



Sunday, May 17, 2020

Grouping 229 CLERGY TEAM

ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. E. Daniel Sweeney

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Michael Conway Rev. Nicholas Mastrangelo

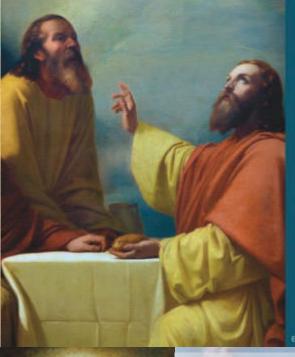
DEACON

Deacon Ron Demblowski

IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Mark Glasgow Fr. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye Fr. Augustus Nweze

Serving the faith communities of Duquesne, Homestead, Munhall, West Homestead. West Mifflin and Whitaker

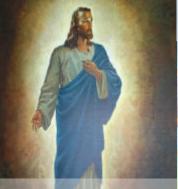


6[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER

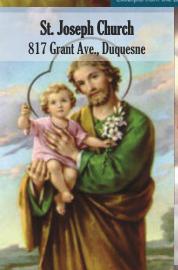
"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth." - Jn 14:16-17a

St. Agnes Church 622 St. Agnes Lane, West Mifflin





Christ the Light of the World 32 S. First Street, Duquesne





West Mifflin

Parish Offices and Staff

Christ the Light of the World/St. Joseph

CLW, Holy Trinity, St. Agnes, St. Joseph

32 South First Street, Duquesne

Phone: 412-469-0196 Fax: 412-466-6845

Suzann Bevan, Parish Secretary

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Central Office for Grouping 229

Resurrection, St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Rita

363 West 11th Ave. Extension, Homestead

Phone: 412-461-1054 Fax: 412-462-1744

Parish Hall 412-462-1743

Trish DiGiannurio, Central Office Coordinator

St. Therese of Lisieux

1 St. Therese Court, Munhall

Phone: 412-462-8161 Fax: 412-462-4817

Jon Cuniak, Principal

Lori Ellis, Pastoral Associate

Ray Fonos, Business Manager

Fran Magnuson, Administrative Assistant

Cindi Picciafoco, Parish Secretary

Sr. Cynthia Wessel, Safe Environment Coordinator

Emergencies

Please call 412-461-1054

Music Ministry

Thomas Coyne, LEM, Dir. Greg Lesko Nina Mascio Debbie Walters, LEM

Faith Formation

Lori Ellis, LEM, Religious Education

Maintenance

Iason Bevan

Rick Booker, Dir.

Confession Schedule

PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES REGARDING CONFESSION POLICIES

Baptism/Marriage

Please contact Lori Ellis at 412-462-8161

Hall Rentals

Please call 412-461-1054

Website

www.steelvalleycatholic.com

ALL MASSES WILL BE SAID PRIVATELY BY THE ASSIGNED PRIEST

ALL MASSES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Sunday,	NM	Joseph Connors	Family	
May 17		Joseph Vavrek	Wife & Daughters	
Sixth Sunday	MC	Legerski & Novak Families	D. Hoop	
of		Family of Garret Hoffman		
Easter	DS	Fred & Joann Smith - 65th Wedding Anniversary Gene & Anna Mae Dragojevich - 60th Wedding Anniversary		
	MG	Michael Clement and	Family	
		Mary Margaret Ferchak		
	AN	Father Joseph Grosko	Luann Neary	
		Fathers Turner, Schorr & Czemerda		
	EAQ	Agnes Funk	Vargo Family	
		Grace Dougherty	Margaret & Tom Likovitch	

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, May 18	NM	Helen Lordeon	Elaine & Family
Way 10	AN	Irene Moran	George & Jean Miteff
	DS	Sister Liguori Rossner	Barb Denicola
Tuesday, May 19	NM	Nancy Kapp	Mel & Lois Smulczenski
, 20	MC	Dolores Burdick	David & Karen Gamret
	NM	John Conway	Sue & Jim Bevan
Wednesday, May 20	DS	Joseph Laffey, II	Jean & Eric Becker
iviay 20	MG	Anthony Wisniewski	Wife, Margaret & Daughters
	DS	Chuck DiNardo	Debbie Lafferty
Thursday, May 21	NM	Mary Kaszmar	Marianna & Tom Volk
The Ascension of the Lord	MC	Theresa A. Mervis	Joan Prusak
the Loru	EAQ	Mildred Black Soisson	Maureen Kollar & Donna Hart
Friday,	DS	Carol Burkhardt	Margie Janosko Family
May 22	MC	Edward Lapinski	Michael & Nancy Lapinski
Feast of St. Rita	NM	Mary Masley	Gerry Charmo
Sunday, May 24	NM	Deceased Catholic War Veterans Giovanni Fabian Onorato	Post 1423 Catholic War Veterans Tina Kosko & Family
Seventh Sunday	MC	Seth Budai Timothy Beal	Mr. & Mrs. Jason Ferko Alice Droznek
Of Easter	DS	Margaret Smith	Friends from Resurrection
		Theresa A. Mervis	Carol Ann Dufek
	EAQ	Roy W. Cochrane	Wife & Family
		Patrick Wetzel	The Vella Family
	MG	Mary Agnes & Edward Beddard	Family

As a reminder, our weekday Mass every day at 8:15 a.m. and our Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m. will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel. To reach our YouTube channel, type in YouTube.com in your URL bar. Once you are in YouTube, go to the search bar and type in Steel Valley Catholic. Then click subscribe. There is no charge to subscribe. Mass will no longer be live-streamed on our Facebook page. Please note that You Tube is NOT the same as our website.

Church Update - As we gradually begin to open up, please note that beginning Monday, May 18th, St. Agnes, Holy Trinity, St. Max and St. Therese will once again be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for private prayer. Beginning on Tuesday, May 19th, Holy Name Church will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays only. Beginning on Friday, May 29th, St. Max will have the Blessed Sacrament exposed from noon until 4:00 p.m. The rosary will be prayed at 12:30 p.m. and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. Please remember to use hand sanitizer that has been provided and practice social distancing, keeping two people to a pew, every other pew.

Grouping 229 Update - The countdown has begun. At this time, everything seems to be on track. On May 30-31, the new name of our parish will become common knowledge with the new parish going into effect July 4-5.

Feast of the Ascension - Thursday, May 21st is the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. There will be one parish Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Therese which will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

Feast of St. Rita - The Feast of St. Rita is on **Friday, May 22nd.** There will only be one parish Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Rita which will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Save the Date! The feast of the Most Holy Trinity is on **June 7th.** We are in the process of planning a special event. Please check the bulletin for more details next week.

Offertory Envelopes - A reminder that offertory and parish share envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the parish offices of St. Max or St. Therese or leave in the mailbox at Christ the Light of the World. We check the mailbox several times a day.

We Welcome Our Seminarian - As part of their formation for the priesthood, the seminarians of the diocese are now required to complete what is called a pastoral year - a year off from the seminary classroom, but spent in a parish, gaining valuable practical experience. The pastoral year program helps a man evaluate what his gifts and talents are, as well as necessary areas of growth, and helps him come to greater certainty that God is indeed calling him to the priesthood. Bishop Zubik has asked our grouping to host a seminarian for his upcoming pastoral year. Beginning June 1, we will be pleased to welcome Dan D'Antonio to our family. Dan has just completed his second year of theological studies at St. Vincent and will be ordained to the priesthood in 2023. He is already familiar with our grouping, as he is a native of West Mifflin. Dan will take up residence at Holy Trinity with Father Mike and will be involved in all aspects of the life of the parish, as well as Serra Catholic High School.

Please keep him and all our seminarians in your prayers, and please continue to pray for vocations.

We Need Your Help! As you know, the only way that we are able to celebrate Mass is through livestreaming. The more subscribers that we get, the more capabilities that we will have through our channel. To subscribe, go online to www.youtube.com. Once you are on the YouTube site, enter "Steel Valley Catholic" in the search bar. Then click the subscribe button. We need 1,000 likes to reach our next level, and we currently have 564.

Please Pray - For the repose of the soul of Thomas Breznai, Dolly Tarczy and Linda Desmond, parishioners of Grouping 229, who recently passed away.

Office Closed - At the present time the parish office at Holy Name is closed. Calls are being re-directed to St. Max.

Fr. Hagan Scholarship applications are available for any high school graduate in grouping 229. Two college scholarships of \$2,500.00 each year for freshman college or university students in memory of the Reverend Joseph D. Hagan, the founding pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish will be awarded on the following criteria: 1) The man or woman must be a member of one of the parishes in grouping 229 (St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Rita, Resurrection, Christ the Light of the World, St. Agnes, Holy Trinity, St. Joseph) and by way of a written narrative give evidence of involvement in parish life, interests, activities and of prior scholastic achievement. Once the scholarship has been granted, students must give evidence of involvement in the Campus Ministry programs at the school attended, as well as parish involvement. 2) Applications can be picked up and returned at the rectory offices of St. Therese and St. Maximilian. Applicants must provide requested information by June 15, 2020. No applications will be accepted after this date. 3) The scholarship is for one year and is renewable each year provided the student maintains the conditions established in paragraph 1. 4) Scholarship awards will be determined by a Board of Review and all applicants will be notified in July, 2020.

Important note from the St. Vincent de Paul Society - The St. Vincent de Paul Society has emptied all of their bins. If you have been holding on to things that you would like to donate, please drop them in the bins. Monetary Donations to St. Vincent de Paul - If you would like to make a monetary donation to St. Vincent de Paul, please make your check out directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and not the church.

Safe Environment Update

As we proceed forward moving from eight churches into one parish it is necessary we have all of our Safe Environment Clearances in order. Many of you have been very responsive to emails and calls made to you concerning clearances needed or those that have expired. Unfortunately, some people have not responded to the emails and calls.

As we become one parish all Employees, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Adult Altar Servers, Catechists, Choir Members (Schola), Ushers (Hospitality Greeters), Fundraising Volunteers need to be compliant. If volunteers do not have clearances required for your role you will not be permitted to volunteer to serve the Parish. We must provide a safe environment for the youth of our school, religious education program, and parish.

The PA Child Abuse Clearance, The Mandated Reporter Training, and FBI Fingerprinting or Waiver is good for five (5) years and then must be renewed. Sister Cynthia will notify volunteers when any of these are expiring and will help everyone obtain a renewal. If you have questions you can contact Sister Cynthia through email

<u>cwessel@stthereseschoolmunhall.org</u>, or call St. Agnes Convent until school resumes **412-466-3554**.

Thank you for your concern through these tough times. Several people who have no children have asked about the youth of the parish. Please be assured that we have been trying to keep families up to date the best we can. We all know that there is still a good deal of uncertainty on what lies ahead, but we, the parish staff, continue to make plans and revise them as need be.

Confirmation has been postponed. We have no control over this. The Bishop sets the time and place. First Communion - We have a plan in place, and as soon as the churches re-open we will be ready to go by mid-June. We have several options in mind.

A plan for our pre-school and kindergarten graduations is in place to recognize these children thanks to Mr. Jon Cuniak, principal, and their teachers.

We have a plan in place for the closing of school Mass on Friday, May 29th at 8:15 a.m.

We have two dates set aside for eighth grade graduation, June 22nd or July 20th.

We have a program put together for Vacation Bible School July 13-17th. Junior High Camp is planned for July 21-23rd.

As for adults, our RCIA candidates have begun to meet on Thursday nights.

Our Bereavement Ministry is meeting once again on a regular schedule on Wednesdays. If anyone has lost a loved one recently and would like more information on the Bereavement Ministry, please contact Lori Ellis at 412-462-8161.

Please note that we are trying to make the best of a bad situation. If we can be of any other assistance, please feel free to contact us.

May is the Month of the Blessed Mother

May is just around the corner. We have always honored our Blessed Mother and we will continue to do that in the month of May. Our schedule for praying the rosary will be as follows:

Monday, May 18th 7:00 p.m. St. Max Wednesday, May 20th 7:00 p.m. St. Therese Monday, May 25th Memorial Day - No Rosary

Wednesday, May 27th 7:00 p.m. St. Therese

Please note that we will be praying the rosary outside. Please be sure to bring a lawn chair and please be sure to practice social distancing. All are welcome! We hope you can join us! you are unable to join us, I encourage all of you to pray the rosary throughout the month of May.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

May 17th, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

We hope for many things: passing an exam, finding our true love, securing sustainable work, or surviving an illness. We often seek to have God be a part of what we hope for and desire, almost trying to convince Him that our agenda is what is ultimately important. While our particular hopes may appear to be what needs to be achieved in order for us to be happy, they really are not. Our lesser, more personal hopes can distract us from true hope.

When God became a human being, a powerful message was sent: all that is authentically human is found in the divine. As the human Jesus lived and died in order to show us that he truly is the universal Christ, we have to keep our sight focused on our eternal truth and destiny and who we truly are. We have to be careful when we allow our earthly concerns to distract us. True hope is found when we place our trust in Christ's promises and don't rely on our own strength. True hope focuses on striving toward the fulfillment of God's promises and not simply on achieving what we think we need in this life. Hope always travels with two friends — faith and love. In this trio of virtues, we find the very presence of God born in every human being. These are God's greatest gifts, and they lead us to the fullness of His presence.

As with faith and love, we cannot see hope with just our human eyes. We don't carry this virtue within us to use solely for our own personal agenda. Hope is not something that simply comes with the human package. As with faith and love, hope is a gift that is given to us to draw us closer to our eternal truth. Faith, hope, and love are signs that there is something far greater going on in us and something greater to persevere in obtaining. The true divine gift of hope is what will endure any hardship we encounter, especially those that will come from authentically living the Gospel. With all that is happening in our lives, in our church, and in our world, what is the reason for our hope? Ask God for the fortitude to see His eternal gift as the reason we get up in the morning and do the things we do.

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of May 17, 2020

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf, 4a]/In 15:26—16:4a

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11 Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20 Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

Observances for the week of May 17, 2020

Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter

Monday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr
Wednesday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord
Friday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

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Listed below is a novena to the Holy Spirit that can be prayed daily between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost. The novena traditionally begins the Friday after Ascension Thursday and concludes 9 days later, on the vigil of Pentecost.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love.

Grant me.

the Spirit of *Wisdom* that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal,

the Spirit of *Understanding* to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth,

the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven,

the Spirit of *Fortitude* that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation,

the Spirit of *Knowledge* **that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints.**

the Spirit of *Piety* that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and

the Spirit of *Fear of the Lord* that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. **Amen.**

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself soul and body to Thee, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Thy purity, the unerring keenness of Thy justice, and the might of Thy love. Thou art the Strength and Light of my soul. In Thee I live and move and am.

I desire never to grieve Thee by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against Thee. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Thy light and listen to Thy voice and follow Thy gracious inspirations. I cling to Thee and give myself to Thee and ask Thee by Thy compassion to watch over me in my weakness.

Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore Thee Adorable Spirit, helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Thy grace that I may never sin against Thee. Give me grace O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to Thee always and everywhere, "Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Amen.

(To be recited daily during the Novena)



APPALACHIA WORK CAMP 2020

For the past 38 years, a group of us have headed to the hills of Appalachia, Kentucky to do repair work, put on additions and even build homes 24 x 40 for families, but due to Covid-19, this year we are unable to go. Too many commitments needed to be made already such as renting the vans and trucks, property purchased, land graded off or even roads cut in. Not to mention, we lost five of our remaining fundraisers that would have generated the remaining \$40,000 that was needed.

When this program was established 38 years ago, the main goal was not so much to help the needy families, but to help our youth understand what they can accomplish by working together, teaching them skills and building self confidence.

We do not want to lose this program, and so, it was decided that we would take on a project here in our parish.

Of course, this depends on if we can open up our churches, come together as a group and work within social distancing guidelines. We don't know for sure if this project will even be possible, and once again, decisions will have to be made by the first week of June as the materials will need to be ordered. The adult team is on board and we are waiting to hear how the youth will respond.

Our proposal is to go to St. Agnes and tear the roof off of the social hall, which is in really bad shape, and replace the roof. We also propose to put an additional roof on the back side of St. Agnes Hall, 20 x 50. We also hope to remove the windows that are in very bad shape. Third, to repair the existing air conditioning ducts that have holes in it. Fourth, to re-do the sanctuary by moving the tabernacle into the center of the church.

As we look down the road, we don't know what buildings will be left, but we do know if anything will be sellable it must be maintained, as we try to maintain all of our properties.

The funds to cover this work would come from the Church Alive Campaign, funds that St. Agnes raised earlier. In fact, we don't have to do a case study because over five years ago that money was earmarked for that specific purpose.

Whether this will happen we will have to wait and see, but for now, I wanted to share this information with you.

LAST CALL!
PLEASE CALL LORI CORSI
OR FATHER DAN
IF YOU PLAN ON JOINING US!

Father Dan



Thank you, one and all, who helped to make our May Crowning so wonderful. Thanks to those who ordered flowers and helped to make our altar look so beautiful. A special thank you to our Ladies Guild for organizing the flower sale and arranging the flowers. Thanks to our music ministry for lifting our voices in song. I also wish to thank Anna Mae Dragojevich for being such a gracious May Queen, and to her family for their support. A special thanks to George Fonos for making the corsages and the crown.



OUR FISH FRY IS BACK!!

BEGINNING FRIDAY, MAY 29th
11:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

St. Therese Cafeteria

Curbside Pick-up and Delivery Only

Call 412-462-8164



Our Fish Fry will re-open, but we had to make some changes. It will take place at ST. THERESE CAFETERIA. For curbside pick-up, you will drive around to the back of the gym building to pick up your order. Please call 412-462-8164 to place your order. We will also offer delivery. For delivery, a minimum purchase of \$20 is required and we will deliver within our parish boundaries.

Our menu will be limited to fried or baked fish sandwiches or dinners. Dinners include french fries and cole slaw. We will also serve jumbo and popcorn shrimp, chicken planks, macaroni and cheese, haluski, potato pancakes, crab cakes, grilled cheese and pizza.



LOOKING FOR HELP!!

We will need people to work the Fish Fry: Bread Fish, Fry Fish, Fill Orders, etc. There will be a meeting in St. Therese Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m.

We are starting fresh and new!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



Act of Spiritual Communion

A Prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



Pope Francis Prayer for Protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We hope entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Collection Report Grouping 229

May 10, 2020

\$33,113

Totals include all offertory, parish share, energy needs and other collections. Grouping 229 needs \$40,000 each week in order to maintain the buildings, utilities, staff, etc.

Candles

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at Christ the Light of the World is lit</u> for Angie Ponist requested by Denise and Bob Toulin.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at Resurrection</u> is lit this week for David Dirle requested by Wife & Children.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at St. Agnes</u> is lit this week for Paula Anne Smith and Freddy Smith requested by Mom & Dad.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at St. Max</u> is lit this week for Anna J. Kascak requested by Barbara McKinney. <u>Candles on the Altar at St. Max</u> are lit this week in Memory of Eugene Grzyb req. by Wife, Irene and Family ~ Anna Stibrik req. by Mary Stibrik ~ Grandmothers req. by Mary Stibrik

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at St. Rita</u> is lit this week for Julia Margie requested by Agnes Dolce.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle at St. Therese</u> is lit this week in memory of Don Ellenberger requested by Family.



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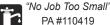
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