



Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi



December 22, 2024

• FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

BLESSED ARE YOU.

©LPI



Saint Francis of Assisi

ST. JOHN
668 Clearfield Rd.
Fenelton, Pa 16034

ST. JOSEPH
315 Stoney Hollow Rd.
Cabot, Pa 16023

ST. MARY
821 Herman Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

**315 Stoney Hollow Rd.,
Cabot, PA 16023**

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 1 PM

Phone: 724-352-2149

www.saintfrancisparish.net

Pastor

Father Matt McClain Ext. 203
mmcclain@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Ward Stakem Ext. 201
frward@saintfrancisparish.net
Emergencies: 724-777-9432

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Alan Morris Ext. 210
amorris@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Jim Kurtz Ext. 226
frjim@saintfrancisparish.net
Emergencies: 412-421-3962

Deacon

Bruce Beaver
bbeaver@diopitt.org

PARISH STAFF

Parish Liaison

Barb Boltz Ext. 204
barb@saintfrancisparish.net

Sacrament & Mass Intention Scheduler, Parishioner Data

Linda Green Ext. 220
linda@saintfrancisparish.net

Bulletin & Website Editor

Jenn Stahoviak Ext. 216
jenn@saintfrancisparish.net

Parish Accountant

Martha Birch
724-445-3713 Ext. 5
martha@saintfrancisparish.net

Safe Environment

Nicole Karenbauer Ext. 205
se@saintfrancisparish.net

Adult Faith Formation

Angela Robb Ext. 208
angela@saintfrancisparish.net

Director of Religious Education

Debi Gross Ext. 206
debi@saintfrancisparish.net

Faith Formation Program Manager

Laura Eakman Ext. 217
laura@saintfrancisparish.net

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Instructor

Kathy Lawton
Kathy@saintfrancisparish.net

Parish & Faith Formation Administrative Assistant

Allison Hawk Ext. 212
allison@saintfrancisparish.net

Outreach

Ext. 214
outreach@saintfrancisparish.net

Director of Music

Steve Dunn
steve@saintclareparish.com

Music Ministers

Steven Yealy
steven@saintfrancisparish.net
Carol Michel
carol@saintfrancisparish.net
Holly Puett
holly@saintfrancisparish.net

St. Joseph Preschool

Alicia Bubash & Lara Bracco
stjosephpreschool@saintfrancis
parish.net Ext.209

Scan here to visit
our website →



← Scan here to visit
our Facebook Page



flocknote

Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

**A safe and simple way to get up-
dates from the parish via email
or text message. Select which
groups or ministries you prefer
to receive messages from. To get
started, TEXT JJM to **84576****

Or Go online to:

saintfrancisparish.flocknote.com

Online Giving through Vanco
To set up online giving, visit the
parish website and click the
link or **scan the QR Code** to go
directly to the
St. Francis online
giving page via Vanco.



CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

11:00am-12:00 pm - St. Mary
12:00pm-12:30pm - St. John
12:00 pm-1:00 pm - St. Joseph
(Cabot)





Saint Clare of Assisi



MATER DOLOROSA
409 North Main St.
Chicora, PA 16025



ST. JOSEPH
864 Chicora Rd.
Chicora, PA 16025



ST. WENDELIN
210 St. Wendelin Rd.
Butler, PA 16002

CONTACT US

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

864 Chicora Rd.,
Chicora, PA 16025

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 12 PM

Phone: 724-445-3713

www.saintclareparish.com

Pastor

Father Matt McClain Ext. 2
mmcclain@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Ward Stakem
frward@saintfrancisparrish.net
Emergencies: 724-777-9432

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Alan Morris Ext. 8
amorris@diopitt.org

Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Jim Kurtz
frjim@saintfrancisparrish.net
Emergencies: 412-421-3962

Deacon

Bruce Beaver
bbeaver@diopitt.org

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

11:00-11:30 am - Mater Dolorosa
11:00-11:30 am - St. Wendelin
11:45 am-12:15 pm- St. Joseph
(North Oakland)



PARISH STAFF

Parish Liaison

Barb Boltz Ext. 4
barb@saintclareparish.com

Parish Accountant

Martha Birch Ext. 5
martha@saintclareparish.com

Administrative Assistant, Safe Environment Coordinator

Nicole Karenbauer Ext. 7
Nicole@saintclareparish.com

Evangelization, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Sue Fraley Ext. 3
sue@saintclareparish.com

Director of Digital Media

Adam Murray
adam@saintclareparish.com

Director of Music

Steve Dunn
steve@saintclareparish.com

Music Minister

Vince Houpt
haupt@saintclareparish.com

Bulletin & Website Editor

Jenn Stahoviak Ext. 9
communications@saintclareparish.com

Director of Religious Education

Debi Gross Ext. 3111
dre@saintclareparish.com

Parish Receptionists

Linda Green Ext. 3110
linda@saintclareparish.com
Kit Lanier Ext. 3110
kit@saintclareparish.com

St. Wendelin School

724-285-4986

St. Wendelin School Principal

JoLynn Clouse
stwend@zoominternet.net

Saint Clare Prayer List

For Prayer List updates, call
Fran Parker @ 724-445-7421 or
the parish office.

Scan here to visit
our website



Scan here
to visit
our Facebook Page



flocknote

Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

A safe and simple way to get up-
dates from the parish via email
or text message. Select which
groups or ministries you prefer
to receive messages from.

To get started, **TEXT SCPARISH**
to 84576 Or **Go online to:**
SaintClareofAssisiParish.flocknote.com

ALL Cemetery Inquiries

Contact North Regional Office,
2636 Ellwood Road, New Castle,
PA 16101, 724-323-0033,
cpca@cpca-pgh.org



The
**Pittsburgh
Catholic**
ONLINE

Check out the online version of
the Pittsburgh Catholic at
www.diopitt.org

ST. FRANCIS WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Mary	Judith Convery	Rege & Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	St. Joseph	Verna Spohn	Liz Spohn
Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Vivien Drewencki	Mary Lou Cypher
	8:30 AM	St. John	Kimberly Burke (Martino)	Mom, Dad, and Family
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Olimpia Karlo	Slanicka Family
Monday, December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest	8:00 AM	St. Mary	Dale & Marge Karenbauer	Deb & Family
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	7:00 PM	St. John	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	8:00 PM	St. Mary	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	10:00 PM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
Wednesday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
Thursday, December 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr	NO WEEKDAY MASSES			
Friday, December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist				
Saturday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, martyrs	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Mary	Ralph Cranmer	Cranmer Family
	5:30 PM Vigil	St. Joseph	Dee Cervenyak	Barbara
Sunday, December 29 The Holy Family	8:00 AM	St. Joseph	Rose Michel	Dale Kriley
	8:30 AM	St. John	Chris Green	Don & Cheryl Burke
	10:00 AM	St. Mary	Marlene Price	Family
	11:00 AM	St. Joseph	Denny Geary	Gloria & Frank Lewandroski

ST. CLARE WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Erdman Brauchle	Donna Stephenson
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Tom Sherwin	
Sunday, December 22 4th Sunday of Advent	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Rita Geibel Musthaf	Mary & Ed Grenet
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	Gertrude Flick	Family
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	Graham Family (Clifford, Cliff Jr., John, Linda, Lucy, and Eric)	Rose Mary Wagner & Larry Ryan
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Emma & Clyde Bresnahan	Children
Monday, December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest	12:00 PM	Mater Dolorosa	Jim Callihan	Fred & Martha Callihan
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	St. Wendelin	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	4:30 PM	Mater Dolorosa	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	7:00 PM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
Wednesday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord	12:00 AM	St. Wendelin	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	9:00 AM	Mater Dolorosa	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
Thursday, December 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr	NO WEEKDAY MASSES			
Friday, December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist				
Saturday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, martyrs	4:00 PM Vigil	St. Wendelin	Erdman & Louise Brauchle	Donna Stephenson
	5:30 PM Vigil	Mater Dolorosa	Robert Zanella	His Wife, Joyce
Sunday, December 29 The Holy Family	7:00 AM	St. Wendelin	Rita Geibel Musthaf	Mary & Ed Grenet
	8:15 AM	Mater Dolorosa	Jim Slaughenhoup	Fred & Martha Callihan
	9:30 AM	St. Joseph	For the Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi & Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes	
	10:30 AM	St. Wendelin	Tomsey Family	Tomsey Family

MESSAGE FROM FR. MATT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the next few days, we will celebrate the Birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ! I hope that you are feeling the excitement, joy, and anticipation of the Christmas Season. If you are having a hard time doing that, I hope that your time with us over the next few days will help.

Fr. Ward, Fr. Jim, Fr. Al, Deacon Bruce and I are happy to be with you, especially during this wonderful season. Thanks for loving your priests and deacon so well. We are not perfect. I'm sure we bore you, infuriate you, and irritate you sometimes. Thanks for sticking with us. We love you and promise that we will stick with you!

The Readings for the Fourth week of Advent are filled with anticipation. The word "shall" is present eight times in the First Reading and the Psalm. It is a strong word. It is definitive, The Lord is definitely going to do something big, something real. Maybe "real" is the key word this weekend. In the Second Reading, St. Paul tells us that Jesus comes to replace all the sacrificial offerings of the past. They were signs of something else. Jesus is the real thing. Jesus is the one true sacrifice for our salvation.

This "real" theme is continued in the Gospel. It seems like a simple story of Mary traveling to see Elizabeth. But it is much more. Elizabeth knows this visit is important, as does the baby in her womb, who is John the Baptist. They know that they are encountering the real deal. But even before that, Mary's journey through the hill country follows a path that would have been well known to people of that time. Her journey took her on the same roads that King David travelled, bearing the Ark of the Covenant centuries before. The Ark contained the presence of God with his people Israel. When Mary travels these roads, she is not merely representing something in history. Mary is the New Ark. The True Ark. She carries the fullness of God Himself in her womb. David's journey pointed to God's presence with his people. Mary's journey was the real deal. The prophecy fulfilled!

As we celebrate these days together, let this realness sink in. So much of what stresses us out and burdens us isn't fully real. So much of it is our own doing. We limit ourselves with our grudges, our inflated sense of injustice, our self-centeredness, our pride. But this is what is Real! God becomes Man! Our Savior is Born! He is born for you! Nothing, no anger, no hurt, no sickness is as real as this! This Baby is born so that we might have Eternal Life. So that we may enter a place where there is no sickness, no pain, no sorrow. This is what is real.

I pray that these days are joyful for you. I am so happy to spend them with you. Enjoy this time. Keep it real!

Peace, Love, and Merry Christmas,
Fr. Matt





REMEMBER *in your prayers*

Lou Heasley
David Russell
Aaron Brown
Les Bauer
Joe Beilstein
Rod Meely
Eliza O'Donnell
Finley Skiff
Shelly Double-Barnhart
Tracy Anderson
Robert Kriess
Marie
Gary Black
Tom Green
Ian McElroy
Ann Annarella
Robert Clouse
Tony
Abby Koenig
Jerry Ruediger
Dick Curry
Killian Eakman
George Kepple
Regis Fallecker Jr.
Shawn Nolan
Sheri Payne
Diane Krapf
Danny Krapf
Nancy
Hayes Markle
Thomas Wetzel Sr.
Bus & Joanie Neigh
Lisa Cammisa
Katie
Robert Riemer
Jane Schafer
Marcus dosSantos
Kathy Steighner
Bobbi Adley
Mindy Floro
Angie O'Mahoney
Jim Lorenz
Donna Green
Chrissie Wilcox
Linda Heagy
Ed Moore
Joe Moser
Jeannie White
Helen Marie Hartle
Shirley McCoy
Donna M.

Rose Stumpf
Lucy Duffy
Jessie Black
Laura & Family
Patricia Ryan
Leonard Dombroski
Bernadette Conerty
Mason Martin
Jim Bowser
Larry Karenbauer
Dave Maley
Jennifer Perkins
Paul Erkens
Rodger Davis
Erik Fry
Corrine Schnur
Lynn Toward
Michael Black
Peg Moser
Nicholas Kerr
Regis Convery
Emilia Schaffner
Betty Neff
Marilyn DiGiacomo
Marek Wabazewski
Mary Lou Beilstein
Aria Joy Olson
Pearl Kocher
Fr. Victor Kriley, OFM, Cap
Eric Werner
Robert Adams Jr.
Paul Flick
Shawn Phillips
Pud Craig
John Williams
Karol Halin
Stephanie Sellers
Cheryl Brown
Christine Cessna
Carol Hall
Wayne Pennington
Dick Preston
Sue Ellen Carr
Ada Skelly
Madeline McCloskey
Joseph McCloskey
Fr. Rick Thompson
Steven Shultz
Lena Jane Steiner
Sharon Golobish
Madalyn Rose Geibel
Jim Bergbigler
Virginia Briski
Carter T. Williams

To add or remove intentions from the combined prayer list, or the Military list, please contact either parish office.

Weekly Readings



FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Pray for Our Military, Especially . . .

Jacob Medley
Matthew
McCandless
Russell Bauer
Jimmy Adley
Jon Clark
Evan French
Simon Geibel

Brian Kusner
Hayden Iman
Landon Hines
Jonah Bartholic
Daniel Sheehan
Amanda Skidmore
Jeremy (JJ) Dawson





Prayers for comfort & peace to the family & friends of the recently departed,

from St. Clare Parish:

Patrick McNallen

from St. Francis Parish:

Wayne Watson

May they rest in the peace and glory of the Risen Christ.



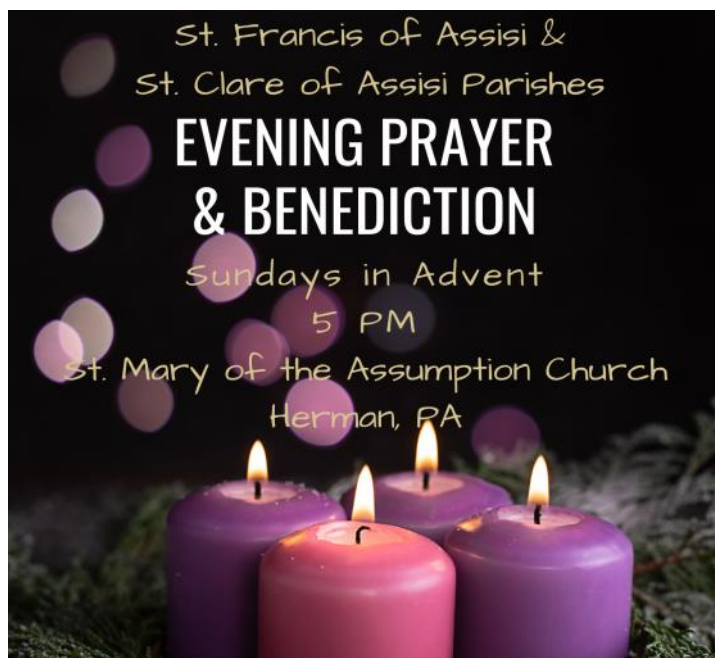
The Sanctuary Candle at St. Mary this week is in memory of: **Terry Collins**

Merry Christmas

All parish offices will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th through Wednesday, January 1, 2025.



Please note that there are **no weekday Masses** from **Thursday, December 26th through Saturday, December 28th.**
No confessions on **Saturday, December 28th.**



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SAINT FRANCIS PARISH

Solemnity of Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord

December 24 - 4:00 pm at Saint Joseph (Cabot)

December 24 - 7:00 pm at Saint John

December 24 - 8:00 pm at Saint Mary

December 24 - 10:00 pm at Saint Joseph

December 25 - 8:00 am at Saint Joseph

December 25 - 10:00 am at Saint Mary

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

December 31 - 4:00 pm at Saint Mary

January 1 - 9:00 am at Saint Joseph

SAINT CLARE PARISH

Solemnity of Christmas -The Nativity of the Lord

December 24 - 4:00 pm at Saint Wendelin

December 24 - 4:30 pm at Mater Dolorosa

December 24 - 7:00 pm at Saint Joseph N.O.

December 24 - Midnight at Saint Wendelin

December 25 - 9:00 am at Mater Dolorosa

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

December 31 - 4:00 pm at Saint Mary

January 1 - 9:00 am at Saint Joseph

For Your Advent

As the calendar year is coming to a close, our liturgical year is just beginning. To help us develop or strengthen our habit of daily prayer, **please pick up the Little**



Blue Book filled with reflections on the first part of Matthew's Gospel and a variety of thoughts about the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Eucharist, the feast of the day, and various traditions and customs. If you prefer daily email reflections, you may sign up with Word on Fire at <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel>

Or Dynamic Catholic at <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>.

Advent on FORMED—Deepen your roots in Christ this Advent.

Embark on a powerful journey with **Rooted:**



Rediscover the Jesse Tree. In just 7 minutes a day, explore Scripture, uncover the stories of Christ's ancestors, and experience meaningful Advent reflections that connect faith to your daily life. Plus! Bring this rich Catholic tradition into your home with FREE Jesse Tree ornament coloring sheets. Available only on FORMED.org. If you need to sign up on FORMED, go to <https://formed.org/signup> and enter 16025. Select **St. Clare & St. Francis Parishes**. Enter your name and email address. That's it, you're all set, enjoy FORMED!

Parish Giving

ST. FRANCIS PARISH

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS –DECEMBER 8, 2024

Offertory - Mass	\$9,368.40
Offertory - Online	\$3,685.62
Total Offertory	\$13,054.02

PARISH APPEAL

Weekly Parish Appeal	\$2,573.55
2024 Parish Appeal to Date ...	\$130,963.60
2024 Parish Appeal Goal.....	\$118,154.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Retired Religious Fund.....	\$261.00
Cabot Food Bank	\$25.00
Immaculate Conception	\$1,229.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$15.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$354.10
Christmas Offering	\$215.00
Christmas Charities.....	\$50.00
St. Vincent DePaul.....	\$10.00

Thank you for your continued support of
Ministries at Saint Francis of Assisi &
Saint Clare of Assisi Parishes!

ST. CLARE PARISH

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS –DECEMBER 8, 2024

Offertory - Mass	\$2,500.00
Offertory - Online	\$1,280.00
Total Offertory	\$3,780.00

PARISH APPEAL

Weekly Parish Appeal.....	\$1,806.00
2024 Parish Appeal to Date...	\$49,430.40
2024 Parish Appeal Goal	\$64,547.00

MINISTRY COLLECTIONS

Maintenance Fund.....	\$126.00
School Support	\$130.00
Christmas Charities	\$22.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$60.00
Christmas Offering	\$85.00
Mass at National Shrine.....	\$1,103.00
Immaculate Conception	\$3,355.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$40.00

Collection totals for December 15, 2024 will
be published in next weekend's bulletin due
to early submission dates.

The Second Collection on
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
are for Christmas Charities for
Children & Youth. As always,
thank you for your generosity.



Thank you to the many generous people and families
who took tags from the Giving Angel
Trees this year! Your kindness and gen-
erosity will surely help brighten the
spirits of a deserving child and their
families and the spirits of the residents
at Quality Life Services. **May you all
have a blessed and joyous Christmas!**



Volunteer(s) are needed to help water
and maintain the **poinsettias** at
St. Wendelin Church this Christmas
season. If you could lend a hand, please
call the St. Clare office! Thank you.



St. Clare Parish will be **decorating for Christmas**
on **December 22nd** after the last Mass at each
Church. Please stay and help, if you are able.



Decorating at St. John will take place following the
8:30 am Mass on **December 22nd**, anyone who can
lend a hand, **please come!**

The **St. Francis Bereavement group** in-
vites all parishioners to add an orna-
ment/picture to the **Christmas Memory
Tree at St Joseph in Cabot**. Parishioners
can make ornaments for loved ones, or
the group can make one for you, make
as many as you like. This tree is dedicated
to those who have gone to their eternal rest over the
years. Ornaments may be placed in the designated
basket in the entrance of St. Joseph Church, the
group will place them on the tree. The Memory Tree
will be displayed for Christmas near the baptismal
font. Please contact Teresa Sintz by calling the office if
you have questions or need help with an ornament.



The **Marian Guild** of St. Francis Par-
ish will be hosting a **Poinsettia
Sale** on **Sunday, December 22nd**
at the **St. John Hall** at **9:30 am**
(following the 8:30 am Mass at St.
John). Assorted poinsettia available
from Schnur's Greenhouse on a
first come, first served basis!



Early Bulletin Submission Date- Please submit any
information for the January 5, 2025 bulletin
by **December 26th**.

Dear Fellow Members in Faith:

As followers of Christ, we are called to be a healing presence in the lives of people living with mental health challenges. We are committed to walking with them and their families. We have started a Mental Health and Well-Being Ministry. It is vital to our mission as Catholics to reach out to offer comfort and healing as one of the church's newest ministries. It is critical to increase our knowledge and skills as we seek to serve in the Catholic mental health ministry.



Our goal is to raise awareness about mental health, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, promote emotional well-being practices, provide educational resources, and to partner with local mental health agencies to encourage advocacy and support. This ministry prays together, offers courses, hosts speakers, and plans liturgies to raise awareness regarding the health of mind, body, and soul.

We have started a conversation and have begun to collect helpful information and resources. In the coming year, we would like to offer a series of educational activities that will help us all learn more. We see this as a way to be of service to members and friends of the congregation and reach out to our neighbors and community.

It is only by working together that we can increase mental health awareness, reduce stigma, and promote a message of healing and recovery within our church community. Please consider joining us in this important work.

Our next meeting is at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 @ St Mary's Church. Please contact the church office for more information.

Sincerely,

**The Mental Health & Well Being Ministry of
St Francis & St Clare Parishes**

Let's Talk About Mental Health

**This course is being offered by
the St. Francis & St. Clare
Mental Health Ministry**



How can a church become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging? *The Sanctuary Course for Catholics* was created to inspire and equip communities of faith that are asking this important question. Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this eight-session study guide explores key mental health topics and examines meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

The Sanctuary Course for Catholics is for anyone who wants to learn about faith and mental health. It requires no previous training or expertise—just a willingness to engage in dialogue with other believers. This course and films address difficult and sensitive topics and may not be appropriate for a young audience. It is not recommended for people ages 17 and younger.

We will meet **Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm beginning January 8th in the hall at Mater Dolorosa.** The course will run through February 26th. Please contact Angie Robb at ange-la@saintfrancisparish.net or (724) 352-2149 ext. 208 or Sue Fraley at sue@saintclareparish.com or (724) 445-3713 ext. 3.

Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of discussions, the number of participants will be limited. **Sign up early!**

A Nite At The Races



**St. Joseph
- Cabot**

March 1, 2025

SAVE THE DATE

**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS**





Children's Faith Formation



**No Classes at St. Francis
or St. Clare on
December 22nd or 29th**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

St. Clare Children's

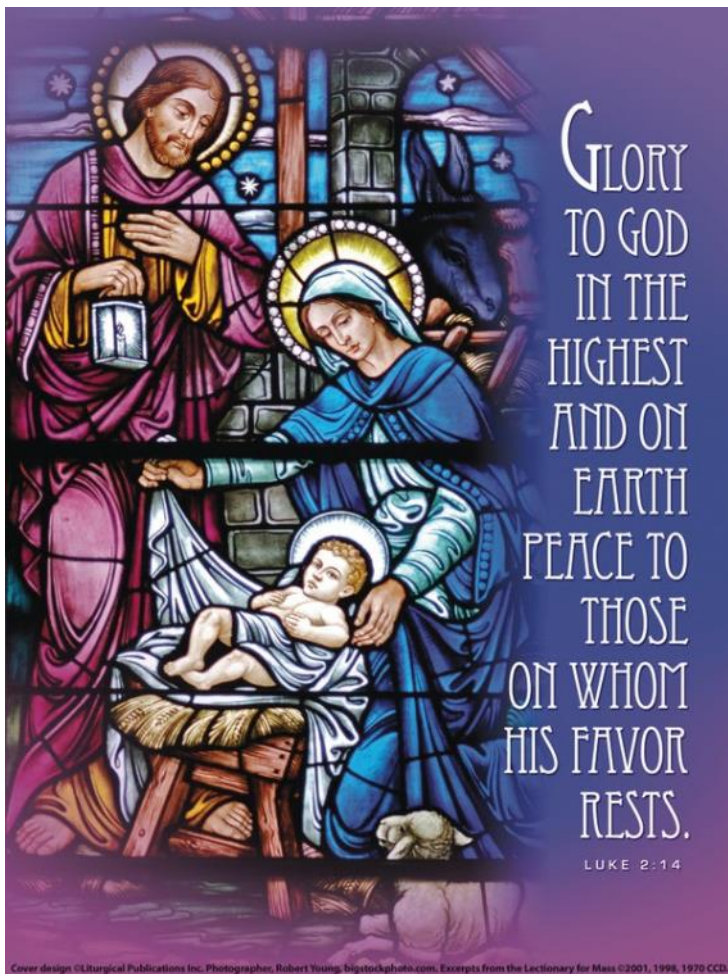
Faith Formation

Student of the Week is:

Kiera Cypher!



Kiera is in the 7th grade class this year. She has two brothers. One of her brothers attends college. Kiera enjoys dance and being in the Knochettes. When she gets older, she would like to be a dance instructor. Congratulations to this week's St. Clare of Assisi Children's Faith Formation Student of the Week, **Kiera Cypher!**



First Annual St. Clare of Assisi Parish Spaghetti with Seniors Dinner



**We shared a great meal, good talk and laughter. A great time was had by all.
*Thanks to all who attended and all who helped make this evening possible.***

**Catholic Identity Program Family Link
This Week's
Virtue:**

OBEDIENCE

Obedience is the ability to listen carefully for God's direction in our lives and to follow his will.



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

SACRAMENT OF LOVE



"The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration, and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease."
-Pope Saint John Paul II

We invite everyone to attend our new **monthly St. Francis & St. Clare Eucharistic Adoration, every first Tuesday** (January 7th, February 4th, March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, December 2nd) at **St. John Church immediately following the 8:00am Mass until 5pm** (No Benediction at the end of the day).

Feel free to attend anytime between 8:30am and 5pm.

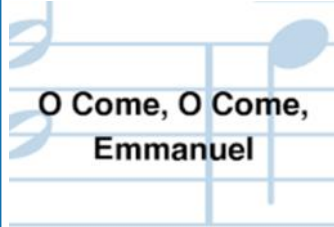
We are also asking for volunteers to sign up for half hour coverage slots (*the Blessed Sacrament can never be left unattended*). Please contact Allison Hawke at the St. Francis Parish Office (724-352-2149, ext. 212 or by email allison@saintfrancisparish.net) if you are interested in signing up for a time slot, or visit either parish website for a monthly *Sign Up Genius* link to sign up for a time slot. The link for January 7th is available on the websites now!

"COME LET US ADORE HIM"



Pictured above is Fr. Jim at the Advent Eucharistic Adoration that was held at St. Wendelin on December 10th.

DID YOU KNOW?



THE BELOVED ADVENT HYMN *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* STANDS OUT SHARPLY DURING THE ADVENT SEASON. THE DISTINCTLY BIBLICAL FEEL OF THE LYRICS DIFFERS FROM THE MORE OVERTLY CELEBRATORY TONE OF MOST CAROLS, AND THE ACTUAL NATIVITY NARRATIVE DOESN'T APPEAR IN ITS USUAL WAY.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL DRAWS FROM OLD TESTAMENT IMAGERY OF THE COMING MESSIAH, CREATING A HYMN THAT FEELS ANTICIPATORY, PROPHETIC, AND TIMELESS. ITS INCESSANT CRIES OF "O COME!" ECHO OUR OWN HEARTS' DESPERATE CRIES FOR A MESSIAH, MAKING IT A BEAUTIFUL ADVENT HYMN.

ALTHOUGH A CLASSIC AND WELL-KNOWN HYMN, THE HISTORY OF *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* IS SURPRISINGLY SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

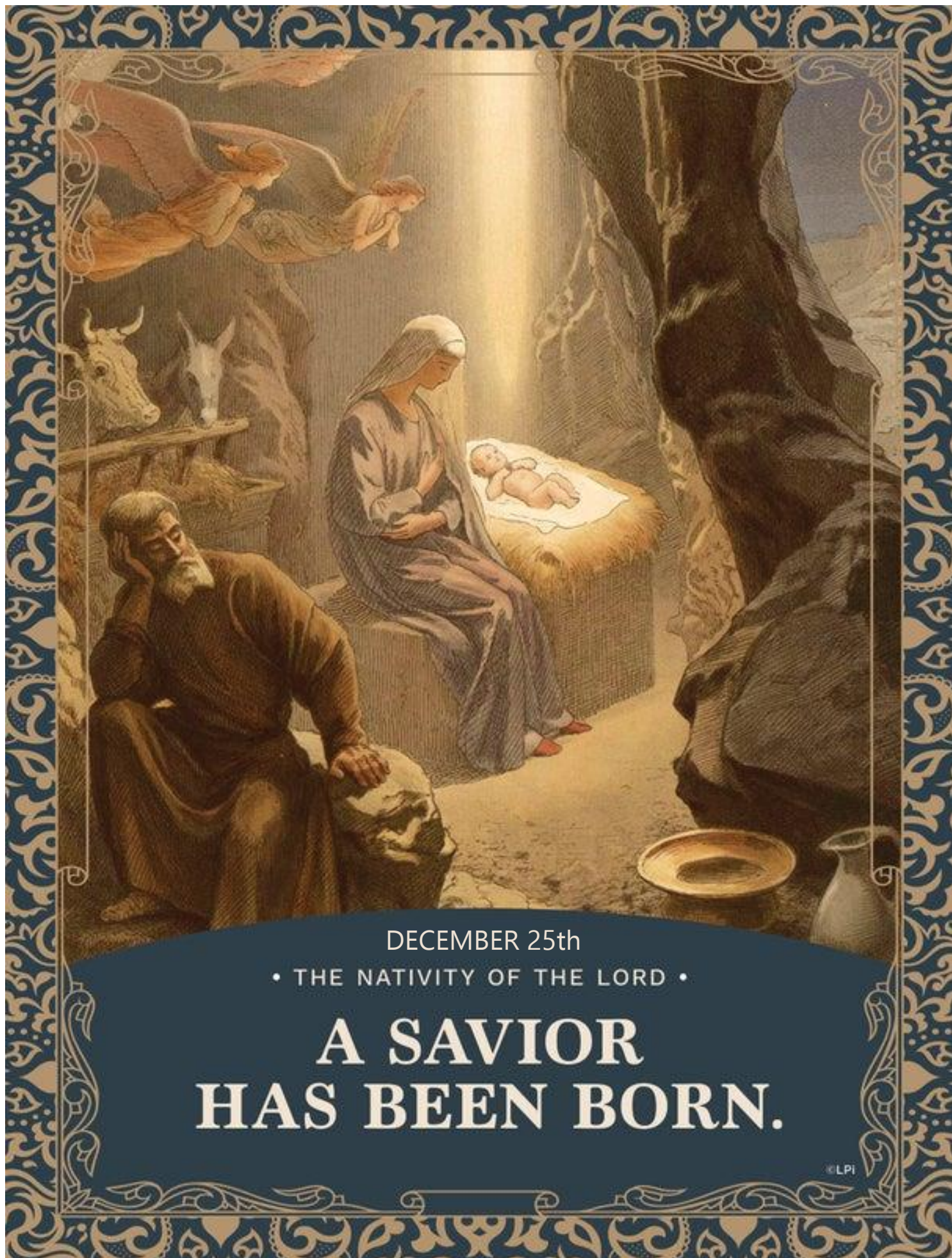
WHO WROTE THE LYRICS?

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ATTRIBUTE THE LYRICS TO ANY ONE WRITER. ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN LATIN AROUND THE 7TH OR 8TH CENTURIES, THESE VERSES ARE ACTUALLY PART OF THE DIVINE OFFICE. THEY ARE A RENDERING OF THE GREATER ADVENT ANTIPHONS, ALSO CALLED THE "O" ANTIPHONS BASED ON THE INITIAL LETTER OF EACH. THESE ARE SUNG AT THE MAGNIFICAT DURING VESPERS (EVENING PRAYER) FROM DECEMBER 17TH THROUGH DECEMBER 23RD.

WHO WROTE THE MUSIC?

THE MELODY OF *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* HAS ITS ROOTS AS FAR BACK AS 15TH-CENTURY FRANCE, WITH A RATHER UNCERTAIN HISTORY. IT WASN'T UNTIL THE 1960S THAT MUSICOLOGIST AND NUN MARY BERRY SOURCED THE 15TH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT THAT BORE THE TUNE'S BUILDING BLOCKS, FINDING IT AMONG MANY OTHERS USED FOR PROCESSIONAL CHANTS FOR BURIALS. SO THE ACTUAL COMPOSER OF THE MUSIC FOR ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR CAROLS IS ANONYMOUS.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL IS A HYMN THAT TRANSFORMS THE ATMOSPHERE OF EVERY SPACE WHERE IT IS HEARD, AS WELL AS THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO PRAYERFULLY LISTEN TO ITS BEAUTIFUL BIBLICAL CRIES FOR THE SAVIOR WE ALL SO DESPERATELY NEED.



DECEMBER 25th

• THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD •

**A SAVIOR
HAS BEEN BORN.**

©LPI

HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST donated over 28,000 pounds of venison to **Butler County food providers** last year. Your harvest or a monetary donation would be very welcome. **Some local Food Providers accepting venison:** Katie's Kitchen - Butler, Luther's Table - Butler, Moniteau Food Pantry - West Sunbury, Petroleum Valley Food Cupboard, St. Andrew's Community Dinners - Butler, St. Vincent DePaul - Butler, Family Life Ministries - Butler, First Methodist - Butler, Salvation Army - Butler, Grapevine Center - Butler, Plus 1 Ministries - Butler, Covenant Food Cupboard - Butler, Pioneer Pantry BC3-Butler. **Local Meat Processors preparing the venison for these groups** -Shuler's Butcher Shop - Herman, Bim's Boloney - N.Washington/Petrolia, McKruit's Meat Packing - Cabot, Welter's Meat Shop - Chicora. **For a complete list or more information visit sharedeer.org or contact Tom Rossman, Butler Co. Coordinator - 724-283-0449.**

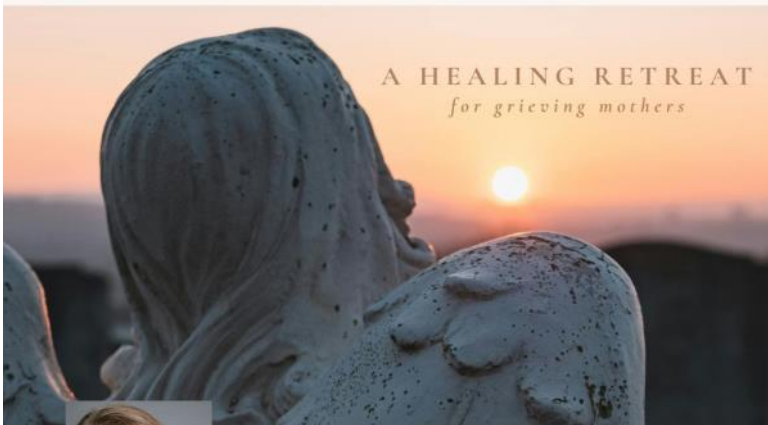
Bereavement Support-If you have experienced the death of a loved one, All Saints Parish invites you to be part of a program-**GriefShare**-that offers support, conversation, and comfort. The group meets on **Wednesdays at 6pm at St. Peter in Butler** (meeting space in building just to the right of the church entrance) and explores different topics each week. You can join the group at any time and will still be able to participate in the full program. Contact Sue Cadwallader at SCadwallader@AllSaintsButler.org or 724-421-9340 or visit: <https://allsaintsbutler.org/pastoralcare-ministry>

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! **JOIN US FOR ROSARY & SPECIAL INTERCESSIONS- TUESDAY: December 31st from 2- 3 pm** at ABBA'S HOUSE, 320 W. MAIN ST., SAXONBURG.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Present in the Pain

A HEALING RETREAT
for grieving mothers



Saturday, January 18, 2025, 9am - 4pm

St. John Neumann Church, Franklin Park, Pa

\$35/ person, includes breakfast, lunch and swag bag

Register by January 6, 2025 at reginacoeliparish.org

Questions? Email lshweiger@verizon.net or resemprayer@gmail.com

Find hope and healing from the pain of pregnancy or child loss. For more details about the retreat please visit: reginacoeliparish.org/events/present-in-the-pain



DECEMBER 28, 2024 AT SAINT PAUL CATHEDRAL

Jubilee Opening Mass

The Diocese of Pittsburgh will celebrate the opening Mass of the Jubilee 2025 on Saturday, December 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at Saint Paul Cathedral. Bishop David Zubik will be the celebrant. The Mass will begin in the gym at Oakland Catholic High School with readings from the papal bull, a candlelight procession to the cathedral led by our diocesan jubilee crucifix, and a Sprinkling Rite.

All are encouraged and welcome to join us!



WANT TO REDISCOVER THOSE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FEELINGS?

If you are isolated, frustrated, or angry in your marriage, know that you are not alone. Many couples experience overwhelming moments of silence and conflict. However, **Retrouvaille** offers a compassionate community where couples facing similar challenges come together to find support and healing. This transformative program has successfully guided thousands of couples to rediscover love and connection. With a commitment to helping you navigate through difficulties, Retrouvaille provides practical tools and shared experiences that can reignite the spark in your relationship. Take the courageous first step towards healing by seeking confidential information at www.HelpOurMarriage.org or contacting us at 412-277-3434 or 3041R@HelpOurMarriage.org. Your path to a better marriage starts here, and hope is just a call or click away.



©LPI