

Christ
THE Divine
SHEPHERD
PARISH

The Catholic Community of
Penn Hills and Monroeville



BEHOLD, I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD.
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.

LUKE 1:38

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2020

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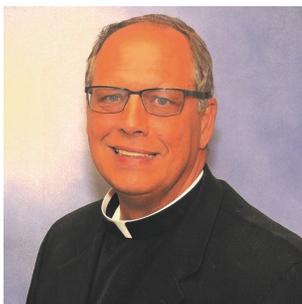
Welcome to our Parish!

We are happy you have joined us today and want you to know that you are always welcome at Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish. We invite you to participate in our many parish activities and ministries mentioned in this bulletin. We all have different gifts and talents that we can use to serve God and each other.

Mass Schedule

<u>Monday, Wednesday, Friday</u>		<u>Saturday</u>	
St. Bernadette	9:30am	St. Bernadette	4:00pm
		St. Susanna	5:00pm
<u>Tuesday, Thursday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
St. Susanna	9:30am	St. Bernadette	8:00am
		St. Susanna	9:00am
		St. Bernadette	11:00am
		St. Susanna	11:30am

To Save your Seat for Mass log on to our website at cdsmph.org/rsvp or call the office at 412-373-0050.



From Father Thom

To live is to change; to have lived well is to have changed often. “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past

or present are certain to miss the future (John F. Kennedy).” This quote from President Kennedy seems appropriate as we think about all the changes taking place in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. And although change has always been a part of the Church, it’s clear that we’ve now entered a time of more rapid change for parishes, priests and people. First, we’re not talking about changes in the major teachings of the Church. While Pope Francis has called us to a new pastoral approach, a new way of applying the teachings of the Church, those core teachings are, in fact, unchangeable. But the Pope’s more flexible style has delighted some, disturbed a few, and challenged us all.

But what I’m talking about are changes in local structures, specifically with parishes, schools and priest assignments. And if you’re paying attention at all, you know that rapid change has arrived and is the “new normal” for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. These changes are not at all unique to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, but are happening across the country, especially in our region.

For example, our friends in the dioceses of Erie and Greensburg and in the Diocese of Altoona Johnstown are in the process of implementing significant, pastoral changes. It is true that the Diocese of Pittsburgh is

announcing the transformation of parish structures that will effectively remake the Catholic Church here after 175 years of history. I ask you to join me in continuing our praying for everyone concerned, i.e. all of us, that the “On Mission” process goes well.

What’s driving all of these transitions? Well, that’s not a mystery at all. It’s being driven by population change, declining sacramental practice, limited financial resources, and aging priests. And how does all of this affect us? The number of active Catholics has declined from 914,000 in 1980 to 632,000 in 2015, diocesan figures show. Since 2000, weekly Mass attendance has dropped by 40 percent — for almost 100,000 fewer regular churchgoers; K-8 Catholic school enrollment fell by 50 percent. The number of active priests continues to plummet. If the trend holds, a fraction of the number of priests will be in active ministry. Currently half are anticipated to retire over the next five years.

In our diocese our schools are something each of us can be proud of. Maintaining enrollment remains the primary challenge. Some are thriving, some are stable, and some are in trouble. The factors that affect enrollment are obvious: the high cost of tuition, competition from other schools, and the declining school age population. The number of children and youth has decreased approximately 15 percent? That’s an amazing statistic. It’s quite simple: if you don’t have kids, you don’t need schools.

From Father Thom

Second, there are significant changes taking place in our parishes, also driven by population shifts, Mass attendance, the number of priests and finances. Some more numbers for you. There are 81 parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. That's more than we need or can sustain. In the last few years we've had a number of parishes sharing a pastor. Many churches have closed permanently and have been or will be sold. (That's another vexing problem – what to do with a closed church.)

And finally, what about us priests? We have really good priests, great priests in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Generally we're faithful and generous in our service, doing our very best to minister to the needs of God's people. We priests are aging; our numbers are declining. The median age of all of our priests is 68. We have few priests under the age of 40. And at the moment many pastors are retiring and that begins a cascade of changes that affects other parishes. Sometimes parishioners get upset when their favorite priest moves, but priests move – we always have and always will. It's the way the Church works.

The point of these reflections is that in the Church, "the times, they are a'changin'," and that reality can be difficult for people to understand and accept. We love our church, our schools and our priests. At the same time, though, members of the Church have an important choice to make in how we respond to these necessary changes.

Some people react in a very negative, short-sighted, un-Christian way – getting angry,

making accusations, filing complaints, and calling other people names. It's amazing how change in the Church sometimes transforms "devout" Catholics into apoplectic pagans. So much better when people understand that structural change, while difficult, will always be part of the Church, and we realize that life goes on! Our faith and commitment to Christ and his Church transcends parish boundaries, Church buildings or devotion to one's pastor.

Concluding, when a school closes, a parish merges, or a pastor is moved, consider what President Kennedy said: "Change is the law of life." Consider Cardinal Newman's challenge: "To live is to change and to have lived well is to have changed often." Or even better, remember what Jesus said: I am with you always, until the end of the age.



Pray for the Repose of Souls

Edward Reilly
Melissa Busbey
Robert Mazenko

<https://christthedivineshepherd.org/funerals>

Saints and Observances

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

Our Live-stream Masses continue every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, at 9:30am.

Sunday we live-stream at 9:00am and 11:00am.

Please like us on Facebook @ ChristTheDivineShepherd, we post important updates on Facebook along with on our website at www.ChristtheDivineShepherd.org.

FEAST OF FAITH: Gathering

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different from all the other excited crowds who have assembled there through the years? When they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart. The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to his Father. But Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," he told his disciples, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus gave his own mission to his followers, sending them forth to do everything he did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we get up on Sunday morning and come to Mass, we respond to Jesus' invitation, and we express our trust in his promise that whenever we come together, he comes, too.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:00AM, St Bernadette, (LA), Lucy & Mary Velon -- Palmieri Family

9:00AM, St Susanna, (TM)*, Richard Witas -- Peg

11:00AM, St Bernadette, (LA), 90th Birthday of Leo Hajdukiewicz -- Family

11:30AM, St Susanna, (RT), For the People of our Parish

Monday, December 21, 2020

9:30AM, St Bernadette, (RT), Rege Reinersman -- Debbie & Family

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

9:30AM, St Susanna, (LA), Helen & George Yanko -- Family

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

9:30AM, St Bernadette, (TM), Deseased Members of the DeFinis Family -- Pat DeFinis

Thursday, December 24, 2020

2:00PM, St Bartholomew, (TM), For the People of our Parish

4:00PM, St Bernadette, (AZ), For the People of our Parish

4:00PM, NAM, (RT), For the People of our Parish

4:30PM, St Bartholomew, (EW), For the People of our Parish

5:30PM, St Michael, (RT), For the People of our Parish

6:30PM, St Gerard, (TM), For the People of our Parish

6:30PM, St Susanna, (LA), For the People of our Parish

Friday, December 25, 2020

12:00AM, St Bernadette, (LA)*, For the People of our Parish

9:00AM, St Susanna, (TM), For the People of our Parish

10:00AM, NAM, (RT), For the People of our Parish

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00PM, St Bernadette, (LA), Souls in Purgatory -- Jeff Schaffer

5:00PM, St Susanna, (TM), Cochran & Swackhammer Families -- Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:00AM, St Bernadette, (RT), For the People of our Parish

9:00AM, St Susanna, (TM), Ed Konop -- Wife & Children

11:00AM, St Bernadette, (RT)*, Thanksgiving to the Holy Family -- Natasha Lobo

11:30AM, St Susanna, (LA), Special Intention -- Stephanie Jonnet

Legend	
LA	Fr Larry Adams
TM	Fr Thom Miller
RT	Fr Rick Thompson
* Incense will be used at Mass.	

A reminder that our Church Buildings open a half-hour prior to the start of Mass.

CHRIST THE DIVINE SHEPHERD PARISH



SAVING YOUR SEAT FOR MASS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CDSMPH.ORG/RSVP OR CALL 412-373-0050 (M-F 9AM UNTIL 1:00 PM)

A reminder everyone is required to wear face masks in our Church buildings!

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Christ the Divine Shepherd Family.

Christ the Divine Shepherd

SAVE - A - SEAT

04162017

Parish Information

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Ms. Nanette Iorio, *Maintenance*

Office Hours and Phones

The Parish Office located at **245 Azalea Dr, Monroeville PA.** is closed to all walk-in business. For assistance please call the office at 412-373-0050 or email us at parishoffice@cdsmph.org.

Confessions

At Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on **Saturdays at noon at St Bartholomew Church**. It will be celebrated in “drive-up” style in your car (no confessions will be celebrated inside the church), following all applicable standards put in place by civil authority (i.e., social distancing, use of masks in public places, etc).

Baptism

Baptisms will be celebrated following the Sunday 11:00 am Mass at St. Bernadette and the Sunday 11:30am Mass at St. Susanna. Please call Deacon Mike at the parish office at 412-373-0050 X112 to plan your celebration of Baptism!

Private Prayer

A Reminder that Private Prayer is held alternately in both Monroeville and Penn Hills.

- **St. Bernadette will be open for Private Prayer Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a half-hour before and after the 9:30am Mass and Thursdays from 4pm-6pm**
- **St. Susanna will be open for Private Prayer Tuesday and Thursday for a half-hour before and after the 9:30am Mass and Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm**
- **Adoration will take place at St Susanna from 4pm till 5pm, and at St Bernadette from 5pm till 6pm, at their respective private prayer times**

St. Vincent dePaul assistance line: 412-436-9208

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: 412-456-3093 (Office) 1-888- 808-1235 (Hot Line)
PA Child Line: 1-800-932-0313**

The Order of Mass

Introit

Rorate cæli

Is 45: 8

S Kies, let the Just One come forth like the dew, *
let him descend from the clouds like the rain. The earth
will open up and give birth to our Sa-rior.

Greeting

Priest: The Lord be with you **All:** **And with your spirit**

Penitential Rite

Kyrie eleison, Christie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading : 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm : For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89) .

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Priest: *"The Lord be with you"*

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: *"A reading from the holy Gospel according to ..."*

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel, the Priest says "The Gospel of the Lord"

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Profession of Faith

Processional Song

O Come O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on
high, Who ord'rest all things
mightily; To us the path of
knowledge show, and teach us in
her ways to go.

3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of
might, Who to thy tribes on
Sinai's height In ancient times
didst give the law, In cloud and
majesty and awe.

The Order of Mass

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven (*all bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Offertory

[Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming](#)

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As those of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent
was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
This Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the
night.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Invitation to Prayer

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

The Order of Mass

Sanctus

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
 hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
 high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
 Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this bread and
 drink this cup we proclaim
 your death O Lord until you
 come again.**

Great Amen

A - men, a - men, a - men!
 A - men, a - men, a - men!

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace *At the present time, the optional "sign of peace" has been suspended at our liturgies.*

Agnus Dei

Cantor: Lamb of God, *Assembly:* you take a-way the sins of the
To repeat world, have mer-cy on us.
Last time world, grant us peace.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The Order of Mass

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Chant

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

Communion Song

[Emmanuel](#)

(REFRAIN)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come and live in our midst; Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come, make your home in our hearts!

Final Blessing

Priest: *The Mass is ended, go in peace.*

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn at the Dismissal

[Lead Us](#)

Lead us to your light, lead us to your love. Lead us on the one road. Lead us home to you.

One License A-737037

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24, 2020

2:00pm	St. Bartholomew
4:00pm	St. Bernadette *
4:00pm	North American Martyrs
4:30pm	St. Bartholomew
5:30pm	St. Michael
6:30pm	St. Gerard Majella
6:30pm	St. Susanna *

December 25, 2020

12:00am	St. Bernadette *
9:00am	St. Susanna *
10:00am	North American Martyrs

* Mass will be live-streamed

Save-your-seat at
cdsmph.org/rsvp

12/12 - 12/24
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