

# Most Holy Trinity Parish

Parish Office: 236 Route 390, Cresco, PA 18326

Worship Site: Msgr. McHugh, 212 Route 390, Cresco, PA 18326

Parish Office  
(570) 595-3100

Fax  
(570) 595-3200

Website  
[www.mht-poconos.org](http://www.mht-poconos.org)



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## Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of Most Holy Trinity Parish, rich in diversity, strive to achieve the unity that is the essence of God and the heart of the Church. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to be faithful stewards of the apostolic tradition, to stir into flame the gifts of God the Father, and to evangelize through our action as witnesses to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

## July 4, 2021



## 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!" - Mk 6:2

### Pastor:

Rev. Gregory Loughney

### Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Jaime Perez-Restropo

### Permanent Deacons:

Alan Baranski  
Jose Mendoza

### In Residence:

Msgr. John Bergamo

### Retired Deacon:

Ron Verkon

### Parish Pastoral Council:

Jen Beers  
Wayne Beers  
Cindy DeLuca  
Gladys Guardia  
Benito Juarez  
Joe Matarazzo  
Barb Page  
Danielle Rake  
Nancy Santi  
Ginger Walsh  
Eileen Ziobro

## Parishioners of the Parish

In the Roman Catholic Church of the United States of America, a member is considered “active” when “one is registered and actively participates in the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish through the generous, sacrificial and proportionate sharing of his/her God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.”

As a Catholic and registered parishioner of the parish, I am expected to:

- ◆ Regularly attend and participate in Sunday Mass – preferably as a family
- ◆ Regularly participate in the sacramental life of the Church
- ◆ Develop and practice an ongoing personal/family prayer life
- ◆ Witness to the teachings of the Church by my manner of living life
- ◆ Seek to understand and practice what it means to be and live as an active and committed Christian steward in service to the parish and the Church
- ◆ Commit annually to a generous, sacrificial and proportionate commitment of my time, talent and treasure in service to the mission of the parish and the universal Church without counting the cost or any expectation of something in return
- ◆ Recognize, understand, and accept my need to regularly give and share rather than giving and sharing only when there happens to be a need
- ◆ Acknowledge, as a registered parishioner, that I am to participate in the mission of the parish rather than being only a spectator.
- ◆ Realize the necessary and ongoing importance of love, generosity, faith and family.

Let us remember, it is only through God’s love that we receive the gift of life. In the course of our lives, we are the recipients of God’s grace and giftedness. Through our Baptism, we are called to serve as God’s disciples, sharing - *in gratitude* - His gifts and grace in loving service of God and neighbor.

Our expectations within this gift of life must not be allowed to take precedent over what is expected of us in gratitude thereof. “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Mt. 16:24)

## Email Addresses

Main Office: mht-poconos@outlook.com

Bulletin: mht-bulletin@outlook.com

## Modified Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
*9:00am - 12 noon*

*Call or email to contact us.*

## Daily Mass

Monday - Friday 8:15am  
*Spanish Wednesday 7:00pm*

## Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am  
12:00pm - Spanish

## Reconciliation

Saturday 2:00pm - 3:00pm  
*Other times available by appointment.*

## MHT Parish Mass Intentions

7/5	8:15am	Angelina Gargano	Faith Rivera
7/6	8:15am	For our Nation	Anonymous
7/7	8:15am	For our Nation	Anonymous
	7:00pm	For our Nation	Anonymous
7/8	8:15am	For our Nation	Anonymous
7/9	8:15am	For our Nation	Anonymous
7/10	4:00pm	Edward Kern	Lou & Louise DiBernard
7/11	8:00am	Victor Battaglia	Jo Ann & Peter Giustra
	10:30am	Paul Latzanich	The Rake Family
	12:00pm	For the People	Pastor

**Join us for Mass on the Grass!**  
**Every weekend throughout the summer Mass**  
**will be held outside on the lawn.**

- Bring your own lawn chair or you can remain in your vehicle.
- Mass is transmitted on 91.5 FM



As we continue to grow and develop as Most Holy Trinity Parish, it is important for us to remember and honor the past — the faith, the love, the sacrifices of families and friends who have gone on before us in Christ.

Nearly a century and half ago, the faithful in our part of Monroe County gathered together to form intentional communities of faith and the Diocese of Scranton established formal parishes. As the population grew, more parishes were opened; and as numbers diminished these parishes were consolidated and closed. Today, as Most Holy Trinity, we stand as heirs of so rich a history. Accordingly, we would like to establish a remembrance case in the lobby of the Msgr. McHugh Center to remember and honor the former churches of Our Lady of Fatima—Promise Land, St. Joan—Pocono Summit, St. Ann—Tobyhanna, St. Bernadette—Canadensis, St. Mary of the Mount—Mt. Pocono.

Although in possession of some items, if anyone has pictures or religious items from one of our former church buildings then please consider donating such for the remembrance case. We are looking for pictures of the buildings (i.e. photographs of the inside and outside of the buildings, not pictures of people) and any religious items that may have once been in these churches.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and we remember their commitment to Building the Kingdom.



## **Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Hour**

**Mondays**

**6:00pm to 7:00pm**

**Parish Chapel in the Msgr. McHugh Center**

## Cantor Wanted

We would welcome the addition of singing at our Masses on Sunday at 10:30am. This Mass has been without a cantor for sometime. Anyone interested in serving as a cantor at our 10:30am Mass is asked to contact the Parish Office. The singing would be acapella and the music will be simplified, but it would be a most beautiful enhancement to our gathering in prayer.



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## Thank you for your Donations

We are most grateful to all of those who have made contributions to support our gardening and landscaping projects. Most recently we have planted 12 beautiful hydrangea bushes along the entrance driveway along with twelve poplar trees.

We would like to add twelve sunset maple trees along the frontage of the property. These are 15 ft trees at a cost of \$198 per tree. At present three of these trees have already been sponsored. If anyone is interested in sponsoring one or more of the remaining 9 trees please let us know.



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## A Fourth of July reflection on religious liberty

*The following is an excerpt of the text of Bishop Rhoades' homily, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne:*

On July 4, 1776, in the midst of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia courageously declared the thirteen colonies independent from Great Britain. Today, with all our fellow Americans, we celebrate our freedom on this Independence Day, the Fourth of July.

Many of the colonists who came to America in the 17th and 18th centuries were fleeing religious persecution. Like the Puritans and Quakers, Catholics came to America to escape persecution. English and Irish Catholics first settled in Maryland since the first Baron of Baltimore, George Calvert, and his brother Leonard, who were Catholics, had founded Maryland as a haven for persecuted Christians. Catholics and Protestants lived peacefully side by side in Maryland. The famous Act of Toleration of 1649 guaranteed religious liberty. But in 1654, when Puritans took over the governance of Maryland, the Act of Toleration was repealed and Catholics were outlawed. Maryland joined the other colonies in enacting the English penal laws that restricted the freedom of Catholics: the denial of the right to vote or to hold public office, the prohibition of public worship, and even the imprisonment of priests. The penal laws against Catholics were in force with different levels of severity in the colonies for over a century. Pennsylvania was somewhat an exception, thanks to the religious tolerance of William Penn and the Quakers.

By the time of the American Revolution, the number of Catholics in the thirteen colonies was rather small: about 25,000 among 2 ½ million colonists. For over a century, the small body of Catholics in the 13 colonies had clung to their religious faith despite active persecution and denial of their civil rights. They supported the Revolution with the hope that independence from Britain would bring them greater religious liberty in the new republic.

American Catholics received with great satisfaction the Constitution in 1787 and the Bill of Rights a couple years later, especially the First Amendment and its definition of our first freedom: "Congress shall make no law



respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The First Amendment allowed Catholics the freedom to practice their faith, yet it did not eradicate the cultural anti-Catholicism that persisted in sometimes vigorous form during the following century. Sadly, this persistent prejudice is still alive today, especially among certain elites in academia, Hollywood, the media, government and other influential molders of public opinion.

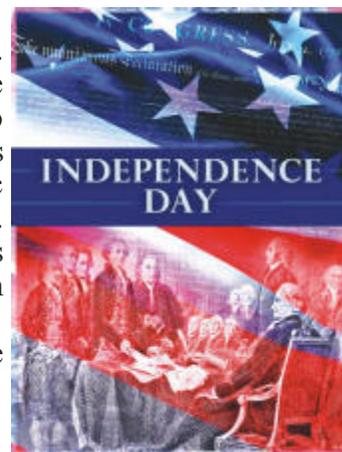
Our concerns about religious liberty today are especially focused on a more general anti-religious cultural movement, rooted in secularism and relativism, which seeks to limit the role of religion in public life. This was certainly not the intent of our founding fathers who recognized the essential role of religion and the virtues it inspires in providing the foundation for the success of a democratic society. They believed in God and the divine law. In the Declaration of Independence, they specifically referred to “the laws of nature and of nature’s God.” They were not secularists and they were not moral relativists. They declared: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” At the end of the Declaration, they affirmed their “firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence” as they pledged to each other “their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.”

Our founding fathers believed that religion, virtue, and morality based on the natural law were essential foundations for the success of the American Experiment. In his farewell address, George Washington declared: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.” John Adams wrote: “It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. Religion and virtue are the only foundations... of republicanism and of all free governments.” As Catholics, we agree with this vision of our founding fathers.

The Church is at the forefront today in advocating and fighting for these indispensable supports of our nation and its freedom: for example, in defending the right to life and the truth about marriage. Today we need to respond to an aggressive secularism in our society. We need to stand up for our faith. We must also stand up for the self-evident truths proclaimed by our founding fathers. We stand against the subjectivism and relativism that seeks to sever freedom from its indispensable foundation in truth. We stand up for the freedom not only to worship, but also to live our faith without government coercion to violate the sacred sanctuary of our conscience. Pope Francis said: “Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth.”

Jesus teaches us to render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. In the contemporary debate and struggle, we seek to have the freedom to do so. This is part of our human dignity — not only to be free to worship God, but free to serve Him and others through our schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, charities, and other institutions and to do so without compromising our faith and moral convictions. There are many in our society who disagree with the teachings of the Catholic Church on various issues. They have the right to disagree. But it is quite another matter to deny to us the right to live our faith and to conduct our lives, ministries, and works in accord with the Church’s teachings. And rather than engaging in civil and respectful debate, critics and opponents of the Church will sometimes resort to attacks that reveal the persistent anti-Catholic prejudice that for some reason is still deemed acceptable in our culture.

On Independence Day, we pray for the protection of religious freedom in our nation. We also remember in prayer the millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are persecuted and suffer injustices because of their faith. Not only are so many denied the right to live their faith or the right to worship, so many Christians and other minorities, innocent individuals and communities, are subjected to barbaric acts of violence, evicted from their homes and native lands, or sold as slaves. Some are killed, beheaded, crucified, or burned alive. It is a great sacrilege that this evil is being done in the name of God. We are living in a new age of Christian martyrdom. May these present-day martyrs inspire us by their faith and courage! Their suffering and death was not in vain: their lives bear eloquent witness to the love of Jesus Christ.





## **Questions and Answers on the U.S. Bishops' Vote to Draft a Document on the Meaning of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church**

Since the conclusion of the Spring Plenary Assembly of the U.S. bishops, there has been much attention on the vote taken to draft a document on the Eucharist. The question of whether or not to deny any individual or groups Holy Communion was not on the ballot. The vote by the bishops last week tasked the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine to begin the drafting of a teaching document on the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. The importance of nurturing an ever deeper understanding of the beauty and mystery of the Eucharist in our lives is not a new topic for the bishops. The document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the Church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate.

Below are a few commonly asked questions on the meeting and on this topic at issue.

### **Why are the bishops doing this now?**

For some time now, a major concern of the bishops has been the declining belief and understanding of the Eucharist among the Catholic faithful. This was a deep enough concern, that the theme of the bishops' strategic plan for 2021-2024 is *Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope*. This important document on the Eucharist will serve as a foundation for the multi-year Eucharistic Revival Project, a major national effort to reignite Eucharistic faith in our country. It was clear from the intensity and passion expressed in the individual interventions made by the bishops during last week's meeting that each bishop deeply loves the Eucharist.

### **Did the bishops vote to ban politicians from receiving Holy Communion?**

No, this was not up for vote or debate. The bishops made no decision about barring anyone from receiving Holy Communion. Each Catholic—regardless of whether they hold public office or not—is called to continual conversion, and the U.S. bishops have repeatedly emphasized the obligation of all Catholics to support human life and dignity and other fundamental principles of Catholic moral and social teaching.

### **Are the bishops going to issue a national policy on withholding Communion from politicians?**

No. There will be no national policy on withholding Communion from politicians. The intent is to present a clear understanding of the Church's teachings to bring heightened awareness among the faithful of how the Eucharist can transform our lives and bring us closer to our creator and the life he wants for us.

### **Did the Vatican tell the bishops not to move forward on drafting the document?**

No. The Holy See did encourage the bishops to engage in dialogue and broad consultation. Last week's meeting was the first part of that process. It is important to note that collaboration and consultation among the bishops will be key in the drafting of this document.

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