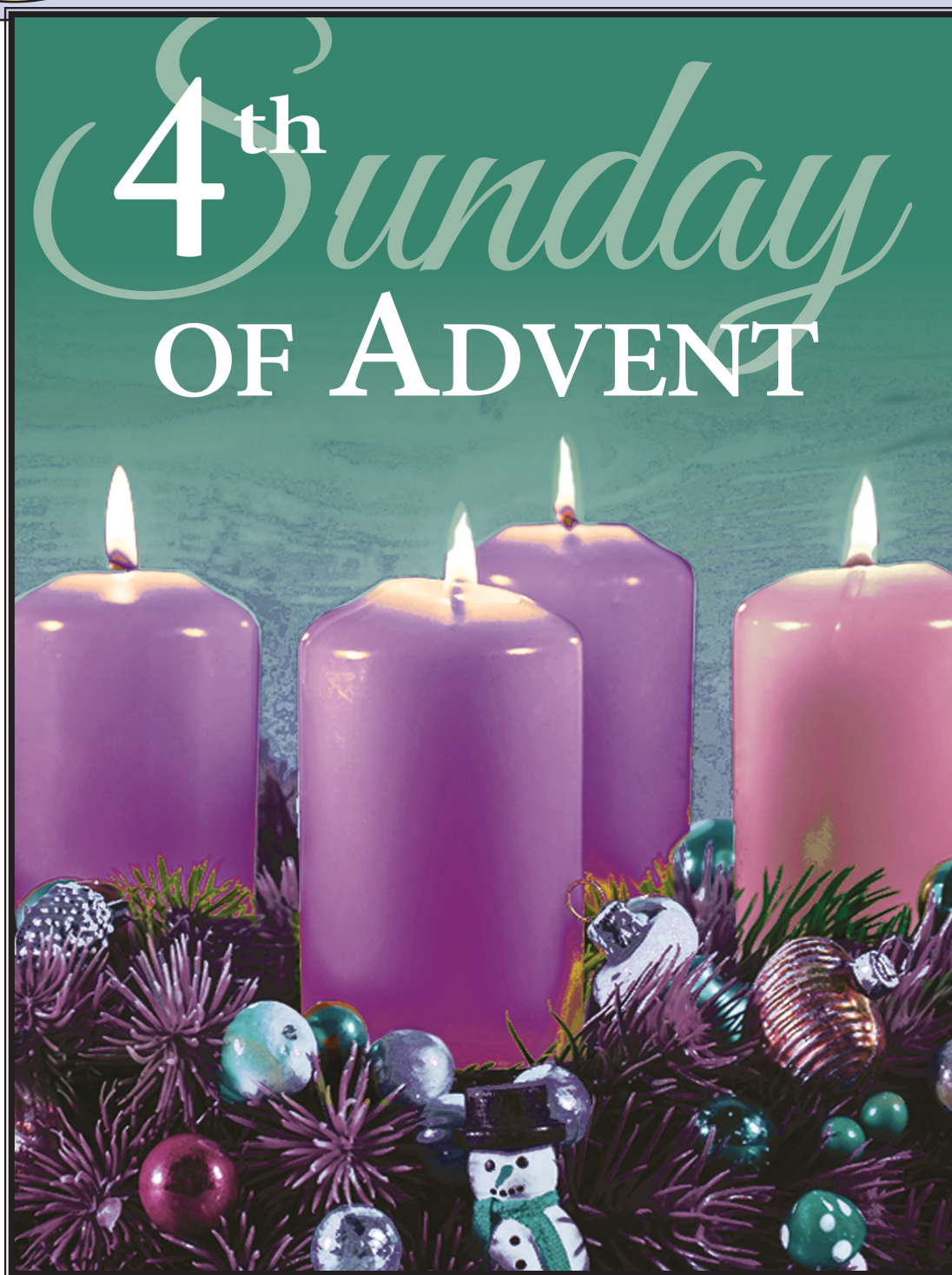




THE CATHOLIC PARISHES of  
**Saint Joseph · Saint Juan Diego**  
**Saint Padre Pio · Saint Scholastica**



December 20, 2020

# PARISH STAFF and CONTACTS

## CLERGY

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Pastor/Administrator  
412-963-8885 x 304

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Parochial Vicar  
412-784-8700

**Fr. William Siple**  
Parochial Vicar  
412-781-0186

**Deacon Robert Wertz, Jr.**  
412-784-8700

In Residence:

**Fr. Hyeong Cheol Lee**  
Saint Juan Diego Parish  
Korean Catholic Community

**Fr. John Mark Ogu**  
Saint Juan Diego Parish  
Student, Duquesne University

**Fr. Dozie Egbe**  
Saint Padre Pio Parish  
Chaplain, Presbyterian Hospital

## SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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Phone: 412-963-8885 | Fax: 412-963-1945

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Live Streamed Mass: [www.LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos](http://www.LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos)

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## SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

Madonna of Jerusalem Church in Sharpsburg

Saint John Cantius Church in Sharpsburg

Saint Mary Church in Sharpsburg

201 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Phone: 412-784-8700 | Fax: 412-781-1101

Food Pantry: 412-781-2866

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Music Minister

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## SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

Saint Edward Church in Blawnox  
Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Harmar

450 Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Phone: 412-828-4066 | Email: [sted-fran@verizon.net](mailto:sted-fran@verizon.net)

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**Todd Daigneau**  
**and Rada Karlusic**  
Facilities Maintenance

**David Volcheck**  
Music Minister

## SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

309 Brilliant Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Phone: 412-781-0186 | Fax: 412-781-4316

Email: [parish@saintscholastica.com](mailto:parish@saintscholastica.com)

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**Bruce Hassing**  
**and Harley Caro**  
Facilities Maintenance

**Website:** [www.LAVCatholic.org](http://www.LAVCatholic.org)

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline:** 1-888-808-1235

**PA Child Line:** 1-800-932-0313

To watch our weekend Mass or Children's Liturgy of the Word  
online go to [LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos](http://LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos)

Subscribe to Flocknote to receive LAV updates by text or email:  
Text "LAVRC" to the number "84576"

OR

go to [lavcatholic.flocknote.com](http://lavcatholic.flocknote.com)

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Lower Allegheny Valley Catholic Community

# MASS INTENTIONS

## SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>4:00 pm            | <b>December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† F. Bryan Kennedy, MD<br>(Robert & Marjorie Hartsock)                                    |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>9:00 am<br>11:00 am  | <b>December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† John Stafford (Judy Stafford)<br>† F. Bryan Kennedy, MD<br>(Robert & Marjorie Hartsock) |
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>8:00 am              | <b>December 21—Advent Weekday</b><br>Julie Merti (Joyce Miketic)  |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>8:00 am             | <b>December 22—Advent Weekday</b><br>The people of Saint Joseph Parish  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>8:00 am           | <b>December 23—Advent Weekday</b><br>The people of Saint Joseph Parish  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>4:00 pm<br>4:15 pm | <b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b><br>† Jackie Paschel Tarasi (Grsetic Girls)<br>The people of Saint Joseph Parish                        |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>11:00 am             | <b>December 25—Christmas Day</b><br>The people of Saint Joseph Parish   |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>4:00 pm            | <b>December 26—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† John P. Grsetic, Sr. & Deceased Family<br>(The Boyer Family)                           |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>9:00 am<br>11:00 am  | <b>December 27—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† Arnold G. Huwar (The Huwar Family)<br>† David Goncar (Wife and Daughter)               |

## SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>4:30 pm               | <b>December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† Bud & Margaret Aurin & Grace Akers (Family)                     |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>Saint Mary Church</i><br>11:30 am             | <b>December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† Capt. & Mrs. R. C. Wittman (The Pilarski Family)                |
| <b>MONDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>9:00 am                 | <b>December 21—Advent Weekday</b><br>In honor of Saint Lucy (Anna Patitucci)                                    |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>9:00 am                | <b>December 22—Advent Weekday</b><br>† Joe Pfeifer (Michael Acendy)   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>9:00 am              | <b>December 23—Advent Weekday</b><br>† Attelio & Elsie Gianni (Arlene Borowski)                                 |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><i>Saint Mary Church</i><br>2:00 pm<br>4:30 pm | <b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b><br>† Louis Borowski (Arlene Borowski)<br>The people of Saint Juan Diego Parish |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>10:30 am                | <b>December 25—Christmas Day</b><br>† Buddy, Chuck, & Vincent (Marie)   |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br><i>Madonna Church</i><br>4:30 pm               | <b>December 26—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† Helen Grsetic (Friend, Evelyn)                                 |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>Saint Mary Church</i><br>11:30 am             | <b>December 27—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† Andrew, Marian, & Betty Kost (The Kost Family)                 |

## SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>Saint Francis of Assisi Church</i><br>8:00 am | <b>December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† Joe, Dorothy & Rev. Joseph Verardi<br>(Maria Durrant) |
| <i>Saint Edward Church</i><br>10:00 am                            | † Reno, Sr. & Odessa Farina (Reno & Art)  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><i>Saint Edward Church</i><br>7:00 pm          | <b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b><br>The people of Saint Padre Pio Parish                              |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><i>Saint Francis Church</i><br>8:00 am           | <b>December 25—Christmas Day</b><br>† Charles Heiry (The Allegheny Valley Ultreya)                    |
| <i>Saint Edward Church</i><br>10:00 am                            | † Joe, Peg & George Wachter (The Wachter Girls)   |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br><i>Saint Edward Church</i><br>9:00 am          | <b>December 26—Saint Stephen</b><br>† The Dimond & Flowers Families (Marian)                          |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><i>Saint Francis of Assisi Church</i><br>8:00 am | <b>December 27—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>The people of Saint Padre Pio Parish                   |
| <i>Saint Edward Church</i><br>10:00 am                            | † Harry Bougher (Family)  |

## SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>5:00 pm             | <b>December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† Will Saunders (The Pilewski Family)   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>9:30 am<br>12:00 Noon | <b>December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent</b><br>† Ann & David Murano (Marianne Chatham)<br>† Virginia Kelsesky (Mr. & Mrs. Philip Lovoner)                  |
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>10:00 am              | <b>December 21—Advent Weekday</b><br>† Arthur Bonessa (Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Bonessa)   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>10:00 am             | <b>December 22—Advent Weekday</b><br>† Peggy DiPasquale (The Scanlon Family)  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>10:00 am           | <b>December 23—Advent Weekday</b><br>† William Saunders (Connie Donnelly)   |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>4:00 pm<br>10:00 pm | <b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b><br>The people of Saint Scholastica Parish<br>† Frank & Sophie Skowron<br>(Children & Grandchildren)                      |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>9:30 am<br>12:00 Noon | <b>December 25—Christmas Day</b><br>† The Donnelly & Shanahan Families (Connie)<br>† The Hoolahan Family (Marjorie)                                       |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br>5:00 pm             | <b>December 26—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† Peggy DiPasquale (The Pilewski Family)   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br>9:30 am<br>12:00 Noon | <b>December 27—Feast of the Holy Family</b><br>† Elizabeth Benckart (Kathleen McAndrews)<br>† Peggy DiPasquale<br>(Mr. & Mrs. Gerard E. Werries & Family) |

## REST IN PEACE

### Saint Joseph

† F. Bryan Kennedy, M.D. • December 4, 2020

### Saint Juan Diego

† Carmella Caridi • December 5, 2020

### Saint Scholastica

† Jean Kaufman • December 7, 2020



# LITURGICAL LIFE



## DAILY MASSES WEEK OF DECEMBER 21

|          |  |                   |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| 8:00 am  | Saint Joseph Church<br><i>Monday through Friday</i>              | Fr. Dale DeNinno  |
| 9:00 am  | Madonna of Jerusalem Church<br><i>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday</i> | Fr. Bill Siple    |
|          | Saint Edward Church<br><i>Thursday, Friday, Saturday</i>         |                   |
| 10:00 am | Saint Scholastica Church<br><i>Monday through Friday</i>         | Fr. Mike Decewicz |

## SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES—DECEMBER 26

|         |                             |                   |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 4:00 pm | Saint Joseph Church         | Fr. Mike Decewicz |
| 4:30 pm | Madonna of Jerusalem Church | Fr. Bill Siple    |
| 5:00 pm | Saint Scholastica Church    | Fr. Dale DeNinno  |

## SUNDAY MASSES—DECEMBER 27

|            |                                |                       |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8:00 am    | Saint Francis of Assisi Church | Fr. Dale DeNinno      |
| 9:00 am    | Saint Joseph Church            | Fr. Mike Decewicz     |
| 9:30 am    | Saint Scholastica Church       | Fr. Bill Siple        |
| 10:00 am   | Saint Edward Church            | Fr. Dale DeNinno      |
| 11:00 am   | Saint Joseph Church            | Fr. Mike Decewicz     |
| 11:00 am   | Saint John Cantius Church      | Fr. Lee (Korean Mass) |
| 11:30 am   | Saint Mary Church              | Fr. Bill Siple        |
| 12:00 noon | Saint Scholastica Church       | Fr. Dale DeNinno      |

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

### Every Saturday

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9:30-10:00 am    | Saint Edward Church         |
| 11:30-12:00 noon | Saint Joseph Church         |
| 3:30-4:00 pm     | Madonna of Jerusalem Church |

### Every Thursday

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 6:30-7:00 pm | Saint Scholastica Church |
|--------------|--------------------------|

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday—December 20

2 Samuel 7:1-16      Romans 16:25-27      Luke 1:26-38

### Monday—December 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14      Luke 1:39-45

### Tuesday—December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28      Luke 1:46-56

### Wednesday—December 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24      Luke 1:57-66

### Thursday—December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-16      Luke 1:67-79

### Friday—December 25

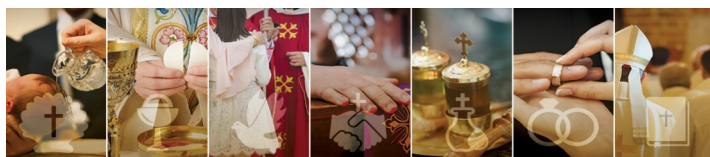
Isaiah 9:1-6      Titus 2:11-14      Luke 2:1-14

### Saturday—December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59      Matthew 10:17-22

### Sunday—December 27

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3      Hebrews 11:8-19      Luke 2:22-40



## SACRAMENTS and MORE

**BAPTISMS:** Celebrated during any of the weekend liturgies or after the last Sunday liturgy (11:00am at Saint Joseph, 11:30am at Saint Mary, 12:00pm at Saint Scholastica). First time parents must complete a baptism preparation class. Contact the parish office of the appropriate church for details.

**WEDDINGS:** Celebrated at 2:00pm on Saturdays. Contact the parish office of the appropriate church at least six months before the desired date.

**FUNERALS:** Offered at 10:00am, Monday through Saturday.

**ANointing OF THE SICK:** Please contact the appropriate parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** See the bulletin schedule for times and locations.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Offered at each Mass for deceased loved ones or for other special intentions. Please call the parish office to schedule.

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION:** Offered for grades K-8 on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings at Saint Joseph Church, September through April. Contact the Faith Formation Office at 412-963-8885 for details or to register.

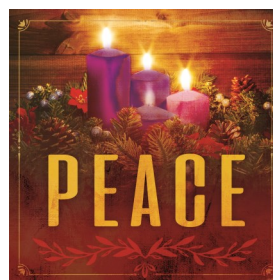
**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** All parishioners are encouraged to contribute their time and talents to the church. We have opportunities to serve at Mass as lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, ushers, music ministers and altar servers. Please contact the parish office for information on all our volunteer opportunities. All staff and volunteers in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are required to obtain clearances and training to comply with the Safe Environment Policy. See [diopitt.org/compliance](http://diopitt.org/compliance) or contact the parish office for details.

**MEMBERSHIP:** To register at one of the Lower Allegheny Valley Catholic parishes, update your contact information, or let us know if you or a family member is homebound or has moved to a nursing home, please use the form at the end of this bulletin or contact the appropriate parish office.

## TABERNACLE VIGIL CANDLE

Week of December 20

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Saint Edward:</b>      | † Walt & Fran   |
| <b>Madonna:</b>           | † Tom & Mimi Schiavone (Wife, Mom, & Family)              |
| <b>Saint Joseph:</b>      | † Mrs. Valentina Zych (Carl Trakofler)                    |
| <b>Saint Mary:</b>        | † The Joseph Swierczynski & John Smyst Families (Loretta) |
| <b>Saint Scholastica:</b> | Health of Louis James Mack (VanDemark Family)             |



# A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

## *The Blessings of the Christmas Tree*

Though Christmas trees play no part in scripture and have only in the last few hundred years become a Christmas tradition, the evergreen reminds us that God's love is constant or "ever green" through all the seasons of our lives. The lights on our trees both welcome and reflect the one who comes as Light of the World. Treetop stars recall the guiding light of the star of Bethlehem. Our tree ornaments — precious symbols of fond memories and relationships — wordlessly chronicle our own family histories.

It is fitting, then, that our homes are adorned with beautiful trees during the holidays, for they are sacred signs of God's life-giving presence among us. Indeed, the Christmas tree encapsulates the central truths of our salvation like few other symbols. We see it in the Tree of Life, first offered to Adam and Eve; the Branch of Jesse, promising the Messiah; the tree from which Jesus' cross was shaped, pointing to salvation; and Jesus, the Light of the World, bringing light even now into the darkness of our world.

To reinforce the sacred character of our household Christmas tree, putting it up and taking it down should be a yearly cherished ritual rather than just a check off our holiday "to-do-list." We should savor the fragrance of live trees and lovingly shape the artificial ones. We should ponder and share the memories connected with our favorite ornaments and gaze peacefully at the lights of this "tree of life" on quiet December nights.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member in connection with the decoration of the tree. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.



*O God, we praise you for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.*

*We praise you for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets,  
and the wisdom of Scriptures.*

*We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:*

*he is Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
the Prince of Peace,  
who fills us with the wonder of your love.*

*O God, let your blessing come upon us  
as we illuminate this tree.*

*May the light and the cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.*

*May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge  
and joy of salvation.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

## **Christmas Masses for the Lower Allegheny Valley grouping of parishes**

### **Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24<sup>TH</sup>**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 2:00 pm  | Saint Mary's Church<br>- Fr. Mike Decewicz                |
| 4:00 pm  | Saint Joseph Church<br>- Fr. John Pfannenstiel            |
| 4:15 pm  | Saint Joseph Church<br>- downstairs<br>- Fr. Dale DeNinno |
| 4:00 pm  | Saint Scholastica Church<br>- Fr. Bill Siple              |
| 4:30 pm  | Saint Mary's Church<br>- Fr. Mike Decewicz                |
| 7:00 pm  | Saint Edward Church<br>- Fr. Bill Siple                   |
| 10:00 pm | Saint Scholastica Church<br>- Fr. Dale DeNinno            |

### **No Midnight Mass**

### **Christmas Day—Friday, December 25<sup>TH</sup>**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 am    | Saint Francis of Assisi Church<br>- Fr. Bill Siple |
| 9:30 am    | Saint Scholastica Church<br>- Fr. Dale DeNinno     |
| 10:00 am   | Saint Edward Church<br>- Fr. Bill Siple            |
| 10:30 am   | Madonna of Jerusalem Church<br>- Fr. Mike Decewicz |
| 11:00 am   | Saint Joseph Church<br>- Fr. John Pfannenstiel     |
| 12:00 Noon | Saint Scholastica Church<br>- Fr. Dale DeNinno     |

# NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LAV PARISH NEWS

**Children and Youth Collection:** Every year at the Christmas Masses a second collection is taken to help support programs throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh that serve as an outreach to children and youth. Please show your usual generosity and use the special envelope that is in your packet. The proceeds of this collection also count toward the Parish Share Program goals for each of our parishes in the Lower Allegheny Valley. It's a win-win for everyone.

### Advent Giving Tree

#### The 2020 Advent Giving Tree

will benefit all of the following:

- the local Saint Vincent de Paul Society
- Jubilee Soup Kitchen in the Hill District
- Haiti Outreach

Monetary donations of any amount  
will be gratefully received and appreciated.

Please make checks payable

to any one of the four parishes in the LAV.

You may mail your monetary gift to the parish office  
or place it in a sealed envelope marked

**"Advent Giving Tree"**

and drop it in the collection basket at Mass  
no later than December 20, 2020.

**Looking for a Practical Gift?** The former Saint Edward School in Blawnox still has some school desks and chairs that are suitable for children. The inventory includes 19 small desks with chair, 29 medium size desks with chair, and 16 one-piece desk & chair. These are all well-suited for our children who are currently learning-at-home. It gives them their own space for books and computers.

A donation of \$20 is requested for the desk and chair. You may inquire at: DESKS-R-US. Speak with Marilyn: 412-828-4066.

**Christmas Caroling:** Join with the music ministers of the Lower Allegheny Valley on Monday, December 21, at 7:45pm for a Zoom Carol Sing! If you would like to participate, please email [tomoctave@gmail.com](mailto:tomoctave@gmail.com) for the Zoom link and song sheet.

**Parish Calendar for 2021:** Thanks to the generous support of our local funeral homes, the parish calendar is now ready for distribution. Please take one for your home. They are on the tables at the exits of church. Our gratitude for the sponsorship of Smith Funeral Home in Blawnox, Weddell-Ajak Funeral Home in Aspinwall and Worrell Funeral Home in Sharpsburg. They serve our communities and the Lower Allegheny Valley grouping of parishes with compassionate and professional service.

**Thank you from the Little Sisters of the Poor:** *"The response by your parishioners to the Little Sisters of the Poor canned good drive was overwhelming. We are very grateful for your donations of canned goods, paper products, personal care items, gift cards, and monetary donations, especially in this very difficult time. Our Mother foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan said, 'Never forget that the Poor are Our Lord.' You have exemplified her words through your contributions and we, the Little Sisters, appreciate your sharing in the reality of our mission of caring for the elderly."*

**The Men's Shelter Meal** is in need of a few items for their evening meal on Saturday, December 26. Please check the sign up at [lavcatholic.org/shelter](http://lavcatholic.org/shelter) and sign up to provide the portion of a meal. Thank you for helping those in need.

**Christmas Cards on Sale** through Respect Life. \$3.00 for a pack of ten cards depicting the Holy Family. Call 412-781-6550. Now is a good time to stock up for next year!

**After the rush and excitement of Christmas Day has passed,** join us for an online Bible study to deepen your appreciation of Christmas Time. We will use "Christmas, Season of Wonder & Hope," by Catherine Upchurch of the Little Rock Scripture Study to help us meditate on three New Testament passages that invite us to move through wonder to hope. We will meet online via Zoom on three Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45, December 28 to January 11. You can order the text online as a booklet or an eBook. For more information and to register, contact Andrew Bechman at 412-781-0186 Ext. 18 or [andybechman@saintscholastica.com](mailto:andybechman@saintscholastica.com).

**January 1, 2021**

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

At the start of a new year filled with hope, we beseech the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother. May her prayers before the throne of God give expression to the deepest desires of our hearts.

Everyone is encouraged to be in attendance at Mass on this holy day. The schedule of Masses is as follows:

#### Thursday, December 31<sup>ST</sup>—New Year's Eve

- 4:00 pm Saint Joseph
- 4:30 pm Madonna of Jerusalem

#### Friday, January 1<sup>ST</sup>—New Year's Day

- 9:00 am Saint Edward
- 10:00 am Saint Scholastica
- 11:00 am Saint Mary Church



# NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FAITH FORMATION

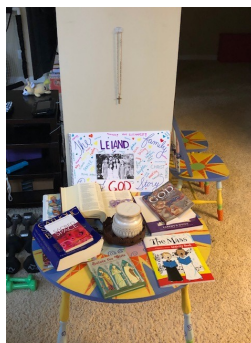


**This is the Joy of Advent!** A family of sisters in our parish grouping gather together to make these lap blankets. They shared the blankets with our 8th grade Confirmation Students who wrapped the blankets and wrote cards sharing the Joy of Advent. This is Melanie; she received one of these blankets and it appears she loves it! Some may recognize Melanie, she would attend the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass at Saint

Joseph Church. Melanie has been unable to attend Mass or be with her family during this lockdown, please keep her and her family in your prayers. Thank you to our students for sharing this blessing with Melanie.

**Our Family Faith Formation Program** has been meeting since October. Our families attend a Mass monthly at Saint

Joseph, and following Mass we gather downstairs for a time of catechesis. During the other three weeks of the month families work on lessons together at home. They have been encouraged to set up a prayer table at home and to light the Advent Wreath we made last year during Advent. What a blessing for our families to join in the celebration of the Eucharist and in community as we move further on our faith journey. I look forward to the new year as we continue this journey. Please keep our families in your prayers this Christmas season.



The Faith Formation Staff would like to wish all our families a very blessed Christmas! See you next year!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE                   | TIME   | EVENT                                      | LOCATION                           |
|------------------------|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| Sunday, December 20    | 5:30pm | High School Life Night                     | Virtual                            |
| Tuesday, December 22   | 7:00pm | CALIX Meeting                              | St. Juan Diego, John Paul I Center |
| Wednesday, December 23 | 6:30pm | Family Faith Formation-3rd Wednesday Group | Virtual                            |
| December 24-27         |        | Parish Offices Closed                      |                                    |
| Saturday, December 26  | 5:00pm | Men's Shelter Meal                         | St. Joseph, upper parking lot      |

Check One:

- ☐ St. Joseph Parish  
☐ St. Juan Diego Parish  
☐ St. Padre Pio Parish  
☐ St. Scholastica Parish

### Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

- ☐ New Registration  
☐ Change of Address  
☐ Moving out of Parish  
☐ Requesting Envelopes

# SOCIAL OUTREACH



**Members of our community** who are in need of short-term assistance can contact the LAV Saint Vincent de Paul Society at [loweralleghenyvalleysvp@gmail.com](mailto:loweralleghenyvalleysvp@gmail.com) or 412-254-4446.

**The LAV parishes provide a hot meal** for the women's shelter at Bethlehem Haven on the first Sunday of each month and the men's shelter at Community House on the fourth Saturday of each month. For details on how you can participate in this ministry, go to [lavcatholic.org/homeless-ministry](http://lavcatholic.org/homeless-ministry).

**The Aspinwall Homeless Ministry** is not currently accepting donations of clothing. However, they are very much in need of non-perishable food items such as soups, (both condensed and ready-to-serve), jelly, and powdered or shelf-stable milk. Please leave donations in plastic bags in the gray bins at the Saint Scholastica church entrance.

Donations of Giant Eagle gift cards are gratefully accepted. They can be brought to the Saint Scholastica parish office.

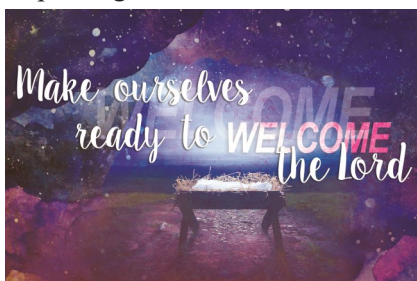
**Collection bins for local Food Pantries** are located in the following Church entrances:

Saint Edward Church and Saint Francis Church are collecting non-perishable jars, boxes, and cans of gravy, stuffing, cranberries and mashed potatoes.

Saint Joseph Church is collecting non-perishable items. Please leave donations in the drawer in the vestibule.

Saint Scholastica Church is collecting holiday meal items such as vegetables, sweet and mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and gravy. Please put donations in the red collection bin.

**Clothing Donations:** The St. Vincent de Paul Society has a clothing collection bin in the back parking lot of Saint Francis Church.



## ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY NEWS

412-218-5410 • [rhaasarm@gmail.com](mailto:rhaasarm@gmail.com)

[addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org](http://addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org)

Facebook: Addiction Recovery Ministry Pittsburgh

*Promise 3: "We will comprehend the word serenity"*

*(continued)*

Serenity is discovering normalcy, realizing you don't need chaos in order to be alive. The stillness in your life quiets the noise of self-doubt and self-loathing. You actually are able to tell the truth. You discover being sober doesn't mean being boring.

Life becomes still, honest and normal. You can begin to rest in yourself. Become comfortable with yourself. You "right size" yourself.

This is serenity—leaving the chaos, lies and self-loathing and beginning to live with order, discipline, honesty and acceptance.

This will lead you into the world of peace, which is promise 4:

"We will know peace."

**A.R.M. is collaborating with the Light of Life Rescue Mission** to provide a monthly bagged lunch for their guests. The items still needed for January's Light of Life lunches are:

- 71 small individual bags of cookies
- 128 packs of chewing gum
- 121 individual fruit cups
- 60 small boxes of raisins
- 114 individual packs of drink mixes
- candy of any type

Please drop donations at the John Paul I Center or contact Rosemarie at 412-784-8700.

## The LAV Masses are Available Online

Those who cannot join us in person are invited to participate in the Christmas Liturgy from their own home. The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve and 11:00 am Christmas Day Masses will be streamed live and available for viewing afterwards on our website. Go to [lavcatholic.org/mass-videos](http://lavcatholic.org/mass-videos).



**A special thank you for all the technical support during this time!** Since the beginning of the pandemic, each week Saint Joseph Parishioner Geoff Osan has given generously of his time and talent to stream the weekend Masses for the Lower Allegheny Valley Parishes. His dedication to this important ministry has kept thousands in our parishes and beyond engaged in their faith and connected to the celebration of the Mass. Thank you Geoff and may God bless you always!



## The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

## The Nicene Creed

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] *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.

## First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.""

## Responsorial Psalm

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

## Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you,  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,  
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages  
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,  
according to the command of the eternal God,  
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,  
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ  
be glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.