



Saint Clare of Assisi Parish

LOVE GOD, SERVE GOD: EVERYTHING IS IN THAT.



January 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

- Mt 2:10



MATER DOLOROSA

409 North Main Street
Chicora, PA 16025

ST. JOSEPH

864 Chicora Road
Chicora, PA 16025

ST. WENDELIN

210 St. Wendelin Road
Butler, PA 16002

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

864 Chicora Rd., Chicora, PA 16025

Monday - Friday | 9 am - 12 pm

724-445-3713

www.saintclareparish.com

St. Wendelin School

211 St. Wendelin Rd., Butler, PA 16002

724-285-4986

email: stwend@zoominternet.net

Saint Clare Prayer List

For Prayer List updates, call Fran Parker @

724-445-7421 or the parish office

Cemetery Inquiries

Contact North Regional Office,

2636 Ellwood Road, New Castle, PA 16101,

724-323-0033, cpca@cpca-pgh.org

Flocknote is a GREAT communication tool that the Diocese of Pittsburgh has given all parishes. A safe and simple way to get updates from the parish via email or text allowing the parish and ministry groups to communicate more easily and effectively with you! You can select which groups or ministries that you prefer to receive messages from, allowing us to easily send you the information you care about most via email and text message. Sign up through the parish website!



PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father Matt McClain

mmcclain@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Ward Stakem

frward@saintfrancisparish.net

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Lou Pascazi

frlou@saintclareparish.com

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Jim Kurtz

frjim@saintfrancisparish.net

Deacon

Bruce Beaver

bbeaver@diopitt.org

Parish Liaison

Barb Boltz

barb@saintclareparish.com

Parish Accountant

Martha Birch

martha@saintclareparish.com

Administrative Assistant,

School Accountant, Safe

Environment Coordinator

Nicole Karenbauer

Nicole@saintclareparish.com

Director of Evangelization,

Youth/Young Adult

Ministries

Sue Fraley

sue@saintclareparish.com

Director of Digital Media

Adam Murray

adam@saintclareparish.com

Director of Music

Vince Ritzert

musicdirector@saintclareparish.com

saintclareparish.com

Music Minister/SJP

Vince Houpt

haupt@saintclareparish.com

Bulletin & Website Editor

Jenn Stahoviak

communications@saintclareparish.com

saintclareparish.com

Parish Receptionists

Linda Green

linda@saintclareparish.com

Kit Lanier

kit@saintclareparish.com

Director of Religious

Education

Debi Gross

dre@saintclareparish.com

St. Wendelin School

Principal

JoLynn Clouse

stwend@zoominternet.net

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our website



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Pittsburgh Catholic at
www.diopitt.org



A Message from Fr. Matt

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This day is always a little bittersweet for me. As the years have gone by it has become more sweet than bitter. My mom died on Epiphany Sunday, 14 years ago. I tell you this every Epiphany Sunday. I will tell you next year too and the year after that. That day 14 years ago changed Epiphany Sunday for me. It made it even more important. I always call my mom my *Star of Wonder* because she led me to Jesus. Think about your "Stars of Wonder" today. Thank God for them. If they haven't gone to God yet, make sure you tell them that is who they are to you. Do it today.

Thomas Merton wrote a beautiful poem about this day called "**Epiphany Carol.**"

*Flocks feed by darkness with a noise of whispers,
In the dry grass of pastures,
And lull the solemn night with their weak bells.
The little towns upon the rocky hills
Look down as meek as children;
Because they have seen come this holy time.
God's glory, now, is kindled gentler than candlelight
Under the rafters of a barn:
Eternal Peace is sleeping in the hay,
And Wisdom's born in secret in a straw roofed stable.
And O! Make holy music in the stars, you happy angels,
You shepherds, gather on the hill.
Look up, you timid flocks, where three kings
Are coming through the wintry trees;
While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries
Come after with our penances and prayers,
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay
Beside the wise men's golden jars.*



I love that poem. You can almost hear and smell the scene. This day, Eternal Peace sleeping in the hay, opens His eyes and sees the world. The whole world. Every person in the world. No matter their religion or nationality, no matter their beliefs about who they are or what is right and wrong, no matter their politics or who they root for on the football field, He sees us all today and says "I am for you." To every person Jesus says, "I love you."

Epiphany Sunday is about the universality of salvation. Israel awaited a messiah. He was born, but not just to save Israel, rather to save the world through them. To every person, this baby in the hay says "I am for you" and "I love you." The Wise Men or Three Kings or Magi, whatever we would call them, represent the world. They believed differently, dressed differently, spoke different languages. Jesus is here for Israel and He is here for them.

What would the world be like if we really believed that? What would our lives be like? What would our families be like if the very first thing that we saw, the very first thing that we believed about another person was that Jesus is for them and loves them? What a wonderful thing that would be. What would it be like if you woke up and the first thing that you saw in the mirror was not a face you wished would look different, but someone who Jesus is for and who Jesus loves? It is true. It is real. Jesus is for you. Jesus loves you. And me. And everyone else too.

Read that poem again today. Listen for the wind. Smell the hay. Be quiet so that you can hear the angels. See the kings coming through the trees. Eternal Peace sleeps in the hay for you. For us. All of us.

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt

Praying for those in need . . .



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Diane Stahoviak
Randy Freehling
Laura Johnson
Chris Young
Wayne Pennington
Dick Preston
Breanna Tomsey
Sue Ellen Carr
Joseph McCloskey
Jayden Albright
Rosemarie Gall Zarnick
Ron Kriess
Fr. Rick Thompson
Kandi Nassy

Larry Karenbauer
Steven Shultz
Mason Martin
Mark McBride
Lena Jane Steiner
Sandy Burns
Bill Smith
Sharon Golobish
Madalyn Rose Geibel
Jim Bergbigler
Virginia Briski
Fred Green
Carter T. Williams
Ada Skelly
Donna Green
Vince Ritzert
Dean Morrow
Madeline McCloskey
Pearl Kocher



WEEKLY READINGS

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42



*Warm wishes and blessings to those recently
baptized in our parish.*

Stella Renee Jodzis

daughter of Sarah Jodzis

Lainey Sally Geibel

daughter of Eli & Erin Geibel

Avery Lynn Tatar

daughter of Brendan & Christine Tatar

Welcome to our faith community!



A Reminder, moving forward, the **Wednesday evening Mass at Mater Dolorosa will be at 6 pm**. Confession and benediction will only be held on Wednesdays during Lent and Advent.



New or expecting parents, the next Baptism Preparation class is **Monday, February 5th at 6 pm** via zoom. Please contact Barb at the office to register.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays

11:00am-11:30am Mater Dolorosa

11:00am-11:30am St. Wendelin

11:45am-12:15pm St. Joseph

**Appointments available upon request.
Contact the parish office.**

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, January 6 St. André Bessette, Religious	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Dennis Pacek	Bev Wesley
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Jody Dunmyre	Anna Marie Knoll & Family
Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Ethelreda Welter	Jim Clouse
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	Patrick & Mary Jeanne Rodgers	The Rodgers Family
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	Ruth & Francis Schnur and Families	Family
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Joe Tomsey Sr. & Mary Tomsey	Family
Monday, January 8 The Baptism of the Lord	12:00 PM	Mater Dolorosa	John Dipyatic	Ken & Jane Fair and Family
Tuesday, January 9	8:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Clare Mitch	Kathy & Larry Geibel
Wednesday, January 10	10:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Bill Eury	Pauline Saeler
	6:00 PM	Mater Dolorosa	Tom Dunn	Judy & Family
Thursday, January 11	8:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Poor Souls in Purgatory	Bev & Vic Serafine
Friday, January 12	12:00 PM	St. Joseph	Ruthy Schiebel	Bob & Norma Miller
Saturday, January 13 St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Grace Weiland	Betty & Shane Hohn
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Paul Callihan	Brenda
Sunday, January 14 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	For the Parishioners of Saint Clare of Assisi	
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	Tom Callihan	Fred & Martha Callihan and Family
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	Jean Laskey	Walt
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Linda Slater	Stacy, Lance, and Olivia

Parish Giving

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS DECEMBER 24, 2023

Offertory - Mass	\$7,837.00
Offertory - Online	\$1,230.00
Total Offertory	\$9,067.00

PARISH APPEAL

Parish Appeal	\$1,130.00
2023 Parish Appeal to Date.....	\$47,807.50
2023 Parish Appeal Goal.....	\$64,547.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Maintenance Fund.....	\$165.00
School Support	\$55.00
Immaculate Conception	\$25.00
Christmas Offering	\$10,311.00
Christmas Children's Charities	\$2,098.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$40.00
St. Anthony/DePaul Schools	\$10.00

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS DECEMBER 31, 2023

Offertory - Mass	\$5,484.00
Offertory - Online	\$898.00
Total Offertory	\$6,382.00

PARISH APPEAL

Parish Appeal	\$815.00
2023 Parish Appeal to Date.....	\$48,622.50
2023 Parish Appeal Goal.....	\$64,547.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Maintenance Fund.....	\$100.00
School Support	\$30.00
Christmas Offering	\$570.00
Christmas Children's Charities	\$110.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$630.00
St. Anthony/DePaul Schools	\$20.00

Thank you for your continued support of Ministries at Saint Clare of Assisi Parish!

The Second Collection Today is for School Support

**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS**



The Knights of Columbus are hosting their famous **Pancake Breakfast** today, **January 7th, at St. Wendelin Hall from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm.** Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast. We look forward to seeing everyone!



The next **St. Clare Senior Pot Luck Lunch** will be on **Wednesday, January 10th, at DePaul Hall (St. Joseph N.O.) from 12-2 pm.**

Please join us for food, friends, and fellowship!



Children's Faith Formation 2024

- 7- CFF- Elementary**
Middle School
- 14- OFF**
- 21- CFF- Elementary**
Middle School
- 24- First Communion Parent Meeting**
7PM St. Joseph Church
- 28- CFF- Elementary**
Middle School

UN-DECK THE HALLS!

All three churches at St. Clare Parish will be taking down the Christmas decorations **today, January 7th**, following **the last Sunday Mass**. Anyone available to help out, please do, **we appreciate all of the help!**

On the occasion of the **800th anniversary of the "Nativity scene of Greccio"**, the **Apostolic Penitentiary** granted a **plenary indulgence** to all the faithful who, from December 8, 2023 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary) to February 2, 2024 (Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ) will **visit a Nativity scene in a church entrusted to the Franciscan friars** all over the world. **By stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes, the faithful may obtain the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions** (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff).



(Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff).



ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS!

- *Eucharistic Ministers
- *Choir
- *Lectors
- *Sacristans
- *Musicians
- *Decorators
- *Cantors
- *Ushers

COME LET US ADORE HIM

You are invited to a Holy Hour to revive and deepen your faith in our Eucharistic Lord!

While the Magi acknowledged and worshipped the baby that Mary cradled in her arms as the one awaited by the nations and foretold by prophets, today we can also worship him in the Eucharist and acknowledge him as our Creator, our only Lord and Savior. — POPE BENEDICT XVI

All are welcome!

If you missed the January 3rd Holy Hour or wish to attend again, join us at:

St. Francis Parish

St. Joseph Church, Cabot
On **Tuesday, January 9th**
6:30 to 7:30 pm

Please share this invitation with anyone who serves the Lord in the Liturgy.

**Come, Adore, Revive
your Faith!**



DID YOU KNOW?



This tradition began in Eastern Europe. After Epiphany, the village priest went to every home in his parish with specially-blessed Epiphany water and chalk. Upon entering the home, he prayed special

prayers and blessed every room in the house.

The numbers of the year, enclosing the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) are written with the blessed chalk over the door.

The Magi's initials also stand for a Latin house blessing: **Christus mansionem benedicat (May Christ bless this house).**

Now that parishes have increased in size and priests are no longer able to visit every home, the head of the household is permitted to perform a basic Epiphany house blessing himself.

Join St. Francis & St. Clare Parishes on Friday, January 19, 2024, on a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Sign-Up Now! A sign up sheet is posted in each church. There is also a sign-up sheet for *Prayer Supporters*, those who cannot personally attend.

There will be two departure locations



to choose from, **St. Joseph, North Oakland and St. Mary in Herman**. Two drop off locations in DC are available, attend the Rally or go to the Basilica for Mass before the March. **Pick up the flyer in church** for more details about the itinerary, costs, permission forms, and what to bring. School Permission Request forms are available. Donations payable to "St. Francis of Assisi Parish" are gladly accepted! Questions, please contact Cil Love (724-822-0614).

This week's St. Wendelin

School Student of the Week is:

Charlotte (Charli) Dickey!

Charli is in Mrs. Harmon's Kindergarten Class this year but she has been part of our school for a couple years being part of our Preschool Program. She has an older brother, Liam, that attends our school too. Charli's favorite subject at school is Science because she likes to make things explode like volcanoes! Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her family either picking tomatoes or just hanging out at the jump park! Charli is a genuinely sweet student that enjoys school. When she grows up, she would like to become a Police Officer because she thinks it would be fun to arrest people. Congratulations to this week's Saint Wendelin School Student of the Week,

Charlotte Dickey!

**Mark your calendars for the next
St. Wendelin School Friday Night Bingo!
January 26th & February 16th!**

Catholic Identity Program Family Link

**This Week's Virtue:
GRACE**

**Grace is the gift
of God's life in us.**





Thanks to the awesome kids who delivered Baby Jesus to the altar on Christmas Eve at St. Wendelin.



Thanks to the Midnight Mass Choir, under the direction of Steve Dunn, for the beautiful music.



Thank you to all of the Community Dinner helpers and volunteers who provided a hot meal and Christmas cheer to all those in need at the community dinner on December 19th at St. Paul Church in Butler.



On Saturday, December 16th, the Knights of Columbus and supporters gathered at St. Wendelin Cemetery along with three million volunteers at over 4,000 cemeteries across America, to honor our deceased veterans this Christmas season. Placement of the wreaths followed a dedication ceremony. The ceremony included a blessing of the wreaths, a reading of the poem, *In Flanders Fields*, the recitation of the name of each veteran being honored, and a special tribute to our Grand Knight, John Cook, who passed away this past year.

Many thanks to all that supported the Knights of Columbus' sponsorship of Wreaths Across America.





**We apologize, the following donations were missed and not printed
in the December 24th or 31st bulletins.**

Christmas Flower Donations 2023

In Memory of . . .

Tyler Barger
Bill Beilstein
Virginia Bergbigler
Esther & Joe Berteotti
Joe & Deb Bly Family
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bombara
John J Burns
John Burns
Catherine & Mary Burns
Charles & Dorothy Burns
Sr. Margaret Burns
Dorothy Buttgereit
Mr. & Mrs. James Cain Sr
Mr. & Mrs. James Cain Jr
Paul Callihan
Tootie & Sam Callihan
Patty Carben
Cora Carbin
Fred F Collins
Merl Collins
Violetta Collins
Vincent Conerty Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Crissman
Matilda Denny
Dolores Diamond
Jack Erkens
Theresa Erkens
Kay & Pete Filges
John R (Bob) Forster
Mr. & Mrs. John F Forster
Jim & Theresa Francisco
Marie & Peter Fugini
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Gall Sr
Ed Gall Jr
Bobbi Jo Geibel
Norb & Anna Geibel
Paul & Aberta Geibel

Mary & John Weiland Geibel Family
George & Elizabeth Graham
Clifford & Mary Gertrude Graham
Green Family
Matthew Hanchosky
Paul & Anna Hartman
John & Dorothy Horneman
Robert A, Marian, and Robert Kepple
Bud, Harold, & John Kildoo
William H Kriess Family
Albin & Gladys Leech
Kepple – Lineman Family
Roy M. Kimmel
Anthony & Agnes Kisovec
Dee & Harold Korn
Harold & Rita Korn
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Iman
F.A. (Dave) & Mae Leech
Maurice & Erla Lehnerd
Patricia Liberto
Barbara & Joseph Macurak
Jeremy Miller
Amelia Minda
Bernie & MaryAnn Mohr
Ralph Morrison
Denny Nebel
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Neff
Deceased Family of Charles
& Jane Neigh
Pat Nicolozzo
Clyde & Mary O'Donnell
Linda O'Donnell
Robert O'Donnell
Joseph & Mary O'Donnell
Margaret "Muggs" Osche
Paul Osche
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Osche
Bill & Sis Parker

Ed Parker
Paula, Dexter, & Curt
Mary Payung
Christian Lanier Penrod
JoAnn Perry
Anton Rauch
Agnes & Ray Rettig
Mike Riley Sr.
Father DePaul Ripko
Ben Ritzert
Fr. William Ritzert
Donald Ritzert
Herbert & Mary Ritzert
Pat & Mary Jeanne Rodgers
Vincent & Mary Rodgers
Richard Rumbaugh
Edward, Mary, Gary, Perry,
& Zane Schiebel
Toni Jo Schnell & Sons
Ora & Floyd Schnur
Tom Sherwin
Leroy Shuler
Tom Snyder
Rosemarie & Tom Snyder
Gilbert Steighner
Gladys Steighner
Deceased Members of the Stepansky
& Swauger Families
Hoe & Esther Stephenson Families
Mr. & Mrs. Josiah Stephenson
Mary Catherine & Mary Ellen Storm
John & Ann Tomsey
Tomsey Families
Don Troyan
Gert & George Troyan
Larry, Elva, Carl Weiland
Henry & Mary Willams Family

In Honor of . . .

Judy & Izzy Isovitsch
Rita Musthaf
Mr. & Mrs. James & Jenna Reeder
Father Rick Thompson

General Donations . . .

Donald & Ana Geibel
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hilderbrand
Ruthann Nebel
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Newell
Mr. & Mrs. William Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Welter

*Thanks to all
for the
Generous donations!*



REVERSE RAFFLE

supporting St. Wendelin School advertising and advancement

Saturday, February 3, 2024

6:00 PM at St. Wendelin Hall

Doors open @ 5:00 pm

**Donation:
\$20.00**

*Dinner
Pull Tabs
50/50
Chinese Auction
Basket Raffle*

**ONE LUCKY
WINNER OF
\$1,500!**

**WINNER ON
EVERY 10th
TICKET PULLED!**

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE CONTACT THE
SCHOOL OFFICE:
724-285-4986

HOPE AND HEALING ARE POSSIBLE!!! For those struggling with addiction or substance abuse, for their families and for those who have lost loved ones to the disease of addiction and overdose. We come together in prayer! PLEASE JOIN US FOR ROSARY AND SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS **Tuesdays, January 9th and 16th - 2 - 3pm, and January 30th - 7 to 8pm** *No gathering on Jan 23rd* ABBA'S HOUSE, SAXON-BURG. Information: patomaszewski@zoominternet.net

The Sweet Gremlin, LLC is hosting 2 **Pierogi Classes**! Join us for a fun evening learning how to make your own potato and cheese pierogi! Each participant will be provided a recipe card and receive step by step instructions for 2 dozen pierogi. All ingredients will be provided. **January 10, 2024 6-9 pm at St. Joseph Hall in Cabot or January 25, 2024 6-9 pm at Mater Dolorosa Hall in Chicora.** The cost is \$50, seating will be limited. Be sure to sign up early to guarantee your spot. Classes will be taught by Jennifer McConnell & Julie Patrick. Participants will need to bring their own potato peeler, rolling pin, apron, and container to take home their pierogi. **Register at www.thesweetgremlin.com/classes**

Planning to Marry? Couples contemplating marriage should contact a priest at least six months prior to the date of the intended marriage. A marriage preparation program is held twice a year in Butler. **The next marriage preparation retreat will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, March 2 and March 9, 2024** at St. Michael the Archangel Church hall. You must attend both Saturday sessions. The registration form is available on our parish website. For more information or to register, contact Cheryl Weiland at 724-991-2639 or cweiland@zoominternet.net.

Join us for a Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating Class with The Sweet Gremlin!

The class will be at **Mater Dolorosa Hall in Chicora, on Thursday, February 8th, 6-8pm!** Cost is \$40.

In this step-by-step instructed class, you will be decorating 6 cookies with royal icing and one of the cookies will include a personal photo of your choice. Photos can be emailed to, thesweetgremlin@gmail.com or brought to the class. All supplies will be provided along with a box to take home your cookies. Seating will be limited and preregistration is required. If you are a registered member of the St. Clare Christian Mothers, you will receive a \$10 rebate on your registration fee that evening. Light refreshments will be served. The last day to register is Wednesday, January 31st. Sign up online at www.thesweetgremlin.com or call 724-766-2673. (You may also call Norma Miller at 724-496-667 for information.)



Please join **St. Joseph High School's Latin Department** for our annual **Latin mass on Thursday, January 25 at 7:00pm at Blessed Sacrament Church.** This will not be a traditional Latin mass, but rather, a standard novus ordo mass with the mass prayed and recited using the ecclesiastical Latin pronunciation. It will be celebrated by alumni **Bishop Larry Kullick**, and a reception with cookies and refreshments will follow.

BINGO! on **January 8th**, located at **Holy Sepulcher Campus**, just off of Rt 8 north from Rt 228. 1304 E. Cruickshank Rd. Doors open at 6 pm. Bingo starts at 7 pm. 10 regular games and 3 specials. Snacks/drinks available. Must be 18 or older to play. Hosted by Knights of Columbus.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS COMFORT? The Prayer Blanket Ministry at St. Francis Parish has a beautiful selection of blankets for anyone who needs the comfort of prayer. If you know of someone who is sick, depressed, lost a loved one, or is struggling with a mental illness, please consider the gift of one of our blankets. The blankets are blessed and come with a rosary. The recipients are lifted in prayer every Tuesday morning at our meeting. We also have blankets for children of all ages, as well as crocheted shawls, and a nice selection of breast cancer support blankets. If you would like to arrange to pick up a blanket, please call Suzanne Ekas and leave a message at 724.360.0027.



St. Clare continues to collect nonperishable food items for the Petroleum Valley Food Cupboard. Boxes are located in the back of each church for donations. Thank you for your continued support!

Pick up a copy of the Kids' Bulletin for your children to enjoy!