

THE PARISH OF SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Welcome!

CL FRGY TFAM

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

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.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gio

"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

cerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION CENTER

330 3rd Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106

412-857-5356 | WWW.STRAPHAELCGS.ORG

For church locations and staff information, see page 20.

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		
DECEMBE	R 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
DECEMBE	R 11	MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Ann Scheuble by Kathy Scheuble
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Bob Kinzler by Mary Chris and Donna
DECEMBE	R 12	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Carl Henn by Sara and Tony Maruccio
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Ron Ferrie by the Krebs family
DECEMBE	R 13	MEMORIAL OF ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Marilyn Barry by Mary Jane Charitan
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Roy Greek by family
DECEMBE	R 14	MEMORIAL OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Joan Moran by Evelyn DeCesare
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Mary Barus by the Ron Barus family
DECEMBE	R 15	FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Rocco Muffi by wife Terry
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Special Intention Ruth Fischer by Peg Hunter and Jane Kocur
DECEMBE	R 17	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	Donald Pritchard by the Pritchard Family
*4:30 p.m.	SMOS	Catherine Kyle by family
8:00 a.m.	SMOS	Elizabeth Marszalek by Carol and Steve Steenson
9:00 a.m.	SSJ	Edward Engel by family
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	People of the Parish

*anticipated Mass on the evening before the obligated Liturgy

The Mass times will be different for the 4th Sunday of Advent. See page 10.

Jack Butchko by wife Fran, and family

Temporary Schedule

11:00 a.m.

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 LIFF



FROM THE PASTOR -

It is heartening to see the number of folks who receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Christmas. This sacrament is essential to our relationship with God. It is an expectation according to the *Precepts of the Church* that

state "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." Those who receive the sacrament, yours truly included, can witness to the joy of hearing the words of the priest, "I absolve you from your sins." As one of the Sacraments of Healing, Penance provides healing to a soul wounded or seriously damaged by sin. A great gift that parents give to their children is the opportunity to receive the Sacraments regularly, including Penance.



I am truly grateful for the kindness shown toward my father, Carl, on the occasion of his recent 90th birthday. Over 90 cards were received from parishioners and children at Guardian Angel Academy and in our Faith Formation program.

Next weekend (December 16-17), the priests will bless images of the Infant Jesus that you bring from your home Nativity scenes. Bring them with you to Mass. Children in particular are encouraged to participate.

Because of the welcomed response to last year's "Rorate Mass" in honor of the Blessed Mother, I have invited Father Alek to return to celebrate that Mass for us on Saturday, December 23 at 6:45 a.m. in Saint Margaret of Scotland Church (see page 13).

I am grateful to Alfonso and Son Landscaping for the recent donation of numerous pre-lit artificial Christmas trees for use at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church.

I am grateful to the sponsors of our St. Raphael the Archangel parish calendar:

Bagnato Funeral Home, Daniel Westphal, Supervisor Henney, Bradwell & Nirella Funeral Home, Gregory Knorr, Supervisor Leo Henney Funeral Home, Scott Ritter, Supervisor Slater Funeral Home, William Slater II, Supervisor Szafranski-Eberlein Funeral Home, Paul Eberlein, Supervisor

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

Larry Gaburri David Panucci Rosemarie Toth

Please pray those who have asked for our prayers:

Emma Allshouse Anthony Anderson Kathy Aspinall George Bado Bob Bartell Marge Bartell Emilia Bentley June Bentley Brian Bishop Kelly Bittner Jim Boerio Gina Burton Pete Caligiuri Donald Campbell Dorothy Campbell Amy Carmichael Elisa Carsia Helen Cassidy Kenneth Chase Gina Dangelico Katie Denke Antoinette DePofi Patty Drury Kathi Dvorak Lena Enrietti Nancy Kelly Enrietti Patti Eurich Stephanie Fahnestock Helen Fallon Vicky Feeney Lois Ferrie Rosemary Ferruzza Suzanne T. Finnegan Gabriel Fontana Michelle Frego May Frye William Gabella Dan Gardner Jane Gardner Edmund Gaskill Mike Gieselman Joseph M. Granata John Groll Brandon Gross Mark Hagelauer Margaret Harkins Linda Harrity Eileen Henefeld Mary V. Hester Patti Howcroft Brent Jones Noreen Joslyn Anna Mary Karpinski William Karpinski Joanne Keating Gregory M. Klemmer Gloria Krally Lori Krally Ann Kramer Veronica Kujawski Darlene Kura Helen Kurek Jackie Kushner Mark Laird John Linn

Eugene Loniero John Loniero Peter Paul Lyle III Mary Ann Macino Arch MacLennan Penny Mahoney Lucille Marabito Laura Martin Sam Martin Carl Masciola Kathy Masko Gina Massengill Kathy McGann Virginia Miller Joyce Mostowy Robin Munko Pat Murdzak Judi Novak Victoria O'Bosky Rick O'Connor Mario Oliverio Joan Pandolph Linda Perris Charles Perry Diane Perry Nancy Pistella Carol Poecking Robert Prevost Diane Pritchard Dolores Quinn Bob Recaldini Dave Redman Joann Redondo Paxton Renk Florinda Rosemeyer Helen Salamon Andrew Patrick Schade Margery Schell John Schenk Tyler Schepis Mary Patricia Schnars Kathleen Shilling Mary Socci Genevieve Sonson Edie Sortwell Mildred Spezialetti Teresa Stacy Jaime St. Ledger Judye Suhy **Bob Super** Ed Super Ed Sutilla Rose Talmonti Theresa Tapper Tim Teeters John M. Tinney Jerry Tokar Allen Turske Stephanie Vail Penny Verow Mary Kay Walsh James Walther Kathy Zajicek Bernice Zyzak

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



At St. Margaret of Scotland Church in loving memory of

Roy Greek

12/11/1965 - 1/18/1985 requested by family

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Required Weekly \$30,000 11/22/2023 thru 11/28/2023 \$23,475

2023 Parish Appeal

2023 Goal	\$278,967
Monthly Due to the Diocese	\$23,247
11/22/2023 thru 11/28/2023	\$4,987
Received to date	\$462,236
Goal excess	\$183 269

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.

MORNING FELLOWSHIP

PAGE 14 • You're invited for coffee and donuts this Wednesday.

ADVENT SERVICE EVENT

PAGE 11 ● Next Saturday, come and help to spread some love.

HOLY HOUR

PAGE 13 ● Join us next week on Gaudete Sunday for Holy Hour with midday prayer.

LIGHT SHOW

PAGE 16 ● It's fun for all ages. Come and see our spectacular light show!

CONFESSION

PAGE 11 ● Read about opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Advent.

RORATE CAELI MASS

PAGE 13 • Join us for a special Mass before the sunrise on December 23.

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. The next class is Thursday, January 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church Hall. Please call Carol Kossler at the parish office at 412-857-5356.

YOUNG ADULTS

PAGE 14 ● Grab the schedule and join us!

ROSARY AGAINST VIOLENCE

Pray with us every Wednesday after the Noon Mass.

CHRISTMAS EVE'S EVE

PAGE 10 ● There is a change in the Mass schedule for the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 23 & 24).

CONCERT

PAGE 15 ● Come and hear our choirs in concert!



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS DECEMBER 16 AND 17

The December Anniversary Blessings will be held midmonth 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.

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES —DUE BY NOON ON DAYS LISTED —					
Date of publication	Date when articles and news are due:				
December 17	Wednesday, December 6				
December 24/25	Monday, December 11				
December 31	Monday, December 18				
January 7	Thursday, December 21				

ENTRANCE HYMN | O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH!



Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE; French carol, 16th C.

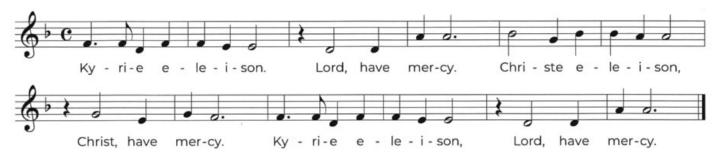
Text: Venez, divin Messie, Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663–1745; tr. by Mary of St. Philip, SND, 1825–1904, alt

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 40: 1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end,

her quilt is expiated;

indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain,

Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

> The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 85: 9-14



I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our

Kindness and truth shall meet: justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

SECOND READING | 2 PETER 3: 8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,

that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day.

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you,

not wishing that any should perish

but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar

and the elements will be dissolved by fire,

and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,

what sort of persons ought you to be,

conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire.

But according to his promise

we await new heavens and a new earth

in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,

be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

> The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | LUKE 3: 4,6



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL | MARK 1: 1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."
John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River

as they acknowledged their sins.
John was clothed in camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.
He fed on locusts and wild honey.
And this is what he proclaimed:
"One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

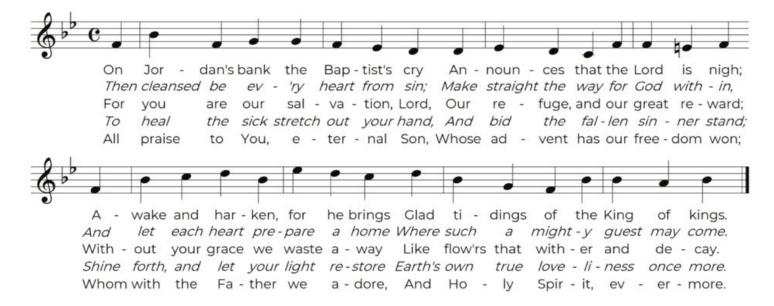
PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

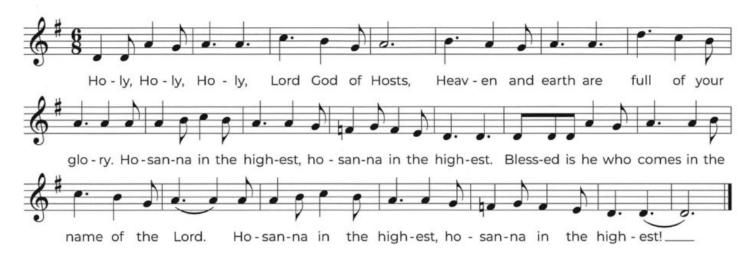
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through
the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN | ON JORDAN'S BANK

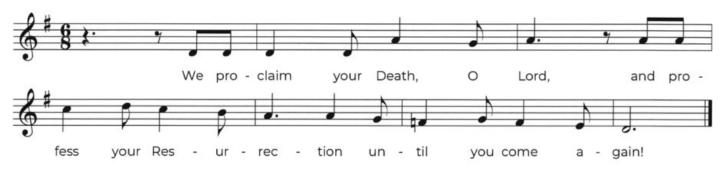


Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, adapt. from Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690 Text: Jordanisoras praevia: Charles Coffin, 1676, trans. by John Chandler, 1806

SANCTUS / HOLY



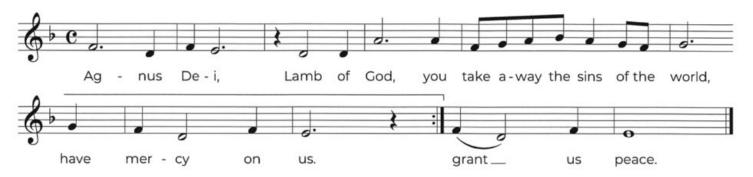
MYSTERY OF FAITH



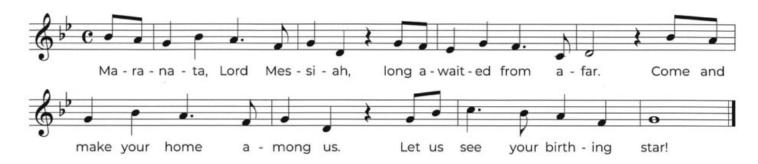
GREAT AMEN



AGNUS DEI / LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN | MARANTHA, LORD MESSIAH

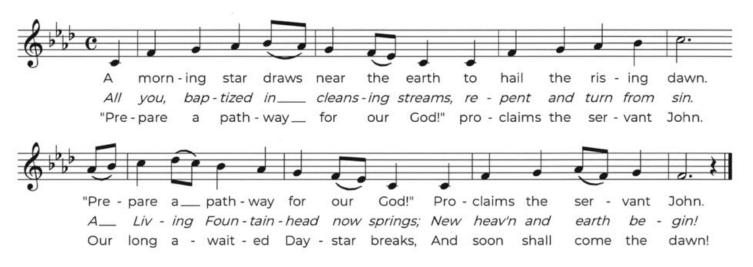


- 1. Gracious God of Wisdom, who hear your people's cry, teach us ways of prudence, O Breath of God Most High.
- 2. Mighty Voice on Sinai, whom Moses heard in awe, Adonai, now lead us with holy arm and law.
- 3. Fragrant Bud of Jesse, whose blooming kings revere, root your words within us, God's Word 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 I A MORNING STAR DRAWS NEAR



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

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 1953 © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE

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 Church

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

There will be an 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.
4:00 p.m.
5s. Simon and Jude Church
6:00 p.m.
5s. Simon and Jude Church
6:00 p.m.
5s. Simon and Jude Church
5t. Margaret of Scotland Church
10:30 p.m.
5t. Margaret of Scotland Church
5t. 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



BRING YOUR BABY TO CHURCH

December 17

Next weekend, the priests will bless images of the infant Jesus that you bring from your home Nativity scenes. This blessing will take place at every Mass. Children are especially encouraged to participate.



Celebrating the Sacraments

This weekend, Fr. Jerome Etenduk celebrates the 16th anniversary of his ordination (December 9).

Congratulations, Fr. Jerome! Thank you for your loving service to Christ and His Church. May God bless you abundantly in your priestly ministry.

Fr. Richard Ward, former pastor at Ss. Simon and Jude, will celebrate his 55th Anniversary on December 20. If you would like to send him a note or card, mail to: Rev. Richard Ward St. John Vianney Manor, 2600 Morange Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

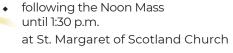
PENANCE

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





- 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church
- 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Ss. Simon and Jude Church

Confessions will not be heard on Wednesday, December 27.

MASS ON 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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

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.





CARING + GIVING + SERVING

The Lord...is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. -2 Peter 3: 9

Second Week of Advent: Repent

In this season of preparation, we are focusing on a theme each week to ready ourselves to welcome our Savior. Last week, our theme was Watch, Listen, and Commit. Once we hear and decide to obey God's call to be ready to meet him, we need to respond by further preparation. When we anticipate company, it inspires us to deep clean our homes. To welcome our Savior, the most important thing we can do is to "deep clean" our souls. The Church provides the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a beautiful means to repent of our sins and restore our relationship with God. Some are reluctant to receive this Sacrament and even deny the need for it. Some common reasons that people don't go to confession are denial of sinfulness, fear, and unworthiness. We explore each of these below.

In his 1984 apostolic exhortation, *Reconciliation and Penance*, Pope Saint John Paul II discussed "the loss of the sense of sin." John Paul stated that a major reason that people in post-modern society are in denial of their own sinfulness is secularism (101). Our worldly society places value on productivity, pleasure-seeking, and scientific theories without regard for our eternal souls. It is impossible to develop a well-formed conscience if we prioritize economic security over making choices based on our morals, social media over quiet prayer, sports over Mass attendance, and rationalize sinful behavior through scientific hypotheses.

An experience several years ago awakened me to the dangers of rationalization. I was picking up a friend who is deaf for dinner. When I arrived 20 minutes after our agreed upon meeting time, she signed, "You're late!" I was driving, so could not release the steering wheel to sign my excuses to her, and I felt irritated after being called out. I realized that the source of my irritation was knowing that I was in the wrong. I broke our agreement, and the reasons did not matter. All I could do was sign "Sorry" at the next stoplight. It is very easy to abuse the gift of reason by using it to explain away sinful behaviors. Sometimes we need to own up to the fact that our actions are wrong, impact others, and offend our loving God. At every Sunday Mass, as we pray the Confiteor, we confess that we have sinned "in my thoughts and in my words," in what I have done and in what I have failed to do." A sincere examination of conscience might bring to mind examples of each one of these.

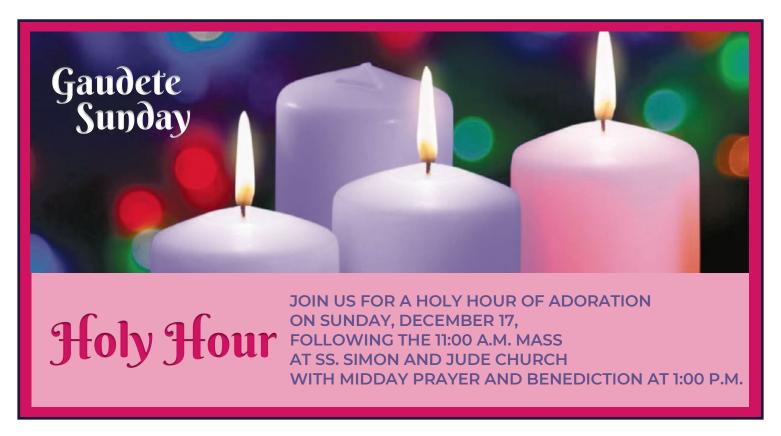
Another reason people resist the Sacrament of Reconciliation is fear. This is not unlike people refusing to go to the doctor because they sense they have a grave physical problem. If we visit the doctor on a regular basis, we can keep health problems at bay or treat them early and effectively. If we go to confession regularly, we become less anxious about it and receive absolution from the priest acting in the person of Christ. We also receive grace to become more sensitive and resistant to sin.

MILITARY
PRAYER
REMEMBRANCE

Cynthia Alward, Navy Tyler Alward, Navy CAPT Shawn Balent, USMC A1C Noel Blackhall, USAF SSqt David Blackhall, USAF SPC Casey Busch, Army SSgt Kristiana Coote, USAF LTC Ronald Gaudelli, Army 2LT Matthew Grebinoski, Army A1C 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 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 2LT Grant Walnoha, Army SN Caleb Zajicek, Navy

A final reason people might resist going to confession is they think they are unworthy of being forgiven. In *Divine Mercy in my Soul*, St. Faustina recalls being approached by another sister who did not believe God could forgive her sin even after confessing. When she took the other sister's concern to prayer, Faustina heard Jesus say, "Tell her that her disbelief (in His mercy) wounds My heart more than the sins she committed (628)." Let's respond, as those who heard the cry of John the Baptist, and repent of our sins this Advent.

Next Week: Joy





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 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.

THE RORATE CAELI MASS: AN ADVENT TRADITION HONORING OUR LADY SATURDAY DEC 1 JOIN US IN THE DARK AT 6:45 A.M. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church The Rorate Mass is a beautiful Advent tradition — a way to enter into the quiet expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she awaits the coming of the Christ Child. Mass begins in the dark stillness of early morning. Choral music and candlelight create an atmosphere of peaceful reflection. Mass concludes before the sun rises in the east...an ancient image of the coming of Christ. Fr. Grecco joins our special guest, Fr. Alek Schrenk, for this memorable Mass.

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL





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.



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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

Areas of concern

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.









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!

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ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL





Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi





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.

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ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

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THE CONTEMPORARY CHOIR SCHEDULE

December 9: 4:00 p.m. Ss. Simon and Jude Church
December 17: 10:00 a.m. St. Margaret of Scotland
December 23: 4:30 p.m. St. Margaret of Scotland
December 24: 4:00 p.m. St. Margaret of Scotland



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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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 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

Deacons

Dcn. Jim Mackin imackin@straphaelcgs.org

Dcn. Kevin Lander klander@diopitt.org

Dcn. Paul Lim **RCIA** Coordinator pLim@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Daniel Maurer dmaurer@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. St. Margaret of Scotland Church

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

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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

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Cathy Mulkerrin ◆ ext. 410 cathy@straphaelcgs.org

Maintenance

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Daniel Stranko dstranko@straphaelcgs.org

Livestream questions: livestream@straphaelcgs.org

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Sacramental Records 412-456-3158

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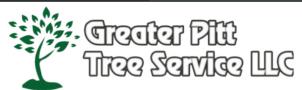
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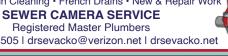


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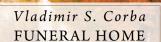
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