



THE PARISH OF SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

DECEMBER 17, 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



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

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

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

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
MONDAY:	11:00 a.m. at SSJ
	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

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 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
11:00 a.m.	SSJ	Jack Butchko by wife, Fran, and family

DECEMBER 18 MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Living and Deceased of the Avolio family by Mary Ann Avolio
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Robert Sherwin by Marie and family

DECEMBER 19 TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Special Intention Jeane Kish and family by the Kish family
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Dorothy Podroskey by niece, Mary Jane Charitan

DECEMBER 20 WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Nancy Lolli by Mercy Friends
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Maria & Luigi Bruno & deceased of the family by Philomena Bruno

DECEMBER 21 THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SSJ	Elizabeth Luke by family
12:00 p.m.	SMOS	Alice, Mary Ann, and Bob Shalamon Sr. by Bob & Joe Shalamon

DECEMBER 22 FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	SMOS	Thomas Quinn by family
12:00 p.m.	SSJ	Anita Biro by sister, Mel Leonette

DECEMBER 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Note Mass time changes)

*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	Ronald J. Metz by Natalie, Mark, and Justin Metz
*4:30 p.m.	SMOS	Catherine Golinsky by daughter, Frances Popp
*6:00 p.m.	SSJ	Joe Woznicki by Denise
8:00 a.m.	SMOS	People of the Parish
9:00 a.m.	SSJ	Ron Ferrie by wife, Lois, and family

DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

*4:00 p.m.	SSJ	In honor of Anna Marie Kramer by Lynne (Cannoy) & Keith Knecht
*4:00 p.m.	SMOS	Albert Turkovich by wife and children
*6:00 p.m.	SSJ	Sophia, John, and Jeffrey Moses by Joe & Judy Moses DiSarro
*6:00 p.m.	SMOS	Deena Walsh by Joan Ross Severance
*10:30 p.m.	SMOS	Mary and Mike Mazur by Ron Mazur and Ed Gaskill
8:00 a.m.	SSJ	People of the Parish
10:00 a.m.	SMOS	Members of the Arcangelo Society
11:00 a.m.	SSJ	Adelaide Crespy by sister, Mary, and family

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

PARISH LIFE



FROM THE PASTOR

"Let justice descend, O heavens,
like dew from above,
like gentle rain let the skies drop it down.
Let the earth open and salvation bud forth;
let justice also spring up!
I, the Lord, have created this."

—Isaiah 45:8



"The blessing of the "Bambinelli" [Baby Jesus figurines] as they are called in Rome, reminds us that the crib is a **school of life** where we can learn the secret of true joy. This does not consist in having many things but in feeling loved by the Lord, in giving oneself as a gift for others and in loving one another. Let us look at the crib. Our Lady and St. Joseph do not seem to be a very fortunate family; their first child was born in the midst of great hardship; yet they are full of deep joy, because they love each other, they help each other and, especially, they are certain that God, who made himself present in the little Jesus, is at work in their story" (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus/ December, 2009).

Next weekend's "collision" of obligations require that we attend two Masses: one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. Please plan accordingly so that you will not have to find a priest for confession before Christmas Communion!

Congratulations to Mrs. Karen Maurer, parish Safe Environment Coordinator, as she was instrumental in completing on behalf of Saint Raphael parish, the recent national audit for Safe Environment conducted by the diocese in association with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Karen's charge is big and she accomplishes it with a great sense of responsibility and patience!

This week Fr. Dan and I will share a Christmas dinner with the members of the parish staff. The ladies and gentlemen who are employed by the parish are truly committed to the work that they accomplish. I am grateful for all that they do to assist me and the other priests and deacons in our ministries.

I am happy to welcome back Father Alek for next weekend's Rorate Caeli Mass at 6:45 a.m. on December 23 at St. Margaret of Scotland church.

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
Anna Fontana	Paxton Renk
Gabriel Fontana	Florinda Rosemeyer
Michelle Frego	Helen Salamon
May Frye	Andrew Patrick Schade
William Gabella	Margery Schell
Dan Gardner	John Schenk
Jane Gardner	Tyler Schepis
Edmund Gaskill	Mary Patricia Schnars
Mike Gieselman	Kathleen Shilling
Joseph M. Granata	Mary Socci
John Groll	Genevieve Sonson
Brandon Gross	Edie Sortwell
Mark Hagelauer	Mildred Spezialetti
Margaret Harkins	Teresa Stacy
Linda Harrity	Jaime St. Ledger
Eileen Henefeld	Judye Suhy
Mary V. Hester	Bob Super
Patti Howcroft	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	Allen Turske
Ann Kramer	Stephanie Vail
Veronica Kujawski	Penny Verow
Darlene Kura	Mary Kay Walsh
Helen Kurek	James Walther
Jackie Kushner	Kathy Zajicek
Mark Laird	Bernice Zyzak
John Linn	

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

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed.

Leonard Iorio
Ernie Martin (brother of Cindy Martin Marshall)
Ella Mae Lamonde
Rocco Rizzo



At St. Margaret of Scotland Church



In memory of
Joseph Kenny
6/6/1926—12/21/2012
requested by wife,
Nancy

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory

Required Weekly	\$30,000
11/29/2023 thru 12/05/2023	\$21,209
Religious Retirement	\$13,924
Military	\$2,262

2023 Parish Appeal

2023 Goal	\$278,967
Monthly Due to the Diocese	\$23,247
11/29/2023 thru 12/05/2023	\$5,965
Received to date	\$468,201
<u>Goal excess</u>	<u>\$189,234</u>

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.

HOLY HOUR

PAGE 13 • Join us this week on Gaudete Sunday for Holy Hour with midday prayer.

RORATE CAELI MASS

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

MASS TIME CHANGE

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

LIGHT SHOW

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

CONFESSION

PAGE 11 • Only one opportunity available before Christmas.

YOUNG ADULTS

PAGE 14 • Grab the schedule and join us!

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.

ROSARY AGAINST VIOLENCE

Pray with us every Wednesday after the Noon Mass.

CHRISTMASTIDE CONCERT

PAGE 15 • Come and hear our choirs in concert!



ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS THIS WEEKEND

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

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith Formation takes place this Wednesday, December 20. No session will be held during the Christmas Octave, December 27. A Family Encounter Holy Hour takes place on January 3 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

—DUE BY NOON ON DAYS LISTED—

Date of publication	Date when articles and news are due:
December 24/25	Monday, December 11
December 31	Monday, December 18
January 7	Thursday, December 21

THE ORDER OF MASS

ENTRANCE HYMN | ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY



On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh;
Then cleansed be ev - 'ry heart from sin; Make straight the way for God with - in,
For you are our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our re - fuge, and our great re - ward;
To heal the sick stretch out your hand, And bid the fal - len sin - ner stand;
All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has our free - dom won;

A - wake and har - ken, for he brings Glad ti - dings of the King of kings.
And let each heart pre - pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.
With - out your grace we waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
Shine forth, and let your light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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

PENITENTIAL RITE

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.

KYRIE



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 61: 1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;

for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL | LUKE 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

SECOND READING | 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will also accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ISAIAH 61:1



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL | JOHN 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,

but came to testify to the light.
And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him

to ask him, "Who are you?"
 He admitted and did not deny it,
 but admitted, "I am not the Christ."
 So they asked him,
 "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"
 And he said, "I am not."
 "Are you the Prophet?"
 He answered, "No."
 So they said to him,
 "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us?
 What do you have to say for yourself?"
 He said:
 "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent.
 They asked him,
 "Why then do you baptize
 if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"
 John answered them,
 "I baptize with water;
 but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,
 the one who is coming after me,
 whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
 This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,
 where John was baptizing.

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 | A MORNING STAR DRAWS NEAR



A morn - ing star draws near the earth to hail the ris - ing dawn.
 All you, bap - tized in___ cleans - ing streams, re - pent and turn from sin.
 We shall not sow our___ fields in___ vain, Nor tend, that oth - ers reap.
 On all the ho - ly___ mount of___ God, no e - vil shall de - stroy.
 "Pre - pare a path - way___ for our God!" pro - claims the ser - vant John.



"Pre - pare a___ path - way for our God!" Pro - claims the ser - vant John.
 A___ Liv - ing Foun - tain - head now springs; New heav'n and earth be - gin!
 Our vines shall bloom, Je - ru - sa - lem. Our hearts, no long - er weep!
 Our mouth shall fill with laugh - ter's grace; Our tongues, with songs of joy!
 Our long a - wait - ed Day - star breaks, And soon shall come the dawn!

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

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 © 2006 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

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.

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COMMUNION HYMN | MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



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.

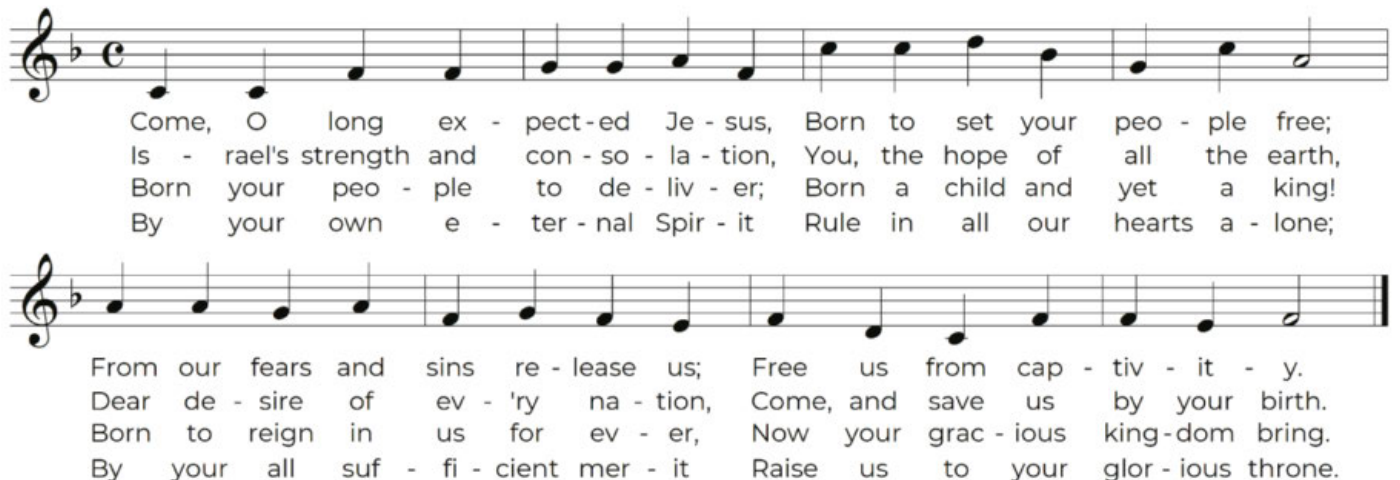
At the 11:00 a.m. Mass, following Communion, there will be Exposition/Holy Hour. Following the Exposition Hymn, we have a Holy Hour with the Closing Benediction Service at 1:00 p.m. Please consider remaining to adore the Eucharist upon the altar in the Monstrance, or if you are at another Mass, please join us around 12:00 pm at Ss. Simon and Jude Church.

EXPOSITION HYMN | O SALUTARIS HOSTIA / O SAVING VICTIM (END OF 11:00 AM MASS)



Tune: DUGUET; Dieudonné Duguet, 1794–1849 Text: St. Thomas Aquinas, c.1225–1274; trans. by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 and John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

RECESSIONAL HYMN | COME, O LONG EXPECTED JESUS



Tune: STUTTGART; *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715

Text: Haggai 2:7, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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.

— CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE —

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

with Brass Choir

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

with the Contemporary Choir

Prelude to begin at 3:30 p.m. with traditional and contemporary songs and carols.

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

with organ and cantor

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

with organ and cantor

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

with the Parish Choir, Brass Choir, and organ

Prelude to begin at 10:00 p.m. with traditional and ethnic carols and hymns.

— CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE —

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

with organ and cantor

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

with the Bell Choir

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

with organ and cantor



THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



DID YOU BRING YOUR BABY TO CHURCH?

Today the priests will bless images of the infant Jesus that have been brought to church from home Nativity scenes. This blessing will take place at every Mass.



PENANCE

Confessions will be held as usual on Wednesday evening, December 20 at Ss. Simon and Jude Church from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Confessions will not be heard on Saturday, December 23 and 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 SCHEDULE

The Parish Offices will be closed from December 25 through January 1. There will not be an 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 26.

SECOND COLLECTION ON CHRISTMAS

The second collection at all Masses on Christmas is the annual Diocesan collection: *Christmas Charities for Children and Youth*. The proceeds from this collection are used to support a number of programs that serve children and young people who depend on our generosity and loving concern for them. Please give as you are able.



Gather to pray with us, or bring your special prayer intentions to us this Thursday, December 21. We will meet in the Cry Room at St. Margaret of Scotland Church at 10:30 a.m. We are blessed to share the gift of prayer with our parish family as we prepare for our Lord's coming.

Celebrating the Sacraments Holy Orders



On December 20, Fr. Richard Ward will celebrate the **55th Anniversary** of his priestly ordination.

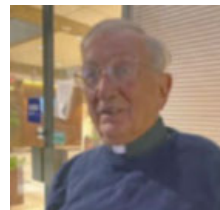
He was pastor at the former Ss. Simon and Jude Parish from 1988 to 2008.

We thank him for his faithful service to Christ and His Church and ask God to continue to bless him for years to come.

Congratulations, Fr. Ward!



Happy Birthday and God's blessings to parishioner **Stephanie Raffa** who is celebrating her **99th birthday** on December 20.



Many happy wishes to Fr. Robin Evanish who is celebrating his birthday this week. May God bless him with years of happiness and good health.

Caring Corner by Laura O'Keeffe

CARING + GIVING + SERVING

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

-1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Third Week of Advent: **Joy**

As we continue our Advent preparation, we have been focusing on a theme each week. We began the season heeding the call to readiness with the theme Watch, Listen, and Commit. After attending to the call to be prepared, we focused on taking action to Repent. This week, our theme is given to us by the liturgical calendar. Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means Joy!



When we feel good about our mission and prepare ourselves well, joy flows naturally from our hearts. It is enjoyable to welcome guests to a home that is clean, orderly, and to a meal that is prepared in a timely fashion so that we can savor our visit with our guests. On the other hand, when we are rushing to run the vacuum cleaner, dust the cobwebs, and conceal the piles of junk mail from the dining room table in the spare room while figuring out how to make sure the main course will be out of the oven on time, we have anxiety and embarrassment. If we are prepared to greet our Lord, we will know joy beyond anything we can imagine when we come into his light. If we are unprepared, we face the possibility of being left outside and away from his presence like the foolish bridesmaids in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 25: 1-13).

Joy is an emotion that is difficult to conceal, and joy is very attractive to others. We might consider if our joy is evident to others when we come to Mass. If our neighbors see us leaving the house, are we dressed in our "Sunday best," and appearing as excited to go to Mass as we would if we were going to a concert or sporting event? When we get out of our cars, do we smile and greet the other parishioners in the parking lot? Do we use our voices to praise God in song and respond audibly and enthusiastically to the prayers at Mass?

As we prepare to commemorate the arrival of Baby Jesus, are we decorating, writing cards, baking, shopping, and wrapping gifts with love and joy in our hearts, or just doing these things out of obligation and creating unnecessary stress? Are we including acts of charity in our preparations? Have we been lighting an Advent wreath and praying special prayers with our family throughout this beautiful season? If not, rejoice! There is still a full week of Advent remaining to prepare our hearts.

Next Week: **Faith**

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

After many years of service as chairperson of the Fish Fry at SEAS, Tim Castello is choosing a new job title: *Grandfather*. We are looking for someone to take his place (though he is willing to help). If you are interested in learning more about being the next chairperson of the Fish Fry at SEAS, please call Tim: 412-857-5356 ext. 416.

Gaudete
Sunday

Holy Hour

JOIN US FOR A HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17,
FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A.M. MASS
AT SS. SIMON AND JUDE CHURCH
WITH MIDDAY PRAYER AND BENEDICTION AT 1:00 P.M.



 **Oplatki**

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.

THE RORATE CAELI MASS: AN ADVENT TRADITION HONORING OUR LADY

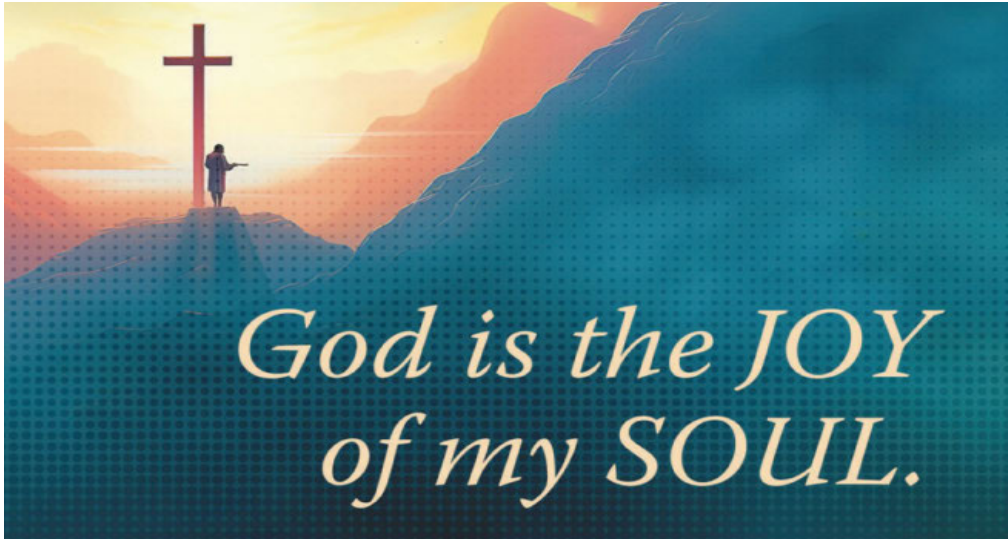
**SATURDAY
DEC
23**



**JOIN US IN THE DARK AT 6:45 A.M.
at St. Margaret of Scotland Church**

The Rorate Caeli 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.



Live the Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

©LPi

— Advent —



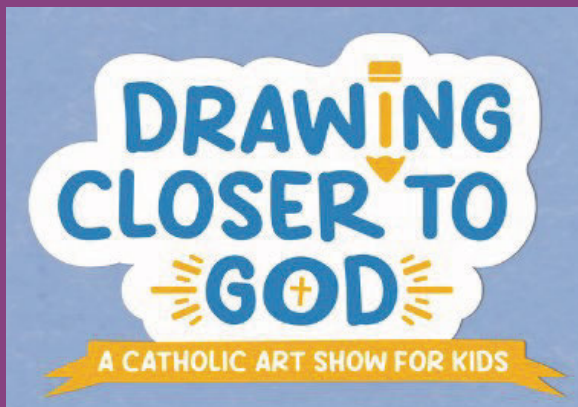
Prepare your heart for Christmas with two exclusive Advent series on

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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!

Young Adults

If you are 21 to 35 years old, come and join the Young Adult Group of our parish.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the hall at Ss. Simon and Jude Church on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 27

Wednesday, January 10

BISHOP CANEVIN

Bishop Canevin High School is accepting applications for the Class of 2028. Apply online.



www.bishopcanevin.org



- ★ 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.

The poster features a festive border of pine branches, red berries, gold ornaments, and musical notes. The text is centered and reads:

TWELFTH NIGHT

Christmas Concert

featuring the choirs from the Parish of St. Raphael the Archangel

Parish Choir | Bell Choir | Contemporary Choir

Come and hear traditional choral pieces and contemporary hymns. Join in singing Christmas carols as we transition from choir to choir, leading up to a combined choir that you simply won't want to miss.

Free concert. Friday, January 5, 2024
St. Margaret of Scotland Church at 7:00 p.m.

Make Advent Different this Year

Daily Advent Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray

Grow closer to our Lord in the manger this Advent season with Dr. Gray as he leads viewers through the Mass readings every day during **Advent** and **Christmas**.

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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!

BLANKET DRIVE REPORT

We made 145 blankets this year. They were donated to six facilities:

- ♦ **St. Joseph's House of Hospitality** - part of Catholic Charities, residential shelter for 60 homeless men
- ♦ **Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter** - part of Northside Common Ministries, accommodates the needs of 25 homeless men each night
- ♦ **Women's Space East** - serves homeless families with dependent children - founded by women who saw a need in 1976
- ♦ **Light of Life Rescue Mission** - transforming lives through the love of Christ by providing food, shelter and hope to homeless men, women and children
- ♦ **Harbor Light Mission** - part of Salvation Army-long-term residential treatment program for adult men with substance use disorders
- ♦ **Chartiers Center** - Scott Township, programs focus on the integration of physical health and mental health wellness to enhance the quality of life for people with behavioral or intellectual and developmental disabilities

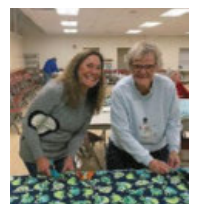
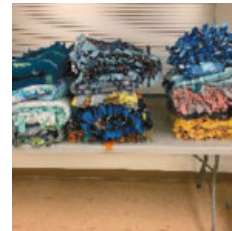
Thank you so much to all who contributed their time and resources to enable us to get all these warm beautiful blankets out to these facilities. I am sure we can't even know how much they are appreciated by the recipients. These blankets feel like a warm hug!

Although this yearly event started 21 years ago with a small group at St. Margaret Church, through the years it has become a community collaboration of like-minded people who join together to produce a mighty large quantity of blankets. We are joined by ladies from St. John Lutheran, Sunset Hills United Presbyterian, Ladies of Charity from St. Raphael Parish, and many, many other friends and neighbors. I know there are more groups than I listed, and I am sorry if I am not aware of who you are.

If anyone has a good idea for distribution for next year please let me know.

God bless you all, and I wish for you all many blessings in 2024.

Lynne Gross
Blanket Drive Coordinator



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.”
— John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — “Give us, this day, our daily bread” — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

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 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 (3:30 p.m. prelude)



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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Ss. Simon and Jude Church

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

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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

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busmgr@straphaelcgs.org

Music and Livestream

Béla Pater ♦ ext. 419
bpater@straphaelcgs.org

Facilities Manager

Tim Castello ♦ ext. 416
tcastello@straphaelcgs.org

Safe Environment

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ssmoller@straphaelcgs.org

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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.

Marriage

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

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.

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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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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