

Joy Advent

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (412) 367-9001

St. Athanasius Church
7 Chalfonte Ave. West View, PA 15229

St. Sebastian Church
311 Siebert Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Incarnation of the Lord Church
4071 Franklin Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15214

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

Holy Cross Academy (412) 364-7171
307 Siebert Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Education & Community Center (412) 585-5575
2 Wentworth Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15229



Pastor's Perspective

Reverend John R. Rushofsky
Pastor

412-367-9001
jrushofsky@mountcarmelpgh.org

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN....

....it's time for Mass to begin and you discover that there's **no wine?** Perhaps you've heard the story about this happening at the **8:30 am Mass at Saint Athanasius on Wednesday, November 24**, the day before Thanksgiving. Because these stories tend to get embellished as they are told and retold, I thought it would be a good idea to explain just what happened.

In 42 years of priesthood I have **never had this happen before**. Not a single bottle of wine could be found anywhere, not even a drop in the bottom of an old empty. The two cases of wine normally on hand had disappeared. I considered running to a nearby State Store, but at that hour it was probably not open yet.

It is **impossible to celebrate Mass without wine or host**. In fact, we have clear instructions: the wine must be made **only of grapes** (no Grandma's Elderberry Wine) and at least **11% alcohol**. The host must be made only of **wheat flour and water**, nothing else.

So without wine, **Mass was out of the question**. Meanwhile, there was a congregation of nearly 50 people, all expecting Mass to begin immediately. I explained the dilemma to the people and apologized for disappointing them. We then listened to the readings of the day, then a homily followed by the intercessions. Fortunately there was **sufficient Eucharist in the tabernacle** to accommodate the congregation, and after Deacon Dave Witter and I distributed the Eucharist, we had a final blessing and dismissal. Problem solved! This is the kind of predicament the seminary taught us how to manage. And we hoped we would never have to use it.

So what happened to the wine? We have a couple suspicions, but no evidence. Yet.

From now on, the wine will be kept under lock and key.

IN OTHER NEWS: If you remember **Father Tom Schluep**, former seminarian and then parochial vicar at Saint Sebastian, we have some impressive news. For several years he has been working in the Vatican for the **Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples**, which is responsible for spreading the Faith all around the world. Pope Francis recently appointed Father Tom as **head of the newly established Office of Information Technology** within that Congregation, an indication of his vast technological skill. In fact, about 5 years ago, Father Tom actually built (*not* from a kit!) this computer I'm typing on at this moment....Stay tuned for more news....

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

- Charles Darwin

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

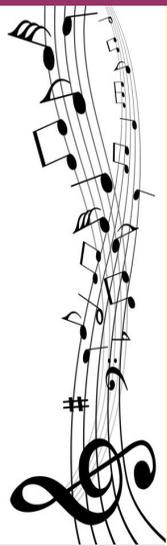
This Weekend 's Second Collection



Knights of Columbus Collecting for Bishop's Projects this Weekend

Today's second collection will support the Bishop's Project, benefiting intellectually disabled and physically challenged individuals at St. Anthony Schools and McGuire Memorial Home and School. Our Parish Knights of Columbus Councils #13959 and #14696 will collect during the Masses at all four parish churches. Please be generous!

December 12, 2021 — Third Sunday of Advent



Music for the Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering Rite: **Christ the Light is Coming**—Songsheet

**Penitential Act: Mass of Joy and Peace*—Gather # 206

Responsorial Psalm: **With Joy You Shall Draw Water**—Gather # 97 (Refrain II)

Preparation of the Altar: **Christ, Circle Round Us**—Breaking Bread # 56

**Eucharistic Acclamations: Gather # 375, 376, 377, 216*

Communion Hymns: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**—Breaking Bread # 38

Christ the Lord—Breaking Bread # 583

Sending Forth: **The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**—Gather # 414

Today's Readings

First Reading: *Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

A savior is promised to Israel.

Second Reading: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:10-18*

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

Follow Today's Readings Online

To access this weekend's readings on your Internet-connected mobile device, scan the code that appears at right. Readings are taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

In Need of Prayer?

Call Our Confidential Prayer Line

If you are in need of prayerful support, our parish prayer line is available to you. Please contact Patti Smith at 412-766-3723 or Nancy Detrude at 412- 931-0577. Your privacy is important to us, so please be assured that your call will be handled in a confidential manner.

Volunteers Needed for Church Decorating

We are actively recruiting for volunteers to help decorate (and remove decorations from) our parish churches for Christmas this year. Please contact jdulemba@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Decorating Schedule

Sunday, December 19, 1:00 p.m.
Incarnation of the Lord Church
Monday, December 20, 1:00 p.m.
St. Teresa of Avila Church
Tuesday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.
St. Athanasius Church
Wednesday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian Church

Decoration Removal Schedule

Sunday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.
Incarnation of the Lord Church
Monday, January 10, 1:00 p.m.
St. Teresa of Avila Church
Monday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian Church
Tuesday, January 11, 6:00 p.m.
St. Athanasius Church

This Wednesday, The Light is On For You!



Wednesday, December 15
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian Church

“The Light is On for You!” is an initiative of the Diocese of Pittsburgh to encourage Catholics to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Throughout this evening, priests will be available to hear confessions.

During Advent we will also offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. until noon at St. Athanasius and on Mondays from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 pm at St. Sebastian Church.

Father Scott Seethaler to Speak Tomorrow Evening Following Spirit Refill Rosary

Please join us tomorrow (Monday) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Teresa of Avila Church to pray the Rosary, then be inspired by a talk by Father Scott entitled “Facing the Future with Hope.”

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Advent Vespers Series (Live-Streamed)

Join us each Sunday during Advent at 4:00 p.m. as we offer Vespers & Adoration at St. Athanasius Church. Each service will be followed at 5:00 p.m. by a social and small group discussions in Athanasian Hall.

Schedule

This Evening (Sunday, December 12th)
“True Hope in Christ Leads to Joy”

Next Sunday, December 19th
“Proclaiming Hope to the Hopeless”

Win a \$100 Apple Card! Send Us Your Video By Dec. 10th

We're asking parents of children age 10 and under to shoot short phone videos of their child or children telling us in 30 seconds or fewer what Christmas means to them. **Deadline for entries is December**

10. The video with the most views by December 17 wins a \$100 Apple gift card for its creators!

Get full details at mountcarmelpgh.org.



Men's Retreat Planned for January 28-30

Good news! Full weekend retreats are back with appropriate COVID precautions. Men of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish are invited to join us on our Annual Retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center on **Friday, Jan. 28-Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022.**

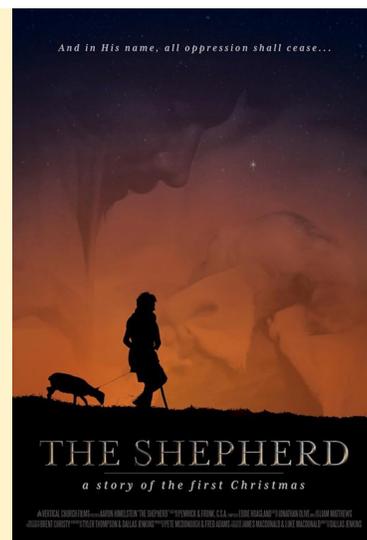
The retreat's theme is Finding Peace and Serenity in Christ. New this retreat season: All guest rooms in the newer building have been renovated with private bathrooms.

Get details at:

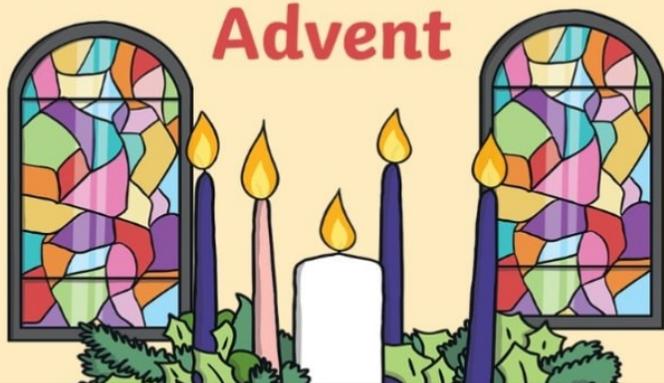
[www.mountcarmelpgh.org/
retreat-weekend](http://www.mountcarmelpgh.org/retreat-weekend)

Join Us This Thursday, December 16 for "The Shepherd" Television Program

Please join us in Schoppol Hall this Thursday at either 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. in Schoppol Hall as we present a screening of "The Shepherd" followed by a discussion. This program, produced by the team behind "The Chosen," tells the story of the first Christmas from a shepherd's point-of-view. While bringing a lamb acceptable for sacrifice to Bethlehem, a shepherd hears the angelic announcement and is witness to the birth of the Lamb of God.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Reflection by Jane Sestric

3rd Sunday of Advent: JOY - ANTICIPATION

“When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought me joy.” *Ps 94:19*

Considering the past year and a half, I can't help but feel a great sadness for what we have lost over the past year and a half. We have lost jobs, lost local shops, lost class time at school, and most importantly, lost family members and friends. All this because of an illness that has infected so many. We never asked for this.

For those who have lost loved ones, as I have, the world has changed permanently. We have faced frustrating experiences while they were ill, as well; unable to visit except through face-time on their phones or though standing at windows, across from one another. We were unable to embrace or hear one another clearly. It's really puzzling!

But through the sadness, there are rays of humor shining. Those who have Alzheimer's disease, as my husband did, still enjoyed dancing, singing, and sharing cookies with grandkids. Comedic episodes continue to make me smile, such as the time when we took a car load of recycled wood to Construction Junction. I kept unloading from the driver side and placing planks on the loading dock, which my hubby kept taking from the loading dock and replacing in the car. Took me a few minutes to realize why the trunk stayed so full.

Perhaps the suffering of the past can help us realize the love we have for one another more completely.

While we have lost so much, we have gained in spirit. We have gained time to grow closer to our Lord, gained time to grow closer to our loved ones and friends. Even though we may be standing farther apart, we are closer in spirit and in our appreciation for one another.

Today Christ's Nativity is growing nearer, so we are preparing: wrapping presents and decorating our homes. Guess it's time to brighten our hearts too! Now we are glimpsing the joy of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 'doorway through which the Light came into the world.' As we have been waiting these past weeks, we are devoting time to more frequent Mass and Adoration, Advent Vespers and family prayer. We are praying the Rosary, bringing greetings, gifts and treats to friends. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire so we see Christ in the eyes of our neighbors, and share the gifts of time and of listening.

Difficult experiences of the past can become a pathway toward understanding and joy. Our parish offers many opportunities to express our care, as we walk among our neighbors more freely now, as we hear their need. We have opportunities for service to those who need companionship and for meaningful enrichment in our faith. Reading the bulletin or Flock Notes, digging deeper into the web page, we'll find ways to support those in need and to renew our own strength!

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing." ~ *Saint Katharine Drexel*



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Parish Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, with roots dating back more than 150 years, is a vibrant Catholic family of word, sacrament, prayer, and service.

Centered in Jesus Christ, we strive to live and proclaim the Good News, building a community worth sharing.

With Mary as our example and patron, we seek to deepen our faith and holiness, bringing help and hope to all.

Contact Us

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
800 Avila Court
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-367-9001
Fax: 412-366-8415
www.mountcarmelpgh.org

Important Information

Masses

Saturday, 4:00 p.m., St. Teresa of Avila
Saturday, 5:00 p.m., St. Athanasius
Saturday, 6:00 p.m. St. Sebastian
Sunday, 8:00 a.m., Incarnation of the Lord
Sunday, 9:00 a.m., St. Athanasius
Sunday, 10:00 a.m., St. Sebastian
Sunday, 11:00 a.m., St. Teresa of Avila
M-F, 8:30 a.m., St. Athanasius
M-F, 12:00 Noon, St. Sebastian

Mass Intentions

To schedule a Mass at any of our four churches, contact Julie Stiehler at 412-367-9001 or jstiehler@mountcarmelpgh.org.

7-Day Sanctuary Lights

Dedications for the Sanctuary Light are available each week for \$20 at each of our four churches. To reserve a date contact Julie Stiehler at 412-367-9001 or jstiehler@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Confessions

Mondays, 12:30 p.m., St. Sebastian Church
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-Noon, St. Athanasius

Open for Private Prayer (Monday-Friday)

St. Athanasius, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. Teresa of Avila, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Registering in the Parish

Contact Nancy Koslosky at 412-367-9001, ext. 9001 or nkoslosky@mountcarmelparish.org

Scheduling a Baptism

Call Maggie Nelson at 412-367-9001, ext. 8529, or email her at mnelson@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Religious Education

Please direct all questions about religious education and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to Maggie Nelson, Faith Formation Department, at mnelson@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Confirmation

In our parish, Confirmation takes place in the spring. For more information contact Maggie Nelson, Faith Formation Department, at mnelson@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Becoming a Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor

Please direct all inquiries to Nancy Koslosky at 412-367-9001, ext. 8536 or nkoslosky@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Obtaining a Baptismal Certificate

These requests may be directed to the Diocesan Archives and Records Center at 412-456-3158.

Scheduling the Sacrament of Matrimony

To begin planning and scheduling the sacrament of marriage in one of our churches, contact Father Mike Zavage at mzavage@mountcarmelpgh.org.

Rosaries and Devotions

A full list of devotions scheduled each month is available at www.mountcarmelpgh.org/devotions.

Mass Intentions

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Monday December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	8:30 AM	St. Athanasius	Andrew Brannan †	Mary Madden
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Janet & Paul Kress, Sr. †	Paul & Patty Kress
	12:30 PM	St. Sebastian	Confessions following the 12 PM Mass	
Tuesday December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	8:30 AM	St. Athanasius	Deceased of Matula Family †	Family
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Ethel Smyers †	Family
Wednesday December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8:30 AM	St. Athanasius	Ronald Gramm †	Nieghbors
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Deceased of Pirone Family †	Rita Pirone
Thursday December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8:30 AM	St. Athanasius	Anthony G. Vogel †	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Frazetta
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Arthur Tomko †	Tomko Family
Friday December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	8:30AM	St. Athanasius	David Wiezorek †	Family
	12 PM	St. Sebastian	Dr. Remigio Gregorio †	Family
Saturday December 18 <i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i>	11 AM	St. Athanasius	Confessions	
	4 PM Vigil Mass	St. Teresa of Avila	Richard E. Eichner †	Teresa Kochis & Family
	5 PM Vigil Mass	St. Athanasius	Richard Graf †	Ruth Graf
	6 PM Vigil Mass	St. Sebastian	Thomas Smyers, Sr. †	Family
Sunday December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent	8 AM	Incarnation of the Lord	Donna Bouch †	Emily & Damian Bouch
	9 AM	St. Athanasius	The People of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish	
	10 AM	St. Sebastian	Gaetano Peluso †	Gregorio & Koman Families
	11 AM	St. Teresa of Avila	Thomas B. Devlin †	Shrader Family

Staff Directory

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412.367.9001, x8536



Sister Karen Brink, OSB

Parish Social Ministry



**“For Christ plays in ten thousand places, Lovely in limbs not His To the Father through the features of men’s faces.”
- G.M.Hopkins, SJ**

GENEROSITY ABOUNDS



Through the magnificent generosity of parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, Christmas Day will be holier, brighter, and merrier. Gift cards were distributed to over 150 individuals around our parish as well as throughout the Pittsburgh area as your generosity extended to Holy Family, Operation Safety Net, Catholic Charities, Northview Heights Support Center, Pleasant Valley Men’s Shelter, Genesis of Pittsburgh, Providence Center and Holy Cross Academy. Special thanks to our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference for coordinating local efforts and to the Ladies of Charity for their industrious and loving ministry of coordinating the entire collection and distribution!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Feast Day December 12

Our Lady of Gudalupe,

O dark Madonna of the Americas,

Come again to bring us the roses

Of compassion, justice and peace.

In the midst of our winter,

Bestow your love on all those marginalized in these lands,

And give us your gift to see dignity

In the least of those among us.

-Jane Deren, Education for Justice





Worship



Ted Rybka

Third Sunday of Advent



Today we have the opportunity to hear John the Baptist's counsel to the crowds of people filled with expectation of the imminent coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Three times in today's Gospel they ask John, "What should we do?" Let us heed John's responses, for who better to prepare us for his coming into our world than the one who first prepared the world for this coming. The Lord is near. *Gaudete!* That is, rejoice!



Presents

Sounds of the Season

With Performances by All PYCO Ensembles:

Junior Wind Ensemble
Junior Strings - Chamber Strings
Concert Strings - Concert Winds
PYCO Symphony Orchestra

Program Includes:

The Polar Express Medley • Won't You Be My Neighbor?
Overture to a Winter Celebration • A Christmas Carol
Emperor Waltzes, Strauss • A Christmas Festival, Leroy Anderson

Sunday, December 12, 2021 - 4 pm

St. Teresa of Avila Church
1000 Avila Ct, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Masks are Required

Admission is free - Donations are greatly appreciated

For more information visit PYCO.ORG





Deacon Bob Koslosky

Faith Formation



“John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Breaking Open the Word: Luke 3:10-18.

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah. During the time of Luke’s Gospel being written, Christians began to realize that Christ’s return was not imminent. These Christians needed to learn how to live in readiness, to be aware that their own deaths might come before the day of the Lord. Today’s passage instructs people to live justly within their work.

Listen to the Word: As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

Look into Your Life:

Children: Why is it important to keep your promises?

Youth: Do you remember any stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

Incarnate the Word: Choose one of the following activities as a way to ‘enflesh’ the Sunday readings: *By our Baptism, we are called to be signs of Jesus’ presence in the world. Ask each family member to tell how s/he can be a sign of Jesus to others. Be specific! For your family prayer one day this week, place a bowl of water in a central location in your home. Have family members come to the water and bless themselves, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” As they do this, remind them of their Baptismal promise to be examples of God’s love in the world. This is the Gaudete Sunday of Advent, a day to rejoice. Do a fun activity with the family. Finally, light three candles (two purple and one pink) on the Advent wreath. Have each family member offer a prayer of thanks for someone who has shown the presence of Christ by his or her love, patience, or forgiveness. Pray the Lord’s Prayer.*

Advent Wreath Lighting Prayers Week 3:

Joy

Leader: Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Family: God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope, your peace, and your joy in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

Leader: Receive God’s promise of joy from Psalm 28: Praise be to the LORD
For he has heard my cry for mercy, the LORD is my strength and my shield.

Family:
My heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.

Light the three candles of hope, peace, and joy
Advent Wreath Prayers: Hope, Peace, Joy,

Love © 2013

by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia





Holy Cross Academy



REJOICE!

Mr. Noah Wolf
Principal

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Phil 4:4-5).

Mrs. Elizabeth Vita
Vice Principal

The 6th graders at Holy Cross Academy have these things to rejoice about this Advent season.

Jesus' coming—
Julia

God's plan to save
the world from sin
is beginning - Ben

Honoring the
person who saved
us - Nino

Jesus being
born - Cole

Good food with
family
- Patrick



Getting
together with
family— Ali,
Collin,
Makenna and
Brooks

Almost there
to his birth
- Austin

Doing things
for others
- Aiden

Christmas
break—
Jared



Thank you to all of our volunteers who help make Holy Cross Academy a wonderful place to grow and learn! We couldn't do it without all of you! Many volunteers aren't pictured.



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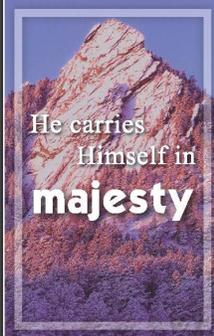
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