

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 7, 2025



SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH

Administrative Office | 1 Park Manor Road | Donora, PA 15033-1755 P: 724-258-7794 | F: 724-379-6242 | saintandrewmidmon.org For parish locations and staff extensions, see page 22

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DEC 6	FIRST S	ATURDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT			
8:30 am	СНА	Jack Rostcheck by Kathy & Cack Costantino	Fr. Pat			
4:00 pm	DON	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Haluch by Daughter, Geri Pergola & Family	Fr. Levi			
5:00 pm	CHA	Ken Fusina by Family	Fr. Jerry			
6:00 pm	MON	Jack & Margaret McGinty by Family	Fr. Pat			
DEC 7	SECONE	SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT			
8:30 am	DON	Rich Fronzaglio by The Holy Rosary Confraternity	Fr. Levi			
9:00 am	СНА	Cecilia Sciortino by Pennline Family	Fr. Pat			
11:00 am	MON	Domenick, Mona & Nicky Antonelli by Suzanne Plesha	Fr. Levi			
DEC 8	IMMACU	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION				
8:30 am	DON	People of the Parish				
12:00 pm	CHA	John & Agnes Tiech by The Tiech Family				
7:00 pm	MON	People of the Parish				
DEC 9	SECONI	D TUESDAY OF ADVENT				
8:30 am	DON	Wallace J. Zielinski by Emilie, Flo & Family				
DEC 10	SAINT J	OHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CH	URCH			
7:00 pm	MON	The Bavuso Family by Joyce Wilson				
DEC 11	SAINT J	OHN OF DAMASCUS, PRIEST & DOCTOR OF THE CH	URCH			
8:30 am	DON	Esterina lannetti Turcic by Daughter, Linda				
DEC 12	SECONE	FRIDAY OF ADVENT				
8:30 am	MON	Bill Howells by Wife, Debbie Howells				
DEC 13	SECONE	SATURDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT			
8:30 am	CHA	Cecilia Sciortino by Pennline Family	Fr. Levi			
4:00 pm	DON	Deceased Members of the Kowall Family by Louise Kowall	Fr. Pat			
5:00 pm	CHA	Antoinette & Joseph Svrcek by Children, Mary Ann, Lorraince & Martin	Fr. Levi			
6:00 pm	MON	Pauline Guliano by Mike & Kathy Guliano	Fr. Pat			
DEC 14	THIRD S	SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT			
8:30 am	DON	Joseph E. Stefko by Eugene J. Stefko & Family	Fr. Levi			
9:00 am	СНА	People of the Parish	Fr. Pat			
11:00 am	MON	Joe Rostcheck by Daughter, Leanne & Family	Fr. Levi			





-SACRAMENTS-



MASS SCHEDULE/ ORE MAS

Saturday/Samdi

4:00pm - Donora 5:00pm - Charleroi

6:00pm - Monongahela

Sunday/Dimanch

8:30am - Donora

9:00am - Charleroi

11:00am - Monongahela

Weekday Mass Times/ Tan Mas jou lasèman

Monday/Lendi

Charleroi 8:30am

Tuesday/Madi

Donora 8:30am

Wednesday/Mèkredi

Monongahela 7:00pm

Thursday/Jedi

Donora 8:30am

Friday/Vandredi

Monongahela 8:30am

Saturday/Samdi

Charleroi 8:30am

This schedule does not reflect holidays or Holy Days.
Orè sa a pa reflete jou ferye oswa jou apa pou Bondye.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, November 23rd:

\$9,447

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS November 23 2025



BAPTISM

For arrangements and to schedule a class please call 724-258-7794



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In danger of death please call the parish office at any time. If in the hospital or a skilled nursing facility, please ask the nursing staff to contact the priest on call.



MARRIAGE

Please contact the parish office to set a meeting with a member of the clergy no less than <u>six months</u> before the proposed wedding date.



PENANCE

Mondays, Charleroi 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesdays, Monongahela 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Saturdays, Donora 3:00 p.m.to 3:45 p.m.

First Fridays, Donora 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

By appointment, please call the parish office.



"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK IN

CHARLEROI FOR

DEB JERICHO PAPPASERGIBy: Pappasergi Family

DONORA FOR STEPHEN RUDINEC By: Wife, Dorothy & Family

MONONGAHELA FOR

JASON HERMAN By: Kathy & JoJo Herman

CLERGY

A WORD FROM FR. LEVI

Grace and peace to you in Christ! This week the Gospel is all about repentance so I have listed an examination of conscience below. Don't forget our usual times for Confession are Monday 6-7 in Charleroi, Wednesday 6-7 in Mon City, and Saturday 3-3:45 in Donora. Also, on December 17th we will an extended opportunity for confessions! "The Light is on for You" is an initiative of the diocese to get as many people to confession as possible. So all 3 churches will have a priest available that day from 6-8pm. Please make use of this special time of year to receive God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, or things as more important than God?

Do I give God time every day in prayer?
Do I seek to love Him with my whole heart?

Have I been involved with superstitious practices, or have I been involved with the occult?

Do I seek to live by God's Word as taught by the Church?

Have I ever received Communion in the state of mortal sin?

Have I ever deliberately told a lie in Confession, or have I withheld a mortal sin from the priest in Confession?

Are there other "gods" in my life? Money, security, power, people, etc.? You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Have I used God □s name in vain: lightly or carelessly? Have I been angry with God?

Have I wished evil upon any other person?

Have I insulted a sacred person or abused a sacred object? Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Have I missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation?

Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body?

Do I look for ways to spend time with family on Sunday?

Have I tried to observe Sunday as a day of rest?

Do I do needless work on Sunday? Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect?

Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

Do I honor and obey my parents?

Have I neglected my duties to my spouse and children?

Have I given my family good religious example?

Do I try to bring peace into my home life? Do I care for my aged and infirm relatives?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physically, verbally, or emotionally, like gossip or manipulation of any kind?

Have I had an abortion or encouraged or helped anyone to have an abortion?

Have I physically harmed anyone?

Have I abused alcohol or drugs?

Did I give scandal to anyone, leading him or her into sin?

Have I been angry or resentful?

Have I harbored hatred in my heart?

Have I mutilated myself through any form of sterilization?

Have I encouraged or condoned sterilization?

Have I engaged, in any way, in sins against human life such as artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization?

Have I participated in or approved of euthanasia?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

Have I been faithful to my marriage vows in thought and action?

Have I engaged in any sexual activity outside of marriage?

Have I used any method of contraception or artificial birth control in my marriage?

Has each sexual act in my marriage been open to the transmission of new life?

Have I been guilty of masturbation?

Do I seek to control my thoughts and imaginations?

Have I viewed pornography?

Have I respected all members of the opposite sex, or have I thought of other people as mere objects?

Do I seek to be chaste in my thoughts, words, actions?

Am I careful to dress modestly?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another? Have I stolen what is not mine?

Have I returned or made restitution for what I have stolen?

Do I waste time at work, school, and home? Do I gamble excessively, denying my family of their needs?

Do I pay my debts promptly?

Do I seek to share what I have with the poor?

Have I cheated anyone out of what is justly theirs, for example creditors, insurance companies, corporations, government?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

Do I speak badly of others behind their back?

Am I sincere in my dealings with others?

Am I critical, negative, or uncharitable in my thoughts of others? Do I keep secret what should be kept confidential?

Have I injured the reputation of others by slander?

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

Have I consented to impure thoughts?

Have I caused impure thoughts by impure reading, movies, television, conversation, or curiosity? Do I pray at once to banish impure thoughts and temptations?

Have I behaved in an inappropriate way with members of the opposite sex: flirting, being superficial, etc.?

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Am I jealous of what other people have

Do I envy the families or possessions of others?

Am I greedy or selfish?

Are material possessions the purpose of my identity?

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him we humbly prav:

and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

O Glorious Saint Andrew. you were the first to recognize and follow the Lamb of God. With your friend Saint John, you remained with Jesus for that day, for your entire life, and now throughout eternity. As you led your brother Saint Peter to Christ and many others after Him, draw us also to Him. Teach us to lead others to Christ solely out of love for Him and dedication in His service. Help us to learn the lesson of the cross and to carry our daily crosses without complaint so that they may carry us to Jesus. Amen.

LITURGY PREPARATION

Second Sunday of Advent

During the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent each year we hear about John the Baptist in the Gospel. John was quite a controversial figure, living in the desert, wearing clothing made of animal hair, eating bugs and honey. I imagine he looked rather shocking in appearance, and his personality was no different. John spread his message very boldly and even publicly called out the Jewish religious leaders of his time, labeling them a "brood of vipers." I'm sure his abrasive and zealous personality caught the attention of many, and he might have easily been dismissed by some as the local crazy person, but I think it was the content of John's message that caused the Israelites' ears to perk up. The Jewish people had been waiting for the Messiah for literal centuries, and now this new prophet was proclaiming that the time had come!



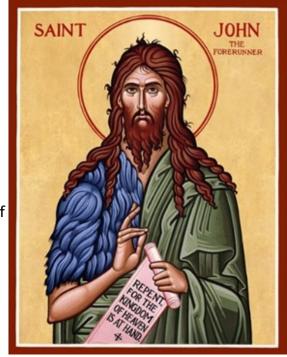
Amanda Nicholson Music & Liturgy

Anytime that a king or royal person went abroad to visit another country there were many preparations to be made. Officials usually traveled ahead to ensure that the roads were clear and passable, and that dangers were scoped out. This kind of preparation still happens today with our governmental rulers and famous celebrities. Care is taken to ensure their safety and comfort. Those

physical preparations, though, weren't the focus of John the Baptist's ministry. I'm sure John didn't care at all what the roads in Israel looked like, he instead wanted to prepare the roadway to people's *hearts*.

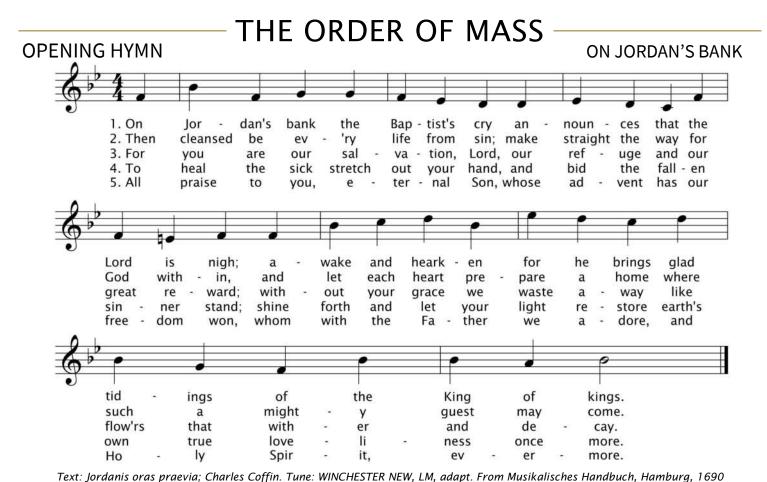
John preached a message of repentance and conversion in order to prepare people to meet Jesus, and I'm sure that's one of the reasons that John was so upset with the Pharisees and Sadducees, because they came to John to be baptized along with everyone else, but their hearts and lives were not reflective of true conversion. John the Baptist's message still reaches out to us 2,000 years later, and we're just as in need of repentance and conversion as the people who listened to John firsthand.

I encourage everyone to take to heart the message of John the Baptist and make repentance (confession) one of the ways you prepare for Christmas. We prepare for Christmas in so many different ways between decorating, baking, Christmas cards, parties, and gift buying, that sometimes the real "reason for



the season" can get lost. Imagine if you didn't prepare for Christmas...you didn't buy gifts, decorate your home, or go grocery shopping for all the good holiday food. Christmas Eve/Day would feel like a bust! That's why we also need spiritual preparation for Christmas to ensure that we're ready and waiting with open, pure hearts.

Try to build in some purposeful time to prepare this Advent, such as going to confession (and take your whole family!) attend an Advent service, read spiritual Advent reflections, or visit one of our churches for some private prayer. Prepare for Jesus by opening the roadway to your heart.



On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist.

and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf

shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie

FIRST READING

down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

ISAIAH 11:1-10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Jus - tice shall flour-ish in his time, and full - ness of peace for ev - er.

Text: The Revised Grail Psalms, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Pub.; refrain ICEL © 1969,1981,1997 Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc

THE ORDER OF MASS

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement.
- In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more.
 He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth.

SECOND READING

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- For he shall save the needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless.
 He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy.
- May his name endure forever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

ROMANS 15:4-9

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your

MATTHEW 3:1-12

repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE ORDER OF MASS

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, 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.



COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE



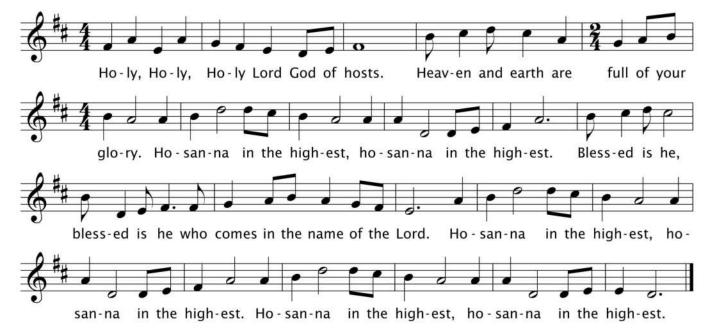
Text: Isaiah 40:1-8; Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben; Johann Olearius, 1611-1684; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Tune: GENEVA 42, 8 7 8 7 77 88; Genevan Psalter, 1551; harm. adapt. from Claude Goudimel, 1505-1572



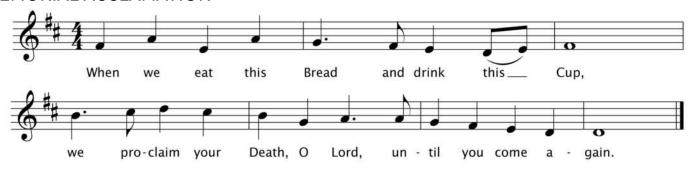
CHARLEROI | DONORA | MONONGAHELA

THE ORDER OF MASS

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



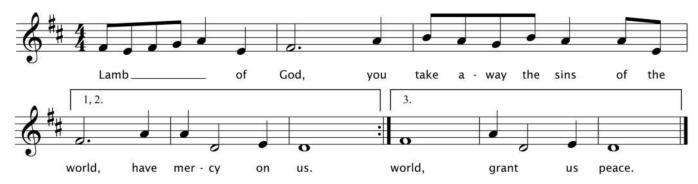
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



GREAT AMEN

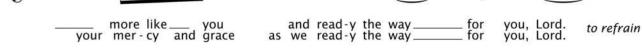


LAMB OF GOD



Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.





give us the strength in ____ our hearts

Text: based on Isaiah 40:3, 4a. Text and music © 2004, Curtis Stephan. Published by Spirit and Song.

to walk in your truth, we pre-pare a place.

SO

we may love Come bring this world



Text: Charles Wesley. Music: Christian Witt's Psalmodia Sacra, 1715; apart. by Henry Gauntlett. Reprinted under One License #729427. All rights reserved.

Verses 2 & 3

2. As we wait for you, 3. Let us see your face;

GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

Producing Good Fruit

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist appears as the new Elijah. He is preparing the way of the Lord by preaching, teaching, and calling people to a Baptism of repentance. Advent is a season for us to hear that same call, to repent, turn to God, and live the Gospel.

This Gospel also includes one of my favorite Scripture lines: "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." Meditating on this verse has helped me understand the interplay of faith and works in regards to our salvation. We are all saved through our Baptisms. We are all called to repent of our sins, accept the saving sacrifice of Jesus dying for us, and then to go forward and produce good fruit as evidence of our repentance and our faith. Good fruit naturally grows from a heart rooted in Christ.

As the calendar year winds down and the Church year begins anew, Advent gives us the perfect opportunity to reset—to turn back to God and to ask, "What fruit is God inviting me to bear right now?"



Diane Kooser Formation

These past few weeks, our parish has been a literal **cornucopia of good fruit**. We've had thriving food, pet food, and diaper distributions through our partner and legacy foodbanks. We collected winter shoes and monetary donations to make sure children in our community have warm, appropriate footwear. Our parishioners served and delivered more than 400 Thanksgiving meals to neighbors in need. And immediately after Thanksgiving, Marian Hall transformed into a free "department store" as the Knights of Columbus hosted their clothing drive. Next week we'll bring forward our Angel Tree gifts to continue to bless others.

Good fruit isn't always dramatic or public. Often, it's quiet, simple, and deeply holy. Here are some ways we can continue bearing fruit this Advent:

- **Prayer:** Interceding for someone by name, praying a Rosary for someone who is struggling, or spending ten extra minutes in silence with the Lord.
- Scripture: Reading the daily Gospel or choosing one Advent verse to meditate on all week.
- **Encouragement:** Reaching out to someone who is lonely, grieving, or overwhelmed with a note, text, or visit.
- Acts of Kindness and Forgiveness: Offering forgiveness, being patient in a difficult moment, or giving someone your time when it's inconvenient.
- Witness: Sharing how God has worked in your life—especially with someone who might need hope.
- Service: Looking for small ways to help at home or in the community without being asked.
- **Generosity:** Supporting parish ministries, donating to those in need, or quietly blessing someone who can't repay you.
- **Reconciliation:** Making a good confession during Advent so that God can prune away what doesn't belong and help new fruit grow.

Advent invites us not only to prepare for Christmas, but to prepare our hearts for Christ. May this season draw us closer to Him, and may our lives overflow with the good fruits of repentance, mercy, and love.



LISTENING SESSION FOLLOW UP: YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

At our recent parish listening session, several thoughtful questions were raised about finances and ministry impact. We're grateful for the engagement and want to share a series of 'fast facts' that help paint a clearer picture of our parish's life — both in numbers and in mission.

Parish Fast Facts

~ Registered Parishioners: 5,141 ~ Registered Families: 2,150

~ Parishioners Giving Offertory: 871 ~ Online Givers: 98

~ First Holy Communion: 31 ~ Confirmation: 22

~ Year to Date (FY) 2025 Funerals: 67 ~ FY 2025 Baptisms: 19 ~ FY 2025 Weddings: 1

~ 2025 OCIA Participants Welcomed into the Church: 21 ~ 2026 OCIA Candidates Preparing for Sacraments: 15

These numbers reflect both the strength and opportunity within our parish community. While we are blessed with over 5,000 registered parishioners, fewer than 900 currently contribute to offertory and fewer than 100 do so online. Every gift, large or small, helps sustain our ministries, support our staff, and care for our facilities. We'll look to increase both mass attendance and offertory as we continue on this journey. And every new OCIA participant reminds us that the Church is alive and growing.

Facilities Fast Facts

Our parish is blessed with 11 active properties that support worship, formation, outreach, and administration. These spaces are vital to our mission and serve as hubs of community life:

~ Monongahela Church ~ Monongahela Rectory ~ Parish Center ~ Madonna School ~ Parish Park ~ Donora Church/Facility ~ Donora Rectory ~ Charleroi Rectory

~ Central Storage ~ Formation Center ~ Charleroi Church/Marian Hall

Service in Action: Ministry Fast Facts

Our parish's mission extends far beyond the pews. Through your generosity and the dedication of countless volunteers, we're able to serve with compassion and creativity. Here's a glimpse of what that looks like in action:

~ YTD Prayer Blankets Created: 12

Each number tells a story of hope, faith, and shared purpose. Whether it's a warm meal, a handmade rosary, or a robe stitched with love, your support is making a difference — one act of kindness at a time.

Fundraising Fast Facts

From sweet treats to community celebrations, our signature parish fundraising efforts continue to nourish both body and mission. Here's what your participation has helped accomplish this year:

~ Donuts Sold (YTD): 12,579 = \$12,597.75 raised

~ 2025 Apple Dumplings Sold: 1,064 = \$5,320 raised

~ 2025 Cinnamon Rolls Sold: 2,610 = \$4,024 raised

~ 2025 Fish Fry Proceeds: \$55,657 raised

~ 2025 Summerfest Proceeds: \$23.837 raised

~ 2025 Festival of Nations Proceeds: \$20,637 raised

~ 2025 Spaghetti Dinner Proceeds: \$6,300 raised

~ Gaming Proceeds (YTD): \$32,287

The aforementioned activities raised a collective \$160.659.75. These events not only raise funds they build fellowship, welcome new faces, and strengthen our parish identity. We are striving to get to a place where we don't survive on fundraisers, but these funds are critical for sustainment today. Every dollar supports and enables operations, ministries, outreach, and the joyful work of being a Church together.

Why this all Matters

Your offertory support is a reflection of a shared mission. It keeps the lights on, the doors open, and the sacraments flowing. It allows us to serve, celebrate, and grow together. Our ministries keep our parish alive and engaged.

Looking Ahead

We're exploring ways to make giving easier and more meaningful, including expanding online options and offering clearer insight into how your gifts are used. We also look forward to hosting additional listening sessions in the new year. Your voice matters and your questions, ideas, and hopes help shape the future of our parish. As we continue to implement office centralization and other cost-saving measures, we will share more detailed financial reporting once those savings are fully realized. If you have ideas or questions in the meantime, we welcome them; this is your parish and your voice matters.

IMPORTANT MASS TIMES TO REMEMBER...

Please be advised of the new weekend Mass Schedule that will begin the weekend of January 17/18, 2026.

> **SATURDAY VIGIL** 4:00 p.m. Donora 5:30 p.m. Charleroi

SUNDAY 7:30 a.m. Donora 9:00 a.m. Charleroi 11:30 a.m. Monongahela 6pm p.m. Monongahela

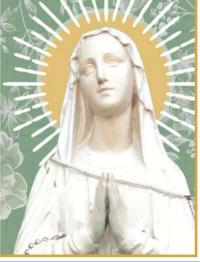
CHRISTMAS

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule Monday, Dec. 8th **Holy Day of Obligation** 8:30 AM Donora

8:50 AM School Mass. Monongahela (parishioners welcome)

12:00 PM Charleroi

7:00 PM Monongahela





Christmas Day 8:30 AM Donora 9:00 AM Charleroi 11:00 AM Mon City



Mary, Mother of God — Holy Day of Obligation January 1, 2026

Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 31st at 4:00 PM in Donora

New Years Day Thursday, January 1st 9:00 AM in Charleroi 11:00 AM in Monongahela



You're invited....

Be Healed:

A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life by Dr. Bob Schuchts

Winter Book Study

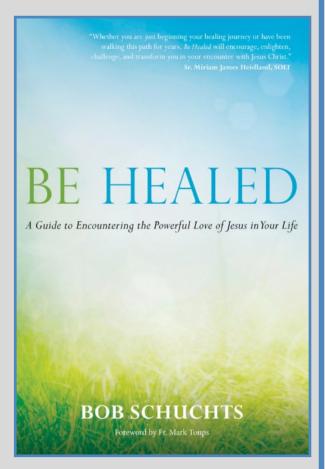
Please consider joining this 6-week book study where we'll dive deep into each chapter of Dr. Bob Schucths' book "Be Healed."

Thursdays | 6 - 7:30pm
January 8, 2026 - February 12, 2026

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish Knights of Colombus Hall Donora, PA

There is no cost to participate, just the cost of the book.

For more information or to register, please email Valentina Tomko at vtomko@saintandrewmidmon.org



The book study will provide an opportunity to find spiritual, emotional and physical healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Steeped in Scripture and the wisdom of the Catholic church, Dr. Bob's book can help people recognize their areas of brokenness and place their hope in the Risen Christ.

Please order your book online and read the first 2 chapters to prepare for our first meeting on January 8th.

WORKS OF MERCY



DIGNITY ROBE GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month in St. Andrew's sewing room in Donora from 9:00 a.m. untill noon. We are in need of more people to join us for this wonderful project to sew, cut, iron, etc... Come join us!



HONORARIUMS

We are thankful for the gifts given to the food bank in memory of:

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By John & Jane Gales

FOOD BANK REQUESTS

- Pasta & Sauce
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Granola Bars
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Ramen Noodles
- Hamburger Helper
- · Rice & Beans
- Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Napkins





There are two Food Banks offered through Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish. On the second Tuesday of every month,

we partner with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in our Charleroi site only, from 9:30am -11am. And on the second Wednesday of every month, we have our parish Food Bank, Diaper Bank and Pet Food Bank pick up at all 3 church locations from 10am - 11:30. Volunteers are always needed! Please contact Chris lanney at 267-990-4479.





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ON FIRE FOR CHRIST



Prepare! Repent! Hope! Personal Transformation! Be on Fire for Christ!

On this Second Sunday of Advent we are focused on preparation, repentance, and hope, centered on John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord". All of today's readings are connected to this call, particularly Isaiah's prophecy of a just and peaceful Messiah and St. Matthew's account of John the Baptist preaching a baptism of repentance. We need to experience a personal conversion, with a call to action in the face of injustice, and the hopeful promise of Christ's reign.

In our Gospel today, John the Baptist's message is a call to make straight the paths in our lives. It stresses being prepared. This involves acknowledging our sins, repenting, and turning back to God. Repentance isn't just a feeling; it must be shown through actions, like making good moral choices and making a sincere attempt to amend our lives to be more like Christ.



Deacon Frank Bursic

The season of Advent is a time of hope, but this hope is tied to action. We are called to work for a better world, even if we cannot fix everything ourselves. We prepare the way for the Lord by working for justice, safety, and peace. Isaiah's prophecy reminds us that the promised King will be different, a ruler of equity and righteousness whose reign will bring freedom and peace.

Advent calls us to an internal transformation. It is a season not just for anticipating Christmas, but for allowing Christ's love to enter and transform the "desert" of our hearts. We can prepare our hearts by allowing Jesus to enter, let His love prune stubborn parts of our lives, and use our lives to reflect His message and example to everyone we encounter.

Advent is about you and your personal spiritual preparation for not only the birth of Christ at Christmas, but also about your meeting Christ when you are called home and meet Him face to face. None of us knows when that time will come. We don't know when we will pass from this world. We don't know when the end of the world will come. The message that Christ always gives is to be prepared! Don't wait! Start now to get your life in order, to change to be the best that you can be!

Start today in prayer. Pray every day as a family and give thanks for all the blessings God has given you. Don't let the "commercial" craziness distract you! Stop for a few moments and clear your mind of all distractions and say a couple of prayers. Start now and make it a habit! Be spiritually ready for Christmas and all other preparations will fall into place! Be ready to greet Christ not only on His birthday, but also at the end of time!

Get excited. Get joy filled. Get that fire in your heart. Get a passion for doing and following God's will. Take time to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Come often to His Table to receive Him, to celebrate Him and all He has done for you! And then, let go! Let God! He's got this. Go out and be on fire for Christ! Now go out and spread His Good News! God Bless. I'll see you at His table.







Volunteers Needed

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Meals on Wheels is in need of drivers and delivery persons for the months of November and December for Charleroi deliveries. Monday through Friday from 10am-11:30am

Whether you can give your time for both months, one week, or just one day, any amount of help is greatly appreciated.

FAITH FORMATION

As Christmas approaches, we spend time getting our homes and hearts ready by buying gifts, sending cards, decorating, and planning celebrations. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist reminds us that preparing for Jesus also means preparing our hearts through repentance. Many parishes offer communal Reconciliation services during Advent. Your family may choose to take part in one together, or you may go individually.

Read today's Gospel together. Talk about how John calls the people to prepare for God's Kingdom by changing their hearts and lives. Then consider creating a simple family prayer time to prepare for Christmas. You might gather near your Advent wreath or another peaceful place in your home.

Read Matthew 3:1-3 again. Invite each person to take a quiet moment to talk to God in their hearts, asking for forgiveness.



Kathy Miller Director of Faith Formation

Faith Formation

Dec 7th — Family Catechesis 9am Mass followed by family activities in Marian Hall

Dec 14th — In-Person Class

Dec 21^{st*} — In-person Class

Dec 28th — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas! ⁵

Jan 4th — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

Confirmation

Dec 14th — In-Person Class Dec 21^{st*} — In-person Class

Dec 28th — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas! 5

Jan 4th — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

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HOPE

'The Light is On For You' is an initiative of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Pittsburgh.

Advent is the perfect time to renew and restore your relationship with Jesus and with the Church as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Wednesday, December 17
All 3 churches will have a priest available
6—8pm

Blue Christmas Service

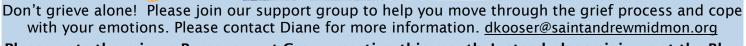
Wednesday, December 11 7 p.m. | Donora Site

This gentle, prayerful gathering is for anyone who finds the holiday season difficult. Through Scripture, quiet reflection, and candlelight, we will hold space for grief, healing, and the comforting hope of Christ's presence. All are welcome to come and rest in God's peace.

A social gathering with small bites will follow immediately upstairs in the social hall.



BEREAVEMENT



Please note there is no Bereavement Group meeting this month. Instead please join us at the Blue Christmas Service.



St. Andrew's Giving Tree

St. Andrew's Giving Tree Project has begun! The Giving Trees are on display in the back of all three churches with angels for parishioners to take. On the angel is information regarding the person for whom you are to purchase a gift and a gift suggestions. This information is just there to help you in the purchase of a gift. Anything you give is deeply appreciated.

Please wrap the gift,
making sure you attach the
angel to the gift and return
it to one of the Parish
Offices no later than
Sunday, December 14!
Please, do not leave gifts
in the back of the Church!





Confraternity of Christian Mothers

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers will hold their annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th at 2:00 at the Donora Church Hall. Members are reminded there is a \$15 exchange gift. Please meet at 2:00 upstairs in the Church Hall.







Christmas Decorating/Monongahela Church

The Monongahela Church will be decorated immediately following the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, December 14th. We could use some "able bodied people" to help bring the decorations out from storage. Please stay if you can assist us.



The Rosary Makers

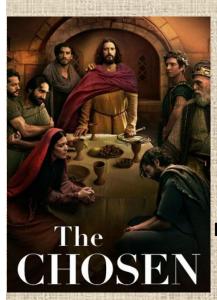
We're meeting on Thursday, December 18th at 1pm at the *By George Restaurant*, in Monessen. We received the following memorial donations: \$20 from JoAnn Mocilan, in memory of her husband Frank Mocilan, \$20 from Jean Galloni, in memory of Richard State California (1997).

Jean Galloni, in memory of Rick Puskar, \$20 from Judith Child and a \$25 anonymous donation. We operate solely from donations. Anyone wishing to join the Rosary Makers, please contact Jean at 724-483-5533.

OPLATKI SALE

These Christmas Wafers are available at each of the parish offices. The requested donation is \$3 per Oplatki.

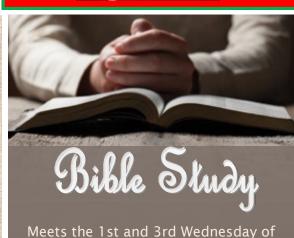




CHOSEN SERIES WATCH PARTY

Meets again on Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30PM in the Charleroi Formation Center in Charleroi.

If you're interested, please call Helen Bednarczyk 724-379-8737



every month in the Knights of Columbus

Hall in Charleroi at 6PM. Right now,

we're discussing the Parables. The next

meeting is Wednesday, December 3rd.

All are welcome to join us!

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Michael C.

Honors

Caden P.



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High Honors Mya L., Audrina S.

Honors

Jaxson B.



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GROWING TOGETHER IN HOPE

Mission

As we begin a new Church year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on our personal mission and our parish mission within the larger mission of the Catholic Church. The Church exists to evangelize, teach, sanctify, serve, unite all people, and to be the sacrament of Christ's saving work in the world. As Catholic Christians, you and I are called to share in this mission.

Evangelize

You may have noticed a renewed focus on evangelization in our parish lately and wondered, "How would I even evangelize?" Evangelization isn't standing on a street corner with a microphone. It's sharing the joy of your relationship with Jesus through hospitality, invitation, and witness. It's speaking naturally about God's goodness in your life, praying for others, and creating a parish where people feel welcomed, seen, and loved.



Diane Kooser Formation

Teach

Under the guidance of our Religious Education Director, Kathy Miller, our catechists have been refreshing and strengthening our Faith Formation program, so our young people learn the beauty of the Catholic faith and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus.

Recently, Father Levi taught our youth and their families how to pray and led them in Eucharistic Adoration; these are the powerful moments of reflection and encounter that shape a lifetime of faith.

Alongside our vibrant youth formation, we also continue to build our Adult Faith Formation programming. This year, we'll offer another Life in the Spirit Seminar and new opportunities like the "Be Healed" series, helping all of us deepen our understanding of the faith and experience encounter and transformation in Christ

Sanctify

To sanctify means to make holy. While the sacraments are at the heart of this mission, each of us participates by allowing God to shape our daily lives. When we attend Mass faithfully, receive the sacraments, pray regularly, and seek ongoing conversion, we become more holy and through the holiness we can become a blessing to others and sanctify the world.

Serve

Service is love in action. As a parish we serve through outreach, charity, hospitality, and ministries that support the vulnerable. Individually, we serve when we look for concrete ways to help: bringing a meal, checking on a neighbor, volunteering at parish events, or using our talents

Hope in the

valley

where they're needed. If you'd like coaching on recognizing The mission of your personal talents and how to use them to build the Church, please reach out to me.

Unite All People

Catholic means universal; we are called to gather people from every place, age, and background. We live this mission when we build unity in our homes, in our parish, and in our community. That might mean reconciling with someone, welcoming newcomers, or simply choosing charity over division. Christ prayed "that they may all be one," and He calls us to be instruments of that unity.

Be the Sacrament of Christ's Saving Work in the World

The Church makes Christ visible in the world and we can do the same through our lives. When we forgive, when we bring peace, when we lift burdens, when we witness hope, we make the love of Jesus tangible to the people around us. As we begin this new liturgical year, please join me in asking the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts and guide our mission, so that everything we do leads others closer to Jesus.



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9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

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Retired in Residence	Rev. Gerald Mikonis		
Deacon	Frank Bursic	fbursic@diopitt.org	
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