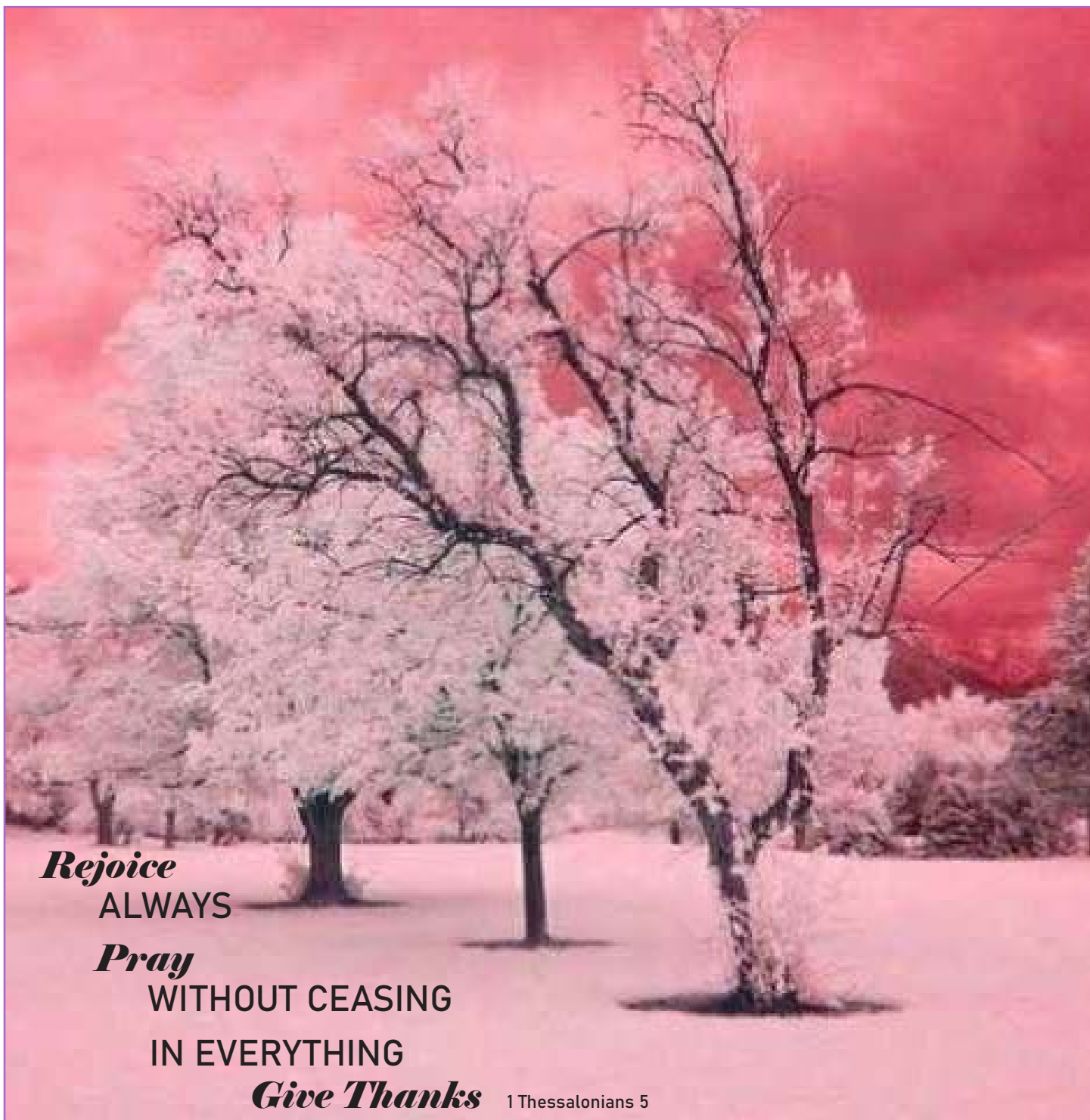




Rejoice
ALWAYS

Pray
WITHOUT CEASING
IN EVERYTHING

Give Thanks 1 Thessalonians 5

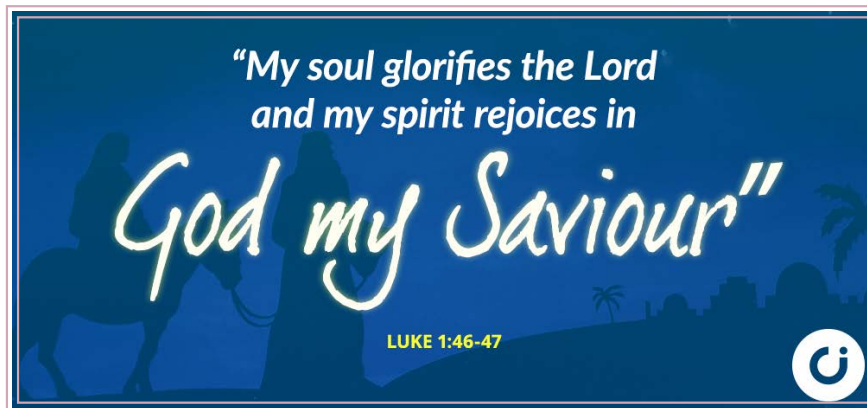
A Message From Fr. Matt ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete means rejoice. Why should we rejoice? Good question.

In the Gospel today a question is asked: "Who are you?" Yep, another good question.

So let's look at each question separately and see if our Readings give us any answers. First, why should we rejoice? Think about your life. Is everything perfect? It has been just a perfect year, huh? The Steelers had a perfect year going but we know how that changed. How about you? How is your season going? If you are anything like me, you are not 11-1! I hope in your life you have had some good things happen this year, some things that caused you to rejoice. I sure have. But I bet you've had some tough stuff, too. I have had that also. But the Readings today lead us in another direction, away from introspection or reflection on our own lives. The Readings call us to rejoice not because of what is going on in our lives, but because of who our God is! Our God is good. Our God is faithful. Our God does great things for us. Our God is merciful and just. And, the reason for the pink...our God is near! Why rejoice? As we sang in today's Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God!



Isn't that something? That it isn't really about us at all. All of our stuff. All of our dreads. All of our worries. This isn't about that. It is about God. God who is near. God who has all of that stuff in His hands.

So let's look at the second question. Who are you? This question was asked to John the Baptist today. Look at how he answers. It is something that would be good for us to learn. When John the Baptist is asked, "Who are you?", he answers by telling them who he is not. He is not the Christ. He is not the Messiah. There is one and He is good, but he is not me. He is not you either. You are not the Savior. It doesn't all depend on you. The decision you make won't ruin everything forever. The weight of the world is not on your shoulders. Do you know why? Because you aren't the Christ! Neither is John the Baptist. Neither am I. Take a deep breath. Let that sink in a little. Unhook your shoulders from your ears! It is not all up to you. It is all up to Jesus and Jesus is really good at this saving the world thing. Let Him do His job.

So rejoice! It's not about you, but it is about a God who is all about you. Trust Him. Let Him work. Rejoice because of who you are not. You are not the Savior. We already have One and He is so good!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



ANGEL TREE & GIVING TREE DEADLINES THIS WEEK

Thank you to the many Parishioners who have taken Angels for Christmas gifts for youth, and Giving Tree tags for Christmas gifts for residents of Quality Life Services. Remember that gifts for both projects are due **THIS WEEK.**

SW ANGEL TREE

Gifts are due tomorrow, **Monday, December 14** to the SW office. Please make sure they are wrapped and tagged with the assigned Angel letter/number.

SJ, MD GIVING TREE

Wrapped and tagged gifts are due **Thursday, December 17.** Put in the cry room at MD or in DePaul Hall at SJ during regular Mass times, including weekdays. There are still a few tags left. To participate, email 2020christmasgivingtree@gmail.com or call 724-822-2415. If no answer, leave your name and number. An alternative is to have Santa's elves shop for you. Arrangements can be made for you to cover costs and the little guys with pointy hats will do the shopping!

PARISH NOTES

CHRISTMAS ADDRESSES

If you missed last week's bulletin insert, it is accessible on the website and lists addresses for Religious who have served in our Grouping, and Parishioners who are homebound or presently serving in the military. Go to <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/> > Bulletins, Calendar, Links > Bulletins.

2021 LOTTERY CALENDARS

Calendars are on sale on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-Noon in the SW office. \$20 each with 1,000 calendars for sale. Winners determined by the three-digit PA Lottery "The Daily Number," pulled at 7pm. Winnings figured by the amount of money on that calendar day. Winners paid at the end of the month. They're going like **HOTCAKES!**

PARISH OFFICE MOVING

All Parish offices will be closed from Thursday, December 24 thru Friday, January 1, and will reopen on Monday, January 4 at the St. Joseph Administration Center only. St. Wendelin personnel will be moving offices there during the break and all employees will be accessible at the St. Joseph site only. Having a unified office location is part of the merger process.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Effective January 4, 2021, our Grouping is St. Clare of Assisi and we are a Sister Parish with St. Francis of Assisi, which comprises St. John, Coyleville; St. Mary, Herman; and St. Joseph, Cabot. The two Parishes of Assisi will be served by a shared clergy team of Fr. Matt, who is Pastor; and three Senior Parochial Vicars: our own Fr. Lou, and Fr. Ward Stakem, OFM Cap., and Fr. James Kurtz, OFM Cap., who

presently serve what will be St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

More info on the website:
<https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

MASS REGISTRATION

Registration for weekend (Sunday) Masses needs to continue for a while longer. Call 724-287-0820 X1 or email to registration@stwendelinbutler.com by 3pm on Fridays. At this time, registration is for one week at a time.

2021 BAPTISM CLASSES

Parents are required to take a Baptismal Class prior to having their first child baptized, or if it has been a few years between children. Online Zoom classes are being scheduled on four Mondays throughout 2021, at 6:30pm. Dates are: **February 1, May 3, August 2 and November 1**. To register for a Zoom session or to schedule a baptism, contact Barb at 724-445-3713 x4.



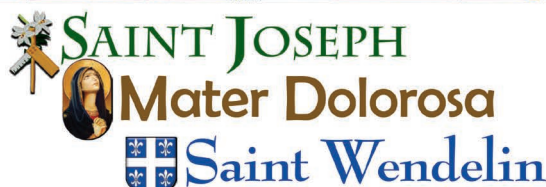
CONGRATULATIONS!

Zachary & Kayla Hartman
on the baptism of their son
MAVERICK BLAZE
on December 6, 2020

Christopher & Nicole Price
on the baptism of their daughter
ROWAN ELIZABETH
on November 29, 2020

Travis & Kaitlin Steele
on the baptism of their daughter
MADILYNN ROSE
on November 29, 2020

MAY JESUS ALWAYS BE THEIR LIGHT



Roman Catholic Parishes of Northeastern Butler County



Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confession during Advent

Saturdays - 11:00 am to 11:30 am at **Saint Wendelin**

Saturdays - 11:00 am to 11:30 am at **Mater Dolorosa**

Saturdays - 11:45 am to 12:15 pm at **Saint Joseph**

Wednesdays - 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm at **Mater Dolorosa**

Mass Registrations are required for All Masses

Registrations will begin on Monday, December 7th.
Christmas registration must be made by December 21 at 5 pm.
Solemnity of Mary must be made by December 30, noon.

Please register by calling 724-287-0820 ext. 1
or emailing registration@stwendelinbutler.com



Christmas Masses

December 24 - 2:00 pm at **Saint Wendelin**

December 24 - 3:00 pm at **Mater Dolorosa**

December 24 - 4:00 pm at **Saint Wendelin**

December 24 - 7:00 pm at **Saint Joseph**

December 25 - Midnight at **Saint Wendelin**

December 25 - 8:30 am **Mater Dolorosa**

December 25 - 10:00 am at **Saint Wendelin**



Mary, Holy Mother of God

Tues., Dec. 31 - 4:00 pm at **Mater Dolorosa**

Wed., Jan. 1 - 8:30 am at **Saint Joseph**

Wed., Jan. 1 - 10:00 am at **Saint Wendelin**

**REGISTERED FAMILIES RECEIVED
THIS ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
SCHEDULE IN THE MAIL.**

This week's St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week is:

ALI RITZERT

*Ali is in second grade
at St. Wendelin School.
She is sweet, helpful,
and kind. Ali is the
oldest of four siblings,
Jax (K), Mia (PK), and
Rip (3 years old).*

*Her favorite thing
to learn about is
how to take care of
her horses at home.
In her spare time,
Ali loves hunting,
farming, and swimming.*

*When she grows up,
Ali would like to be
a hair stylist.*

*Congratulations to
this week's
St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week,
ALI RITZERT!*

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This Week's Virtue:

KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is
a gift of the Holy Spirit
which brings us
to learn more about
God's plan and leads
us to wisdom and
understanding.



SWS December MEAT Raffle

Tickets for the school's Meat Raffle
are online at \$5 each. The drawing is
Friday, December 18, 6pm.

- First Place is \$300 worth of
your choice of meat from
Welter's Meat Shop
~ Meat will need to be picked up at
Welter's Meat Shop by the winner.
- Second Place is a whole ham from Welter's Country Market
~ Ham can be picked up at St. Wendelin School.
- Third Place is a turkey from Welter's Country Market
~ Turkey can be picked up at St. Wendelin School.

To purchase tickets, use the links below or contact Stephanie Baldauf
at 724-991-0953. Credit cards are prohibited.

PayPal: <https://py.pl/MSiXX>

Debit Card: [https://checkout.square.site/buy/
BKHPX7M2QW5VPQLYTYTNHR4Z](https://checkout.square.site/buy/BKHPX7M2QW5VPQLYTYTNHR4Z)

Sales end **Wednesday, December 16** at 11:59pm.



SWS Santa Visit: Frosty and FUN and Four-Legged!



Raffle Basket winners
listed on the school's
website: [https://www.
stwendelinschool.com/](https://www.stwendelinschool.com/)

*Thank you purchasers
and sponsors!*



TODAY IS KNOWN AS GAUDETE SUNDAY

THE TERM GAUDETE REFERS TO THE FIRST WORD OF THE ENTRANCE ANTIPHON, "REJOICE". ROSE VESTMENTS ARE WORN TO EMPHASIZE OUR JOY THAT CHRISTMAS IS NEAR, AND WE LIGHT THE ROSE CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH. TODAY, THE CHURCH EMPHASIZES THE JOY IN OUR HEARTS AS WE AWAIT THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR. THE GREAT JOY OF CHRISTIANS IS TO SEE THE DAY WHEN THE LORD WILL COME AGAIN IN HIS GLORY TO LEAD THEM INTO HIS KINGDOM. THE OFT-REPEATED VENI ("COME") OF ADVENT IS AN ECHO NOT ONLY OF THE PROPHETS BUT ALSO OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE APOCALYPSE OF ST. JOHN: "COME, LORD JESUS," THE LAST WORDS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.



**DEC. 14
THRU
DEC. 20**

THURSDAY:

GN 49:2, 8-10;
Ps 72:1-4AB, 7-8, 17;
MT 1:1-1

FRIDAY:

JER 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13,
18-19; MT 1:18-25

SATURDAY:

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A;
Ps 71:3-4A, 5-6AB, 16-17;
LK 1:5-25

SUNDAY:

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16;
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38

MONDAY:

NM 24:2-7, 15-17A;
Ps 25:4-5AB, 6, 7BC-9;
MT 21:23-27

TUESDAY:

ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13;
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23;
MT 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY:

Is 45:6B-8, 18, 21C-25;
Ps 85:9AB, 10-14; LK 7:18B-23

Monday-Sunday, December 14-20 ~ MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES

Monday, December 14

Noon Mass at MD
For Phil Summerville
By The Hershbergers
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Tuesday, December 15

8am Mass at SW
For Anna Tomsey
By Rick & Pam Miller
Open church after Mass till 10am

Wednesday, December 16

10am School-only Mass at SW
For Rick Waltman
By Fran
Building capacity limits non-school attendees
Open church temporarily suspended

Wednesday, December 16 continued

6pm Confessions at MD
Open church 6pm till Mass
starts at 7pm at MD
For Bernard "Bean" Callihan
By Ed & Carol Callihan

Thursday, December 17

8am Mass at SW
For The Souls in Purgatory
By Vic & Bev Serafine
Open church after Mass till 10am

Friday, December 18

Noon Mass at SJ
For Rose Filges
By Mary Sanderson
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Saturday, December 19

11am Confessions at SW and MD
and 11:45am at SJ
4pm Mass at SW
For Ed & Shirley Tomasovic &
Edward Tomasovic, Jr.
By Carol Tomasovic

Sunday, December 20

8am Mass at MD
For Sue Fallecker Green
By Joe & Bernice O'Donnell
9:30am Mass at SJ
For Phil Summerville
By Hilands Women's Golf Group
11am Mass at SW
For Parishioners of SJ, MD & SW



Parish Offertories

December 5 & 6

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 12/6 \$740.00
Offertory Online \$85.00
Total Offertory **\$825.00**
Weekly Goal \$1,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal \$75,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal \$13,911.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal \$410.00
PSP Online \$00.00
Total Parish Share **\$410.00**
2020 Parish Share Goal \$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21 \$16,596.00
Immaculate Conception \$52.00
Christmas Offertory \$20.00

**Thank you for your generosity
to Parish Ministries!**

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 12/6 \$839.00
Offertory Online \$475.00
Total Offertory **\$1,314.00**
Weekly Goal \$3,400.00
Fiscal Year Goal \$175,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal \$37,952.00
House \$35.00
House Online \$10.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal \$725.00
PSP Online \$00.00
Total Parish Share **\$725.00**
2020 Parish Share Goal \$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21 \$18,968.00
Retired Religious \$10.00
Immaculate Conception \$5.00
Christmas Offertory \$5.00
Christmas Charities \$5.00
Christmas Flowers \$20.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 12/6 & 12/7 \$2,405.00
Offertory Online \$1,181.00
Total Offertory **\$3,586.00**
Weekly Goal \$5,800.00
Fiscal Year Goal \$300,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal \$84,108.96
Project Fund \$116.00
Adopt A Child \$78.00
Adopt A Child Online \$25.00
Parish Share \$270.00
Parish Online \$160.00
Total Parish Share **\$430.00**
2020 Parish Share Goal \$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21 \$25,692.60
Retired Religious \$10.00
All Saint's Day \$10.00
Immaculate Conception \$120.00
Christmas Offertory \$120.00
Children's Christmas \$125.00
Christmas Flowers \$260.00



**How
Are
You
Spiritually
Preparing
for
Christmas?**

**THIS ADVENT,
WALK THRU
THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES
OF THE ROSARY
(VIRTUALLY, NO MASKS NEEDED!)**

**OUR OWN JOANNE BROWN
WILL LEAD ZOOM SESSIONS ON
THE THREE REMAINING TUESDAYS OF
DECEMBER: 15, 22, 29 - 6:30-8:00PM
ANNUNCIATION & VISITATION (DEC. 1 & 9)
CAN BE VIEWED ON THE WEBSITE**

**CONTACT SUE FRALEY
FOR ZOOM HELP AND TO SIGN UP
FOR ZOOM LINKS: 724-504-3166 OR
EVANGYAM@STWENDELINBUTLER.COM
ATTEND ONE OR ALL SESSIONS!
ZOOM LINKS ALSO ON THE WEBSITE**

ON MISSION FOR
**THE
CHURCH
ALIVE!**

**VICARIATE FOUR - GROUPING 438 - North Oakland, Chicora, Carbon Center
SOON TO BE ... St. Clare of Assisi!**

St. Joseph Parish, North Oakland

Located at 864 Chicora Road, Chicora, PA 16025
724-445-3713 Fax: 724-607-1183

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon - Due to Covid, BY PHONE ONLY

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main Street, Chicora, PA 16025
724-445-2275

Office Hours at St. Joseph Rectory - See above

St. Wendelin Parish & School

Located at 210/211 St. Wendelin Road, Butler, PA 16002
Parish - 724-287-0820 School - 724-285-4986

Parish Office Hours: M. T. F. - 9:00am-Noon

WEBSITE FOR ALL PARISHES: <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

Prayer Lists for all Parishes

For SJ & MD, call Fran Parker @ 724-445-7421
For SWP, call the Office @ 724-287-0820

Cemetery Inquiries for all Parishes

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

Bulletin Information for all Parishes

Current email is: stwendelinbulletin@gmail.com
Submission deadline is Tuesdays at 10:00am and
information and/or pictures must pertain to Parish events.
To place an ad, call 1-800-945-6629, Parish Number 947100

Facilities Scheduling for all Parishes

Contact Barb @ 724-445-2275, scheduler@stwendelinbutler.com
Facility usage temporarily suspended due to Covid

Clergy and Staff

Father Matt McClain, Administrator - mmcclain@diopitt.org

Father Lou Pascazi, Senior Parochial Vicar - vicar.438@gmail.com

Barb Boltz, Grouping Administrative Assistant & Facilities Scheduler
scheduler@stwendelinbutler.com

Martha Birch, Grouping Accountant
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Nicole Karenbauer, Grouping Administrative Assistant, School Accountant
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Safe Environment Coordinator
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Sue Fraley, Director of Evangelization, Youth & Young Adult Ministry
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Linda Green & Kit Lanier, SWP Receptionists