

December 8, 2019—Second Sunday of Advent



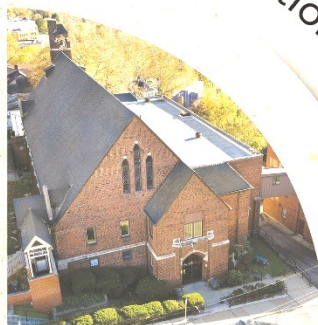
**NEIGHBORS
NORTH**
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

BETTER TOGETHER!

St. Athanasius



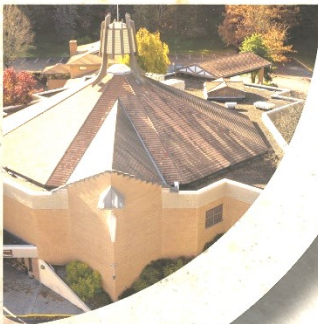
Incarnation of the Lord



St. Sebastian



St. Teresa of Avila



St. Athanasius Parish (412) 931-4624
7 Chalfonte Ave. West View, PA 15229
Wknd. Masses: Sat. Vigil 6 PM, Sun. 9 AM, 12 Noon

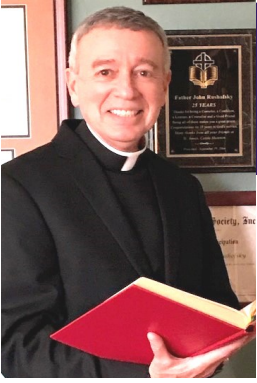
Incarnation of the Lord Parish (412) 931-2911
4071 Franklin Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15214
Wknd. Mass: Sun. 7:30 AM

Holy Cross Academy (412) 364-7171 307 Siebert Rd.

St. Sebastian Parish (412) 364-8999
311 Siebert Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Wknd. Masses: Sat. Vigil 5 PM, Sun. 10 AM, 5 PM

St. Teresa of Avila Parish (412) 367-9001
1000 Avila Court Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Wknd. Masses: Sat. Vigil 4 PM, Sun. 8 AM, 11 AM

Education & Community Center (412) 931-6633



Father John R. Rushofsky
Pastor

jrushofsky@saintsebastianparish.org
412 364 8999

Administrator's Perspective

WHAT HAPPENED TO MARY'S FEAST DAY?

We have an unusual situation this weekend that pops up periodically. This Sunday is December 8, and normally this date is celebrated as the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, honoring that most holy event when our Blessed Mother was conceived without Original Sin, a doctrine of our faith.

The Church recognizes the significance of this date by placing it **exactly nine months before the feast of the Birth of Mary** on September 8. Since this year the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday in Advent, the **Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence** over any other memorial, feast, or solemnity because the Sundays of Advent must be taken in their Scriptural order of importance.

So what happens to our beloved celebration of the Immaculate Conception? The Church has **transferred this solemnity to the next day**, Monday, December 9. Because of the unusual circumstances, it is not a holy day of obligation this year.

However, this does not in the least lessen the importance of our Blessed Mother in the history of salvation. Without her faith-filled and joyful response to the message of the Archangel Gabriel, **where would we be today?**

So with all of this in mind, today we pray that, whatever the cost or consequences, like Mary, we may also respond with faith and joy to whatever God calls us to do.

IN OTHER NEWS: There will be **numerous opportunities for confessions** during this Advent season as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. In addition to our regularly scheduled confessions on Saturday mornings, Monday afternoons, and Tuesday mornings, we will also have **"The Light Is On For You"** at all four churches on Wednesday, December 11 from 6-9 pm, and then on Wednesday, December 18 we will have **several confessors available at St. Athanasius Church** from 7-8:30 pm....stay tuned for more news....

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: "Your children need your presence more than your presents." - *Jesse Jackson*

Neighbors North

To our Neighbors North Catholic Community Parishioners:

Since our inception in 2006 the St. Teresa of Avila Knights of Columbus Council 13959 made a commitment to be responsible for all the grass cutting and trimming of our parish grounds. We started with "Hand-me-down" equipment and during the last 13 years, have purchased what was necessary and made all the repairs to keep them in working condition.

We estimate we have saved the parish between \$150,000 and \$200,000 based on what a contractor would have charged for the same services. We had three riding mowers that were essential to our efforts and as of last week only one mower worked. One is in need of major repairs and the other one is beyond repair and is no longer useable.

At this time, the Knights Council is unable to financially replace these two riding mowers. Council members are quite willing to continue our service to the parish. We are asking if anyone from the Neighbors North Catholic Community would be able to assist us financially. The time to purchase is now, since most lawn equipment retailers are offering discounts to sell before the year end.

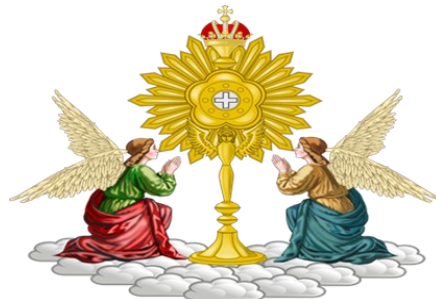
If you are in a position to support the Knights Council 13959 in this endeavor please contact Jay Kerr, Grand Knight, at 412-527-8573 or leave a message with the parish secretary at 412-367-9001 ext. 500.

Thank you!

Knights Council 13959



You are invited to join with the Spirit Refill Team at St. Teresa of Avila Church as we
Ring in the New Year with Jesus!



Join Fr. Michael Maranowski in **St. Teresa of Avila Church**
on **New Year's Eve** to spend one hour
in *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* and in prayer.
This Holy Hour will begin at 11:15 p.m.
and continue until 12:15 a.m.
What a wonderful way to end 2019 and begin 2020!

Neighbors North

COLLECTION FOR PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Second collection next Weekend, December 14/15

The second collection at all Masses next weekend, December 14/15, is for all diocesan sponsored programs for children and youth. These programs are funded through the generosity of our diocesan family. Thank you for your support.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is an opportunity to spend time with Jesus. He is truly present with us at this time as he was with the Apostles after the resurrection.

We are blessed to have the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration at parishes in our Neighbors North Catholic Community as follows:

Every Sunday at Incarnation of the Lord Church from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary are prayed starting at 3:00 p.m.

The first and third Sundays of the month at Saint Sebastian Chapel. Please note the new time: 11:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Special prayer booklets are available for your use.

First Fridays at Saint Teresa of Avila Chapel from 7:30 a.m. until closing with Benediction at 7:00 p.m.

Come to adore our Lord anytime on these days and stay as long as you like. There are always at least two adorers present. The Blessed Sacrament is never left alone.

SUGGEST A NAME FOR THE NEW PARISH

By January 6, 2020, Father Rushofsky must submit up to 15 possible names for the proposed new parish that will result from the merger of our four parishes. To assist in this effort, Father is inviting parishioners to suggest names by using the form found at <https://neighborsnorth.org/parish-merger> and in the narthexes of each church. Names submitted will be reviewed by the parish staff and the interim pastoral council to aid Father Rushofsky in selecting which 15 to submit. The Diocese will review the names submitted by Father Rushofsky and indicate which are acceptable. Father will then consult with all parishioners on the list of acceptable names to identify which three will be presented to Bishop Zubik when our parishes submit the petition to merge in April of 2020.

Suggested names must be taken from:

1. The Most Holy Trinity.
2. Our Lord Jesus Christ, invoked under a mystery of his life or under his name as used in the liturgy or Scripture.
3. The Holy Spirit.
4. The Blessed Virgin Mary under a given title already found in the liturgy;
5. The holy angels.
6. A saint from the list found in the Church's calendar of memorials and feasts. *(There are over 200! A list can be found on the Neighbors North website.)*
7. All names of those who are beatified or named "blessed."

* A name that is already used by a parish in the diocese cannot be proposed.

* Hyphenated names of current parishes are not permitted.

SUGGESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL DECEMBER 8, 2019.

Return completed forms to the parish office or in the collection basket.



2019-20 Caritas Concert Series

Music Ministry Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 15, 2019
3:00-4:00 pm**

**St. Teresa of Avila Church
1000 Avila Court
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

*Join us for an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music featuring
the Adult Choir, Cherub Choir, Contemporary Choir,
Good News Band, Handbell Choir, Instrumentalists,
Joyful Noise Ensemble, and Spirit Band.*

A freewill offering will be collected. All are welcome!



HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th,
10am-2pm**

**LOCATION: HILAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
845 PERRY HIGHWAY**

**Sponsored by: North Rolling Hills Girl Scout Troops
Proceeds to be donated to: North Hills Backpack Initiative & Food Bank**



Liturgy & Music Ministry



MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Music for Sunday, December 15th:

10:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian—Spirit Band

10:30 AM Mass at St. Athanasius—Contemporary Choir

11:00 AM Mass at St. Teresa of Avila—Adult Choir

3:00 PM Music Ministry Christmas Concert at St. Teresa of Avila—Adult Choir, Cherub Choir (Grades 2-5), Contemporary Choir, Good News Band, Handbell Choir, Instrumentalists, Joyful Noise Ensemble (Grades 6-12), Spirit Band.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Peace and harmony. Last Sunday, Isaiah inspired us with a vision of peace, when swords are beaten into plowshares. Today, Isaiah speaks of a state of harmony, when a lamb can lie down with a wolf. Paul encourages the Romans to think in harmony with one another. John the Baptist calls for repentance, so that all may bear good fruit. As we listen to the scriptures today, let us imagine the harmony we can create when all of us ready ourselves for Jesus' coming while living in peace and harmony with our neighbor.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Because December 8th falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9th. Therefore, **the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated**. You do *not* have to attend weekday Mass on Monday for the Immaculate Conception unless you choose to do so.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**LOOKING FORWARD—Please note there are no changes in the Christmas Mass Schedule this year. All times and locations remain the same as last Christmas.*

Christmas Eve Masses:

- 4:00 PM at St. Athanasius Church
- 4:00 PM at Incarnation of the Lord Church
- 4:00 PM at St. Sebastian Church
- 4:00 PM at St. Teresa of Avila Church
- 6:00 PM at St. Sebastian Church
- 10:00 PM at St. Athanasius Church
- 10:00 PM at St. Teresa of Avila Church
- 12:00 Midnight at St. Sebastian Church

Christmas Day Masses:

- 8:00 AM at St. Athanasius Church
- 9:00 AM at Incarnation of the Lord Church
- 10:00 AM at St. Sebastian Church
- 11:00 AM at St. Teresa of Avila Church



MaryJo Robbins

Parish Social Ministry



Clutter

How much clutter do you have? I am not referring to the clutter of lights, ornaments, and decorations. What clutters your heart as you prepare to welcome that little, perfect baby Jesus this year? Over the years, we can have many different kinds of clutter—anxiety, loneliness, anger, disappointment—just to name a few. As we reflect on the past year, old hurts can come alive again. It isn't enough to have the decorations in order and the presents wrapped. We need to have ourselves in order. What do you need to do to remove the clutter from your heart? Does someone need your forgiveness? Do you have fences to mend? Only you know. The sacrament of reconciliation is available to help. In addition to the weekly schedule, there are special times for Advent: The Light is on for You on December 11 at all 4 NNCC churches in the evening and December 18 at 7pm at St. Athanasius. We should prepare our hearts for Christmas with the same eagerness that we put up the decorations and select presents for those we love.

Last Day For Angel Tree: All Angel Tree gifts are due TODAY! Please help us to complete this wonderful project by dropping off your gifts.

Retrouvaille: Does your marriage need a rebirth? Retrouvaille has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information, please call 412-277-3434 or email 3041@retrouvaille.org. We will be hosting two weekend retreats in 2020: January 31-February 2 and September 11-13. Call today to begin the healing process or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Food Pantry Needs: Juice, hot chocolate, cake frosting, hamburger helper, spaghetti, canned pasta sauce, canned chicken, gravy, macaroni and cheese, boxed and canned potatoes, jelly, cereal, condiments, dishwashing soap, paper products and detergent. Please leave in the food collection bin in the back of St. Sebastian or St. Athanasius Church. Thank You!

Jesus in Disguise: The Jesus in Disguise (Homeless) ministry is seeking donations of used blankets, towel, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, men's shoes (no dress shoes please) new socks, backpacks and wheeled luggage. Seasonal clothing, pants (no dress pants please), shirts, sweaters and heavy jackets, hats and gloves are also needed. Thanks to all who have already helped with donations. Donations may be dropped off at the Community Center at St. Athanasius Church on Tuesdays between 10 AM and 12 Noon or Thursdays between 1PM and 3PM. For more information or for pickup of donations please call Pat at 412-366-9467.

Christmas Cards: Our Pro-Life committee is selling Christmas Cards to support the People Concerned for the Unborn Child. For more information or to purchase cards you can contact JoAnn at 412-366-1631 or Dot at 412-301-0420 (*please note this number was incorrect in last week's bulletin*).



Faith Formation



A D V E N T

Dec 8

The Immaculate Conception

A Catholic Doctrine that refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

Old Testament Prophets

The prophet Isaiah who figures so prominently in the Advent readings is not a fortune-teller or a soothsayer. Prophets were holy men and women who spoke on behalf of God. Called by God they could read the signs of the times and instruct the people of God's wishes.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning coming. The Latin "*adventus*" is parallel to the Greek word "*Parousia*" used by St. Paul to describe the Second Coming of Christ. So, as we await the celebration of Nativity of Christ, we keep our hearts and prepare, watch, and be alert to Jesus' Second Coming.

Christmas Values

Read the ten statements below. If any of these statements have no value to you, cross them out. You can also add or modify statements if you wish. Mark the statement you value most with a '1', then the next highest-valued statement with a '2', etc. until all ten statements are ranked.

I believe Christmas is a time to...

- ☐ Be a peacemaker in my family and the world at large
- ☐ Spend enjoyable time with my immediate family
- ☐ Reunite with my relatives
- ☐ Celebrate the birth of Christ
- ☐ Create a festive, beautiful home environment
- ☐ Show my love and generosity through gifts
- ☐ Remember the poor, lonely and needy
- ☐ Be active in my church community
- ☐ Celebrate with friends
- ☐ Relax and be renewed

December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

If you are looking for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, you will have to wait until tomorrow. The feast fell on an Advent Sunday this year which takes precedence. St. Matthew wastes no time introducing John the Baptist to his readers with his fiery preaching. John takes on the Pharisees and the Sadducees name-calling them a "brood of vipers." The message is simple, we are to repent, for God's kingdom is at hand. John's role was to prepare the way for Jesus and to proclaim a theme of repentance for those who would follow Jesus. Like a Roman corps of engineers filling in gullies and leveling mountains to make roads, John's job was to make the pathway smooth for those coming to Jesus. The most interesting lesson glean from this gospel is that nothing is guaranteed.

For the First Century Jew, calling yourself a Son of Abraham, guarantees nothing here. As a 21st Century Christian, we are not to grow complacent in the face of our baptism. If you feel shaken up a bit, that's ok, John's words still stir our innermost being as we are reminded to repent. Locusts anyone?



As parents, we are the most influential messengers in the lives of our children. Like John, without letting up, parents must keep sending the message and pointing to the way of Jesus. When we see that our children are creating wrinkles in the carpet we are obligated to show them a way to smooth the path. Children look to their parents as models and they often imitate their behavior. Our actions should reflect the things we tell our children. This Gospel reminds us that seeking forgiveness from God and one another is most certainly an important step in making a straight path.

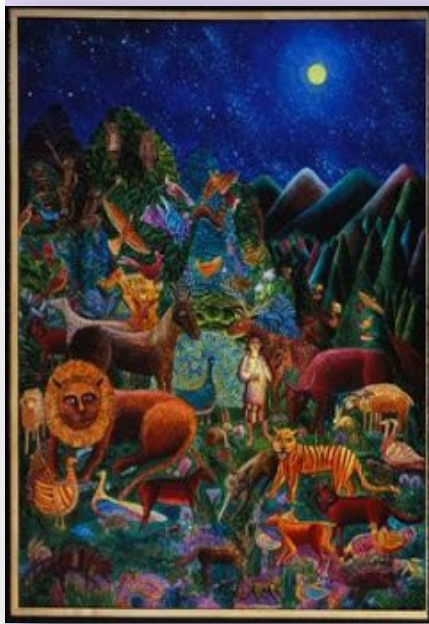
On this Second Sunday of Advent let's consider this: If I could give one message about God to everyone I know, my message would be . . .

Something that keeps getting in my way on the road to Heaven is . . .

One thing I can do to make the way of the Lord straighter is . . .



Maranatha - Come, Lord Jesus!



Second Sunday of Advent ~ God's kingdom is at hand - it is here.

Breaking Open the Word: Isaiah 11:1-10

The reading from Isaiah describes the expected Immanuel, God with us. The reign of Immanuel will be harmonious, just, and peace-filled. The one who comes will be a person of justice and wisdom. The characteristics or qualities of Emmanuel are what Christians today identify as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Listen to the Word: Is there an image in the Isaiah reading which lingers in your memory? What touches your heart?

Look into Your Life:

Children: Beyond the usual toys and other "stuff", what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

Youth: What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

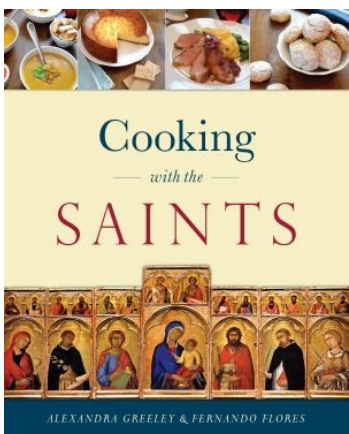
Adults: Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

The image above is entitled the "Peaceable Kingdom" by John August Swanson, the picture captures the animals paired with their natural enemies. There, almost at the center, is a child, holding a candle, a light in the darkness. It's a beautiful image! This weekend we begin the second week of Advent may our hearts be open to the gentle whisper that our light has come which has dispelled all darkness. It is the promise of the shoot that will sprout from the stump of Jesse ... Jesus, the Christ, but God must cut away the deadwood of our earthly powers and wants because the stump is a reminder that our salvation is not in power and stuff. Keep the

Advent-ure alive in your heart!



A review caught my attention, Father Leo Patalinghug writes "In this book we realize that eating the right food and sharing the meal with the right company can truly make us Saints! " Father is a TV & Radio Host, Author and Founder of Plating Grace & The Table Foundation.... *What a fantastic Christmas Gift for the serious Gourmand!*



From traditional Cottage Pie on St. Patrick's Day to Basque Lamb Stew on the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, the delicious recipes in this unique cookbook will excite your senses, awaken in you greater love for the saints, and bring Catholic festivity into your home.

Here you'll find brief saints biographies and ideal accompanying dishes tied to the liturgical feasts of the Church. From this exceptional cookbook, your family will receive triple nourishment: for body, mind, and spirit.

With the help of *Cooking with the Saints*, you'll turn every Christian feast into a joyous, faith-filled occasion, bringing your family gastronomic delight and spiritual enrichment throughout the year."

The book is published by Sophia Institute Press

Liturgy Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Monday December 9 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7 AM	St. Athanasius	Richard Becker †	Family
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Eileen Rengh †	Michelle Hess
	12:30 PM	St. Sebastian	Confessions following the 12 PM Mass	
Tuesday December 10 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8 AM	Incarnation of the Lord	James Reed †	Chet & Lisa Fuhrman
	8:30 AM	Incarnation of the Lord	Confessions following the 8 AM Mass	
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Carol Reubi †	Lois & Mary
Wednesday December 11 <i>Advent Weekday/St. Damasus I, Pope</i>	7 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Ray & Sophie Wattras †	Armano & Pauline DeRose
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Jason Antonette †	Sarah Zlockie
Thursday December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	7 AM	St. Athanasius	Bob Fetsko †	Harry & Nancy Reukauf
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Paul C. Kress, Sr. †	Paul, Jr. & Patty Kress
Friday December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	7 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Marge Clafshenkel †	Daughters
	9 AM	St. Sebastian	Deceased of the Sharpe Family †	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sharpe
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Roman Manuel †	Manuel Family
Saturday December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	8 AM	St. Athanasius	Tom Cheetham †	Bob & Joanne Evers
	8:30 AM	St. Athanasius	Confessions following the 8 AM Mass	
	11 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Confessions	
	4 PM Vigil Mass	St. Athanasius	John Henry Strosser †	Rosemary McKenna
	4 PM Vigil Mass	St. Teresa of Avila	Thelma Eichler †	Marion Galioto
	5 PM Vigil Mass	St. Sebastian	Florence Clark †	David Clark
Sunday December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	8 AM	St. Sebastian	William Basa †	Basa Family
	8:30 AM	Incarnation of the Lord	Frank Cuda, Jr. †	Sam & Woody Beatty
	9 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Joel Kerr †	Jay & Barbara Kerr
	10 AM	St. Sebastian	Florence & Francis Krawczak †	Robert Krawczak
	10:30 AM	St. Athanasius	For the People of the Parishes	
	11 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Jack Lennon †	George & Bernadette Cheponis

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Youth Ministry



Katie Dorman kdorman@saintsebastianparish.org



Youth Group News:

Ignite Middle School Group:

12/10: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

In the HCA Youth Room!

Impact High School Group:

12/11: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

In the HCA Youth Room!

Junior Ladies of Charity

If you have not heard of the Ladies of Charity and all that they do in our community, they are an international association, and have been in existence for over 400 years and were first established by St. Vincent de Paul.

Our young people are bombarded with so many, varied activities, *so why should you encourage your young lady to join this group instead of another?* The values embraced by the Ladies of Charity are simplicity, humility and charity. These are lessons that last a lifetime. As an international association the Ladies of Charity provide works of charity to alleviate poverty. At the parish level, the LOC are involved in dozens of activities from the Angel Tree to visiting the homebound and reading to underprivileged children. Locally, the JLOC can determine *their own interests* for charitable activities. For more information you can visit the national LOC website at aic.ladiesofcharity.us or the Pittsburgh website at locpittsburgh.org. Consider the life long benefits of such an affiliation for your young lady. **There will be an informational meeting on Monday, January 6 at 6:30pm. For more details and to rsvp contact Mary Ellen at 412-364-0825.**



Children's Hospital Lego Drive 2019

Last year an idea was born in the Saint Sebastian Religious Education Sunday 5th grade class. This idea was to have a service project for the class to prepare for Christmas. It then graduated into a Lego Drive for Children's Hospital for the entire Religious Education Program, which was a huge success.



It is amazing to think of the impact we as Neighbors North Catholic Community Religious Education can have on people we will never meet, but we hope to make their hard times during the Christmas season a little better.

Donations are encouraged and welcomed. As you know, these sets can be very expensive. We will be combining funds to purchase larger sets for teens.

Monetary donations or donations of complete Lego sets will be accepted until **December 20th**. Checks can be made out to CYO. Goods can be left: at the Saint Sebastian Rectory, with Religious Education leaders, Youth Group leaders, or contact Katie Dorman if you need assistance deciding how to turn them in!



The Best of All



Ladies, looking for a gift that keeps giving?

Give your husband, father, son or brother a

Men's Weekend Retreat

**FRI. EVENING FEB. 7 –
SUN. MORNING FEB. 9, 2020**

St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center

Learn more: **Bob De Witt 412-527-8483**
Larry Tielsch 412-366-1988

Liturgy of the Word with Children



Sundays at 10:30AM Mass.

**Children listen to God's Word,
reflect on God's Word, and
respond to God's Word!**

**We could always use more
adult helpers!**

**Call the Parish Center if interested!
412-931-4624**

*Deep in December it's
nice to remember that
we have St. Athanasius'
Festival and Flea
Market to plan for July!*

*All are welcome to
attend a town hall type
meeting on December
17, 2019 at 7 pm in
Athanasius Hall to
discuss what our 2020
Festival and Flea
Market will look like.*

We are still accepting Mass requests for 2020. Requests may be hand delivered or mailed to the parish office. Mass requests must be made in writing on the Mass Request form. These forms are available in the Narthex and St. Athanasius Parish Center.

A \$10.00 stipend, as determined by Diocesan policy, is to accompany each Mass request. Cash or checks will be accepted. You may use one check to cover all Mass requests. Checks should be made payable to St. Athanasius.

*Saint Athanasius Christmas Memorial
Flower Donations will be published the
weekend of December 22. They will be on
the tables in the Narthex of the church,
not as an insert in that weekends bulletin.*



Incarnation of the Lord



Beginning December 1st, Incarnation of the Lord Parish of the Neighbors North Catholic Community will be accepting **Christmas Memorial Flower Donations.**

Please return by December 15th. Late donations are always welcome. Donation Envelopes will be available in the Incarnation of the Lord narthex or Church Office.

INCARNATION OF THE LORD PARISH **CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER DONATION**

In memory of: give names, please print _____

Requested by: _____

Church Contribution Envelope # _____

Incarnation of the Lord Parish invites everyone in our Neighbors North Catholic Community to help decorate for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd, immediately following our 8:30 am Mass. **“Many hands make light work!”**

Community Center

Mon. 10:00	Pickle Ball
Mon. 11:00	Senior Exercise
Tues. 9:00	Mah Jong
Tues. 12:30	Organ Lessons
Tues. 7:00	Ukulele Class (Feb. TBA)
Tues. 7:30 pm	Yolates
Wed. 10:00	Open Art. Studio
Wed. 10:00	Pickle Ball
Wed. 10:00	Needle Threaders
Wed. 11:00	Senior Exercise
Thurs. 10:00	Little Angels Play
Thurs. 10:00	Needle Threaders
Thurs. 12:15	Duplicate Bridge
Thurs. 12:30	Tai Chi
Thurs. 2:00	Color Me
Thurs. 6:00 pm	Zumba
Thurs. 6:30 pm	Italian Class (Feb. TBA)
Thurs. 7:00 pm	Yoga
Fri. 10:00	Pickle Ball

Social Concerns Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 11 at 2:00 All are welcome.

Serve lunch to the Homeless Dec. 19
Call 412-931-6633 for details.

Senior Lunch and Christmas Party
Friday, December 20 11:30
Bring your friends, a vegetable, salad or dessert + \$1.00
RSVP 412-931-6633

Betsy Ann Candy Sale Ends Today!
Hand in your order form by Monday, December 9 and pick up your order December 14-17 at the Community Center or Parish Office. Thanks.



Saint Sebastian



EVENTS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK:

Sunday, December 8, 2019

8:30AM: Religious Education

Monday, December 9, 2019

6:30PM: Cub Scouts Committee Meeting

6:30PM: SAC Meeting - School Library

7:00PM: Endow

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

5:00PM: Religious Education

6:30PM: Middle School youth Group

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

1:00PM: Bereavement Support

6:00PM: Preschool & Kindergarten Christmas Program

6:00PM: The Light Is On For You Confessions

6:30PM: High School youth Group

Thursday, December 12, 2019

3:00PM: Divine Mercy

6:00PM: HCA Christmas Program

7:00PM: Endow

7:00PM: OCD Support Group

Friday, December 13, 2019

6:30PM: Cub Scout Pack

Meeting r

Saturday, December 14, 2019

7:30AM: Men's Fellowship

9:00AM: CYM Musical

Auditions r

Sunday 12/8

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Monday 12/9

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday 12/10

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday 12/11

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday 12/12

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday 12/13

Is 48:17-19; Ps:1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday 12/14

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday 12/15

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

= Church

= Chapel

= Rector's Office

= Haber: Mueller

= Haber: Residence

= School: Gym

r = School: Cafeteria

= School: Burke

= School: Youth

= Off-site

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Saint Sebastian parish office is currently in need of a volunteer to help with phones and desk duty on a rotating schedule for Thursday evenings. This would mean a commitment of a 2 hour shift from 5-7 pm every other Thursday evening beginning January 9, 2020. Training will be provided.

If interested or for more information, please contact Julie Stiehler at the rectory:
412-364-8999 or email
jstiehler@saintsebastianparish.org

The Latino Ministry will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12 at Saint Paul Cathedral with Bishop David Zubik as principal celebrant. Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:30 pm with recitation of the Rosary at 6:00 pm and reposition at 6:30 pm. A procession into the cathedral will follow at 6:45 pm with a color guard of flags of many nations. Mass begins at 7:00 pm and a reception will follow. All are welcome. For more information, call: 412-337-7268.

RETROUVAILLE

Does your marriage need a rebirth? Retrouvaille has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels from disillusionment through deep misery. For confidential information, please call 412-277-3434 or email 3041@retrouvaille.org. We will be hosting two weekend retreats in 2020: January 31-February 2 and September 11-13. Call today to begin the healing process or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Quigley Catholic's Placement Exam will be held on **Friday, December 13 from 8:30-11:45 A.M. and Saturday, December 14 from 8:30-11:45 A.M.** The placement exam is required for 8th graders to be considered for admission into Quigley Catholic High School for the Fall of 2020. To qualify for any available scholarships, students must take the placement exam at QCHS. **Registration is required.** Please contact our Admissions Department to register at (724) 869-2188 or admissions@qchs.org. Form can also be found on our website, qchs.org/Admissions tab.



St. Vincent Mission Appeal:

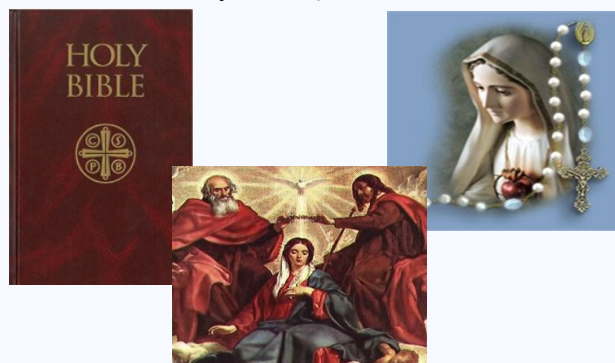
This weekend Sr. Kathleen Weigand OSB, the mission speaker for St. Vincent Mission Inc. in David KY is at St. Teresa. Sister Kathleen is originally from West View and a member of St. Athanasius Catholic Church. She will be available to talk with and meet before and after all of the Masses. Please stop by and visit and show her your support by making a donation to **St. Vincent Mission**.

You are invited to join with the Spirit Refill Team at St. Teresa of Avila Church as we continue our journey in faith.

Friday, December 13th

We will pray the **Rosary** at
7:00 p.m.

in **St. Teresa of Avila Church**
followed by the program
*"Mary: The Model Disciple of
the Messianic Fulfillment"*
(*Mary as she is portrayed from
the both the Old and
New Testament Viewpoint*)
Presented by **Fr. John Marcucci**



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Please return your Christmas Flower Offering envelope (found in your December envelope packet), **no later than December 15, 2019** to ensure that the names of your loved ones will be printed in the list and to help decorate our church for the great celebration of the Birth of Our Lord.



The Oaxaca Mission Group and Fr. Scott Seethaler would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's **Harvest Brunch** such a success! Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are greatly appreciated and have resulted in another outstanding event. **Proceeds of this year's Brunch totaled \$20,440.78** All proceeds go to the Anna Seethaler Hospital in Oaxaca, Mexico. Over the past 13 years the Harvest Brunches have raised \$236,991.70 for the hospital. *May God bless you for your generosity.*



Santa Claus is coming to St. Teresa!

Bring the entire family to the Oaxaca Mission Group's **Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 14, 2019 in Schoppol Hall**. The fun runs from **10 AM - 12 noon; doors open at 9:30AM**. The morning features a yummy breakfast, craft stations, a special treat for each child, Christmas sing-alongs, raffles, and a visit from Santa Claus! Photos with Santa can be taken.

Phone reservations will not be taken, but you can contact Janet at 412-364-7884 with questions. Reservation forms are on the parish grouping website at neighborsnorth.org under Connect, and in the St. Teresa rectory. Cost is **\$8** per person with children under 2 admitted free. **Payment must be made in advance with the reservation form** by returning them to the St. Teresa rectory in an envelope marked *"Breakfast with Santa at St. Teresa"*. **Space is limited so don't miss out.**

No one admitted without a reservation.

Deadline for reservations is Monday Dec. 9th. All proceeds benefit the Anna Seethaler Hospital in Oaxaca, Mexico, our parish partner abroad. Help us to help the poor this Christmas!



Mrs. Osekowski
Principal

PRESCHOOL

There is always plenty of excitement and learning happening in our Preschool and Pre-kindergarten classes at Holy Cross Academy!

The preschool students enjoy their time in school to the fullest—learning prayers, playing, making crafts and exclaiming, “I did it!!!,” listening to stories, dancing and singing, forming new friendships, becoming independent, learning through each and every experience they encounter. Every week, “*Mr. Mailbox*” delivers “mail” to the preschool class which includes introduction to colors, shapes, and numbers. In November, he even started to bring us letters!! The preschool class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-11:30.

Our pre-kindergarten students look forward to learning letters and sounds from their *Letter People* friends along with additional letters during the week. Learning through play and exploration, early literacy activities, letter and number formation and learning as much as they can about the world around them fill our days.

We offer a full-day pre-kindergarten program as well as a Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning program. The all-day students participate in Gym, Art, and Computer classes.

Learning about our community as well as service to others is important to us, and in October, the preschool and pre-kindergarten classes trick-or-treated with the residents at Vincentian Home. As a thank you, each child made a Fall craft for the residents to display in their rooms. The children enjoyed when a City of Pittsburgh Fire Fighter came to teach them about fire safety in October. The children made cards for local veterans in honor of Veteran’s Day. In November, our families generously donated items to include in a Thanksgiving basket for a local family helped by the St. Vincent de Paul organization.

The children in both classes enjoyed their classroom Thanksgiving Feasts and their special Christmas program with the Kindergarten classes.

Mrs. Lawlor and Mrs. Sobien look forward to an exciting second half of the school year! Nothing makes them happier than hearing, “This was the best day ever!”

