THE PARISH OF SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

DECEMBER 18, 2022

WELCOME

CLERGY TEAM

Fr. Robert J. Grecco
Pastor
rgrecco@straphaelcgs.org

Fr. Aleksandr J. Schrenk
Parochial Vicar
aschrenk@straphaelcgs.org

In Residence
Fr. James McDonough
Fr. Jerome Etenduk
Fr. Robin Evanish

Deacons
Dcn. Kevin Lander
Dcn. Paul Lim
Dcn. Jim Mackin

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY:	4:00 p.m. at SSJ
	4:30 p.m. at SEAS
SUNDAY:	8:00 a.m. at SMOS
	9:00 a.m. at SEAS
	10:00 a.m. at SMOS
	11:00 a.m. at SSJ
MONDAY:	8:30 a.m. at SSJ
	12:00 p.m. at SEAS
TUESDAY:	8:30 a.m. at SMOS
	12:00 p.m. at SSJ
WEDNESDAY:	8:30 a.m. at SSJ
	12:00 p.m. at SEAS
THURSDAY:	8:30 a.m. at SSJ
	12:00 p.m. at SEAS
FRIDAY:	8:30 a.m. at SMOS
	12:00 p.m. at SSJ

This schedule does not reflect holiday or Holy Days.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTER
330 3rd Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106
412-857-5356 | WWW.STRAPHAELCGS.ORG
For church locations and staff information, see page 20

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM:

For arrangements call
the parish office: 412-857-5356

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Call the parish office for arrangements if in danger of death. If hospitalized or in a skilled nursing facility, please ask the nursing staff to contact the Catholic priest on call for that facility.

MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must be made with one of the priests at least six months before the proposed date of the wedding.

PENANCE:

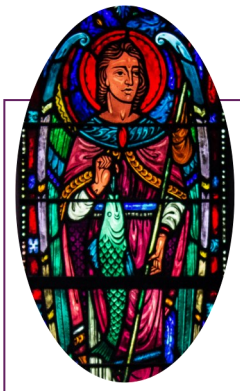
Saturdays

- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  at St. Margaret of Scotland Church
- Noon to 1:00 p.m.
  at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 18		**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	Maura Grace Schwab by mother, Marilyn
*4:30 p.m.	SEAS	Frank Capezio by wife, Barbara and family
8:00 a.m.	SMOS	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	SEAS	Catherine Kyle by Mary Chris and Donna
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	John Simko by the girls
11:00 a.m.	SSJ	Elmer Reed by wife, Elizabeth and daughter, Sue
DECEMBER 19		**MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Deceased of the Roth and Salerno Families by family
12:00 p.m.	SEAS	Charmagne “Doe” & Kenny Zombek by the Marodi Family
DECEMBER 20		**TUESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**
8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Thomas F. Quinn by family
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Health & wellbeing of Mario Oliverio by daughter and son, Terri and Jeff
DECEMBER 21		**WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Elizabeth Luke by family
12:00 p.m.	SEAS	Maria and Luigi Bruno and deceased of the Bruno Family by Philomena Bruno
DECEMBER 22		**THURSDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Conversion of sinners and the poor souls in purgatory
12:00 p.m.	SEAS	Elizabeth Marszalek by Mary Ann Marszalek
DECEMBER 23		**FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT**
8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Virginia Rose by Donna and Jim Myers
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Mary Bokulich by Irene and family
DECEMBER 24		**CHRISTMAS EVE**
4:00 p.m.	SMOS	Roseann Finnerty by Maureen Wagner
4:00 p.m.	SSJ	John Stokan by daughter Kristen Stokan
4:30 p.m.	SEAS	Sebastian Dedola by Marianne Erhart
10:00 p.m.	SMOS	Intention of the Celebrant
11:00 p.m.	SEAS	Mary and Mike Mazur by Ron Mazur and Ed Gaskill
DECEMBER 25		**CHRISTMAS DAY**
8:00 a.m.	SSJ	Alice, Bob, and Mary Ann Shalamon, and all deceased of our St. Raphael the Archangel Parish Family by Bob & Joe
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	Albert Turkovich by wife and family
10:30 a.m.	SEAS	People of the Parish

anticipated Mass



FROM THE PASTOR

"This is the person Christ has loved in loving you, the person he has chosen in choosing you. He enters by the open door; he has promised to come in, and he cannot deceive. Embrace him, the one you have sought; turn to him, and be enlightened; hold him fast, ask him not to go in haste, beg him not to leave you. The Word of God moves swiftly; he is not won by the lukewarm, nor held fast by the negligent. Let your soul be attentive to his word; follow carefully the path God tells you to take, for he is swift in his passing." —St Ambrose

The last seven days of the season (December 17-23) form the "late Advent Days." These days turn our attention and focus, scripturally, to the preparation for the coming of Christ at Bethlehem (His first Advent). At Vespers (evening prayer) of those days the Lord is addressed according to ancient titles (see Fr. Alek's *Did You Know* on page 11).

Recently Fr. Alek and I shared a Christmas dinner with the deacons and members of the staff of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to gather for fellowship and to offer to them, because of their dedication to the ministries of the parish, our sincere appreciation. These ladies and gentlemen are truly committed to the work that they accomplish. I am grateful for all that they do to assist me and the other priests in our ministries.

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

James Coyle
Regis Walsh Jr.

Anthony Anderson
Kathy Aspinall
Clara Bielecki
Brian Bishop
Kelly Bittner
Jim Boerio
Gina Burton
Donald Campbell
Dorothy Campbell
Elisa Carsia
Helen Cassidy
Kenneth Chase
John Chraska
Gina Dangelico
Katie Denke
Antoinette DePofi
Patty Drury
Kathi Dvorak
Jo-Ann Eller
Lena Enrietti
Patti Eurich
Stephaine Fahnestock
Helen Fallon
Vicky Feeney
Lois Ferrie
Ron Ferrie
Rosemary Ferruzza
Suzanne T. Finnegan
Gabriel Fontana
Deborah Ford
Michelle Frego
May Frye
William Gabella
Dan Gardner
Mike Gieselman
Brandon Gross
Mark Hagelauer
Margaret Harkins
Wayne Hayes
Michael Heastings
Eileen Henefeld
Mary V. Hester
Patti Howcroft
Brent Jones
Noreen Joslyn
Bob Karausky
Anna Mary Karpinski
William Karpinski
Joanne Keating
Gregory M. Klemmer
Don Krally
Gloria Krally
Lori Krally
Ann Kramer
Veronica Kujawski
Darlene Kura
Helen Kurek
Jackie Kushner
Mark Laird
John Linn
Eugene Loniero
Peter Paul Lyle III
Mary Ann Macino
Arch MacLennan
Penny Mahoney
Lucille Marabito
Laura Martin
Sam Martin
Santo Mascellino
Carl Masciola
Kathy Masko
Gina Massengill
Kathy McGann
Virginia Miller
John Mostowy
Joyce Mostowy
Robin Munko
Pat Murdzak
Theresa Nelson
Judi Novak
Victoria O'Bosky
Mario Oliverio
Joan Pandolph
Linda Perris
Charles Perry
Diane Perry
Elizabeth Pfender
Nancy Pistella
Carol Poecking
Robert Prevost
Diane Pritchard
Michele Rea
Bob Recaldini
Dave Redman
Joann Redondo
Paxton Renk
Florinda Rosemeyer
Helen Salamon
Andrew Patrick Schade
Frederick Schell
John Schenk
Tyler Schepis
Mary Patricia Schnars
Kathleen Shilling
Mary Socci
Genevieve Sonson
Teresa Stacy
Jaime St. Ledger
Judye Suhy
Bob Super
Ed Sutilla
Rose Talmonti
Tim Teeters
Jerry Tokar
Rosemarie Toth
Allen Turske
Stephanie Vail
Penny Verow
Mary Kay Walsh
James Walther
John Zajicek
Kathy Zajicek
Bernice Zyzak

and all who are sick and in need of our prayers.

TABERNACLE CANDLE Dedications

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
in memory of
Charmagne "Doe" & Kenny Zombek
by the Marodi Family

At St. Margaret of Scotland Church
in memory of
Joseph R. Kenny
by wife, Nancy

At Ss. Simon and Jude Church
in memory of the deceased of the
Shalamon Family
by Bob and Joe

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	
11/30/2022 through 12/6/2022	$23,741
Religious Retirement	$14,906

2022 Parish Share	
2022 Goal	$259,095
Monthly Due to the Diocese	$25,910
11/30/2022 through 12/6/2022	$5,822
Received to date	$482,914
Goal Excess	$223,819

If you would like to contribute to the parish, consider using our online giving tool. You can set up recurrent payments, or make a one-time gift!

Scan the code to get started now. OR visit our **website:** straphaelcgs.org and click the online giving tab at the top of the homepage.

Note:
The churches are listed alphabetically in this bulletin and online.

Unless otherwise noted, the bulletin deadline is **Monday at Noon.**
Email: mksmith@straphaelcgs.org

UPCOMING EVENTS • find more information where page number is listed

ROSARY
The *Rosary Against Violence* is recited every Wednesday after the Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. All are welcome to pray with us.

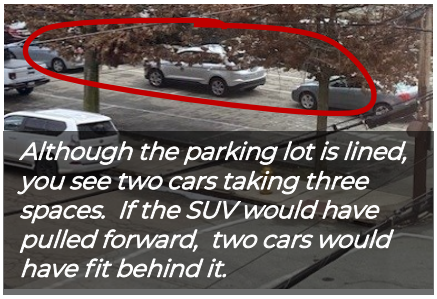
LIGHT SHOW
PAGE 15 • Come to our amazing light show! It's fun for all! And it's free!

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH THE CHOIRS
The Parish Choir and the Contemporary Choir will present a short concert before Mass on Christmas Eve. Join the parish choir at 9:30 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church or join the Contemporary Choir at 10:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.

CHRISTMAS PARKING
Please be courteous when parking for Christmas Mass. Do NOT leave large gaps between your car and others. Do not leave open spaces.

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and Ss. Simon and Jude Church, you must pull forward to the car in front of you. Leaving spaces causes a trickle-down effect which eliminates parking spots (see picture). If you need to get out of a lot quickly, please come early and get one of the spots at the front of the lots.

As always, we ask that you bring your patience and kindness to Mass. Be welcoming to guests and to parishioners who do not attend regularly. Don't be frustrated with the crowded parking lots; rejoice in the crowd of people coming to Mass, and pray that they all come back!



Although the parking lot is lined, you see two cars taking three spaces. If the SUV would have pulled forward, two cars would have fit behind it.

MASS INTENTIONS
The Mass Book is open for the rest of the year and into next year. At this time, parishioners are invited to request up to one weekday and one weekend Mass. Please come to the Parish Administration Center or call 412-857-5356. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

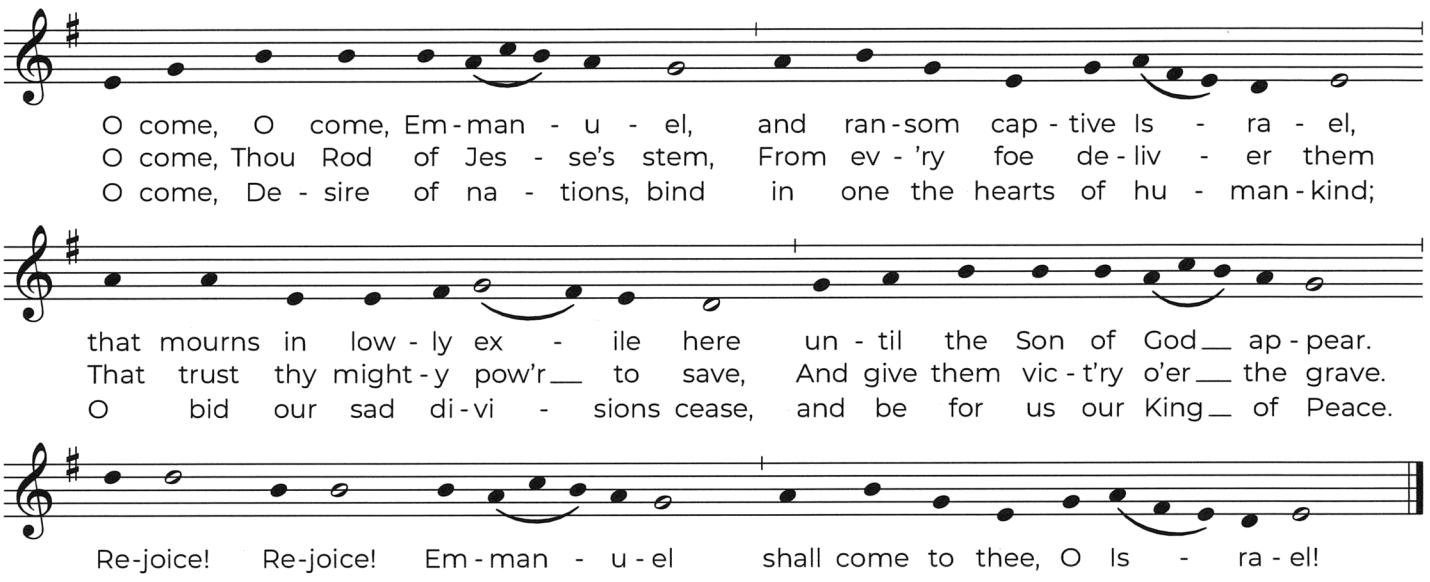
REMINDER
There are no Confessions on Christmas Eve.

SECOND COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS DAY
The Second Collection on Christmas is the annual diocesan collection for children and youth.

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Date of Bulletin	Deadline to submit news and articles (by Noon)
Dec. 25	~~Tuesday, December 13~~
Jan. 1	Monday, December 19
Jan. 8	Wednesday, December 28

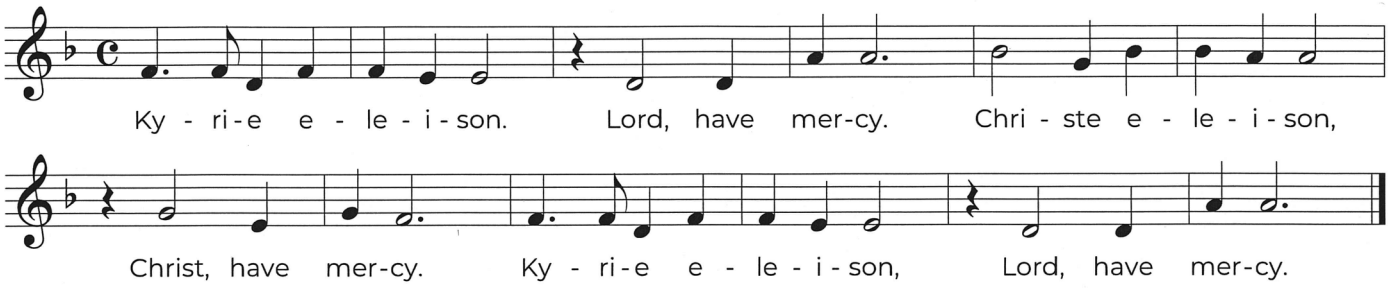
ENTRANCE HYMN | O COME, O COME EMMANUEL



Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, French 15th C, adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890 Text: Veni, Veni Emmanuel, Latin 9th C, trans John Neale, 1818-1866, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

PENITENTIAL RITE / KYRIE

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do,
(all strike their breast as they say:)
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

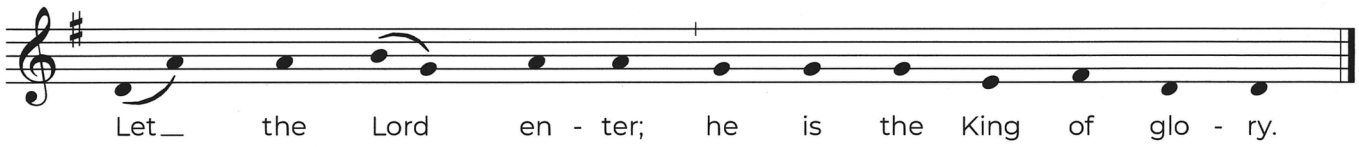


FIRST READING | ISAIAH 7: 10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:
Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;
let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!
But Ahaz answered,
"I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"
Then Isaiah said:
Listen, O house of David!
Is it not enough for you to weary people,
must you also weary my God?
Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24: 1-6



The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the
LORD? or who may stand in his holy
place? One whose hands are sinless,
whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

He shall receive a blessing from the
LORD, a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

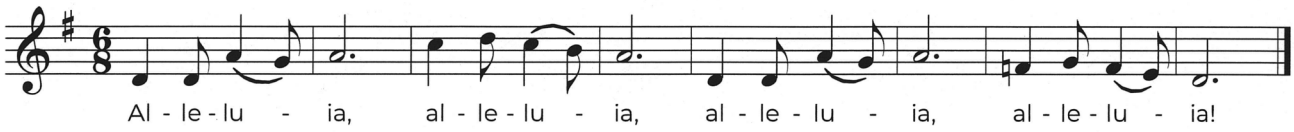
Text: Psalm 24 Lectionary for Mass, 1997 ICEL © 2019 The Collegeville Psalter, Liturgical Press Tune: Fr. Anthony Ruff, O.S.B. St. Meinrad

SECOND READING | ROMANS 1: 1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,
which he promised previously through his prophets
in the holy Scriptures,
the gospel about his Son, descended from David
according to the flesh,
but established as Son of God in power
according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong to
Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | MATTHEW 1: 23



The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

GOSPEL | MATTHEW 1: 18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said
through the prophet:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

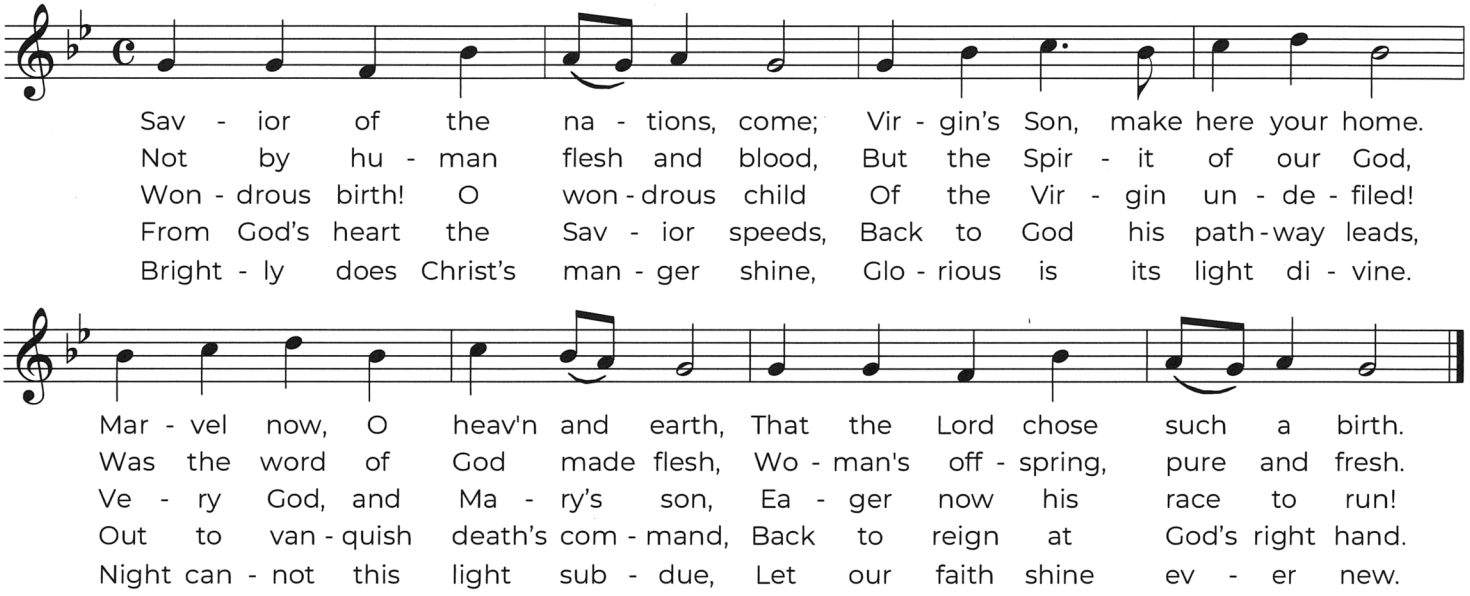
PROFESSION OF FAITH

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
(bow at the following bolder words)
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.

OFFERTORY HYMN | SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

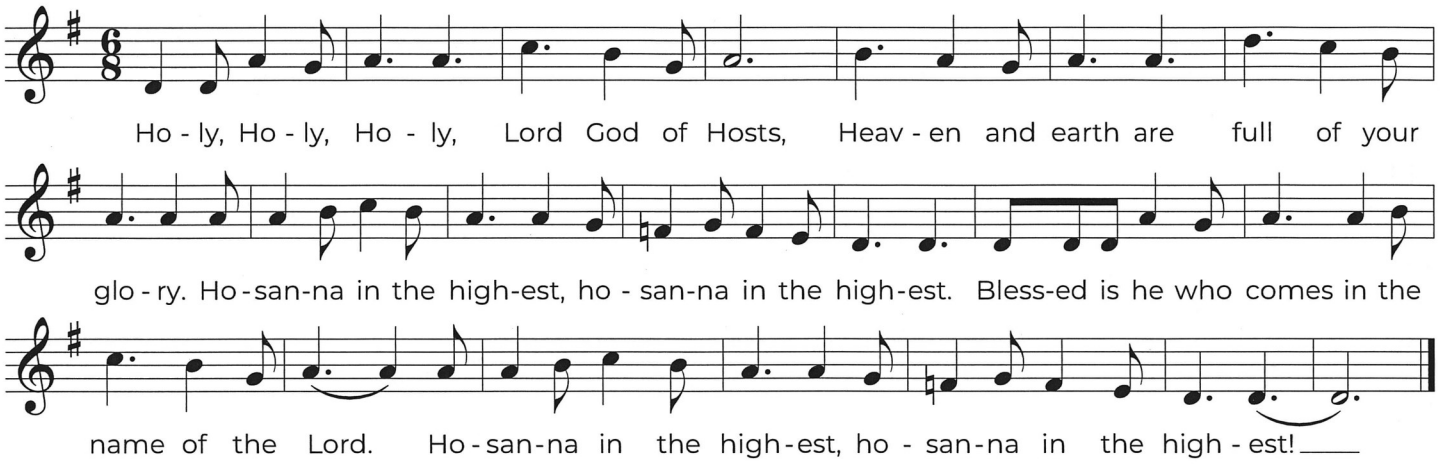


Tune: NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, Wittenberg, 1524
Text: Veni Redemptor Gentium, ascribed to St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397, trans. by Wm. Reynolds © 2006, Augsburg Press

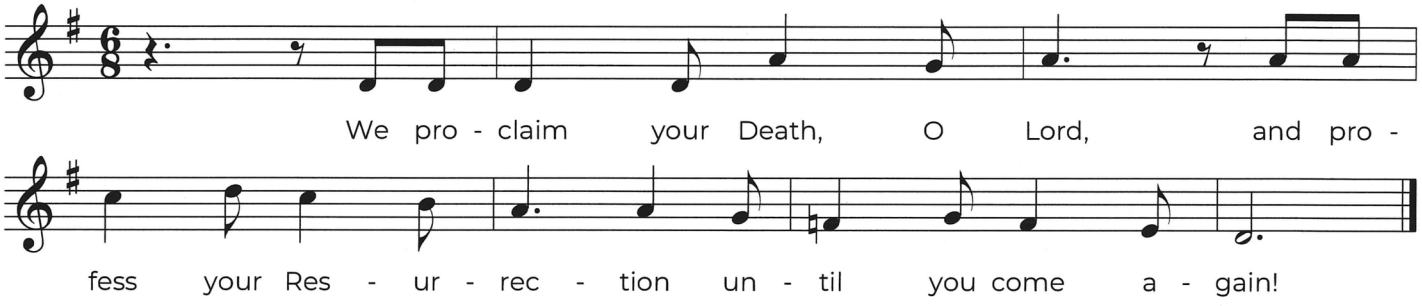
"...and they shall name him Emmanuel..."

Matthew 1: 23

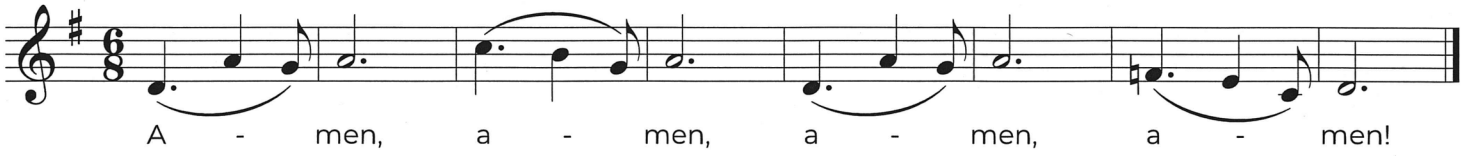
SANCTUS / HOLY



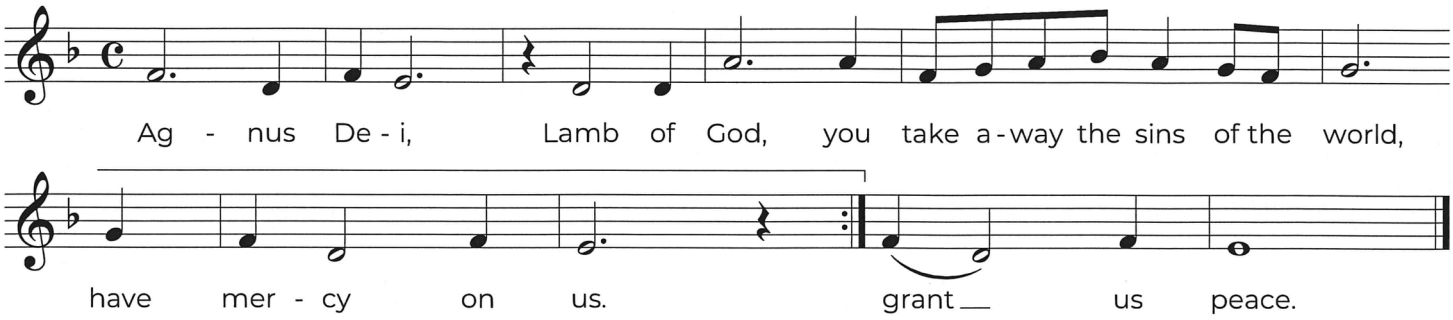
MYSTERY OF FAITH



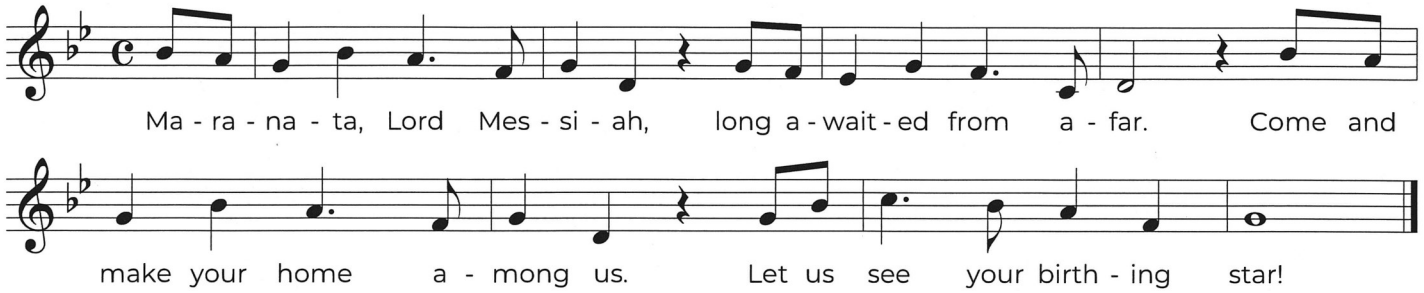
GREAT AMEN



AGNUS DEI / LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN | MARANTHA, LORD MESSIAH



1. Gracious God of Wisdom, who hear your people's cry,
teach us ways of prudence, O Breath of God Most High.

2. Mighty Voice on Sinai, whom Moses heard in awe,
Adonai, now lead us with holy arm and law.

3. Fragrant Bud of Jesse, whose blooming kings revere,
root your words within us, God's Word for all to hear.

4. David's Key of Heaven, release us from our sins,
Freed from error's prison, our life in you begins.

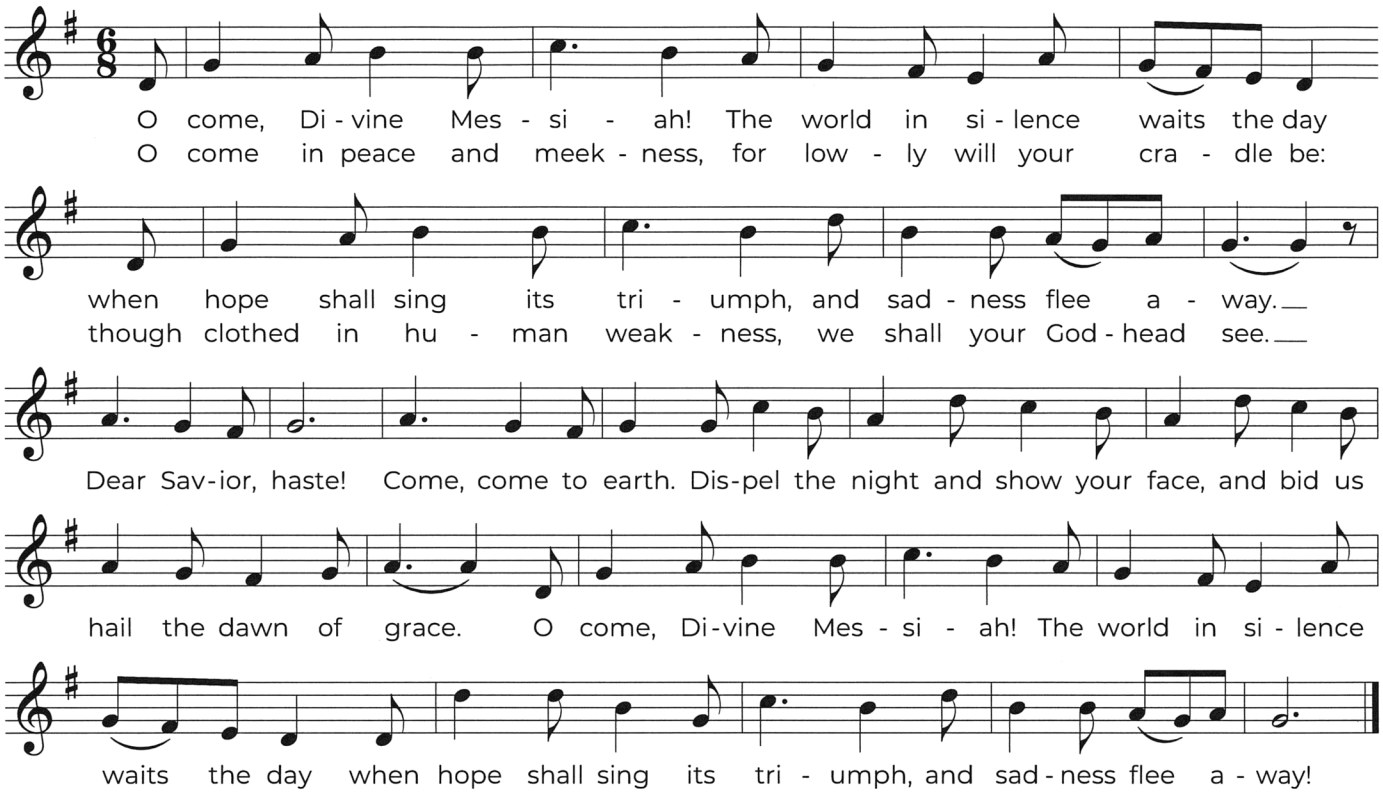
5. Blazing Sun of Justice, the flame of eastern dawn,
scatter clinging shadows, that gloom of death be gone.

6. Sovereign of all nations, our cornerstone of trust,
deliver, in your mercy, your creatures made from dust.

7. Jesus, be God with us, Emmanuel foretold.
Like a shepherd feed us, in safely gathered fold.

Text: Based on the "O" Antiphons; Kathy Powell, © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BIRTHING STAR, Kathy Powell, b.1942

RECESSIONAL HYMN | O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH!



Tune: VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE, French Carol, 16th C, harm. by Healey Willan, 1880-1968 © 1958, The Basilica Fathers
Text: Venez Divin Messie; Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745, trans by Mary of St. Philip, SND, 1825-1904

Lectionary excerpts ©1970, 1986, 1992, 1998, 2001 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc. Washington D.C. All rights reserved. The English translation of some Psalm responses, some Alleluia and Gospel verses and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, some Summaries, and the Titles and Conclusion of the Readings, from the *Lectionary for Mass* copyright 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc., Washington D.C. All rights reserved. Mass Ordinaries: *Jubilation Mass* by James C. Chepponis. All music and texts reprinted with permission. OneLicense.net # 700896-A annual reprint license. Some questions in our weekly quiz are used with permission from *Catechist* magazine at catechist.com.

Caring Corner

CARING † GIVING † SERVING

To all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

–Romans 1: 7

It is not often that we have a full week before Christmas on the Fourth Week of Advent. This rare gift can add to both our anticipation and our readiness. Our priorities for anticipation and preparation are different depending on our ages and situations in life. Little children can hardly wait to go to bed on Christmas Eve and awaken early to see if Santa brought the special gifts for which they asked. Some working adults are looking forward to a few days off. Most people are excited to spend time and share special food and drink of the season with friends and family. Hopefully, there is also an even more joyful attitude of anticipating going to Mass. As we dress up, enter our decorated churches, see the crèche displays, and hear the familiar hymns of the Christmas season, even Christians who are usually lukewarm or "going through the motions" at Mass are moved to joy and enthusiastic participation.

With extra time to reflect in this longer than usual Advent, I thought of a particularly memorable Advent season. In early December, 2004, my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I was a newlywed, and my husband and I were looking forward to celebrating our first Christmas as a married couple. My mother's last visit to our house was to help us to trim our Christmas tree. Days later, she was hospitalized and began a decline that would last for two months. When we visited Mom in the hospital, she would tell us unselfishly, "Don't worry about me; enjoy your young lives." My mom struggled with mental health issues and was pleased that her children were generally happy people. I recall her telling me when I was a little girl, "you get ready for Mass like you're going to a party; never lose that." Ironically, sometime after telling me this, Mom stopped attending Mass regularly. At the point of her cancer diagnosis, she was a lapsed Catholic. My dad told our pastor she was ill and hospitalized, and he went to see her to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

On Christmas Eve, our wedding photographer called to tell my husband and me that our album was ready. We picked it up and immediately took it to St. Clair Hospital to share with Mom. She was very weak, but she savored looking at every picture and recalling the joyful day of our wedding. When she got to the photo where we were exchanging our vows, she pointed to our pastor and said, "He was here, you know. I'm glad he was here." Having seen the peace that came over my mom after she was anointed and began to receive Eucharist again, I know that her anticipation and preparation that Advent were for much more than celebrating the Christmas holiday. She was given the great gift of preparing her soul to meet Jesus face to face upon her death. May our anticipation and preparation this last week of Advent take not only the short view of commemorating the Incarnation, but also include the long view of our goal as Christians: eternal life in the presence of our Lord.

—Laura O'Keeffe

A1C Noel Blackhall, USAF
SSgt David Blackhall, USAF
SPC Casey Busch, Army
SSgt Kristiana Coote, USAF
LTC Ronald Gaudelli, Army
2LT Matthew Grebinoski, Army
COL Christopher Marchetti, Army
SA2 Joshua May, Navy
1LT Matthew Montanaro, Army
SGT Alexander L. Novelli, Army
1stLt Anthony Palumbo, USMC
1stLt Anthony Redondo, USMC
Sgt Jordan M. Rush, USMC
A1C Elana Russell, USAF
SrA Jay Russell, USAF
TSgt Justin F. Smith, USAF
Cpl Nicholas Steinert, USMC
SGT Gregory Timmerman, Army
LT Sean Trombetta, Navy
1LT Garrett Walnoha, Army
SN Caleb Zajicek, Navy

The Contemporary Choir Schedule

December 24
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
11:00 p.m.

December 31
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
4:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

We are now in the late days of Advent — a distinct period of this season of hopeful waiting for the coming of the Lord. In these days immediately before the Feast of the Nativity the liturgy points us in a very direct way towards what will happen on Christmas Day. One of the most ancient and well-known features of these days are the so-called O Antiphons.

First, what is an antiphon? An antiphon is a short text which is sung or recited as a refrain to a psalm or canticle. For example, the response in the responsorial psalm at Mass is a kind of antiphon. Choosing a particular text to bracket or intersperse throughout the psalm allows us to meditate on the Scripture in a new way, directing our focus to some particular aspect of what we're praying.

The O Antiphons appear in the Liturgy of the Hours — the official daily prayer of the Church, consisting of psalms supplemented by hymns, readings, and other prayers and antiphons prayed at fixed times throughout the day. Evening Prayer, or Vespers, has as its culmination the recitation of the Canticle of Mary from Luke 1:46–55: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord," the song of praise that Mary sings when she visits her cousin Elizabeth. This canticle is often called the *Magnificat* from its first word in Latin.

From December 17 until Christmas Eve, we add these antiphons to the Magnificat, each of which refers to Christ by an ancient title from Scripture. They are called "O" Antiphons because they begin with the vocative particle O, which tells us that we are directly addressing Christ under these names. *(See the chart at the bottom of the article for a list.)*

Deeply examining each antiphon would be more suited to a book than a bulletin column, but if you take a look at just the first one you can get a sense of how beautiful these prayers are. The text of *O Sapientia* is translated: "O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence."

These prayers are deeply Scriptural. All of these are prophecies of Christ from the Old Testament: "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High" (Sirach 24:3). "[Wisdom] reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and orders all things well" (Wisdom 8:1). "Forsake childishness, and live, and walk by the ways of prudence" (Proverbs 9:6).

All the antiphons follow that structure. They begin with the invocation "O," followed by a title of Christ, an explanation of that title, the verb "come," and an elaboration of what we are asking Christ to do for us at his coming.

These antiphons are believed to have originated in Italy before the sixth century. Many have noticed that the first letters of the titles, from last to first, form a Latin acrostic, ERO CRAS, meaning "Tomorrow, I will be there," which mirrors the theme of the antiphons. Such acrostics were popular among early medieval writers, giving further evidence of their antiquity.

If you have a keen eye you might have recognized that you're already familiar with these antiphons. The antiphon *O Sapientia* sounds a lot like the second verse of a common Advent hymn: "O come, O Wisdom from on high / who orders all things mightily / to us the path of knowledge show / and teach us in its ways to go." That's because "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is a paraphrase of the O Antiphons.

However you encounter them, these ancient prayers are a richly significant and beautiful way to pray in these final days leading up to Christmas.

—Fr. Alek

December 17 — *O Sapientia* (Wisdom)
December 18 — *O Adonai* (Lord, or Mighty Lord)
December 19 — *O Radix Iesse* (Root of Jesse or Branch of Jesse)
December 20 — *O Clavis David* (Key of David)
December 21 — *O Oriens* (Dayspring, or Rising Sun)
December 22 — *O Rex Gentium* (King of the Nations)
December 23 — *O Emmanuel* (God-Is-With-Us)

THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to all who joined us for the Advent Morning of Prayer and Service on Saturday, December 3. We packed 157 gift bags to brighten the spirits of healthcare workers at ProMedica, Greentree just in time for St. Nicholas Day! A special thank you to Carnegie Dunkin' for a free donut coupon to include in each bag!

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

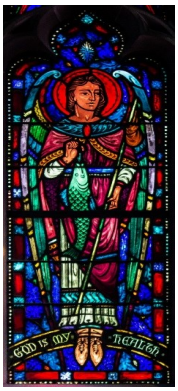
"God is with us." This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. All we need to do is make sure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!

©LPi

We are seeking sponsors for Christmas brass musicians. Please contact the music office, or speak to Fr. Grecco, if you are able to help. If you wish, you can donate in memory of your loved ones.

You are also welcome to drop your donation in the collection basket. Be sure to place it in an envelope clearly labeled "Christmas Brass."

Thank you in advance. —Béla Pater
bpater@straphaelcgs.org



PATRON SAINT CANDLES FOR SALE

Tired of waiting in lines to purchase a gift? Anxious about having something shipped in time for Christmas? Why not shop local at the parish office and help support our Parish at the same time with the purchase of St. Raphael the Archangel candles!

They are $5 each. They may be purchased at the Parish Administration Center located in Carnegie during office hours, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

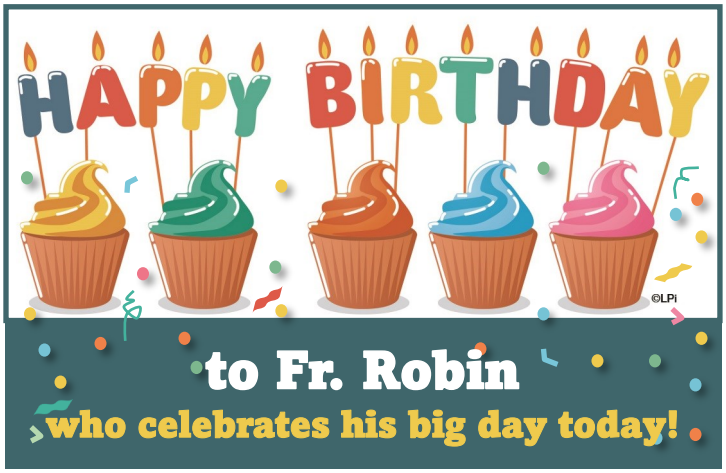
For more information, please contact Sharon Smoller at ssmoller@straphaelcgs.org or 412-857-5356 ext. 429

Be sure to have one of our priests bless your candle after you purchase it! Canon law prohibits the sale of blessed items.

ENJOY BOOKS

The Knights of Columbus are selling the 2022-2023 Enjoy Coupon Book. There are many ways to save money using this book: there are two-for-one deals, half-off offers, and much more. The cost is $30 per book. Start saving! Buy your book today. These make incredible gifts.

Call Jim Walther to get your book, and/or buy books for your loved ones: 412-475-5155.



ST. JOSEPH THE STEWARD

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Catholic Leadership Institute Provides Planning Tools and Resources for Parishes

As stated in last week's bulletin, Bishop Zubik has partnered with Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to provide parishes with the tools and resources needed to create pastoral plans focused on Evangelization, Hospitality and Mission.

Beginning in Lent of 2023, all parishes in the Diocese will participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey tool designed for parishioners to reflect upon their individual spiritual growth and engagement with the parish. The survey will be available online and in paper format for those who may need it. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the parish community as a whole. The information gathered from the DMI will be a valuable planning tool for parishes to develop goals and action items that will help parishioners grow in discipleship with the confidence to lead others back to the church.

CLI has hosted several Diocesan Staff and Parish Leader Information Zoom sessions throughout the month of November to provide a better understanding of the CLI planning opportunities as well as the DMI survey tool and timeline. More details and information will be communicated in January as parishes plan to launch the survey on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2022.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation takes place this Wednesday, December 21. No session will be held during the Christmas Octave, December 28. A Family Session with an Epiphany Holy Hour will take place on January 4 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Raphael's Ramblers

As long as weather permits, bundle up and join us following Noon Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays at Saints Simon and Jude Church to walk the grounds. This is a great opportunity to meet people; get some healthy movement in your day; enjoy the gifts of sunshine and crisp air; and relieve stress. All are welcome to join the fun! We will schedule a weekend walk in January.

HERE WE GO A-CAROLING!!

Choir members and friends will go caroling through the halls of Promedica Senior Living on Greentree Rd. on Tuesday, December 20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us! If you would like to take part, call Karen at 412-857-5356 ext. 430, and leave a message with your name and email. Please be aware that we will be subject to COVID restrictions which can change at any time, and we will be wearing masks (bring your own). We will meet in the lobby. Visit promedicaseniorcare.org for specific Visitor Guidelines. Join us for this special event!

Understand Your Catholic Faith with *The Catechism in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

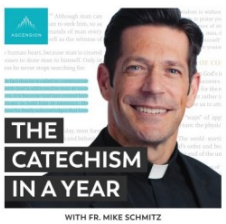
By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Get the FREE Reading Plan!

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy



DISCOVERING SAINT ANTHONY:

IF YOU ASK FOR MIRACLES

Prayers of a Catholic Community in Pittsburgh

The Author's Zone Award Finalist

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for that special person? This book makes a perfect gift. Author Doretta Whalen has been asked to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books Exhibit and Book Signing event in April 2023, and she will be happy to autograph a book for you. It is still just twenty dollars in cash or check made payable to *St. Raphael the Archangel Parish.*

The book can be gift-wrapped and mailed anywhere in the lower 48 states. These services are free. Please call, text, or email:
cantor/author Doretta Whalen
dorettawhalen@gmail.com
412-848-5124

Thank you for your generosity and support.

The 2022 Christmas Light Spectacular is here! The Ss. Simon and Jude Church parking lot has been transformed into an amazing musical Christmas Light Display with dancing lights, music, Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Mrs. Claus, some Elves, and our own Fr. Alek! You can see the display every night at 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. from now until January 8, 2023.

This VERY FAMILY-FRIENDLY show is about 60 minutes in length and is looped continuously so you can drive in anytime and you will not miss anything! Stay as long as you like and come back as many times as you want – it's FREE! The show is broadcast on FM Radio channel 96.7, so all you have to do is park your car and turn on your radio to see and hear this amazing light show!

Make sure to tell all your friends, family, and every little one you know about the fabulous Christmas Light Spectacular Show! Hope to see you there!

There are no donations asked for or accepted for this awesome event – it's FREE and open to the public!

ADVENT ARRIVED AT SS. SIMON AND JUDE PRESCHOOL

The Ladies of Charity from the Parish of St. Raphael have been very busy this season. They are a vital part of parish life by reaching out to the homebound, collecting for those in need, and sharing in hospitality at events. They also reach out to neighbors in need by serving food and making mats for the homeless, and by praying the rosary with residents at Chartiers Center. They even donated crazy socks and ear buds for the Bradley Center kids. There is so much more that they do. We share a story written by a member when she and another set out to Operation Safety Net. **This was the report written to the Ladies of Charity:**

"Yesterday you sent us on a journey that left us so moved that we are once again this morning heading back to downtown Pittsburgh.

Our car was loaded yesterday, many suggesting that we start looking at finding a larger vehicle or thinking about taking two cars. Your generosity continues to amaze me, and everyone who sees it. As usual, we packed our six drop-off bags for the folks who are on corners as we drive by.

For some reason [member #2] suggested that we keep an extra stash. One of you had given us a cardboard tray with sandwiches and goodies all wrapped up and ready to hand out and so we kept it up front with us.

When we arrived at Operation Safety Net there was a 70 year-old woman who had her sleeping bag near the door, and all her worldly possessions sitting beside it. As the staff started to empty the car she began to help. We started a conversation with her, and she told us her story.

She lived in a 4-bedroom house with her husband, when he passed away leaving her without children, she was lonely. Her nephew had children but no home, so she invited them to come and stay with her filling her home with noise and activity. Her nephew managed to convince her to sign the house over to him and as you can guess she is now homeless, and he is in her home. She had a wonderful way of looking at it. She was sure that God would handle it when they died, and she would be in heaven with God.

As we continued to travel, we noticed several men wrapped in blankets snuggled in an empty store-front. We offered them the beautiful tray of sandwiches, and in doing so we met Mr. James. He is a tall well-spoken, well-informed man who seemed to be the father to all who are homeless. He asked if we had any blankets as one of his buddies had none. We told him we would call Operation Safety Net and ask. So once again, we drove there to see what we could gather. One of the volunteers came out to see if he could help. When we mentioned that one of the men needed a blanket, he took off his coat, leaving him with a short sleeve t-shirt, and told us to give it to the man who needed a blanket. We refused to take his coat, but what an inspiration for us.

We loaded up some warm socks and a bag of food and took off to find Mr. James. He had moved along the street and was helping a woman who looked as if she had just been released from the hospital as she was walking with a walker and only wearing scrubs.

Mr. James was busy taking his coat off to put it on her.

Ladies, to see all of this outpouring of love and generosity from those who have nothing but the coat on their back was overwhelming for us. It is because of your generosity and giving hearts that we were able to feed these beautiful people. Thank you so very much. We traveled back this morning and managed to give Mr. James some very warm blankets and some slightly worn jackets. May these images warm your hearts.

God Bless you all."

The Ladies of Charity wish to thank the parishioners who generously donated gifts to our neighbors in need through the recent Angel Tree campaign.

The mountains of gifts we received were a beautiful representation of your kindness and love.

Thank you so much!

Many thanks to our Ladies of Charity for organizing the Angel Tree campaign. It takes many hours and many hands to get this job done. It is not an easy task: from gathering information to making angels; from carrying gifts to sorting and delivery; we are blessed to have this incredible group of women in our parish. God bless all of you.

CLASSROOM CHRONICLES

Each week we will highlight the amazing things that are going on in the classrooms at Guardian Angel Academy.

MRS. LOUELLA JOSEPH – 5TH GRADE

The fifth graders have been working hard completing after school STEM challenges with robots, participating in extracurricular math sessions, and making blankets for children in need. The students have also been actively reading their classroom novel that teaches the importance of friendship, loyalty, and acceptance among all people. In addition to the novel, they just finished their first book report for the year. In religion class, they have been growing in their faith by learning how to apply the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in their lives. They are also learning about the sacraments and the special graces we receive from them. The students would like to wish everyone a happy fall and school year.

Opłatki

Opłatki is now available at the Parish Administration Center for $4.00 a package, while supplies last.

Opłatki, pronounced o-pwaht-kee, is a Christmas tradition that originated in Poland. The word Opłatki means "Angel Bread." There are 3 white wafers and 1 pink wafer, imprinted with beautiful Christmas images, in each package. The white are to be used by the humans in the family and the pink are for the family pet(s).

LOTTERY CALENDARS

GUARDIAN ANGEL ACADEMY

DONATION $30
ON SALE NOW AT THE SCHOOL

The Sunday through Friday payout is $40, Saturday payout is $60, and Holiday payouts vary from $75 to $500. *Checks will be mailed within a month of drawing.*
For questions, please contact Kerri Lozano at GAAfundraising@gmail.com

Prepare for a Lifetime of Love!

At Saint Barbara Church of Corpus Christi Parish

45 Prestley Road

Bridgeville 15017

Engaged couples are invited to attend our

Marriage Preparation Weekend

Friday, February 3rd & Saturday, February 4th in St. Barbara's Hall

Register online at **www.corpuschristipgh.org**
Select "*Wedding*" from the "*Liturgy*" drop-down menu!

HERE FOR YOU

Mercy in Action

Sick Calls

If you or a loved one are admitted to a hospital or nursing home, please ask the nursing staff to contact the Catholic priest on call for the facility, or let us know so we can get you the proper spiritual care. Because of the HIPAA law, treatment facilities are not permitted to release your information to us unless you or your family give them permission to do so.

Home Visits

If you are homebound and desire Holy Communion and/or the Sacraments of Healing (Penance or Anointing of the Sick) please call Laura at the parish office: 412-857-5356 ext.431.

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
412-444-5424

If you are in need, SVdP may be able to assist you. Individual cases are confidentially evaluated and help is provided as our resources and guidelines allow. A variety of direct services including clothing, furniture, utility assistance, and more may be available.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry*
412-489-5848

Our pantry supports local families who are unable to make ends meet or who have experienced a recent crisis. This second branch of our SVdP outreach program is specific to the mission of feeding the hungry. Open Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon; stop by or call to learn more. **Located at the Administration Center in the back of the building: 330 Third Avenue (rear) The street is named Barrett Way.*

THE PARISH OF ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Serving the Catholic Community in Carnegie, Green Tree, and Scott

412-857-5356 **STRAPHAELCGS.ORG**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	St. Margaret of Scotland Church	Ss. Simon and Jude Church
330 3rd Ave. Carnegie, PA 15106	310 Mansfield Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15220	1607 Greentree Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15220

THE PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTER IS LOCATED AT 330 3RD AVENUE IN CARNEGIE

Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MASSES AT ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH ARE LIVE STREAMED

Please join us at straphaelcgs.org and click the "Livestream" button. The Mass schedule is on the front cover.

CLERGY TEAM

Pastor
Rev. Robert Grecco
ext. 412
rgrecco@straphaelcgs.org

Deacons
Dcn. Jim Mackin
jmackin@straphaelcgs.org

Dcn. Kevin Lander
klander@diopitt.org

Dcn. Paul Lim
RCIA Coordinator
pLim@diopitt.org

Parochial Vicar
Rev. Aleksandr Schrenk
ext. 413
aschrenk@straphaelcgs.org

In Residence
Rev. Jerome Etenduk
etendukj@duq.edu

Rev. Robin Evanish
revanish@diopitt.org

Rev. James McDonough
jmcdonough@diopitt.org

Chaplain
Rev. Michael Yaksick
myaksick@diopitt.org

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms
For arrangements please call the parish office.

Marriage
Arrangements must be made with one of the priests *at least six months before* the proposed date of the wedding.

Penance
Saturdays: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, and Noon to 1:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Church

Anointing
Call the parish office for arrangements if in danger of death.
If hospitalized or in a skilled nursing facility, please ask the nursing staff to contact the Catholic priest on call.

Note:
You must be a registered and active parishioner for at least **six months** before requesting sacramental sponsor forms. Please allow **three weeks** for completion.

SCHOOLS

Guardian Angel Academy Elementary School
Principal: Robert Munz
rmunz@guardianangelacademy.org
915 Alice Street Pgh PA 15220
412-922-4765

Ss. Simon and Jude Pre-school
Director: Trish Costantino
office1625@gmail.com
1625 Greentree Rd. Pgh 15220
412-819-4050

PARISH STAFF

Offices: 330 3rd Avenue | Carnegie, PA | 15106

Business Manager
Tim Thorsen ◆ ext. 427
busmgr@straphaelcgs.org

Facilities Manager
Tim Castello ◆ ext. 416
tcastello@straphaelcgs.org

Faith Formation
Sharon Smoller ◆ ext. 429
ssmoller@straphaelcgs.org

Care Ministers
Karen Maurer ◆ ext. 430
karen@straphaelcgs.org

Laura O'Keeffe ◆ ext. 431
laura@straphaelcgs.org

Communications
Mary Kay Smith ◆ ext. 422
mksmith@straphaelcgs.org

Music and Livestream
Béla Pater ◆ ext. 419
bpater@straphaelcgs.org

Safe Environment
Karen Maurer ◆ ext. 430
karen@straphaelcgs.org

Administrative Assistants
Carol Kossler ◆ ext. 426
clkossler@straphaelcgs.org

Cathy Mulkerrin ◆ ext. 410
cathy@straphaelcgs.org

Maintenance
Paul Marcinizyn
maintenance@straphaelcgs.org

Daniel Stranko
dstranko@straphaelcgs.org

Livestream questions: livestream@straphaelcgs.org

Flocknote
Text StRaphaelCGS to 84576
Learn more: flocknote.com

Sacramental Records
412-456-3158

Saint Vincent de Paul
412-444-5424

SVdP Food Pantry
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
412-489-5848

BULLETIN DEADLINE
Mondays by Noon
mksmith@straphaelcgs.org

DIOCESE VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE
1-888-808-1235
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: 412-456-3093
CHILDLINE: 1-800-932-0313