, and young adult men who are discerning a priestly vocation join to meditate on Saint Joseph’s example of listening to God’s call and responding faithfully. The guild emphasizes five key lessons from Saint Joseph: being quiet to hear God’s voice; living righteously; making a plan; adjusting when God redirects; and taking action when His will is revealed. Participants pray, attend Mass and eucharistic adoration, and join breakout sessions tailored to their age group.

Event details:

- Date and time: Jan. 18, 2026 from 9:30 am – 1 pm
- Location: Saint Paul Seminary (2900 Noblestown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15205)
- No cost. RSVP at: pghpriest.com.

Winter Discernment Retreat

All men ages 18 and over are invited to step away from everyday life, learn more about a priestly vocation, and listen to God’s voice at the Winter Discernment Retreat. It is a time of discovery, not necessarily for decision. The weekend includes Mass; prayer with Bishop Mark Eckman; seminary Q&A; and fellowship.

Event details:

- Date and time: 7 pm on Fri., Dec. 12 – 11 am on Sun., Dec. 14, 2025
- Location: Saint Paul Seminary (2900 Noblestown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15205)
- No cost. RSVP at: pghpriest.com.


Called by Name

During the week of Jan. 17-24, 2026, the faithful are asked to prayerfully consider the men in their community (high school aged and older) who show the gifts, character, and faithfulness that could make them strong candidates for the priesthood. To help them with this, parishes will host Holy Hours and special times of prayer, and clergy will offer guidance in their homilies.

On the weekend of Jan. 23-24, 2026, each parish will place “Called by Name” cards in the pews for Masses. The faithful can write the names of the men who came to them through prayer.


Each man who recommended will receive a personal invitation from Bishop Eckman to meet him at the Saint Andrew’s Dinner, named for the first apostle to follow Jesus. The night of dinner and prayer is March 1, 2026 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center (2900 Noblestown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15205).

Called by Name helps the whole Church to build a culture of vocations. Suggesting someone may be the spark that helps a young man to hear God’s Voice more clearly.



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Gathering of Catholic Men

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Good News

in our Elementary Schools

Saint Therese School, Munhall

Eighth-grade students from Saint Therese School participated in a service project at Trinity Cemetery in Munhall as part of their preparation for confirmation.

Working together, the students respectfully lowered the flags and flagpoles for the season, honoring both the community and the many lives represented there. The project reflected the student's growing commitment to live out their faith through action and responsibility.

Faculty and staff expressed pride in the students for embracing this step toward confirmation and for setting an example of reverence, teamwork, and leadership for younger classmates.



▲ Eighth-graders raise the American flag

John F Kennedy Catholic School, Washington

John F. Kennedy Catholic School celebrated its annual pet blessing in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

Families joined students as Father Mike Zavage spoke about Saint Francis' love for all of God's creatures and the sacred bond between people and animals.

He then offered individual blessings for each pet—including a pony, goats, chickens, bunnies, goldfish, dogs, cats, a gecko and a chinchilla—filling the afternoon with smiles, gratitude, and peace.



▲ Sixth grader Maysi Kopko holds a goat for the pet blessing

Saint Monica Catholic Academy, Beaver Falls

Saint Monica Catholic Academy students are exploring science through a virtual anatomy lab.

The eighth graders are diving into hands-on science learning with the Anatomage Table—a life-sized virtual anatomy and dissection tool that brings biology to life.

Students use the advanced technology to explore 3D models and identify cell structures such as the nucleus, mitochondria, ribosomes, and cell membrane.

Principal Jennifer Villa said the innovative tool “inspires curiosity and helps students visualize how every part of God’s creation works together.” The interactive lessons deepen understanding, making complex scientific concepts both engaging and memorable, she said.



▲ Students explore 3D models on the virtual anatomy lab

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, Wilkinsburg

For the first year, eighth-grade students from Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy in Wilkinsburg enjoyed to Washington, D.C. for a day of discovery and learning.

The visit began at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where students admired the church's beauty. The group then toured several national monuments and walked through the National Mall before concluding the day at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

The trip gave students a deeper appreciation of faith, history, and culture, said principal David Barr, and will become a meaningful tradition for future eighth-grade classes.



▲ Eighth-graders at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Cross Academy, Ross

Students from Holy Cross Academy learned about eucharistic miracles at Saint Sebastian Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

They explored an exhibit of eucharistic miracles recognized by the Church, designed to strengthen faith in the Real Presence of Christ. They viewed an extensive collection of photographs and historical descriptions highlighting miracles – such as a bleeding host – that have been documented worldwide throughout the ages.

Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid celebrated a children's Mass and spoke about the newly canonized saints, sharing his personal collection of relics to encourage students to grow in devotion to the Eucharist.



▲ Holy Cross Academy 8th graders with Bishop Waltersheid

Good News

in our

High Schools

Saint Joseph High School, Natrona Heights

Saint Joseph High School recently dedicated a memorial garden in memory of 2013 graduate Domenico Schiano di Cola, co-owner of J&S Pizza in Harrison, whose sudden passing in 2024 deeply touched the school and community.

Pittsburgh Bishop Mark Eckman and Greensburg Bishop Larry Kulick blessed the garden before a crowd of more than 100 family members, friends, and alumni.

A scholarship fund was also established to continue his legacy of kindness and service.



▲ Bishop Mark Eckman blesses the newly dedicated memorial garden

Bishop Canevin High School, Carnegie

Seniors Gianna Varley, Vyla Tomachesky, and Isabella Sysak launched Hearts in Action, a new service club inspired by Bishop Canevin's mission to form "persons for others" and reflecting the Crusader spirit of joyful service grounded in Catholic values.

One of their first projects was a book drive for local children's hospitals. Now, the group is organizing a Saint Jude Marathon at two diocesan grade schools. It will also host Canevin After Dark, an all-night fundraiser filled with games, music, and service for charity.



▲ From left to right: Gianna Varley, Vyla Tomachesky, and Isabella Sysak with books collected

North Catholic High School, Cranberry

At North Catholic High School, the student Lock-In blends faith, fun, and fellowship in an overnight experience led by the Campus Ministry and Student Council.

Revived in 2023, the event includes games, scavenger hunts, plenty of food, student-led small groups, as well as worship music during candlelit eucharistic adoration and confession.

Each fall and spring, the Lock-In offers students an opportunity to grow in faith and community and to encounter Christ. One student called it "a new door" that opened to deepen their relationship with God.



▲ Students at the fall Lock-In

Serra Catholic High School, McKeesport

At Serra Catholic High School, social studies teacher Katherine Siniawski invited religion teacher and campus minister Tori Fedora to her Russian history class to speak about icons.

"As a Ukrainian Catholic, icons are essential to my faith," Tori said. "During prayer, they are used to draw us deeper into union with God."

She shared her personal collection.

"Bringing in Ms. Fedora and her knowledge of icons really helps to show the students how history, religion, and art are all intertwined," Katherine said.

The collaboration connected Fedora's freshmen with Siniawski's juniors and seniors to enrich learning in both classes.



▲ From left: Katherine Siniawski; seniors Taylor Skruch and Abby Opferman; juniors Anna Blahut, Alec Thielet, and Chloe Soyke; and Tori Fedora

Seton LaSalle High School, Mt. Lebanon

More than 200 runners from seven Catholic grade schools gathered at Seton LaSalle Catholic High School for the second annual Rebel Run Cross Country Invitational.

Students raced along the scenic 27-acre Rebel Way course, cheered on by family and friends, then celebrated with music, awards and giveaways.

"The Rebel Run is a joyful reminder of the spirit of Catholic education," said Seton LaSalle president Lisa Osterhaus.

The invitational teaches young runners the Catholic virtues of perseverance, teamwork, and Christian sportsmanship, reinforcing the idea that they are all part of one larger Church family.



▲ Students participate in the Rebel Run Invitational

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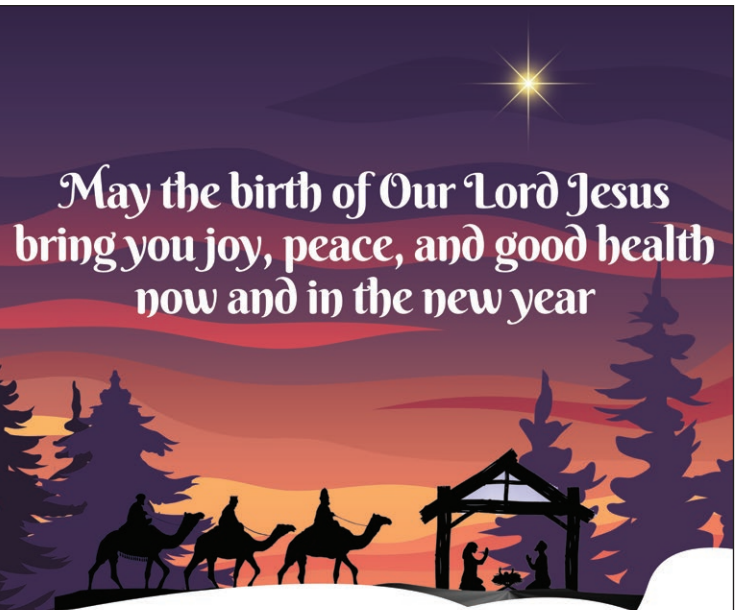
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VIEWS FROM THE PEWS:
**How will you keep hope alive
after the Jubilee Year?**

The Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close at the end of 2025, but we're meant to keep the flame of hope that we've kindled this year burning every day! Members of our social media community shared how they plan to do this into 2026.



"Regular confession and hopefully monthly meetings to talk with a priest."
-MARTY MATKO, JR.,
SAINT PHILIP PARISH



"The only way to continue to keep hope alive is to attend Mass as frequently as possible and to receive the Eucharist and/or to attend adoration at least weekly."
-DARCY D., SAINT LUKE
THE EVANGELIST PARISH



"I plan to keep hope alive by continuing to be a friend to the poor, a minister to the homeless and homebound, and a light to those incarcerated. Everyone we meet is the face of Christ and we must always radiate hope, love, and mercy to those who are suffering and have yet to know Jesus."
-SARAH BAGAY,
SAINT JAMES PARISH






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