

# SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 21, 2025

*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent*



**SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH**

Administrative Office | 1 Park Manor Road | Donora, PA 15033-1755

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For parish locations and staff extensions, see page 22

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



DEC 20		THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	CHA	Margaret McCullough by Pennline Family	Fr. Pat
4:00 pm	DON	Haller Family, Living & Deceased by Rose Patterson	Fr. Levi
5:00 pm	CHA	Mary "Toots" Zimmaro's 100th Birthday by Joe & Holly Caruso	Fr. Pat
6:00 pm	MON	John & Irene Dzimiera by Family	Fr. Levi
DEC 21		FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	DON	People of the Parish	Fr. Pat
9:00 am	CHA	Margaret McCullough by Pennline Family	Fr. Levi
11:00 am	MON	Rose Cutrara by The Abba's House Book Group	Fr. Levi
DEC 22		FOURTH MONDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	CHA	Ed Hank by JoAnn Mocilan	
DEC 23		FOURTH TUESDAY OF ADVENT	
8:30 am	DON	Sandra Turkovich by Philip & Sharlene Veliky	
DEC 24		CHRISTMAS EVE	
4:00 pm	CHA	People of the Parish	
4:00 pm	DON	People of the Parish	
4:00 pm	MON	People of the Parish	
DEC 25		THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS)	
12:00 am	MON	People of the Parish	
8:30 am	DON	People of the Parish	
9:00 am	CHA	People of the Parish	
11:00 am	MON	People of the Parish	
DEC 26		FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR	
8:30 am	MON	People of the Parish	
DEC 27		FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	CHA	Herman Pennline by Pennline Family	Fr. Levi
4:00 pm	DON	Dave Suski by Barb Harrison	Fr. Pat
5:00 pm	CHA	Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus by Knights of Columbus	Fr. Levi
6:00 pm	MON	Linda M. Curcio by Family	Fr. Pat
DEC 28		FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY FAMILY	CELEBRANT
8:30 am	DON	Edward Brizzi by Louise Kowall	Fr. Levi
9:00 am	CHA	Paul McManus by The McManus Family	Fr. Pat
11:00 am	MON	People of the Parish	Fr. Levi





# - SACRAMENTS -



## MASS SCHEDULE/ ÒRE 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 refleto jou ferye oswa  
jou apa pou Bondye.*

## STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, December 7th:  
**\$12,556**

## DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FOR CHILDREN  
December 25, 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 six months 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  
VIRGINIA & TOM VILLELLA, SR.**  
By: Children

**DONORA FOR  
STEPHEN & MARGARET  
TURKOVICH**  
By: Philip & Sharlene Veliky

**MONONGAHELA FOR  
PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**

# CLERGY

## A WORD FROM FR. LEVI



Grace, love, and joy to you in Christ Jesus our Lord!! Today we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and we are just days away from celebrating the birth of our Lord! I pray that today your heart is filled with anticipation and excitement as we prepare for the one of the greatest celebrations of our Catholic Faith! Today is all about **anticipation!**

The Gospel today starts off by saying, "this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." When we first read this, we might say, "wait, it is not Christmas yet!" As the Gospel goes on, we hear about a number of things leading up to the birth of our Lord, but the birth is not yet proclaimed. It reminds me of the time right before a wedding when everyone is so filled with anticipation they feel like they are going to explode! As children we were filled with anticipation to get new toys on Christmas Day! As adults, our anticipation turns toward the sacred mystery of the Incarnation!

Mary does not conceive a merely human child, but the Son of God! It is the Holy Spirit who overshadows Mary and bring about in her the child to be born on Christmas Day! What an awesome mystery?! Jesus Christ is both 100% God and 100% human!! What sublime teaching is this?! What an awesome invitation for the human race?!

St. Athanasius says that God became man so that man could become God! What he was saying is that in Christ, humanity and divinity are perfectly joined together! All of us through baptism are joined to Christ, and thus receive a share in both his humanity and divinity. Jesus humbles himself and becomes man in order to share the riches of his divine nature with all of us! Now that is something worth anticipating, celebrating, and pondering for a lifetime!!

If the above paragraph just made your head explode, I would encourage you to read the prayers of the liturgy from the Roman Missal for the celebration of the Incarnation! Those prayers will blow your mind! Who are we that God should take on human flesh and invite us to have a share in His divine nature?! We are his beloved children!!!

May our Lord grant you every grace and blessing that you need in this Advent Season as you prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of the Living God!



**Reverend Levi Hartle**  
**Pastor**

### 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  
pray;  
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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

The two penitential seasons, Advent and Lent, both lead to major solemnities of the Church, and call us to prepare by entering into the season in particular ways. During penitential seasons, the Church asks us to “fast” from things in the liturgy in order to make the upcoming “feast” more special. You may have noticed that we haven’t been singing the Gloria during Advent (with the exception of the Immaculate Conception). We “fast” from the Gloria while we’re waiting for our Savior to arrive. In fact, the first phrases of the Gloria come from the angels that appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Christ: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to people of good will.” It’s most appropriate that during Advent we refrain from singing those words so that when we sing the Gloria again on Christmas, we are able to fully embrace the truth and joy of those words with renewed vigor!



**Amanda Nicholson**  
**Music & Liturgy**

You might also have noticed that until this weekend, we haven’t yet sung “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” This beloved Advent chant is based on the “O Antiphons,” which are antiphons that are used during Vespers (evening prayer) from December 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each antiphon begins with the word “O,” and expresses a title given to Jesus. (see graphic below)

To maintain liturgical coherence, we hold off on singing this chant until at least December 17<sup>th</sup>, when the O Antiphons begin to be prayed during Vespers, which is usually around the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. When the O Antiphons are used during Vespers, only one antiphon is sung per day, but in the chant “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” all seven of the antiphons have been combined to create the seven verses of the chant. Interestingly, the first verse begins with the 7<sup>th</sup> and last antiphon, but once you get to verse two, they all follow in order.

The chant is especially appropriate for this weekend’s liturgy since throughout mass we’ll hear the phrase, “the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” That phrase will be found in the first reading, the gospel acclamation, and the Gospel passage.

I hope the wait for everyone’s favorite Advent chant leads to singing with great fervor at Mass this weekend!





# THE ORDER OF MASS

## OPENING HYMN

## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Em - man u - el,  
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
4. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem,  
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come,  
6. O come, O Day - spring from on high,  
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind  
and who or - der cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
who or - der all things might i - ly;  
Who to your tribes on Si - nai's height  
From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them;  
And o - pen wide our heav'n ly home;  
And cheer us by your draw - ing nigh;  
In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;  
that mourns in the lone - ly of ex - ile here  
to us in the path of once knowl - edge show,  
In an - cient times once gave the Law  
That trust your might - y power to save,  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
O bid our sad div - i - sions cease,  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
and teach us and in maj - es - ty go.  
In cloud and vic - t'ry o'er the awe.  
And give them the path to o'er the grave.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.  
And death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
And be for us our King of Peace.  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: Veni, veni Emmanuel; Latin 9th C.; tr. by John M. Neale. Tune: VENI EMMANUEL; adapt. by Thomas Helmore.

## FIRST READING

## ISAIAH 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:

Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"

Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary

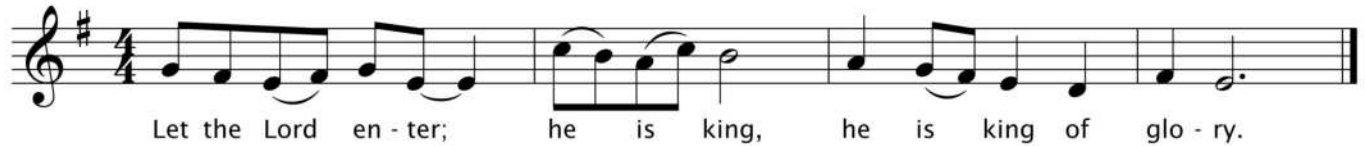
my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# THE ORDER OF MASS

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6



*Tony Alonso, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) Tune: © 2013, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the rivers he made it firm. **R/.**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?
- The clean of hands and pure of heart,  
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R/.**
3. Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,  
and right reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the people who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R/.**

## SECOND READING

ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of

apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
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.*

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son

and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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.

## PREPARATION HYMN

## THE ANGEL GABRIEL

The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His  
"For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All  
Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To  
wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All  
gen - er - a - tions praise his con - tin - ual - ly, Your  
me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My  
hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry," "most  
Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by Ma seers fore - told."  
soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; Birjina gaztettobat zegoen; trad. Basque Carol; tr. By Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924. Music: Trad. Basque Carol melody





# THE ORDER OF MASS

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your  
glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he,  
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

## GREAT AMEN

A-men a-men, a-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, a-men, a-men.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

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

# THE ORDER OF MASS

## COMMUNION HYMN

## MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

1. O	Lord	of	Light,	our	on - ly	hope	of
2. O	Spring	of	Joy,	rain	down -	up -	on
3. O	Root	of	Life,	im -	plant	your	seed
4. O	Key	of	Know	ledge,	guide	us	in
5. Come,	let	us	bow	be -	fore	the	God
6. Here	we	shall	meet	the	Ma -	ker	of

glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to  
 spir - its; our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your  
 in us; and in your ad - vent, draw us all to  
 pil - grim-age; we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -  
 made us; let ev' - ry heart be o - pened to the  
 heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the

you; come, light the hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 Word; come, make us whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 main; op - en to us the path - way of your peace.  
 Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his hand.  
 seas, Lord of the stars, and pre - sent to us now.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen. Tune: Marty Haugen, © 1982, 2005, GIA Publications, Inc.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

## SOON AND VERY SOON

1. Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,  
 Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.
2. No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.
3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
 No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.
4. Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,  
 Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.

Text: Andrae Crouch, 1942-2015; Tune: SOON AND VERY SOON, 12 12 12 14 © 1976, Crouch Music/Bud JohnSongs.

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# GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST

Today's Gospel gives us another angelic appearance and another fiat. A *fiat* is an immediate, total, and obedient yielding to God's divine will. In the Church, we often meditate on Mary's Fiat, her perfect yes at the Annunciation, when she responds to the angel Gabriel with, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (*Luke 1:38*) and consents to bear the Messiah.

Joseph's fiat, on the other hand, is wordless. In the quiet of an ordinary night's sleep, an angel appears to him and says: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save his people from their sins." (*Matthew 1:20-21*)

As a righteous man, Joseph initially chooses mercy over judgment; he was planning a quiet divorce (*Mt 1:19*) to spare Mary from scandal. But his dream reveals a greater mercy: God's plan for the redemption of humanity. Joseph wakes up and immediately takes Mary into his home. No words from Joseph are recorded in the Gospels, yet his actions reveal a heart formed in humility, trust, and openness to God. When Joseph discerns God's will, he doesn't overthink—he acts.

Neither Joseph nor Mary had a full awareness of where their "yes" to God's plan would lead. Their fiats remind us that saying yes to God does not always come with a full blueprint. It begins with openness, trust, and the courage to act.

During this final Sunday of Advent, ask yourself:

- Where is God inviting me to trust Him more deeply?
- Is there something good I've been nudged to do, but have been delaying or overthinking?
- How can I make space—through silence, prayer, or Scripture—to hear God's voice?

These reflections, inspired by the Holy Family's example, prepare us to receive Christ not just at the manger at Christmas, but in the messiness of our everyday lives.

Like Mary, we can offer God our willing hearts. Like Joseph, we can move when the Holy Spirit prompts us, even if our "fiat" is expressed not in words, but in a quiet, faithful action.

As Advent ends and we move into the solemnity of Christmas, I'd like to challenge you to pray the following prayer each morning: *"Lord, show me where You are inviting me to say yes today. Give me the grace to recognize Your will and the courage to act on it."*

By the end of the Christmas season, you'll have offered Christ not just a celebration, but an open heart that is ready to follow Him.



Diane Kooser  
Formation

A festive poster for a Winter Bingo event. It features three bingo cards in blue, green, and red, with various numbers and symbols like snowflakes and gold coins. The text is bold and colorful, set against a light blue background with snowflake patterns.

**DONORA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #1941**

**WINTER BINGO**

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win at this fun-filled event!

**SUNDAY January 4th** | **DOORS OPEN AT 12:00 P.M.**  
**EARLY BIRDS BEGIN AT 1:00 P.M.**  
**ST. ANDREW SOCIAL HALL, DONORA SITE**

**ADMISSION IS PRICED AT \$15. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE, AND ATTENDEES CAN LOOK FORWARD TO EXCITING DOOR PRIZES.**



# TEMPORALITIES & STEWARDSHIP

## The Joy of Giving Back This Christmas

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, our parish once again embraces the true spirit of the season: giving back. For the fifth year in a row, our community will be creating Christmas gifts for senior citizens in local nursing homes. Each gift — a blanket, cozy socks, lottery tickets, and a crossword or word search book — is a small but heartfelt reminder that they are remembered and loved. These care packages will be delivered to residents at The Residence at Hilltop, Havencrest, and Mon Valley Care, bringing cheer and companionship during the holidays. This year's efforts are being led by Michele Vidnjvich again, who has been in charge for the past few years. This is, of course, right on the heels of what she and her team accomplished with our Thanksgiving meal in November.



**Joe Caruso**  
Business Manager

Our parish food bank will also expand its services this December, ensuring families can celebrate with dignity and joy. In addition to regular distributions, we will provide holiday vouchers for hams and special items to help households gather around the table in celebration. Chris Janney and her team do a fabulous job at fighting hunger and balancing the needs of the holidays.

The Giving Tree program will once again shine brightly. Hundreds of ornaments will be hung, each bearing the name and wish list of a child in need from the Charleroi and Ringgold School Districts and identified by local agencies. Parishioners are invited to take an ornament, shop for the child, and return the gift — transforming a simple act of generosity into a miracle of hope for families who might otherwise go without. This year's efforts are again led by Adele Pireaux.

Beyond these parish traditions, our wider community partners are also making a difference this December. The Dignity Robe team will be sending special deliveries to Hillman Cancer Center and select sites throughout the Allegheny Health Network, offering comfort and encouragement to patients receiving treatments during the holiday season. Meanwhile, our local Knights of Columbus hosted their **Warmth for All** clothing drive, collecting coats, jackets, sweaters, hoodies, pants, socks, shoes, and boots. These items were distributed from Marian Hall on November 29, ensuring that neighbors in need can face the winter with warmth and dignity.

Together, these efforts remind us that Christmas is not only about receiving, but about sharing Christ's love in tangible ways. Whether through a blanket for a senior, a meal for a family, a gift for a child, or clothing for those in need, our parish and partners continue to be a beacon of compassion and joy. I love how we show up for God's people.

Merry Christmas!





**HELP WANTED: SNOW REMOVAL FOR 3 LOCATIONS**

**WE ARE SEEKING REPUTABLE, INSURED, AND DEPENDABLE  
SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES FOR ALL THREE OF OUR LOCATIONS.**

**THIS IS A PAID, ON-CALL POSITION.**

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT RICH AT  
[RRSICK@SAINTANDREW MIDMON.ORG](mailto:RRSICK@SAINTANDREW MIDMON.ORG)**



## IMPORTANT MASS TIMES TO REMEMBER...

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



#### Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Donora  
4:00 PM Charleroi  
4:00 PM Monongahela  
12:00 AM Midnight, Monongahela

#### Christmas Day

8:30 AM Donora  
9:00 AM Charleroi  
11:00 AM Monongahela



### Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation  
January 1, 2026

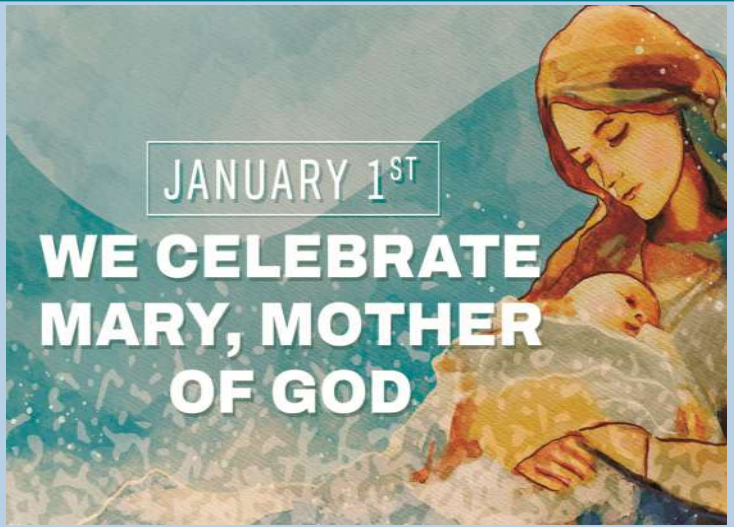
#### Vigil Mass

Wednesday, Dec. 31st at 4:00 PM, Donora

#### New Years Day

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

JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
**WE CELEBRATE  
MARY, MOTHER  
OF GOD**



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

### OUR ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 21st, at 7:00 p.m., Charleroi Site

Through spoken word, role play, and song, students from Kindergarten to 12th grade will narrate the story of our Savior's birth. Everyone is invited to join us as our youth share the most beautiful story ever told.



*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 Schuchts' book "Be Healed."*

**Thursdays | 6 - 7:30pm**

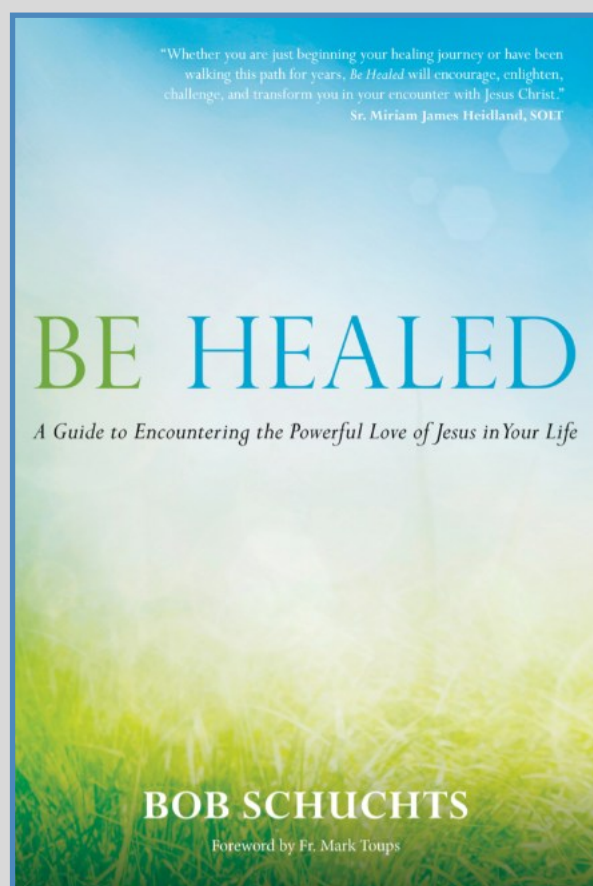
**January 8, 2026 - February 12, 2026**

*(Virtual Option available upon request)*

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

*There is no cost to participate, just buy your own book.*

For more information or to register,  
please email Valentina Tomko at  
[vtomko@saintandrewmidmon.org](mailto: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.*

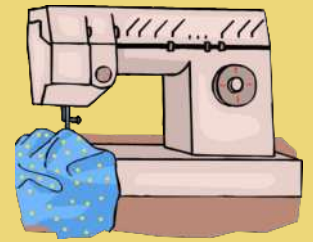


# WORKS OF MERCY



## DIGNITY ROBE GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month in St. Andrew's sewing room in Donora from 9:00 a.m. until 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:

**HELEN BRAUNEGG**

By John & Jane Gales

**JAMES MARKOVICH**

By Al & Peggy Vogt

**JAMES MARKOVICH**

By Victoria Blouch-Cuppert

**JAMES MARKOVICH**

By Catholic Womens College Club

**LARRY HEALY**

By Anonymous

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By Anonymous

**PAM CHACKO HARTSHORN**

By Michael "Reed" Popovich

**PAM CHACKO HARTSHORN**

By Ethan & Jessica Hartshorn

**CHARLES J., CHARLES P. & STEPHEN TUCKER**

By Christine Tucker

## 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



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WORKS OF MERCY

## Diaper Days

A partnership with St. Andrew the Apostle Parish

**FREE DIAPERS, WIPES, & MORE FOR YOUR CHILD!**

Must be signed up by the first Wednesday of the month.

Referrals are received by phone by calling 724-228-7722 as well as by referral agencies via voucher.



**2nd Wednesday** every month  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**Charleroi**  
624 Washington Ave, Charleroi, PA 15022

**Donora**  
1 Park Rd, Donora, PA 15033

**Monongahela**  
225 Park Ave, Monongahela, PA 15063



ccph.org/diaper-days

Interested in donating diapers? Call 724-228-7722

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish

## PET FOOD BANK

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WASHINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish & The Washington Area Humane Society are partnering together to assist community members in need of supplemental pet food and supplies through our regular food bank distribution.

**2ND WEDNESDAY, EVERY MONTH**  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**Charleroi**  
624 Washington Ave, Charleroi, PA 15022

**Donora**  
1 Park Rd, Donora, PA 15033

**Monongahela**  
225 Park Ave, Monongahela, PA 15063



INTERESTED IN DONATING?

724-258-7794



WASHINGTON AREA HUMANE SOCIETY



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 Janney at 267-990-4479.

CHARLEROI | DONORA | MONONGAHELA



## ON FIRE FOR CHRIST



Today we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. How is your Advent going? Have you been trying new ways to prepare for our Savior's coming at both Christmas and at the end of time? If not, maybe today is where you change your routine, your prayer life, your focus to be more on our Lord and Savior. Today you can become on fire for Christ!!

The first 3 weeks of Advent we journey through Hope, Peace and Rejoice (Joy). This week we complete our journey with Love. Week 1 focused on the prophecies, waiting for the Messiah. Week 2 focused on anticipating the Prince of Peace. Week 3 focused on rejoicing in the nearness of Jesus' birth (Gaudete Sunday). This week is about Love, God's immense love for humanity.

Our Gospel emphasizes Joseph's faith and obedience, the meaning of "Emmanuel" (God with us), and how God works through ordinary people in quiet ways, culminating in the fulfillment of prophecy through Mary and Joseph's trust, urging us to live with faith and expect God's presence in our daily lives as Christmas nears. This week we see God's plan unfolding in humble situations, Joseph's decision to accept Mary's pregnancy despite confusion, and recognizing Christ's coming in the seemingly ordinary.

The Gospel highlights Joseph's silent struggle and ultimate obedience to God's will, even when it defied logic (Mary's pregnancy). He is a model of trust in God's plan, a cornerstone for family life. The angel's message to Joseph to name the child "Emmanuel" is central—God is not distant but intimately present in the world through this baby, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. It also demonstrates the mystery in the ordinary: *Christmas isn't about grandeur; it's about God entering the world as a vulnerable baby through ordinary people.* We are called to see God's work in our own normal lives, not just the spectacular. Finally, it is about love and preparation. Advent prepares us for Christ's coming, a journey rooted in God's immense love, which brings Jesus into the world. This final week reminds us to stop, wait, and prepare our hearts, not just our homes, for His arrival. Like Joseph and Mary, we are called to accept God's promises, be open to His work in our lives, and live with faith, becoming signs of God's presence in the world.

This week I challenge you and your family to reflect on Joseph and how you respond when God's plans seem confusing or difficult. Do you trust and obey, or seek signs? Also, embrace the "Emmanuel" Spirit. Look for God's presence in everyday moments and people and be the presence of hope and love to everyone you encounter as Christmas approaches.

There's not much time left before Christmas. Don't fill your time with the hustle and bustle of last-minute shopping, buying and wrapping, decorating, or other activities that clutter your life and direct you away from God's plan for you. Take time to sit and be present with the Lord in prayer and quiet time and open your heart to His plan. I pray that you truly find our amazing Lord during this Christmas Season and may He set your heart on fire for His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Go and be on fire for Christ!



Deacon Frank Bursic



Merry Christmas from the staff of  
Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish.  
We wish your family a blessed Holy  
Day!

Parish offices will be closed from  
December 24th— the 26th. See  
you again, Monday the 29th!



# FAITH FORMATION

Joseph and Mary show us what faithful family life looks like. Even when things were confusing or difficult, Joseph chose to trust God. Strong family life is built on this same foundation of trust in God and trust in one another.

Take some time as a family to talk about how trust works in your home. How do children show trust in the grown-ups? How do adults show trust in the children? How does trust help your family grow closer?

Then read today's Gospel together. Talk about Joseph's trust in God and reflect on the ways your own family tries to rely on God in everyday life.

End your time together with prayer. Ask God to help your family grow in trust, just as Mary and Joseph did.



**Kathy Miller**  
Director of Faith Formation

## Faith Formation

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>\* — In-person Class

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas!

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

Jan 11 — In-Person Class

## Confirmation

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>\* — In-Person Class

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> — No Faith Formation-Merry Christmas!

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> — No Faith Formation-Happy New Year!

Jan 11 — In-Person Class

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ANGELS  
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HOPE  
JOY

LOVE  
NATIVITY  
PEACE  
PRAYER  
PREPARATION

PROPHECY  
SHEPHERDS  
TRADITION  
WREATH  
WAITING



**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MASS REQUEST FORM – 2026**

<b>WEEKEND</b>	Mass Intention for: _____ <i>Living -or- Deceased</i>		
	Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donora	<input type="checkbox"/> Charleroi <input type="checkbox"/> Monongahela
	Date Requested:	(1 <sup>st</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
		(2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
	Requested by: _____		

<b>WEEKDAY</b>	Mass Intention for: _____ <i>Living -or- Deceased</i>		
	Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donora - Tuesday & Thursday @ 8:30 am <input type="checkbox"/> Charleroi – Monday & Saturday @ 8:30am <input type="checkbox"/> Monongahela – Wednesday @ 7:00pm – Friday @ 8:30am	
	Date Requested:	(1 <sup>st</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
		(2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
	Requested by: _____		

<b>WEEKDAY</b>	Mass Intention for: _____ <i>Living -or- Deceased</i>		
	Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Donora - Tuesday & Thursday @ 8:30 am <input type="checkbox"/> Charleroi – Monday & Saturday @ 8:30am <input type="checkbox"/> Monongahela – Wednesday @ 7:00pm – Friday @ 8:30am	
	Date Requested:	(1 <sup>st</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
		(2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice) _____	Time _____
	Requested by: _____		

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Please NOTE: Be sure to read the 2026 Mass Request Guidelines. Also enclose a stipend of \$10.00 per each requested Mass (if by check – one check only – payable to “St. Andrew the Apostle Parish”). Place this form in an envelope, marked “2026 MASS REQUESTS”, along with the Stipend, and return it to any of the Parish Offices via the Collection basket, by Mail, or by physically dropping it off.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE REQUEST FOR ST. ANDREW 2026 (\$10 each)**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$: \_\_\_\_\_

SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUESTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ REQUEST WEEK OF: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: CHARLEROI \_\_\_\_\_ DONORA \_\_\_\_\_ MONONGAHELA \_\_\_\_\_




# Music Ministry Mass Schedule

Music Ministry Schedule		
December 24	Folk Group	4pm Charleroi
December 24	Children's Choir	4pm Mon City
December 25	Noah Kilgus (Trumpeter)	9am Charleroi
December 25	Sam Meek (violinist)	11am Mon City
December 28	Folk Group	8:30 Donora
January 4	Parish Choir	9am Charleroi

## OPLATKI SALE

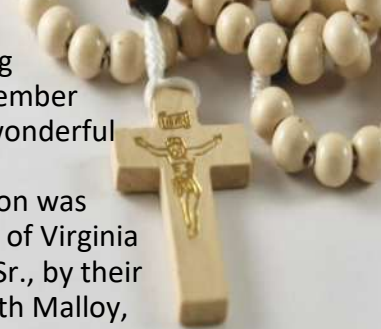
These Christmas Wafers are available at each of the parish offices. The requested donation is \$3 per package.

# Bible Study

Join us again in the New Year.  
We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month  
in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Charleroi at 6PM.  
We will be discussing the New Testament Letters.  
**The next meeting is Wednesday, January 7th.**

## The Rosary Makers



Our Christmas luncheon meeting was held on November 20th and was a wonderful gathering. A \$30 Memorial donation was made in memory of Virginia and Tom Vilella, Sr., by their daughter Maribeth Malloy, a \$50 donation was made in memory of Pam Chacko Hartshorn by Marsha Chacko and Dan Chacko, a \$20 donation was made in memory of Pam Chacko Hartshorn by Jean Galloni. Robin Rojohn made a \$25 donation. We operate solely from donations.

# SAVE THE DATE



## Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 11th from 8am—noon in Marian Hall  
Check next weeks bulletin for more information



Jack's Pack would like to thank all who attended and/or contributed to our recent dinner. We collected winter boots, shoes and jackets for Charleroi Elementary School. Thirty bags with jackets and shoes as well as \$825 in cash donations, that the school will use towards future purchases for their students.  
**Thank you for your generosity!**





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Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Sue Schottenheimer



## HAPPY LUNCH TIME!



Lunch is even better when Father Levi or Phillip stop by to join us!



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Fax: 724-258-6764

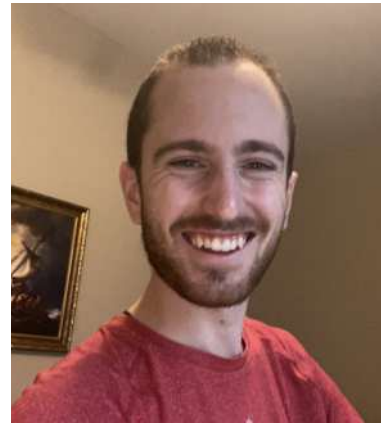
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# GROWING TOGETHER IN HOPE

## A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

As someone who was raised Catholic, my family and I would go to Catholic Mass every Sunday and we would pray before we ate our meals. While this was definitely good and something that should not be taken for granted, I did not truly know or see Jesus as a real *person*. I saw going to Catholic Mass as merely a routine and something nice to do on Sunday with my family. As I got older, God began to be just part of my life. God to me was just a concept or an idea, but not a person to be loved. I was not intentionally pursuing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But it wasn't until high school where I really began to ask deep questions about the meaning and purpose of my life and to seek the truth of who God is. During this time, I also had a false perception of who God is. I took the experiences that I had received from others and projected them onto God. By doing this, I had created a false image of God. This caused me to believe that the Lord did not love me, and that God was very distant from me.



**Philip Pierangeli**  
Social Ministry

What completely changed my life was watching the *Animated Stories From The New Testament*. Before I was even born, my mom chose to buy a set of the *Animated Stories From The New Testament* for my older brother to watch. My little sister and I would end up watching them when we were younger as well. What my mom did not know or realize at the time was that these videos would end up bringing about my interior reversion to the Catholic faith and transforming my life forever! It was by watching these animated Bible stories on YouTube that the Scriptures, the Word of God, came to life for me! It was through the Scriptures being presented on YouTube that the Lord really began to work in my heart and in my life. It was through the Scriptures that I came to understand the meaning and purpose of my life. It was through the Scriptures that I came to believe that God was real, and that God loved (and still loves) me, that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead for me. And it was through the Scriptures that I came to know and believe who God truly is as He has revealed Himself to be in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. To paraphrase the great C.S. Lewis, "In every other religion man seeks for God, only in Christianity does God seek for man." Just as a good father would do anything to communicate his love and presence to his child, Our Heavenly Father has communicated and revealed Himself fully and completely in Jesus Christ so that we can know with certitude of His love and presence in our lives. God has done everything in His power to communicate His love and presence to each of us in Jesus Christ. And Jesus is not a mere concept or an idea, but a real and living *person*.

The heart of our Catholic faith is our relationship with Jesus Christ! To describe what it truly means to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ, Father Mike Schmitz says, "Faith is not a feeling... it's more like surrender, it's more like trust... it is saying yes to God. That's what it is, it's a relationship... It has to be a real relationship with a real God. Not a God of my own invention and not my own version of God." Because God has fully and divinely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and through teachings of the Catholic Church, we no longer need to guess who God is and how God wants us to love Him. Everything that we need for our eternal salvation has already been revealed by God. Now is the time to respond to the invitation of being in a relationship with God as He has revealed Himself to be! Father Mike Schmitz speaks about this, saying, "This is the call of Christianity: God declares, 'I am going to love you as you, not a different version of you, not a better version of you, not a holier version of you, I'm going to love you as you and I am going to ask you to love Me as Me.'" Who is God? God is love. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By having a real and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we have the privilege of entering into the most beautiful and intimate relationship we will ever have and experience!





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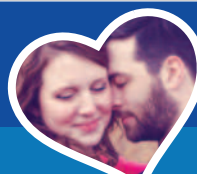
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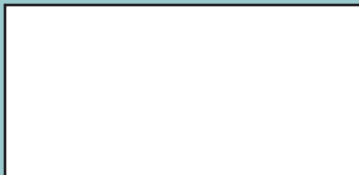


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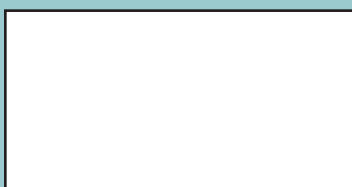
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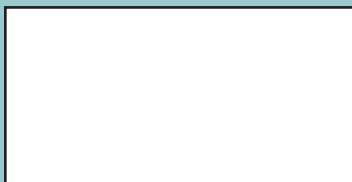


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Monongahela Secretary	Chris Babich	cbabich@saintandrewmidmon.org	101
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Music Minister	Art Fronzaglio	afronzaglio@saintandrewmidmon.org	

