



BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH

SOLEMNITY OF
Mary MOTHER OF GOD
She is exalted, yet still one of us.



January 1, 2023 • Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God



Parish Administration Office

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Pittsburgh, PA 15227

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www.blessedtrinitypgh.org
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Worship Sites

St. Albert
3198 Schieck Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

St. Basil
1735 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Holy Angels
408 Baldwin Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

St. Sylvester
3754 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

St. Wendelin
2728 Custer Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Sacraments

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:00 pm St. Albert
4:00 pm St. Basil
4:00 pm St. Sylvester
6:00 pm Holy Angels

Sunday Mass

8:00 am St. Albert
9:00 am St. Basil
9:30 am Holy Angels
10:00 am St. Sylvester
11:00 am St. Albert

Confessions

Saturday

8:30 am Holy Angels
(After Mass • Until 9:30 am)
9:00 am St. Sylvester
(Until 10:00 am)
11:00 am St. Basil
(Until 12:00 pm)

Clergy Serving Our Community

Pastor

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skresak@blessedtrinitypgh.net

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rahlin@blessedtrinitypgh.net

Sr. Parochial Vicar

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Len Lis
Gene Werner

Welcome

Blessed Trinity Parish is a welcoming & all-inclusive family. Everyone is welcomed in our parish and to our celebrations.

Expect warm welcomes, regardless of who you are, where you are from, or where you are following the Lord in life.

We have multiple celebrations of Mass in multiple locations on both Saturday and Sunday. Please see the schedule of masses on page 2 of this bulletin, and come join us and bring a family member or friend as well!

If you would like to join us for Mass, but can only arrive in the middle of our celebration, please do not feel embarrassed. We are happy to have others join us for Mass even if and when they enter in the middle of our celebration. Everyone is welcome at every and any moment! You are never a bother to us and we understand that life happens!

Cleanliness and Modesty are appreciated and respected, know that we thank you in advance for trying not to dress in ways that could distract others from our praise of the Lord and our celebration of the Church's sacraments. Please know, however, that having you join us as you are, is more important to us.

Remember! God loves you for who you are, as you are, and so do we!



I never really saw a reason to celebrate the “New Year” as if it were some outstanding holiday. To me, the new year was just another changing of the calendar, a marking of time here and now. It was an arbitrary and manufactured holiday that provides another day off from school and work. January 1st is simply twenty-four hours after December 31st (*and three days before my birthday!*) Even so, I would imagine you, like me and many in our country, are ready to leave 2022 behind us. What a year!

Crime levels to the highest ever in many cities, inflation reached it’s highest in 40 years, gasoline prices rose to the highest in decades and there continued to be supply chain shortages. The political year showed just how divided we are and the war in Ukraine began with Russia’s invasion. In spite of all of what has happened in 2022, I want to say to all of you, “Thank you.”

Back in the early part of the year, I once stated in a homily that we are called to remember the Great Commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength. Jesus taught a second commandment that is to love our neighbor as ourselves. It was my hope and prayer then that our parish would be able to continue ministering to each other and more importantly, to those in our parish and community who were in need during those challenges.

Our parish clergy team and councils worked together making every decision about putting love and concern for the community and the parish family before all other considerations. Over the past year we made decisions that reflect who we are as a parish and the ministry that is important to us. In the midst of all of the economic challenges, our parish family has been profoundly kind, generous, and faithful in supporting the parish and even more so in supporting our outreach to the community. You should feel understandably proud of our parish and blessed. I know I do. Thank You!

Today we celebrate and honor Mary the Holy Mother of God. Today’s solemnity reminds us that because of Mary’s love and faithfulness to God, she was given the ability to receive the gift of God’s Son. Her trust and faithfulness to God enabled her to accept her role in God’s plan for salvation for all. Mary’s willingness to trust God, reflecting in her heart what was being asked of her and then saying yes, is why she stands as a model for us to follow on our journey of discipleship. It is why we honor her as the Mother of the Church.

As we begin a new year let us imitate Mary reflecting in our hearts what God asks of us and open our hearts to Him to find true and lasting joy. I extend to you and your families my prayers and wishes for a happy, healthy, holy and peace filled 2023. Please know of my gratitude and love to you for being who you are and doing what you do for the Lord and the parish.

My prayer and blessing to you this New Year’s Day is from our first reading.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

Happy New Year!

Fr. Steve

“Do not be afraid of what God asks of you!

It is worth saying “yes” to God.

In him we find joy.”

~ Pope Francis



Mass Intentions

Monday, January 2

- 8:30 am Charles Seidel:
Louise Cappetta.....St. Sylvester
 9:00 am Connie Raspanti:
Ray & Janet Mahoney.....St. Albert

Tuesday, January 3

- 8:30 am Steve Kienzl:
Paul & Mary Ann Sabo.....Holy Angels
 8:30 am Edwin P Cleary Sr:
Family.....St. Sylvester
 9:00 am Ethel Stock:
Robert Stock.....St. Basil

Wednesday, January 4

- 8:30 am Michael Melson "80th Birthday":
Lee Scuticchio.....St. Sylvester
 9:00 am Connie Raspanti:
Pamela Wilson.....St. Albert
 9:00 am Judy Rauch:
Gary Rauch.....St. Basil

Thursday, January 5

- 8:30 am Michael Mullen:
James P Frauens.....Holy Angels
 9:00 am Bob Bleichner:
Rose Ann Bleichner.....St. Basil

Friday, January 6

- 8:30 am Angelo R Sarraino III:
Fr Bob.....Holy Angels
 8:30 am Denise & Greg Campagna:
Eric & Mary Ruth Lackner.....St. Sylvester
 9:00 am Mathew Dawida:
Edna Dawida.....St. Albert

Saturday, January 7

- 8:30 am Robert Elliott:
Andrea & John Paul Spina.....Holy Angels
 8:30 am Millie Schranz:
Christian Mothers & Guild.....St. Sylvester
 9:00 am Gary Keay:
Marie Williams.....St. Basil

Saturday, January 7 • Vigil

- 4:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the Parish:
St. Albert ▪ SK
 4:00 pm Belsole & McBeth Family:
Family.....St. Basil ▪ KS
 4:00 pm Cooper Francis Niziol:
Robert Niziol.....St. Sylvester ▪ LH
 6:00 pm Deceased Members of the Ciolli Family:
Theresa A Ciolli.....Holy Angels ▪ BA

Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00 am Don, Mary & Tom Fuchs:
Tomlinson Family.....St. Albert ▪ LH
 9:00 am Ray Radzanowski:
Wife.....St. Basil ▪ KS
 9:30 am Stacy Frushell:
Family.....Holy Angels ▪ SK
 10:00 am Mary Ann Kovach:
Irwin & Pat Schenle.....St. Sylvester ▪ LH
 11:00 am Jean Reith "102 Birthday":
Joanne & Richard Pack & Family..St. Albert ▪ KS

Sanctuary Candles



St. Albert
Edward G Elder
 From: J Eric Peters Family
Connie Raspanti
 From: Ray & Janet Mahoney



St. Basil
Nowowiejski Family
 From: Diane



Holy Angels
Finisa Simeone
 From: Geneo & Debbie



St. Sylvester
George and Sebastian Scuticchio
 From: Lee Scuticchio & Family



Blessed Lord, accept this burning candle as a sign of my faith and love for You.

Like this candle, I am ready to be used in your service without asking why and to what purpose.

Even as this candle, I wish to stand in Your presence and to be consumed in the light and warmth of our Love.

Please hear my prayer and, if it is Your will, grant my petition.

But above all, make me loyal and faithful to You in all circumstances of my life.
 Amen.



Scripture Readings

For the Week of January 1, 2023

Sunday	Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Monday	Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:198
Tuesday	1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3CD-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday	Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Friday	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 & 6a & 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6 ; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Please Pray...

For Those Who Have Passed

Our sympathy is extended to the families of:

Helen Deluliis
Dean Miller
John Mullaugh
Richard Pastorius
Nancy Sugar
Jean Wing

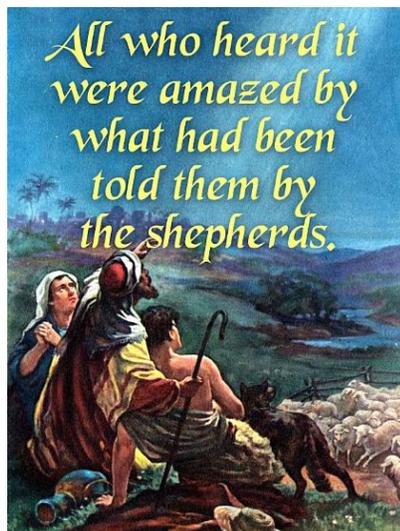
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

For the Sick

Please remember members of our parish who are in nursing homes, the homebound, the sick and their caregivers in your prayers. May God's mercy shine on them.

Please pray for Patrick

We ask for strength, Father, and comfort in this difficult time. Be with Patrick and guard him with Your angels. We pray that he regain health and recover fast. May he grow to become an instrument of Your love and hope. Guard his future, Lord, let all that he is going through remain temporary. Be at his side. Amen.



For Those who were Baptized

Evelyn Rae Mincin
Jackson James Thompson

Who were Baptized into our Faith & Family. Congratulations to the Parents and Godparents!

For Those in the Military

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

MSgt Kevin Clancy, PANG
PO1 Leigh Dicks, USCG
CPT Anthony Grolemond, ANG
2dLt Megan Hirlehey, USAF
HM2 Jared Kercell, USN
PO3 Liam Loughrey, USN
SFC Megan L. Lunardini, USA
LCpl Zachery O'Halloran, USMC
LCDR Jonathan Mocker, USN
E3 Lucas Nizankiewicz, USN
SGT Danilo Pascarella, USA
LCpl Thomas Rechterik, USMC
GySgt John Rethage, USMC
NFOLT Mikaela Sakach, USN
MAJ Drew Schaub, USA
LT Michael Sokol, USN
CSSA Elliot Stypula, USN
CAPT Tyler Troesch, USAF
MAJ Alex Teeney, USAF

To add your family member to our prayer list, please contact the office. Please let us know when they are no longer in active duty.

Parish Events

Friday, January 6

2:00 pm **First Friday Adoration**
St. Sylvester Church

Sunday, January 8

1:00 pm **RCIA**
St. Albert Chapel
6:00 pm **Women's Bible Study**
St. Albert Chapel

Monday, January 9

9:45 am **St. Vincent de Paul Meeting**
Parish Office Building

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 pm **Bible Study**
St. Albert Chapel
6:30 pm **Pre Baptism Training**
Parish Office Building
7:00 pm **The Chosen - Season 2**
Holy Angels Church Hall

Wednesday, January 11

10:00 am **The Chosen - Season 2**
Holy Angels Church Hall

Thursday, January 12

10:00 am **Crochet Circle**
Holy Angels School

Saturday/Sunday, January 14 & 15

Food Bank Collection
All Churches

Sunday, January 15

1:00 pm **RCIA**
St. Albert Chapel

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 pm **Bible Study**
St. Albert Chapel
7:00 pm **The Chosen - Season 2**
Holy Angels Church Hall

Wednesday, January 18

10:00 am **The Chosen - Season 2**
Holy Angels Church Hall

MOTHER OF GOD, AND OUR MOTHER TOO:

After several designations of January First, the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. This title is fitting since she is the mother of Jesus, who is the Son of God. Mary is unique among the Saints because she was conceived without sin and did not commit sin through her whole earthly life. The passages we read about her in the scriptures demonstrate her as a truly holy person, who can easily prompt her divine son to perform a miracle of changing water into wine and who speaks words of a mother to us "Do whatever he tells you."

She was a great resource to the apostles after Jesus ascended into heaven. We learn that she was in their company when the Holy Spirit came upon them on Pentecost.

Writings of the time tell us that after she fell asleep at the end of her Life they discovered that her tomb was found empty when one of the apostles who was away asked to view her remains which prompted the declaration that she was assumed into heaven and did not experience the decay that accompanies death.

Just as God preserved Mary from sin and the decomposition of death so he allows her to continue her special role as the mother of the Church. Throughout history she has appeared frequently to call her children to repent and be faithful to their dignity as children of God. Like her biblical message "Do whatever he tells you" She calls us to repentance, to pray for sinners, to listen to the teachings of Jesus and not lose sight of our true goal of going to heaven. There are many instances when she has appeared to our fellow believers and these have become well known. Most of us know about the Miraculous Medal and St. Catherine Laboure, Lourdes and St Bernadette, Fatima and the three children, and many others. She reminds us that she is still our mother, she still loves and cares for us and wants us to be with her in heaven.

In her apparitions she not only wears distinctive attire but frequently takes on a familiar form and appearance of those she is visiting. An example of this is when she visited Mexico and is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe appearing as an Indian maiden. God continues to appeal to us and uses his beloved mother as a special messenger. Like the Queen Mother in the biblical world Mary has direct access to the heavenly throne. As her prayer reminds us "All generations will call me blessed." It was from the cross that Jesus gave her to us as our mother. May the Mother of God pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

—Fr. Bob



Adoration

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH — ADORATION

Join us for First Friday Adoration this Friday, January 6th at St. Sylvester Church from



PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God of all times and seasons,
We begin a new year on our journey toward you.
In each of our encounters with others this year,
be present and fill our days with your presence.
Help us to be attentive to the needs and concerns
of others and bring to them the joy of your
Transforming presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

GONE FISHIN'

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Who I call my family here at Blessed Trinity Parish, I have notified Fr. Steve, and now you, of my intention to hang my "Gone Fish in" sign and retire from my position of Pastoral Associate for the past 11 years. I started my role of Pastoral Associate, under the direction of Fr. Bob at Holy Angels in September of 2011. I made the transition, retaining my same duties and responsibilities of Pastoral Associate under the direction of Fr. Steve, after the merger of our church's grouping.

I have been truly blessed by my loving God to have served you and worshiped together here at Blessed Trinity Parish. I consider all of you as my extended family. Please continue to keep me in your prayers, as will I for you as we travel in the trust of God.

Thank you for the kindness you've extended to me, and I ask forgiveness for anything that was less than gracious. Forever in my heart,
Deacon Dan



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Happy New Year! This is the time of the year that many of us make New Year's resolutions to better ourselves in some way. There is so much information out on social media, in magazines and commercials about self-care. We are encouraged to get healthier by losing weight, exercising, taking time for ourselves to relax and rejuvenate. These are all very healthy things to try to do better. But, do you ever resolve to doing some "spiritual-care" for yourself?

Why not set some spiritual resolutions this year? This could be a good time for a fresh spiritual start. Try to walk and talk with God more and in deeper ways. Here are a few suggestions to get us started.

Choose a patron saint for the year. You may have your favorite saints that you pray to for intercessions, but choose a different one. Read about other saints and see who you might connect with. Pray to that saint throughout the year to intercede for your intentions.

Do some spiritual reading. You can look for books written by Catholic saints who share their spiritual wisdom. Learn how to pray with Lectio Divina "divine reading" of Scripture.

Start your day with prayerful inspiration. Check out www.LoyolaPress.com and search for their 3-minute Retreats. Sign up to receive the daily 3-minute retreat sent right to your email. Maybe skip reading the news headlines online and take

3 minutes of prayer time with God.

Pray the Rosary. This traditional devotion to reflect on the life of Jesus and Mary can be a very healthy spiritual habit to form. If you need a refresher or are not sure where to start – see the websites below.

Share your Catholic faith with others. There is a real hunger for God and his Truth. Just do simple things such as buying some sacramentals, have them blessed and as you are inspired, give them to people. If someone you know may be going through a difficult time, giving them a Miraculous Medal or a prayer card you keep handy might be the touch of God they need in that moment.

You can buy sacramentals online or at a local Catholic store like JMJ Catholic Bookstore at 5318 Park Avenue in Bethel Park.

Start your new year by feeding your soul and exercising your spiritual self. Have a happy, healthy, faith-filled New Year!

Websites to help you with your spiritual resolutions:

www.Catholic.org/saints or

www.usccb.org (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) You can search for any Catholic topic

www.loyolapress.com 3 Minute daily retreat and other spiritual topics. (Article adapted from goodcatholic.com)—Carolyn Eisenbarth

ASK THE LITURGIST



Question: Is it true that the celebration of Epiphany at one time was a bigger one than Christmas?

Answer: In a way, yes, so let's look at the history of the feast.

In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the advent of Christ on January 6 by commemorating the Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast, Epiphany.

By the fourth century however, both Christmas and Epiphany had been set as separate feasts in some dioceses. At the Council of Tours in 567, the Church set both Christmas day and Epiphany as feast days on the dates, December 25 for Christmas and January 6 for Epiphany. It also named the twelve days between the feasts as the Christmas season. If January 6 falls on a weekday, the Solemnity is celebrated on the Sunday that follows, so Epiphany this year is January 8 in the Roman Rite Church.

Over time, the Western Church (that's us) separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ. Mean-

while, the Eastern Churches' celebration of **Theophany** celebrates Christ's baptism. It is one of the holiest feast days of their liturgical calendar.

The Bible remains silent about the wise men's actual names, as well as how many of them there were. We do know that they were very clever, wealthy, and most importantly, brave.

They were willing to take the risk, to go searching for the truth, into lands unknown, for what they discerned was a monumental event indeed!

Now a word about the gifts the wise men brought: frankincense, myrrh and gold. These three gifts point not only to Christ's divinity and His revelation to the Magi as the King of Kings, but also to His crucifixion. In giving herbs traditionally used for burial, these gifts symbolize a theological shadow, a sense of anticipation of what was to come in the future life of Jesus.

In many Catholic homes it is still customary to inscribe the first part of the year, followed by the letters, K+M+B+ and then the last numbers of the year on top of a door in the house. The 3 letters stand for the names traditionally given to the wise men – Casper, Melchior and Balthazar as well as for the Latin phrase, "**Christus mansionem benedicat**" which means, Christ, bless this house. **(20+c+m+b+23)**

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH FAITH CONNECTIONS PRESENTS...

THE CHOSEN – Season 2

Beginning January 10 and 11, 2023



The Chosen is a television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The series portrays Jesus "through the eyes of those who met him." Set in 1st century Israel, the series revolves around Jesus and the different people who met and followed him.

"The Chosen" Season 2 – Tuesday Evenings

January 10 through February 28 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. at Holy Angels Church Hall

Study Format: Each evening for eight weeks we will view one video followed by group discussion.

"The Chosen" – Wednesday Mornings

January 11 through March 1 from 10:00–11:30 a.m. at Holy Angels Church Hall

Study Format: Each morning for eight weeks we will view one video followed by group discussion.

Registration is important as it helps with planning.

Please register online using the following link

<https://tinyurl.com/3v3ts8kv> or by calling Joyce Hallows at 412-841-1613. Thank you.

NEW YEAR, NEW CHANCES

Happy New Year!

For many of us the new year brings us to making new resolutions in our lives. Whether it is to cut back on the sweets or to pick up our Bible more, we all have the opportunity to be better. Usually for me this resolution lasts until the end of January and I forget about it or it seems so unattainable to keep up all year long. Maybe this has happened to you in the past. I want to help us out this year, so we can both have success with our resolutions. Here it is... Let's remember our "daily bread." Let's take each of our 365 days this year one at a time. Let's know that God provides us with what we need for each day when we need it. Let's take each new chance and make the most of it. This year will be full of new opportunities and new chances, but let's remember to take each one, one at a time. Let's make this year the best one yet!

-Nicholas Wolf, Youth Minister



THREE RIVERS SAVINGS CARDS

Blessed Trinity Parish is now selling Three Rivers Savings Cards (\$ discount off dining). The cards are \$20.00 and are available at the Parish Office during office hours.



Happy New Year!



AULD LANG SYNE
BABY
BALL
BALLOONS
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHAMPAGNE
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
DANCING
DECEMBER
EVE

FATHER TIME
FIRECRACKER
FIRST
FLUTE
GAMES
GOWN
HAPPY
HAT
HOURGLASS
INVITATION
JANUARY
KISS
MIDNIGHT

MUSIC
NOISE MAKER
PARTY
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TOAST
TRADITION
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PA CHILDLINE
1-800-932-0313



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

Gilmary Council

Grand Knight
Andrew Warble 412-417-8419

Our Stewardship

For the Weekend of December 17 & 18

Saturday Vigil • 4:00 PM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$5,885.00
Misc. Envelopes \$513.00
Loose Money \$341.27
Parish Share \$515.00

Saturday Vigil • 6:00 PM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$745.00
Misc. Envelopes \$42.00
Loose Money \$53.00
Parish Share \$20.00

Sunday • 8:00 AM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$1,187.00
Misc. Envelopes \$165.00
Loose Money \$137.00
Parish Share \$00.00

Sunday • 9:00 AM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$488.00
Misc. Envelopes \$86.00
Loose Money \$113.00
Parish Share \$00.00

Sunday • 9:30 AM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$1,888.00
Misc. Envelopes \$65.00
Loose Money \$99.00
Parish Share \$80.00

Sunday • 10:00 AM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$1,793.00
Misc. Envelopes \$54.00
Loose Money \$255.22
Parish Share \$22.00

Sunday • 11:00 AM

Regular (Weekly/Monthly) \$1,513.00
Misc. Envelopes \$160.00
Loose Money \$184.00
Parish Share \$50.00

MAIL IN Reg/Misc. \$6,460.00
MAIL IN Parish Share \$115.00
Total Offering \$23,028.49

2022 PARISH SHARE DUE: \$ 44,198.64

Details about specific collections or questions regarding the collections can be obtained by contacting the Parish office.

JOHN P. DONOVAN & ASSOCIATES, LLC
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Brian Graham,
Realtor
1500 Oxford Drive,
Suite 300
Bethel Park, PA 15102
O: 412-831-3800 C: 412-916-1929



Parishioner

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BLESSED TRINITY PARISH WANTS YOUR HELP!

Do you or someone you know have a great business in town that should be on the bulletin?

If so please contact **Rick Cortez at 412-292-0132** or
rcortez@diocesan.com to reserve space on the new color bulletin

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www.jeffersonmemorial.com

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Call 412-207-7720 for an Appointment

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