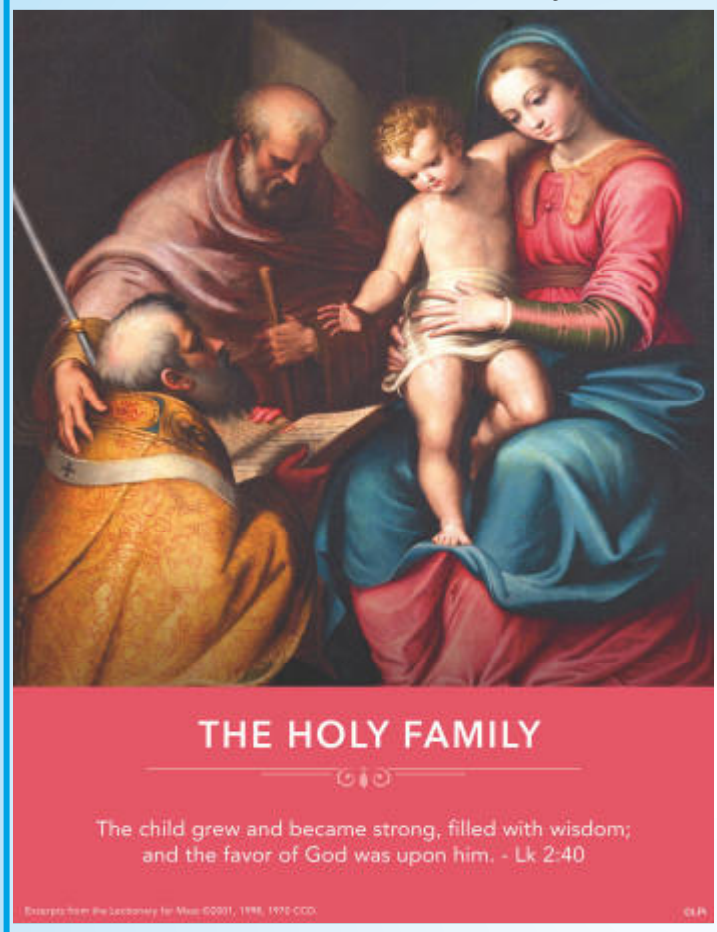
The Roman Catholic Community of Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic



Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Catholic Community

Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve, Vigil

Thursday, December 31, 2020

4:00 pm Saint Eugene Church, Liberty

4:00 pm Saint Michael Church, Elizabeth

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1, 2021

9:00 am Saint Michael Church, Elizabeth

10:30 am Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport

Merry Christmas!

Blessed and Healthy New Year!

The Pittsburgh Catholic is now On-Line.

thepittsburghcatholic.wpccomstating.com

December 27, 2020

Website: ElizabethSouthAlleghenyCC.org

Saint Mark
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
3210 Liberty Way
McKeesport, PA 15133
Phone 412-678-6275
Fax 412-673-1393
Email: saintmarkparishdiopitt@gmail.com

Saint Michael
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037-2363
Phone 412-751-0663
Fax 412-751-2161
Email: stmichael11@verizon.net

Queen of the Rosary
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
530 Michigan Avenue
Glassport, PA 15045
Phone 412-672-7209
Fax 412-672-6390
Email: qorglasspt@comcast.net

Saint Eugene Church (StE)
3210 Liberty Way - Liberty

Saint Michael Church (StM)
101 McLay Drive - Elizabeth

Queen of the Rosary (QoR)
530 Michigan Avenue - Glassport

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213
Faith Formation - Adult - Children - Youth
101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037 412-754-0886
Email: 213FaithForm@gmail.com Facebook: FaithFormation-EGSA

Looking For A Faith Community? Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you to join our community. You may register by calling the Faith Community Office.

Sacraments

Baptism of Infants & Children
Baptism is a joyous event in the life of the church. Baptism is celebrated any Sunday after Mass. **Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Class.**
Previous arrangements are necessary.

Instruction in the Faith - R.C.I.A.
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Fr. Wagner.

Reconciliation

St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Tuesday, 7 - 7:30 pm

St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport
Saturday, 1- 1:30 pm

St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 3:15-3:45 pm

St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Saturday, 5:15-5:45 pm

Marriage
The prospective bride and groom are to make arrangements with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require all couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program.

Anointing of the Sick
the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally on the Second Sunday of the Month.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In
Homebound members of the Parish should call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion at home.

Sponsorship Forms
Only registered, practicing, fully-initiated Catholics are eligible for sponsor certificates. Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Information Deadline
2 weeks in advance of publish date.
elizabethsalleghenybulletin@gmail.com

Moving
Please call or email your new address to the Parish Office.

Child Abuse Hotline 1-888-808-1235

Mass Intentions For The Week

StE St. Eugene Church, Liberty StM St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
QoR Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport

December 27, 2020 — January 3, 2021

Saturday, 26, Vigil, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
StM 4:00 pm M **Dominica Kononvich** - Jan & Ryan
StE 6:00 pm T **Living & Deceased of Plan & Paguirigan Families** - Melvyn & Elena Plan

Sunday, 27, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
StE 8:00 am T **Eunice Pollak** - Family
StM 9:00 am M **Lawrence Zupanc** - Patty, Jeremy, Justin, Melissa, Derek & Evan
QoR 10:30 am T **Kathy Smedley** - Jack Ferko & Family
StM 12 Noon M **Dcn Jeff & Sue Formica - 30th Wedding Anniversary** - Family
Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Monday, 28, Holy Innocents, martyrs
QoR 8:30 am **Anthony DeSimone** - Thomas & Edna Milczarczyk
Novena - Infant of Prague
StM 9:00 am **John Shar** – Wife, Sally

Tuesday, 29, Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
StM 9:00 am **Janet Formica** - Oeler Family
StE 6:30 pm **Living & Deceased of the Venturini Family** - Family
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions - 7:00 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 30, Sixfth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
QoR 8:30 am **Leonard & Blanche Pasinski** - Daughter, Theresa Komondor
StM 9:00 am **Edward Buzek**– Barbara & Kathy

Thursday, 31, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
StE 8:30 am **Kenny Kaczka** - Joe, Karen, & Michael
StM 9:00 am **Rita Pelter** - Family & Friends

Thrusday, 31, Vigil, Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Eve
StM 4:00 pm **Walter Radocay** - Sisters
StE 4:00 pm **Louis Piotrowski** - McCarthy Family

Friday, January 1, Mary, Mother of God, New Year's Day
StM 9:00 am **Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family**
QoR 10:30 am **Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family**

Saturday, 2, Vigil, Epiphany of the Lord
StM 4:00 pm T **Joe & Norma Lord** - Knights of Columbus
StE 6:00 pm M **Joseph Nesteruk** - Family & Friends

Sunday, 3, Epiphany of the Lord
StE 8:00 am M **Crossen & Mullaly Families** - Crossen Family
StM 9:00 am T **Lillian Grooms** - Patricia Yekich
QoR 10:30 am M **Clara B. Palumbo** - Karen Thomas
StM 12 Noon T **Marjorie Davis** - Jan & Ryan
Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Low Gluten Hosts available - please see Priest before Mass.

Saints Joachim and Anne

July 26, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rationale: We are witnessing the presence of God in our lives through faith and perseverance under the guidance of the Virgin Mary.

The names of the parents of Mary are known from the apocryphal **Proto-Gospel of James** (2nd century). The cult to Saint Anne is documented in the East in the 6th century, in the West in the 10th century; that of Saint Joachim in the 14th century. In the Byzantine rite the 25th of July reminds us the dedication in Constantinople of a Basilica in honor of Saint Anne.

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names Joachim and Anne come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

The heroism and holiness of these people, however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people.

Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

According to tradition, Saint Anne was born in Bethlehem, and married Joachim of Nazareth, both descendants of David. Together with her husband, Anne raised Mary to be a paragon of virtue and entrusted her to the temple as a child. It appears that she died at an advanced age. The same tradition tells of Joachim, a wealthy livestock owner whose marriage to Anne did not produce offspring until late. This was regarded as a lack of heavenly blessing, resulting in Joachim's sacrifice being refused at the temple. Remembering the son granted to Abraham late in life, Joachim resolved to go into the desert and fast for forty days. An angel appeared and told him of the birth of his daughter, and he went to meet his wife at the **Golden Gate** of Jerusalem.

New Parish Updates

This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.** The Gospel story from Luke about the Presentation of the Lord reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who brings good news to all. As a baptized people we are to be a people of light and to share good news by our words and deeds. Like his two predecessors Pope Francis has called for a New Evangelization for the Church today. This means that our mission is to take the message of Jesus to the peripheries of our society and share God's love and mercy to all we meet. Or, as our Bishop David Zubik has put it, we are to **make friends for Jesus**. Our new parish **Saints Joachim and Anne Parish** officially begins **Monday, January 4, 2021**.

Let us pray that our parish will be a true herald of the Gospel.

We are a community of believers, rooted in the abiding presence of Christ, centered in the Holy Eucharist, proclaiming the Gospel message of Jesus, and serving in the tradition of the early church as his disciples.

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Catholic Community

Beginning January 4, 2021

Administrative Office

Address:

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037-2363

Phone: 412-751-0663 Fax: 412-751-2161

Email:
Administration Office:
TBD

Safe Environment:
TBD

Website: joachimandannediopitt.org

Please make all checks payable to

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

From Memories to Mission...

As we prepared to become one new parish, the Advisory Councils, Clergy Team, Faith Formation and Pastoral Staff are trying to capture our rich history of the Catholic Faith in our community. We are asking you to write your memories from any of the former parishes of Elizabeth, Glassport and South Allegheny Area. These Memories will be a part of the foundation of our new parish and will guide us as in our Future Mission.

Parish Memories:

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How Our Memories Support the Future Mission:

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All who believed were together and had all things in common.
—Acts 2:44

Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.
—Philippians 2:2

We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works.
—Hebrews 10:24

Pastoral Staff

Clergy Team
Reverend Thomas A. Wagner, Administrator
Reverend Miroslaus A. Wojcicki, Senior Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dale J. DiSanto, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Jeffrey P. Formica, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Stephen C. Pikula, Permanent Deacon
Deacon John E. Ragan, Permanent Deacon

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School
Lynda McFarland, Principal, 412-672-2360

Faith Formation - Religious Education
Adult - Children - Youth
Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator
Amanda Wilt, Co-Children, K-6 Grade
Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High
Darla Losteter, Family Support

Music Ministry
Celeste Cafasso
Carol Gioia
Pamela Whitney

Pastoral Secretary
Jan Kunkel
Amy Megahan
Jeannie Premozic

Facilities
Tony Hutskow
Kevin Hopkins
Darla Losteter
Patricia Muic

Safe Environment
Jeannie Premozic

Advisory Councils
Pastoral Council
Jack Ferko, Facilitator Patty Smith, Co-Facilitator
Zac Allan, Scribe

Glenn Bonczek	Vickie Budd	Elaine David
Eric Davis	Denise DeCapria	Anne Laychak
Michael Ksiazek	Leah Meek	Brian Phillips

Finance Council
Judy Zajicek, Facilitator Patricia Palmer, Co-Facilitator
Barry Bisogni, Scribe

Kay Callear	Loretta Dabruzzo	Val McCarthy
Sandy Palmer	Judy Shriane	Donald Similo

We remember . . . In your charity, please remember all those who have died, especially: **Virginia 'Ginny' Rost, Edith Louise Kennedy, Theresa Popojas, Anna Bellas, Susan Minkus, Mary Hornicsar all who will die today, and those who have no one to pray for them. Resting in Paradise. Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord.**

December Rosary Intention
That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2020

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

©LPi

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

On this **feast of the Holy Family**, we want to offer all families blessings. **Family** may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the **father, mother, child** family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today's Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and **your descendants will be more numerous than the stars**. The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

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Examples In Our Elders

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don't know the rubrics well, or aren't dressed better, or **why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?** Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he see the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

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My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all the peoples.
—Luke 2:30-31

We Are God's Holy Family

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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Power In Prescribed Rituals

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

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Processions

Why does the liturgy begin with a procession? It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food.

This procession is an orderly one: servers, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

What a year 2020 has been! The Pandemic, racial strife, a divided nation… Talk with each other about what helps you heal your relationship and bring you back together after a disagreement. Are there any lessons for our country?

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Most people know that **Christmas** is December 25. Some of you may also know that December 26 starts the 7 day African American celebration of **Kwanza**. No matter what your ethnic heritage - **family, community,** and **culture** are universal values. Check it out.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't **perfect** parents. If you have ever been **amazed** and **astonished** at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you **didn't understand** your children or felt **anxious** about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. **Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.**

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Christmas: This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving **ACCEPTANCE** of our children.

Catholic Community of
Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area

Thank You for caring!
Kind deeds change lives, Thank You!

Emmanuel

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, **God is with us** (Matthew 1:23). The Gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help instead of relying on God. He is afraid to admit his lack of faith. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus.

In the Gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary came to be pregnant. But unlike Ahaz, Joseph did have faith in God and the message of the angel. He took Mary as his wife and helped her through her pregnancy and in raising Jesus afterwards. So now we have to choose whom to rely on. Do I act like Ahaz, relying on worldly powers, or like Joseph, who trusted the Lord? If I look at my actions and priorities, I might be more like Ahaz than I want to admit.

How much time do I spend watching television (especially now that it's in HD) compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? If I really believe that **God is with us**, which is what Christmas is all about, how much of God can people see in my actions? Maybe if we kept in mind that promise that God is with us--in the baptism we received and the sacraments of the Church, and in the love of our spouse or parents--we could see how close God really is, and let others see in our actions that Jesus is Emmanuel.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch CoCopyright

Thank You! Thank You!
2021 Grouping Calendars
The 2021 Calendars are provided through the generosity and kindness of **Bekavac, Gilbert, Willig, Wojciechowski Funeral Homes**.
Thank You! Thank You!

Faith Formation
Adult - Children - Youth
Religious Education

101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037
412-754-0886 Email: 213faithform@gmail.com
Facebook: FaithFormation-EGSA

Faith Formation Sessions have begun.

Parents are reminded that children must complete two consecutive years of formation before receiving any sacraments (Holy Communion or Confirmation).

If you have any questions or concerns, please email 213FaithForm@gmail.com or call the Faith Formation Office, 412-754-0886 and leave a message.

For more information or to register, please email 213Youth@gmail.com or call Mrs. Formica, 412-754-0886

Save the Date ....
Family Fun Night & Car Cruise
Friday, June 18, 2020
Sponsored by Youth Ministry

Bereavement Ministry

This group, led by Deacon Dale DiSanto, is for people Who have lost a loved one and are experiencing grief. This is a Support Group, not counseling.

If you need assistance in moving through your grief, this is an ongoing way to be supported during this difficult time. The weekly session begins with suggested topics, open discussion and ends with prayer.

December 1, 2020

Dear Faith Formation Family,

Happy Advent! As most families are aware South Allegheny School District is already completely virtual and Elizabeth Forward School District will be going completely virtual in the near future. **It is with heavy hearts, that Father Wagner and I have decided to suspend all LIVE sessions of Faith Formation for the remainder of 2020 and for at least the first 2 weeks of 2021. We want to resume LIVE sessions on Sunday January 17th and Monday January 18th, but please be aware that these dates are tentative.**

In lieu of LIVE sessions, we will be sending out a Zoom recording via email to all families for the parents to watch then to work with the children on the lessons in the book for the December lessons and we will also be sending out First Communion/ Reconciliation Zoom recordings and Confirmation Zoom recordings as well. Everything will be sent by either my email 213FaithForm@gmail.com or by 213K6ff@gmail.com . Please check your spam/junk folders for the lessons as sometimes the emails end up in those folders.

All Youth Ministry activities are suspended as well, except for the sorting of the Angel Tree gifts that will be after the Noon Mass on Sunday, 13th December. This is a good way for our 8th graders to get in a few service hours.

We are also cancelling our ***Journey to Bethlehem*** that was scheduled for Saturday, 5th December at Saint Michael. If you have registered or sent in money for this event, we will either be destroying the checks, or if cash, issue you a refund.

For parents who have children that are going to make their First Reconciliation, we will be in touch in early January to let you know what is going on with that Sacrament.

Please know that all of you have been in my prayers daily as this pandemic stretches out before us; thank you for your patience and understanding during these trying times.

Prayers and Blessings,

Julie Fleckenstein

Faith Formation Facilitator

Pre-Baptism Class

Are you expecting? Is this your first child?

Pre-Baptism Class is for expectant parents and Godparents or anyone who is seeking a Catholic Baptism for their child.

Pre-Baptism Class - Deacon Dale DiSanto
Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm
St. Michael Meeting Room

Grandparents are also welcome at these classes.

Please register by calling the **Faith Formation - Religious Education** office, 412-754-0886 or emailing 213FaithForm@gmail.com.

Prior to scheduling a Baptism, parents need to attend the Pre-Baptismal Seminar.

Sunday, December 27;
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk2:22-40;
or Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk2:22-40

The measure of success—Fruitfulness is a sign that we're doing something right. Plant a seed, water it, give it light, and it brings forth a shoot. Neglect it, and get nothing. We measure success in terms of fruitfulness: schooling completed, jobs held, relationships that endure, children raised, financial security, years lived, virtues practiced. God blessed Abram with wealth and years, but to that old man, the only true measure of success was a child. By what standard do you evaluate your life's worth? What's required for you to say in the end: **Lord, now you let your servant go in peace? But Abram said, *O Lord GOD, what good will yourgifts be, if I keep on being childless?***

Monday, Dec 28; The Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Suffer little children—On the heels of the joyful celebration of the birth of our Savior, we remember the Holy Innocents—all the baby boys who were murdered by Herod in his attempt to kill the child Jesus. Remember too all those innocents who die today at the hands of their governments and who are victims of institutional and structural violence. About the Holy Innocents, Matthew quotes Jeremiah: **A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children . . .** Console today's mourning mothers by fighting for children's rights and protections. **My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin.**

Tuesday, Dec 29; Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr
1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Choosing right vs. might—Thomas Becket found himself having to choose between an earthly king and Christ the King. The cleric Thomas be friended England's Henry II—leading Henry to appoint him chancellor. Later, when Henry spotted a chance to wield power over church affairs, he named his friend the archbishop of Canterbury. But Thomas would not go along with Henry's plans. Repercussions followed, and in 1170 Thomas was brutally murdered—in Canterbury Cathedral—by the king's men. Though perhaps with less dramatic outcomes, standing up for your convictions may cost you, too. Are you willing to pay the price? **Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many.**

Wednesday, Dec 30; 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

The party never ends—On this sixth day of the Octave, the Christmas celebration continues. Or it can—even if the culture around us has moved on. Especially in pandemic days, you may feel challenged to find hope and joy in the promise that God is with us. So celebrate by sharing that Divine Love, however you feel able to. Bake and share cookies, make a call to someone you may have overlooked this busy season, write a note of gratitude to someone who challenges you, or contribute to an organization that cares for mothers and children in this season of the Holy Family. Take time in prayer to recollect and give thanks for any awareness of God's presence in recent days. Loving God, help me remember that Christmas is not a day but rather a season that invites me to see you at work in my life every day. **And coming forward at that very time, [Anna] gave thanks to God and spoke about the child.**

Thursday, Dec 31; 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas
1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

The light still shines—We might well ring out a difficult year with the words of today's psalmist: **Let the heavens be glad and the Earth rejoice!** Rejoicing implies an expectation of better things to come, placing us firmly within the Christian virtue of hope. Christians are hopeful for many reasons, starting with the fact that Jesus's death led to resurrection. The church teaches, too, that hope lies inbuilding the kingdom of God on Earth, **as it is in heaven**. Lift up your hopes for 2021 to God, and be ready to work for them with God's grace. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Friday, Jan 01; Mary, Mother of God - World Day of Peace
Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Renew the face of the Earth—We have longed for the year 2020 to be over, to move away from the pandemics that have wounded us collectively and individually. With 2021 on the calendar now, it feels like maybe, just maybe we can start anew at some point. Given the chance, we, along with all of creation, have the capacity to renew, that is, to be **new again**—not only each year but each moment. An essential ingredient to renewal is peace. The church calls us to follow **Christ the Way of Peace**, as Pope Benedict said on this day in2007, **with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us.** Let us pray for and choose peace for ourselves and for the world in all that we renew this year. **Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.**

Saturday, Jan 02; Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops
1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

Spiritual friendship lasts for ages—Spiritual friendship is one of the greatest gifts of life in a faith community. Basil and Gregory, fourth-century patriarchs of the Eastern Church, had such a friendship and spurred each other onto great accomplishments and service in their spiritual lives. We all need community and spiritual support as we work through the mysteries of our own personal lives and the challenges presented by a suffering world. Who can you count on for support and encouragement in these hard times? Do your resolutions for this new year include cultivation of spiritual community and friendships? **All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation by our God.**

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Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition

Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

May the Christ Child,
His Holy Mother Mary, and Joseph
bring you and your family
every blessing today
and throughout the New Year!
Christmas Blessings!

Fr. Wagner, Fr. Miro,
Dcn. Dale, Dcn. Jeff, Dcn.John,
Dcn.Steve, and the Pastoral Staff

Merry Christmas!

Listen To Your Angel

Have you ever found yourself at a crossroads?

One direction may be momentarily advantageous or easy, another more challenging but right or good. It is not always easy to know which direction to choose. Discerning our path of life necessarily involves prayer, the guidance of others whom we trust, and the promptings of the Holy Spirit within us. The example of the Holy Family is that they followed the will of God, trusting in God's abiding presence even when they knew that doing so involved risk and uncertainty.

* **Mary trusted the voice of the angel**, although the message was beyond comprehension;
* **Joseph listened to the voice of the Lord** in dreams and proceeded, assured of God's guiding spirit in the midst of troubling circumstances.

This is what our families must do as well.
Being Christian people in today's world is not always easy, even when we know it is right.

This is the meaning of holiness.
This is what it means to be a holy family.

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Glory to God in the Highest!

The Nativity of the Lord

If the salutation, **Merry Christmas**, is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the **more** really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from **doing** for the poor to **being with** the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, **Joy to the World,** and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manager at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, **I and me,** but, **we and us,** and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you
so that Christ can truly be born in you?

©LPi

Christmas is Forever

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart. –Author Unknown

Merry Christmas!

Full of Joy

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, **All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?** What I found out was that these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

The Twelve Days of Christmas

When Oliver Cromwell came to power in England, Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Tradition holds that Catholic parents developed ***The Twelve Days of Christmas*** to teach children their beliefs.

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus (the partridge will sacrifice its life to save its young).

Two turtle doves
The Old and New Testaments

Three French hens
Faith, hope, and charity, or the gifts of the Wise Men (gold, frankincense, myrrh)

Four calling birds
Four Evangelists--Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Five golden rings, Pentateuch
The first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronmy)

Six geese a-laying
The six days of creation described in Genesis

Seven swans a-swimming
The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord)

Eight maids a-milking
The eight Beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing
The nine choirs of angels (Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and angels); or the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control).

Ten lords a-leaping
The Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping
The eleven faithful Apostles

Twelve drummers drumming
The twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Thank You! Thank You!

Special Thank You to everyone who participated in this year's **Angel Tree**. Your kindness, caring and love truly radiates the true Spirit of Christmas, Jesus.

Special Thank You to everyone who participated in and contributed to the Christmas decorations of our churches. Your support and love for God and community truly makes our Parish Special.

Yes, Christmas is a little taste of heaven, the perfect gift that lies in wait for those who love the Lord.

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Catholic Community

Beginning January 4, 2021

Administrative Office

Address

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037-2363

Phone Number

412-751-0663

Email

TBD

Website

joachimandannediopitt.org

Please make all checks payable to

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Safety First

Morning or Evening Mass Snow Cancellations

For everyone's safety, a delay or cancellation at **Elizabeth Forward or South Allegheny School Districts** is our notice of **Safety First.**

Mornings or Evenings with a delay or cancellation—**There will be no morning or evening Mass at Saint Eugene Church.** Please listen to the radio or watch TV for delays or cancellations. **Safety first! Be careful!**

Time, Talent, and Treasure

December 13, 2020

Weekly Offering $20,744.50

Parish Share Received $121,203

Parish Share Goal $168,086

The Weekly Offertory is used to offset the costs associated with the day-to-day operations of the parish and its programs. These costs include Masses, Liturgical Programs, Faith Formation (Adult, Children, Young Adult, Youth), Sacramental Preparation, Elementary School Subsidy, Insurance, Maintenance & Upkeep of Buildings and Property, Utilities, Supplies, and Payroll. Average amount needed per week for a balanced budget is **$24,904**.

Thank You For Your Sacrificial Giving!

Initial Offering Envelope

At the end of your December packet you will find your **Initial Offering Envelope**. Your donation of $5 or $10 will help to defray the cost of your Offertory envelopes throughout the year. Please place envelope in any collection. **Thank You!**

Parishioner Financial Statements

will be mailed prior to January 31, 2021.

Our records show what the parish received in the Offertory Contribution Envelopes and Parish Share Program.

Your contribution to the Campaign for the Church Alive! will come under a different mailing.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving!

New Envelope Numbers

Beginning with the **Saints Joachim and Anne January Envelope packets,**

All Parishioners will be receiving New Envelope Numbers.

With the combining of the St. Mark, St. Michael, and Queen of the Rosary census data, it became necessary to eliminate all duplicate numbers. The Parish Data System automatically assigned the new numbers.

Please make all checks payable to

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Mailing Offertory Envelopes:

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037

New Monthly Envelope

Beginning with the **January Envelope packets** the **Capital Improvement, Building & Grounds, Upkeep** and the **Utility & Energy or Fuel** envelopes will be replaced with a **New Monthly Envelope.**

Each Family is asked to contribute **$20** to the Monthly Envelope. These monies will be used to assist in the upkeep of parish property and help cover the cost of energy and utilities.

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish 50/50

In your offertory packet, there is a special envelope marked 50/50 Drawing--Donation $5.00.

Thank You For Your Support!

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.

—2 Corinthians 9:11

May God Bless Our Service Personnel

We pray for and remember our Service Men and Women who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, especially: **Cpl. Peter A. Barrante, USMC; Maj. Damian Baskerville, USAF; Col. Richard Collage, PA NG; Staff Sgt. Nicholas DeLuca, Army; Ens. David DeMaio, USCG; Capt. Craig Dolhi, Army; Capt. Anthony Formica, Army; Jacob Formica, E-4, Army; 2nd Lt. John Formica, Army; SPC Samuel Formica, Army National Guard; Capt. Markus Gibson, USMC; 2ndLt. Miles Gibson, USMC; PO2. Mason Gibson, USN; T/Sgt. Michael Goodman, USAF; Lt. Col. James Hock, Army; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; Sgt. First Class William Nellis, Army; Staff Sgt. Timothy Oeler, USAF; LTJG. Timothy Ragan, USN; Amn. Stephanie A. Reichenbach, USAF; PFC David R. Saunders, Army National Guard; Sgt. Brandon R. Smith, USAF Pararescueman; Amn. Adam Stitt, USAF; Capt. Andrew Tkac, Army.**

Thank you for your service!

May We Never Forget . . . Freedom is Never Free!

May God Bless Our Health Care Workers and All First Responders.

Patriotic Rosary

Monday Evening
January 11, 2021 - 7:00 pm
Saint Michael Church
Elizabeth, PA

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Rosary, Patriotic Hymns and Benediction

Join us at **Saint Michael Church** on **Monday Evening January 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm** to pray the Rosary as we remember Our Lady of the Rosary and protection of life from womb to tomb.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** with **Benediction** to conclude the recitation of the Rosary.

The **Patriotic Rosary** will include brief reflections on The Mysteries and Patriotic Hymns after each decade.

We are planning a **Patriotic Rosary** for each month on the Second Monday of the Month.

All are invited and most assuredly welcome!

Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us.

Upcoming Events

Knights of Columbus will meet on **Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:30 pm** in the St. Michael - Archangel Hall.

Glassport Sons of Italy Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, - 12 Noon to 6:00 pm
Homemade Gnocchi or Cheese Ravioli
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$10.00 per ticket with 28 chances to win!
Pays out daily on the 7pm PA Daily Pick 3.
No bonus numbers.
Numbers will be dispersed
on a first-come, first-served basis.
If you would like to help our Catholic Community with selling a few tickets or helping to sell
before and after Masses, please contact Cathy or Jan.
Thank You for your support!

Community Festival 2021 is scheduled for August 5, 6, 7, 2021

The Community Festival will be here before you know it.

The holidays are rapidly approaching and our basket team is gearing up to start producing those specialty baskets for the **Community Festival**. We give away approximately 60 baskets every night of the festival, so it does take us some time to create them. Before you know it will be August 2021.

So keeping that in mind, we are asking that you kindly keep all those donations coming in. You can put those items in the gathering space of every church.

Fall, Halloween and **Thanksgiving** items will soon be on clearance. These themed seasonal items make great baskets. We also do themed baskets such as popular children's characters, men's items from tools to car washing supplies, pet supplies, assorted candles or books and crossword puzzles, etc.

If you are shopping online these days, look for the clearance section for some great deals before you check out. Remember we accept any new items (never been used).

Thank you in advance for your generosity! We couldn't do it without your help.

Thank You! Thank You!
2021 Grouping Calendars
The 2021 Calendars are provided through the generosity and kindness of Bekavac, Gilbert, Willig, Wojciechowski Funeral Homes.
Thank You! Thank You!

Food Bank Sunday

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area Grouping Food Bank Sunday Third Sunday of the Month

St. Mark, St. Michael, Queen of the Rosary

We accept all non-perishable food items and paper products to administer to the needy of our local community.

Items for your consideration are pasta and sauces, tuna fish, rice, stews, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, coffee & tea, hot chocolate mix, peanut butter & jelly, sugar, flour, crackers, Jell-O gelatin, puddings, powdered milk, cocoa, infant formula & baby food, juices, facial soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, diapers, facial tissues, paper towels, toilet tissue, cleansers, etc.

Please bring your donations to Mass with you and leave them in the **Gathering Space of the Church**. Cash or checks are also welcome.

Kind deeds change lives, Thank You!

Learned At Home—Henry Drummond

The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area Grouping
Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Lamp

St. Mark: St. Eugene

___ Altar Bread & Wine ___ Sanctuary Lamp

St. Michael: ___ Altar Bread & Wine

___ Sanctuary Lamp Chapel ___ Sanctuary Lamp Church

Queen of the Rosary:

___ Altar Bread & Wine ___ Sanctuary Lamp

Please Print

___ Intention (Living) ___ Memorial (Deceased)

Date Requested _____

Alternate Date: _____

Please Print _____

Requested by _____

Donation $_____ **Phone #** _____

Please place your request and donation ($15.00) in an envelope marked Altar Memorials and deposit in the collection. Thank You! For Altar Flower Memorials please call the Parish Office to check availability.

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