



THE PARISH OF SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Welcome!

CLERGY TEAM

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

Fr. Daniel J. Maurer
Senior Parochial Vicar
dmaurer@straphaelcgs.org

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

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



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mk 13:33

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

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTER

330 3rd Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106

412-857-5356 | WWW.STRAPHAELCGS.ORG

For church locations and staff information, see page 20.

TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 4:00 p.m. at SSJ
4:30 p.m. at SMOS

SUNDAY: 8:00 a.m. at SMOS
9:00 a.m. at SSJ
10:00 a.m. at SMOS
11:00 a.m. at SSJ

MONDAY: 8:30 a.m. at SSJ
12:00 p.m. at SMOS

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 SMOS

THURSDAY: 8:30 a.m. at SSJ
12:00 p.m. at SMOS

FRIDAY: 8:30 a.m. at SMOS
12:00 p.m. at SSJ

*This schedule does not
reflect holidays or Holy Days.*

PRAYER & WORSHIP

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

Wednesdays (Not held on Dec. 27)

6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
at Ss. Simon and Jude Church
—Or by appointment.—

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 3

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	Marie Kustron by Mr. and Mrs. Ferrie
*4:30 p.m.	SMOS	Loretta Grecco by Fr. Grecco
8:00 a.m.	SMOS	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	SSJ	Antonette Miller by Michael Miller and family
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	Joseph Price III by the Joseph Price Family
11:00 a.m.	SSJ	The Gaudelli and Sothergill Families by family

DECEMBER 4

MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Carol Parris by Sara, Jake, Elsie and Lainie Booth
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Christopher Kyle by Mom, Dad and sister

DECEMBER 5

TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Bridget Dowd by Mary Bostjancic
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Joan Wrona by St. Luke H.S. Class of 1959

DECEMBER 6

WEDNESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Andria Reynolds by Elaine Bisiada
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Gallitzin Duman by Dorothy Gardner

DECEMBER 7

MEMORIAL OF ST. AMBROSE

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Richard Mostowy by family
*4:30 p.m.	SSJ	People of the Parish

DECEMBER 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:30 a.m.	SMOS	For the health & wellbeing of Juliet and Larry Roth by family
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Stacy Schultz by Mom and Dad
6:30 p.m.	SSJ	Richard Mostowy by the Mostowy family

DECEMBER 10

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	Regis Walsh by Collette and Dave
*4:30 p.m.	SMOS	Deceased of the O'Bosky and Jagielski families by Victoria
8:00 a.m.	SMOS	Clyde F. Villa by Elisa Carsia
9:00 a.m.	SSJ	People of the Parish
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	Mary Ann Tutino by Janet Stefano
11:00 a.m.	SSJ	James Border by Penny and Ray Kaercher

**anticipated Mass on the evening before the obligated Liturgy*

There will NOT be a Noon Mass on Thursday, December 7

The Mass times will be different for the 4th Sunday of Advent. See page 11.

Temporary Schedule

Due to a partial ceiling collapse, all Masses (and Mass Intentions) at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church have been moved to St. Margaret of Scotland EXCEPT the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays which will be held at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.

PARISH LIFE



FROM THE PASTOR



"Dear friends, Advent, the liturgical Season that we have just begun and that prepares us for Holy Christmas, sets us before the luminous mystery of the coming of the Son of God, the great 'benevolent purpose' with which he wishes to draw us to him, to enable us to live in full communion of joy and peace with him. *Advent invites us once again*, in the midst of so many difficulties, to *renew the certainty that God is present*: he entered the world, making himself man, a man like us, *to fulfil his plan of love*. And God asks that we too become a sign of his action in the world. Through our faith, our hope and our charity, he wants to enter the world ever anew and wants ever anew to make his light shine out in our dark night." (Pope Benedict XVI, 2012)

On the Third Sunday of Advent (December 17), Father Dan and I will bless images of the Infant Jesus that you bring from your home Nativity scenes. Bring them with you to the Mass you attend. Children in particular are encouraged to participate.

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS DECEMBER 16 AND 17



The December Anniversary Blessings will be held mid-month due to the holidays. Couples who received the Sacrament of Matrimony in the month of December are invited to remain after Mass on December 16 or 17 to receive a blessing. The blessings will take place after every Mass; no appointments or reservations are required.

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

Clara Bielecki
Janice Brunotts
Alice Eileen LoBianco

Please pray those who have asked for our prayers:



Emma Allshouse	Eugene Loniero
Anthony Anderson	John Loniero
Kathy Aspinall	Peter Paul Lyle III
George Bado	Mary Ann Macino
Bob Bartell	Arch MacLennan
Marge Bartell	Penny Mahoney
Emilia Bentley	Lucille Marabito
June Bentley	Laura Martin
Brian Bishop	Sam Martin
Kelly Bittner	Carl Masciola
Jim Boerio	Kathy Masko
Gina Burton	Gina Massengill
Pete Caligiuri	Kathy McGann
Donald Campbell	Virginia Miller
Dorothy Campbell	Joyce Mostowy
Amy Carmichael	Robin Munko
Elisa Carsia	Pat Murdzak
Helen Cassidy	Judi Novak
Kenneth Chase	Victoria O'Bosky
Gina Dangelico	Rick O'Connor
Katie Denke	Mario Oliverio
Antoinette DePofi	Joan Pandolph
Patty Drury	Linda Perris
Kathi Dvorak	Charles Perry
Lena Enrietti	Diane Perry
Nancy Kelly Enrietti	Nancy Pistella
Patti Eurich	Carol Poecking
Stephanie Fahnestock	Robert Prevost
Helen Fallon	Diane Pritchard
Vicky Feeney	Dolores Quinn
Lois Ferrie	Bob Recaldini
Rosemary Ferruzza	Dave Redman
Suzanne T. Finnegan	Joann Redondo
Gabriel Fontana	Paxton Renk
Michelle Frego	Florinda Rosemeyer
May Frye	Helen Salamon
William Gabella	Andrew Patrick Schade
Dan Gardner	Margery Schell
Jane Gardner	John Schenk
Edmund Gaskill	Tyler Schepis
Mike Gieselman	Mary Patricia Schnars
Joseph M. Granata	Kathleen Shilling
John Groll	Mary Socci
Brandon Gross	Genevieve Sonson
Mark Hagelauer	Edie Sortwell
Margaret Harkins	Mildred Spezialetti
Linda Harrity	Teresa Stacy
Eileen Henefeld	Jaime St. Ledger
Mary V. Hester	Judye Suhy
Patti Howcroft	Bob Super
Brent Jones	Ed Super
Noreen Joslyn	Ed Sutilla
Anna Mary Karpinski	Rose Talmonti
William Karpinski	Theresa Tapper
Joanne Keating	Tim Teeters
Gregory M. Klemmer	John M. Tinney
Gloria Krally	Jerry Tokar
Lori Krally	Rosemarie Toth
Ann Kramer	Allen Turske
Veronica Kujawski	Stephanie Vail
Darlene Kura	Penny Verow
Helen Kurek	Mary Kay Walsh
Jackie Kushner	James Walther
Mark Laird	Kathy Zajicek
John Linn	Bernice Zyzak

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



At St. Margaret of Scotland Church

in loving memory of

Andria Reynolds

12/6/1978– 7/9/2023

requested by

her family



STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Required Weekly \$30,000

11/15/2023 thru 11/21/2023 \$20,803

2023 Parish Appeal

2023 Goal \$278,967

Monthly Due to the Diocese \$23,247

11/15/2023 thru 11/21/2023 \$4,152

Received to date \$457,249

Goal excess \$178,282

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.

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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

PAGE 17 • This weekend! It is seriously the best deal in town! Come and see.

MASS BOOK IS OPEN

PAGE 14 • The Mass book for 2024 is now open.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

PAGE 10 • December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CONFESSION

PAGE 13 • Read about opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Advent.

BAPTISM CLASS

For those preparing to have their child baptized, a Baptism Preparation Class is held monthly. Couples are encouraged to take the class before their child is born. Please call Carol Kossler at the parish office at 412-857-5356.

ROSARY AGAINST VIOLENCE

Pray with us every Wednesday after the Noon Mass.

FAITH FORMATION

Encounter Night

PAGE 13 • Join us on December 6 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.



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

Oplatki, pronounced o-pwaht-kee, is a Christmas tradition that originated in Poland. The word Oplatki means "Angel Bread." There are three white wafers and one 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).

The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatki. Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year – whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family.

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

—DUE BY NOON ON DAYS LISTED—

Date of publication	Date when articles and news are due:
December 10	Wednesday, November 29
December 17	Wednesday, December 6
December 24/25	Monday, December 11
December 31	Monday, December 18
January 7	Thursday, December 21

THE ORDER OF MASS

ENTRANCE HYMN | WHEN THE KING SHALL COME AGAIN



When the King shall come a - gain All his pow'r re - veal - ing,
Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees, Faint - ing hearts, be cheer - ful!
There God's high - way shall be seen Where no roar - ing li - on,
Splendor shall an - nounce his reign, Life and joy and heal - ing;
God who comes for such as these Seeks and saves the fear - ful;
Noth - ing e - vil or un - clean Walks the road to Zi - on.
Earth no long - er in de - cay, Hope no more frus - trat - ed;
Deaf ears hear the si - lent tongues Sing a - way their weep - ing;
Ran - somed peo - ple home - ward bound All your prais - es voic - ing,
This is God's re - demp - tion day Long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
Blind eyes see the life - less ones Walk - ing, runn - ing, leap - ing.
See your Lord with glo - ry crowned, Share in his re - joic - ing!

Tune: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1495-1547 © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Isaiah 35; Christopher M. Idle, b.1938, alt. The Jubilate Group (Hope Publishing Co.)

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.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer-cy. Chri - ste e - le - i - son,
Christ, have mer-cy. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Lord, have mer-cy.

FIRST READING | ISAIAH 63: 16-17, 19; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father,
our redeemer you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.
Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!

Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19



O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the
cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine, and protect
what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself
made strong.

May your help be with the man of
your right hand, with the son of man
whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from
you; give us new life, and we will call
upon your name.

SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-9

Brothers and sisters:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift

as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | PSALM 85:8



Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL | MARK 13: 33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.
It is like a man traveling abroad.
He leaves home and places his servants in charge,
each with his own work,
and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.
Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,
whether in the evening, or at midnight,
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.
What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

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.

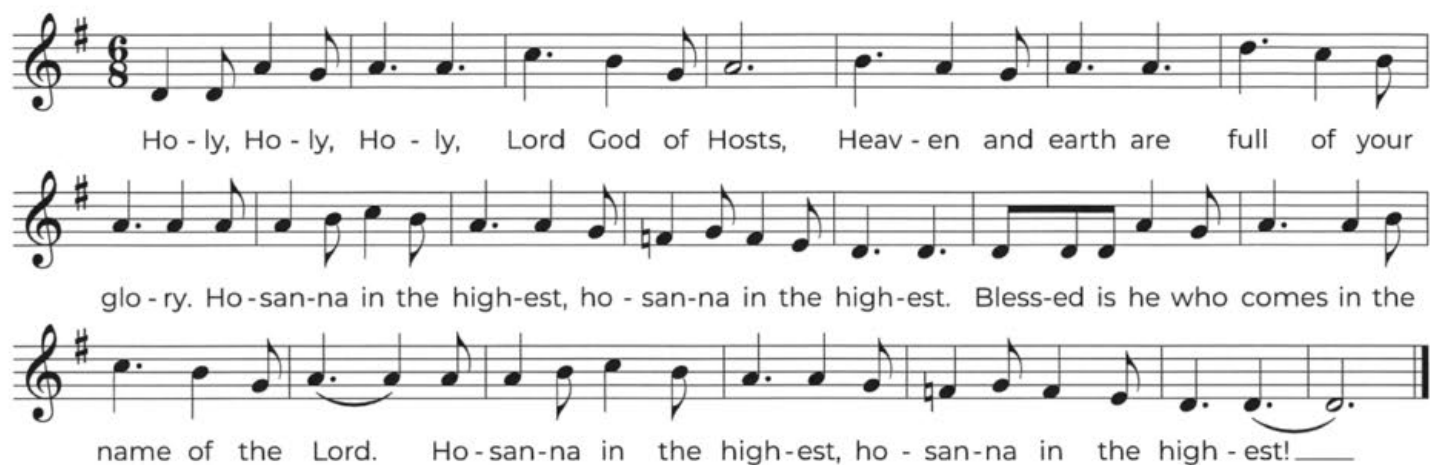
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(bow at the following bolder words)
**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was
buried, and rose again on the third day in
accordance 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 | AS SERVANTS WORKING AN ESTATE

As ser - vants work - ing an es - tate whose own - er is a - way,
For Christ the Lord will sure - ly come, the king whom kings will fear,
So guide, Lord Christ, our ev - 'ry choice that when our hearts shall hear
And whose re - turn they all a - wait though no one knows the day,
And with God's per - fect jus - tice plumb the jus - tice we do here;
Your step, your knock, your call - ing voice we will not hide in fear,
so none of us can name the hour, the sea - son or the year
Re - veal - ing that the pres - ent age and ev - 'ry age that's past
But wel - come you from realms a - bove to your es - tate be - low,
When Christ with all of heav - en's pow'r will sud - den - ly ap - pear.
Are not the fin - al mor - al gauge that judg - es us at last.
Where jus - tice, mer - cy, peace and love a - bun - dant - ly will grow!

SANCTUS / HOLY



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

MYSTERY OF FAITH




We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro -
fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain!

GREAT AMEN



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

AGNUS DEI / LAMB OF GOD



Ag - nus De - i, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us. grant ____ us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN | MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



- For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.
1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
 2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits, our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word, come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.
 3. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you, our hope reborn in dying and in rising.
 4. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage, we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain, open to us the pathway of your peace.
 5. Come, let us bow before the God who made us, let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord, for we are all the people of his hand.
 6. Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens, Creator of the mountains and the seas, Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

Tune: Marty Haugen. Text: Psalm 95 and 'O' Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.; tr. by Ronald F. Krisman, © 2005, GIA Publications, Inc.

RECESSIONAL HYMN | THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS



Tune: MORNING SONG, Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813;

Text: John Brownlie, 1857-1925, alt.

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HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Join us to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

FEAST OF THE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 7:

- 4:30 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church

Holy Day Masses on Friday, December 8:

- 8:30 a.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church
- 12:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church
- 6:30 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church

note: There will NOT be a Noon Mass on Thursday, December 7.

Celebrating the Sacraments Matrimony



Congratulations and God's blessings to Claudia and Franklin Uram who were married on September 16 at St. Margaret of Scotland Church.



PARTNERS
in prayer

We have our first gathering of the Advent Season this Thursday, December 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the Cry Room at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. Join us to pray or bring a prayer request to us. We will attend Noon Mass then be available until 1:00 p.m. We compile the requests we receive and share them with our online Partners in Prayer. These requests are also remembered in the General Intercessions at our Sunday Masses.

FELLOWSHIP



This month, our Fellowship will be on Wednesday, December 13 following 8:30 a.m. Mass at Ss. Simon and Jude Church. All are welcome for donuts and coffee in the Church Hall. Come to meet, greet, and converse with other members of your parish family as we journey through the Season of Advent.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Weekend Mass Survey. We are adjusting our regular Mass Schedule for Saturday evening and Sunday morning to better fit the requests of our parishioners.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23

4:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church

4:30 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church

6:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church

Sunday, December 24 (NOT the Christmas Liturgy)

8:00 a.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland

9:00 a.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude

There will be a abbreviated bulletin/worship aide on the 4th Sunday of Advent; it will not have advertisements on the back pages. The main bulletin for the week will be distributed at the Christmas Liturgies. See times below.



The coming Christmas holiday will be different as we are temporarily limited to the use of two of our three churches. Based on the numbers of attendees at last year's early evening celebration (4:00 / 4:30), we look for "standing room" only as we attempt to fit into two buildings what was a total of nearly 1500. To relieve some pressure from those early Masses, two additional Masses will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. in each of the churches. You are free to choose which Mass time you prefer, but be warned that the seating will be limited and parking could be an issue at the 4:00 p.m. Masses. We have contacted the Scott Township Police (who are very gracious in their assistance) to be attentive to the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.

Additionally, as the 2022 combined total of attendees at both 10:00 and 11:00 p.m. Masses was only 363, there will be one "late" Christmas Eve Mass at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 p.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church

4:00 p.m. St. Margaret of Scotland Church

6:00 p.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church

6:00 p.m. St. Margaret of Scotland Church

10:30 p.m. St. Margaret of Scotland Church

Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:00 a.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church

10:00 a.m. St. Margaret of Scotland Church

11:00 a.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church

THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



CARING + GIVING + SERVING

Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways.

Isaiah 64: 4

Today, we enter the Season of Advent. Advent is a time to prepare for the Commemoration of Jesus becoming incarnate, and even more importantly, a time to prepare for his return and our final judgement. The Gospel on this first Sunday of Advent tells us to be alert, and ends with the word, "Watch!" During each week of Advent and Christmas, this column will focus on a theme.

First Week of Advent: **Watch, Listen, and Commit**

It is always a challenge to keep attentive given the demands and distractions of everyday life. There is anecdotal evidence that complacency, mediocrity, and making excuses for shortcomings has become more common throughout our society following the COVID pandemic. Within just the last month, I have heard numerous examples of how expectations and standards have been lowered and are not even close to returning to the baseline that existed pre-pandemic. At various restaurants, I heard staff excuse disappointing food and service by lamenting that the number and quality of employees is not adequate. Many workers who have grown accustomed to working from home refuse to commute and return to an office. A friend who teaches at a very highly ranked high school told me they had academic standards prior to COVID, but now, she is expected to give every student an "A" due to emotional fragility blamed on the pandemic. Every month, several people tell me they haven't returned to regular Mass attendance due to lingering fear or the fact that livestreaming is easier. These observations are not intended to be critical of those who suffer with true physical or mental illness, but to challenge those who have become complacent to accept the reality that we need to do our part in cooperating with God's plan for our salvation.

The Season of Advent is a gift; a time to increase our awareness of areas of our lives and souls that can be improved as we journey closer to the day when we will meet our Lord face to face. For those still paralyzed by the trauma of the pandemic, it might be time to give gratitude to God for getting through it and looking forward to the plans He has for us. As we prepare for Christmas, the celebration of God taking on flesh for us, we might consider that on Sundays and Holy Days, we need to be physically in a church for Mass where we have the gift of His Presence in the Eucharist. God's love is constant and his grace is freely given. Are we committed to giving our best to the One who gives us life and every blessing?

If we need an example of someone who moved beyond fear and uncertainty, we have only to look at our Blessed Mother, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate on Friday, December 8. She was attentive to God's plan for her and answered "yes," even though the plan would bring her many challenges and sorrows in her earthly life. Mary did not take the easy way out. This Advent, let's follow her example by watching, listening, and firmly saying "yes" to God.

Next Week: **Repent**

MILITARY PRAYER REMEMBRANCE

Cynthia Alward, Navy
Tyler Alward, Navy
CAPT Shawn Balent, USMC
AIC Noel Blackhall, USAF
SSgt David Blackhall, USAF
SPC Casey Busch, Army
SSgt Kristiana Coote, USAF
LTC Ronald Gaudelli, Army
2LT Matthew Grebinoski, Army
AIC Sean Mahoney II, USAF
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
CAPT Jake Ridings, USMC
Sgt Jordan M. Rush, USMC
AIC 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
2LT Grant Walnoha, Army
SN Caleb Zajicek, Navy



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text.

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BRING YOUR BABY TO CHURCH

December 17

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the priests will bless images of the infant Jesus that you bring from your home Nativity scenes.



PRIVATE PRAYER

Did you know that St. Margaret of Scotland Church and Ss. Simon and Jude Church are open for private prayer during the day? Learn more on page 18.

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Parish Offices will be closed from December 25 through January 1.

GOLDEN AGERS

The annual Christmas Luncheon will be held this Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in St. Luke Hall at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Advanced reservations were required for this event; no walk-ins will be admitted.

CA\$H BA\$H

The Christian Mothers and Women's Guild are pleased to announce that they raised over \$14,000 at the annual parish CA\$H BA\$H. Many thanks again for all who made the event such a success!

PENANCE

Confessions will be held as usual on Wednesday evenings at Ss. Simon and Jude Church from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church.

The Light is On For You

Additional opportunities for the sacrament will be held on **Wednesday, December 13**, following the Noon Mass until 1:30 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church; also from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church; and from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.

Confessions will not be heard on Wednesday, December 27.

JANUARY 1

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The Mass schedule follows the regular daily Mass schedule: 8:30 a.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church and Noon at St. Margaret of Scotland Church.



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Encounter Night

A Family Encounter Holy Hour with Confessions for students and parents takes place on December 6 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Parents/Guardians are reminded that all family sessions are part of the curriculum and students are to attend. If a parent/guardian is unavailable to attend, you are asked to find a relative or friend to take your place. Students who are not in attendance will be assigned a lesson to cover at home.



ADVENT SERVICE EVENT

Parishioners of all ages are invited to participate in a fun service event for Advent on Saturday, December 16. We will be filling 150 Christmas stockings for residents of Juniper Village and homebound parishioners. We will have work for many hands, including sorting, coloring, crafting, filling stockings, counting, packing, and carefully loading them for delivery. We have a very special surprise and a light lunch to follow the completion of our work! Finally, a group of us will go to Juniper Village to carol for the residents and pass out stockings.

We will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Ss. Simon and Jude Church Hall. All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Those who wish to carol and deliver stockings are expected at Juniper Village at 12:30 p.m. Carolers must have Safe Environment Clearances. Those who cannot stay the whole time are still very welcome to participate. If you are able, please bring an item to add to the stockings, such as packaged crackers or cookies.

To help us plan and order refreshments, please RSVP to Laura at laura@straphaelcgs.org or 412-857-5356 ext. 431 with number and ages of those who plan to attend by Monday, December 11, 2023.



GLPI

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



The St. Raphael the Archangel Ladies of Charity are sponsoring the Angel Trees again this year. St. Margaret of Scotland Church and Ss. Simon and Jude Church will have a tree with angel tags representing all the different recipients. If you are able to help this year, please take an angel tag, wrap the gift, attach the angel to the outside of the gift, and return it by Sunday, December 10.

PLEASE NOTE: The Angels are color coded for the organization/charity that we are supporting.

COLOR OF ANGEL	ORGANIZATION/ CHARITY
GREEN	Children through the food pantry located at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
RED	Individuals from Pioneer School with behavioral health concerns and with intellectual and developmental disabilities
WHITE	Children of Local Parish Families
YELLOW	Children from Community Human Services of Pittsburgh
PINK	Babies whose families receive services through Lifeline of Southwest PA
NEON GREEN	The homeless and the marginalized in the surrounding communities
LIGHT BLUE	Adults of Chartiers Center with intellectual disabilities
DARK BLUE	Adults of Step by Step with intellectual disabilities
PURPLE	Adults of Vincentian Marian Manor
GRAY	Adults of Juniper Senior Living of Pittsburgh
ORANGE	Gift cards that are used to help the homeless, elderly or those who happen to be in need throughout the year

Suggested amount per gift tag is \$25. We thank you in advance for your support and prayers as we continue to work to help the needy. If you have any questions, please call Leslie Charitan, 412-257-3117.

In Summary:

1. Pick an angel.
2. Buy and wrap the suggested gift.
3. **Attach the angel to the outside and return the gift by next Sunday, December 10.**

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book is open for 2024. 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.

— ADVENT —

Prepare your heart for Christmas with two exclusive Advent series on on

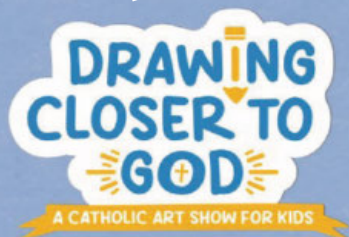


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REDISCOVER THE JESSE TREE THIS ADVENT

AND



Explore other great content on FORMED during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Go to **formed.org** or click the link on our homepage: straphaelcgs.org. Get a free membership to FORMED. When prompted, select *St. Raphael the Archangel Parish at 330 3rd Avenue in Carnegie*. It's simple!



- ★ Our parking lots
- Additional parking
- ⬡ Areas of concern

At St. Margaret of Scotland Church

⬡ We have room for two rows of cars going up the driveway. DO NOT start a second row and leave an empty space against the curb. If you can't parallel park in the empty space, move on.

As a courtesy, able-bodied folks should leave the level parking near the school for those who may have difficulty walking up the driveway to the other lots.

Please pay attention to the signage! Do not block traffic by parking behind the school improperly. Do not park in the clergy spaces. ● If using the Fleet Street Lot, please use the crosswalk and exercise caution when crossing the street.

At Ss. Simon and Jude Church

All lanes in the parking lot must be filled in as you arrive. You must pull all the way up to the car in front of you in the lot. Big gaps and spaces eat up our precious parking spots. ⬡ DO NOT PARK IN THE BACK OF THE LOT UNLESS IT IS

THE ONLY OPTION! Failure to pull all the way in results in many, many spaces left empty in the middle of the lot. Don't be that person. It is Christmas. We have requested police support to help empty the lot in a timely manner.

Most of all, be kind, be patient, and help one another. Welcome our guests with smiles. You have probably experienced worse traffic at sporting events or concerts than you will on Christmas at church. To help with the number of cars, consider a carpool with family, friends, or neighbors.



LOOK IN THE BULLETIN

A new feature in the bulletin may help you find ways to become more involved in parish life. Look for these symbols to easily find ...



Opportunities for prayer & worship



Opportunities to serve



Opportunities to learn and grow in faith



Opportunities to contribute to a worthy cause



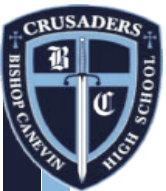
Opportunities for fellowship



Happy birthday and God's blessings to
Mary Biancaniello
 who celebrated her
99th birthday
 on December 1.



Mary is a long-time parishioner, originally from the former St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, where she was a member of the choir and Christian Mothers for many years. She currently resides in Asbury Heights.



HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the parishioners who attend Bishop Canevin High School and achieved honors during the first quarter. Keep up the good work!

High Honor Roll

Alejandro Badran
 Madeline Dillon
 Thomas Foster
 Fionn Hites
 Sean Kelsch
 Hayleigh Loeffert
 Jacob Loeffert
 Cameran Lokaitis
 Tyler Maddix
 Jackson Maddix
 Casey Marston
 Bridget McNamara
 Ava Mercurio-Brennan
 Matthew Mickel
 Noelle Miller
 Gracie Rauterkus
 Ian Swanson
 Michael Vaughn
 Ava Washington
 Hayden Wigle
 Matthew Ziegler

Honor Roll

Katie Butcher
 Matthew Vaughn

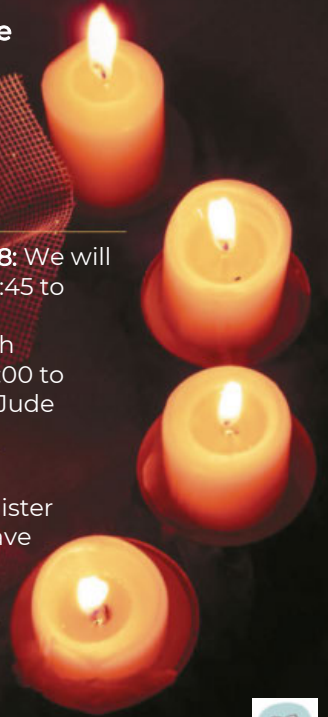
Small Group Faith Sharing — begins tomorrow — This is your last call to register.

In the hopeful context of the Advent Season, join with fellow parishioners to read and discuss *The Church Forward* Pastoral Letter by Bishop David Zubik.

Mondays, December 4, 11, and 18: We will offer a daytime session from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. in the Cry Room at St. Margaret of Scotland Church and an evening session from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Ss. Simon and Jude Church Hall. Church Hall.

There is no cost, but please register to help us to ensure that we have enough materials.

Contact Laura at
 412- 857-5356, ext. 431 or
laura@straphaelcgs.org



Members of our Junior Ladies of Charity recently met and made blankets for those in need. Kudos to them!

If you are a girl in grades six to twelve and want to join us for more projects like this, please contact Dee Fitzsimmons at deefitz3@gmail.com or 412-913-7599; or Karen Maurer at karen@straphaelcgs.org or 412-857-5356 ext. 430.

Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in the St. Maximilian Kolbe Room.




Join the Knights of Columbus for a
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
on Sunday, December 3

in St. Luke Hall of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Enjoy generous portions of
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage,
Coffee, and Juice.

Adults: \$8.00 | Children (ten and under): \$4.00



**Christmas
BRASS**

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



**CHRISTMAS LIGHT
SPECTACULAR**

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

The 2023 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 more. You can see the display every night at 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. from now until January 7, 2024.

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!

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

ST. RAPHAEL PRESCHOOL AT SSJ





Our church buildings are open for private prayer (under normal circumstances and outside of holidays) according to the following schedule: **Ss. Simon and Jude Church:** Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. to the end of evening Mass; Sunday 7:00 a.m. to the end of midday Mass. **St. Margaret of Scotland Church:** Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m. to the end of evening Mass; Sunday 7:00 a.m. to the end of midday Mass.



ON SALE NOW

2024 GAA Lottery Calendars

Great stocking stuffers! 365 chances to WIN - a gift that keeps on giving!

Donation of \$30 per card/calendar. Payouts are \$40 Sunday through Friday, \$60 Saturday, and Holidays vary from \$75 to \$500. Win once and it pays for itself! Available now at the Guardian Angel Academy office (Green Tree) or email klozano@guardianangelacademy.org. Proceeds benefit the students of Guardian Angel Academy.

THE CONTEMPORARY CHOIR SCHEDULE

December 3: 9:00 a.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church
December 9: 4:00 p.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church



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.*

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330 3rd Ave.
Carnegie, PA 15106

St. Margaret of Scotland Church

310 Mansfield Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Ss. Simon and Jude Church

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.

MASSSES ARE LIVE STREAMED AND RECORDED EVERYDAY.

Go to straphaelcgs.org and click the "Livestream" button to see the schedule and watch live or recorded Masses.

CLERGY TEAM

Pastor

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

Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Daniel Maurer
ext. 413
dmaurer@straphaelcgs.org

Deacons

Dcn. Jim Mackin
jmackin@straphaelcgs.org

In Residence

Rev. Jerome Etenduk
etendukj@duq.edu

Dcn. Kevin Lander
klander@diopitt.org

Rev. Robin Evanish
revanish@diopitt.org

Dcn. Paul Lim
RCIA Coordinator
pLim@diopitt.org

Rev. James McDonough
jmcdonough@diopitt.org

Chaplain

Rev. Michael Yaksick
myaksick@diopitt.org

PARISH STAFF

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

Business Manager

Tim Thorsen ♦ ext. 427
busmgr@straphaelcgs.org

Music and Livestream

Béla Pater ♦ ext. 419
bpater@straphaelcgs.org

Facilities Manager

Tim Castello ♦ ext. 416
tcastello@straphaelcgs.org

Safe Environment

Karen Maurer ♦ ext. 430
karen@straphaelcgs.org

Faith Formation

Sharon Smoller ♦ ext. 429
ssmoller@straphaelcgs.org

Administrative Assistants

Carol Kossler ♦ ext. 426
clkossler@straphaelcgs.org

Care Ministers

Karen Maurer ♦ ext. 430
karen@straphaelcgs.org

Cathy Mulkerrin ♦ ext. 410
cathy@straphaelcgs.org

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

Maintenance

Paul Marcinizyn
maintenance@straphaelcgs.org

Communications

Mary Kay Smith ♦ ext. 422
mksmith@straphaelcgs.org

Daniel Stranko
dstranko@straphaelcgs.org

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

For arrangements please call the parish office.

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.

Marriage

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

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.

Penance

Saturdays: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
St. Margaret of Scotland Church

Wednesdays: 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Ss. Simon and Jude Church

Livestream questions: livestream@straphaelcgs.org

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Saint Vincent de Paul

412-444-5424

Sacramental Records

412-456-3158

SVdP Food Pantry

at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
412-489-5848

SCHOOLS

Guardian Angel Academy Elementary School

Principal: Robert Munz
rmunz@guardianangelacademy.org
915 Alice Street Pgh PA 15220
412-922-4765

St. Raphael the Archangel Pre-school at SSJ

Director: Trish Costantino
office1625@gmail.com
1625 Greentree Rd. Pgh 15220
412-819-4050

BULLETIN DEADLINE
Mondays by Noon
mksmith@straphaelcgs.org

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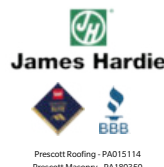
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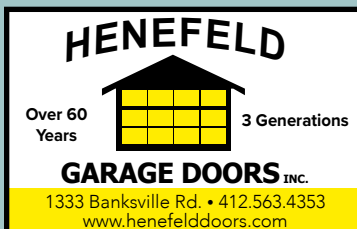


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