

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Roman Catholic Community

Established January 4, 2021

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic

Website: joachimandannediopitt.org



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCB

ELPH

Administration Center

101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone 412-751-0663

Fax 412-751-2161

Email: office@joachimandannediopitt.org

Safe Environment

Email: protect@joachimandannediopitt.org

Church Buildings

Saint Eugene (StE))
3210 Liberty Way
McKeesport, PA 15133

+

Saint Michael (StM)
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037

+

Queen of the Rosary (QoR)
530 Michigan Avenue
Glassport, PA 15045

December 26, 2021

Faith Formation

Adult - Children - Youth

101 McLay Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone 412-754-0886

Email: faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

1640 Fawcett Ave. White Oak, PA 15131

Pre-3, Pre-4, Kindergarten, First-Eighth Grade

School Office 412-672-2360

Webpage: www.maryofnazarethschool.org

Pittsburgh Catholic: pittsburghcatholic.org

Pittsburgh Catholic Magazine:

diopitt.org/pittsburgh-catholic-magazine

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 Administration Center.

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.

office@joachimandannediopitt.org

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 26, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Saturday, 25, Vigil, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

StM 4:00 pm No Evening Mass

StE 6:00 pm No Evening Mass

Sunday, 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

StE 8:00 am T Legin & Esack Families - Tom & Cathy Esack

StM 9:00 am M Michael Gogoel, Jr. - Daughters

QoR 10:30 am T Living & Deceased of the Parish Family

StM 12 Noon M Joseph DeChicchis - Wife

Monday, 27, John, apostle & evangelist

QoR 8:30 am Kathleen Smedley - Terry Smedley & Family

Novena - Infant of Prague

StM 9:00 am John Shar - Wife, Sally

Tuesday, 28, Holy Innocents, martyrs

StM 9:00 am Megan Insalaco - Larry & Liz Brogna

StE 6:30 pm Helen Shalako - Theresa & Family

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 7:00 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday, 29, Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

QoR 8:30 am Philomena Zackaryasz - Parish Family

StM 9:00 am Jerry Kunkel, Ken & Agnes Kunkel - Jan & Ryan

Thursday, 30, Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

StE 8:30 am Joseph Kish - Parish Family

StM 9:00 am Donna DiLorenzo - Mike & Michelle Vancas

Friday, 31, Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

QoR 8:30 am Marietta & Domenico Norelli - Family

StM 9:00 am Walter Radocay - Family

Friday, 31, Vigil, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, Mother of God

StM 4:00 pm No Evening Mass

StE 6:00 pm No Evening Mass

Saturday, January 1, 2022, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord;

Mary, Mother of God

StM 9:00 am T Evelyn Brown - Parish Family

QoR 10:30 am M Dorothy Graboski - Parish Family

Saturday, 1, Vigil, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

StM 4:00 pm No Evening Mass

StE 6:00 pm No Evening Mass

Sunday, 2, The Epiphany of the Lord

StE 8:00 am M Crossen & Mullaly Families - Crossen Family

StM 9:00 am G Sheila Heck - Sister & Family

QoR 10:30 am M Living & Deceased of the Parish Family

StM 12 Noon T Family Mass

Low Gluten Hosts available - please see Priest before Mass.

Pastoral Staff

Clergy Team

Reverend Thomas A. Wagner, Pastor
 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, K-6 Grade
 Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High

Music Ministry

Celeste Cafasso
 Carol Gioia
 Pamela Whitney

Pastoral Secretary

Jan Kunkel
 Amy Megahan

Facilities

Tony Hutskow
 Kevin Hopkins
 Darla Losteter
 Patricia Muic

Business Manager & 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
Sandy Palmer	Judy Shriane
	Val McCarthy
	Donald Similo



**The Nativity of the Lord
 December 25, 2021**

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188). The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. **With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love.** Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be.

**Today, heaven remains the same,
 but earth has been profoundly changed.**

We remember . . . In your charity, please remember all those who have died, especially: **Anthony Procacina**, brother of Anna Mae Adragna & Joe Procacina, **Edwin Jenkins**, father of Enoch Jenkins, **Carole Paul**, sister of Shirley Wargo, **Barbara Hanick**, 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

We pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit..



LIVE THE LITURGY — Merry Christmas!

There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God's care. God's presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. **Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself.**

**We are loved, treasured, and blessed.
We have a Savior who can show us the way.
Accept him.** ©LPi



Be Born In Us, Be Born In Our World

Everyday Stewardship - Stewardship Ties

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus' biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their **blood**. A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I've heard it called a **gotcha day**, and it's marked joyously, like a birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God's Chosen People. **But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too.** And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. **It's not about who we look like, it's about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.**

So this Christmas, let's think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus' birthday, it's also our **gotcha day — the day we received the gift of eternal family.**

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Christmas is Forever

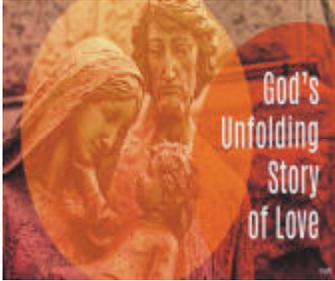
**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:**

**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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26, 2021



Families can be very difficult things to negotiate.

This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family

as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. **Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.**

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the **light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families.** While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in **God's continually unfolding story of love.**

The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

©LPi

THE NAME FOR GOD

**Mother is the name for God
on the lips and in the hearts of little children.**

—William Makepeace Thackeray

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

It wasn't at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. **Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary's angelic annunciation; Joseph's strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph's annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn't totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy.**

Today's feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of "the Word made flesh" becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life
and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How can I imitate the Holy Family this week?

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New Year's Eve - Friday Vigil, December 31, 2021

No Mass - Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

New Year's Day - Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:00 am - Saint Michael Church

10:30 am - Queen of the Rosary Church

Epiphany - Saturday, January 1, 2022

There will be no Vigil Mass on Saturday Evening.

Epiphany - Sunday, January 2, 2022

8:00 am - Saint Eugene Church

9:00 am - Saint Michael Church

10:30 am - Queen of the Rosary Church

12 Noon - Saint Michael Church

Family Life

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the **en-flesh-ment** of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

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Everyday Stewardship - All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends.

**Those of us rejoicing in heaven,
those of us suffering in purgatory,
and those of us struggling here on earth.**

We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

—Psalm 84

Did You Not Know?

A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. **Why were you looking for me?**

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?

The words **astounded**, **astonished**, and **great anxiety** are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be **lost** for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

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Emmanuel: God Is With Us

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, **we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.**

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THE NAME FOR GOD —William Makepeace Thackeray

Mother is the name for God

on the lips and in the hearts of little children.

Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Lamp

St. Eugene: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of Irene Battistone from Audrye Muic.

St. Michael: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of Kunkel Family from Jan & Ryan.

Queen of the Rosary: Sanctuary Lamp burns in Memory of Marietta & Domenico Norelli from Family



**Faith Formation
Adult - Children - Youth
Religious Education**

**101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037
412-754-0886**

**Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator
faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Amanda Wilt, K-6 Grade
k6ff@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Susan Formica, Youth Ministry, Jr & Sr
youth@joachimandannediopitt.org**

**Facebook:
Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
Living Stones of God's House
—1 Peter 2:4-5**



For the schedule and more information about the Senior and Junior Youth Ministry Program, please email youth@joachimandannediopitt.org

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 John Ragan
Thursday, March 10, 2022, 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.

**Faith Formation Family Mass Sunday
Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 12 Noon**



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

Spring Pre-Cana Program

If you are planning weddings, especially Winter, Spring & Summer 2022.

**St. Michael - Archangel Hall, McLay Drive, Elizabeth
Saturday, Spring 2022, 9:00 am-3:30 pm**

Registration \$50.00 per couple (includes materials & lunch)

Pre-Registration is necessary. Please call Julie In the Faith Formation Office, 412-754-0886 or email faithform@joachimandannediopitt.org.

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

Christmas Eve is past, or is it? Kwanzaa which starts on December 26 is an annual celebration of African-American culture. No matter the color of your skin, the themes of Kwanzaa can deepen your love for each other and continue the joy of Christmas. Some of the **Kwanzaa themes** are **Unity, Collective Work, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.**

Joy to the World!

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.

Thursday Afternoon

Saint Michael, Meeting Room - 1:00-2:30 pm

Please RSVP to Jan, 412-751-0663

so that we may prepare materials.

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.

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Christmas Eve - The waiting of Advent is over. Although our society may hurry Christmas by celebrating and gift-giving before December 25, help your children learn the value and self-discipline of delayed gratification. Waiting and preparing for something good is good.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Christmas gospel reminds us God chose to enter human history in a family. By divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for his Beloved Son. Jesus was our first Christmas gift.

**Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be
has not yet been revealed. — 1 John 3:2a**



**Invest just five minutes a day,
and your faith will deepen and grow
—a day at a time**

Sunday, December 26; Holy Family — Jesus, Mary, Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 or
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

Bless the children—Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well. **Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever.**

Monday, Dec 27; John, apostle & evangelist

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8

He lived to tell the tale—John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the **Beloved Disciple** of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—**that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name**—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today. **Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.**

Tuesday, Dec 28; Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

Children deserve protection—Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of **The Coventry Carol**—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, **What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?** Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help. **A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children.**

Wednesday, Dec 29; Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

Choose God—Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with

such a dilemma when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. **When is constancy required, Thomas writes, except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand. And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.**

Thursday, Dec 30; Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

Take your time to absorb Christmas—Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in. **She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.**

Friday, Dec 31: Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Out with the new, in with the old—The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the **World Day of Peace** tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and longstanding values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school? **In the beginning was the Word.**

Saturday, Jan 01; Mary, the Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Rocking with Mother Mary—People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as **rocking with Mary**, that is, **getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level.** Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world. **And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.**

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For more information about TAKE FIVE go to PrepareTheWord.com

Blessed and Healthy New Year!

Time, Talent, and Treasure — December 12, 2021

Weekly Offering	\$ 15,82509
Monthly Offering	\$ 1,480
Religious Education	\$ 414
Children's Offering	\$ 8
2021 Parish Share to Date	\$136,977
2021 Parish Share Goal	\$137,788

Thank You For Your Sacrificial Giving!

Please make all checks payable to
Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Mass Attendance

4:00 pm	194	6:00 pm	64
8:00 am	90	9:00 am	181
10:30 am	130	12 Noon	158
Families	2,079	Souls	4,880

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!**

Monthly Envelope

The **Monthly Envelope** replaces the old **Capital Improvement, Building & Grounds, Upkeep** and the **Utility & Energy/Fuel** envelopes.

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.



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 and All First Responders.

Thank you for your service!

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

Upcoming Events

Crochet Club meets weekly on **Thursday from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** in the **St. Eugene Rectory - Meeting Room**. New members are always welcomed.

Quilting Club meets weekly on **Monday at 12 Noon** in the **St. Eugene Rectory - Meeting Room**. New members are always welcomed.

Catholic Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 7:30 am** in the **St. Michael Church - Meeting Room**. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

Christian Mothers/Women's Guild will meet on **Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm** in the **St. Michael Church - Meeting Room**. All women of the Parish are welcome to attend.

Holy Name Society will meet on **Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 9:00 am** in the **Queen of the Rosary - Social Hall**. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

Ladies of Charity will meet on **Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 10:00 am** in the **St. Michael Church - Archangel Hall**.

Knights of Columbus will meet on **Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:30 pm** in the **St. Michael - Meeting Room**.

Third Monday of the Month is a social meeting, all men of the parish are invited to attend.

Rosary Makers will meet on **Monday, January 3, 2022 at 10:00 am** in **St. Michael - Meeting Room**.

Ushers Meeting will meet on **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:30 pm** in **St. Michael - Archangel Hall**.

Here to serve Our Lord through serving others.

Glassport Sons of Italy Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, January 30, 2022 - 12 Noon to 6 pm
Homemade Gnocchi or Cheese Ravioli
with Meatballs, Salad & Dessert
Take-Out Only 412-673-3915.

Thank You! Thank You!

2022 Parish Calendars

The 2022 Calendars are provided through the generosity and kindness of the Bekavac, Gilbert, & Wojciechowski Funeral Homes.

Thank You! Thank You!

**Great Stocking Stuffers!
CUPID CIRCLE TICKET**

Benefits Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Try a chance at winning a total of
\$4,000 in the month of February.

Minimum payout is \$100.00.

\$10 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.

Thank You for your continual support!

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.



Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be
has not yet been revealed.
— 1 John 3:2a

Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Lamp

St. Eugene:

___ Altar Bread & Wine ___ Sanctuary Lamp

St. Michael:

___ Altar Bread & Wine ___ 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, 412-751-0663,
to check availability.

SAVE THE DATE

**Saints Joachim & Anne Parish
Annual Community Festival
August 4, 5 and 6, 2022.**

Planning for our Annual Community Festival is
already underway. We will gladly accept donations for
our **Specialty Baskets, Craft Baskets** and
our **Wheel Barrows of Cheer**.

Now would be a great time to pick up those
**Winter Clearance Items,
Christmas, Winter
and even items for New Year's.**

We also do **Themed Baskets** such as auto
cleaning, candles, popular children's characters,
gardening supplies, kitchen items, puzzle &
crossword books, tools, toys, 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 (never been
used) items.

Please bring your donations to the Gathering Space
in each church and remember that our festival will not
be successful without your support.

**Thank you for your generosity!!!
We couldn't do it without you!**

**Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
Food Bank Sunday**



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

Items needed 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!

**Saints Joachim and Anne Parish
2022 Mass Intention Requests**

Offering Mass for a special intention is a longstanding practice in our Catholic Tradition. Mass is offered for many reasons, i.e. remembrance of someone who is deceased, for the health and well-being of someone, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary, etc. If you would like a Mass to be offered for someone or a special occasion, **please complete this form and return it to the Parish Office by the US Mail (101 McLay Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037) or the Offertory Basket.**

The Mass Stipend is \$10.00 for each Mass Intention. Please include stipend (please make checks payable to Sts. Joachim and Anne Parish) with your request.

Please return the Entire Mass Intention Form (entire page) to the Parish Office by Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

Anyone celebrating their **25th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries in 2022**
should call the Parish Office, 412-751-0663, before Wednesday, November 17, 2021 to schedule a Mass.

No requests will be taken over the telephone Until Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

- **Three (3) Mass Intentions per family (please only one weekend date).**
- **No Mass intentions will be accepted for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Easter Sunday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Souls Day or Thanksgiving Day.**
- **After Wednesday, February 16, 2022, you may call for any open dates. At that time, you will be welcome to schedule additional Mass Intentions.**
- **If you do not have an Email address, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to receive confirmation of the dates requested. Thank you.**

Please Print

Your Name: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Your Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please Print

Mass Intention For: _____

Requested By: _____

Living Intention: ____ Church Request: ____ St. Eugene ____ St. Michael ____ Queen of the Rosary ____ First Available

Mass Date Requested: _____ Sunday Mass Time Request: _____

Alternate Date #1: _____ Alternate Date #2: _____

Please Print

Mass Intention For: _____

Requested By: _____

Living Intention: ____ Church Request: ____ St. Eugene ____ St. Michael ____ Queen of the Rosary ____ First Available

Mass Date Requested: _____ Sunday Mass Time Request: _____

Alternate Date #1: _____ Alternate Date #2: _____

Please Print

Mass Intention For: _____

Requested By: _____

Living Intention: ____ Church Request: ____ St. Eugene ____ St. Michael ____ Queen of the Rosary ____ First Available

Mass Date Requested: _____ Sunday Mass Time Request: _____

Alternate Date #1: _____ Alternate Date #2: _____

Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou O Prince

of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Gathering Hymn: Joy to the World

ANTHOCH
 Alt. George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759
 Arr. Richard Proulx, 1937-2010
 Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.



All: 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 Choir: 2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 Choir: 3. No more let sin and sor - row grove, nor
 All: 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and



earth re - ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 us our songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks,
 thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to make his
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his



pare him room and heav'n and na - ture
 hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is
 right - eous - ness, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 found, far as the curse is found, far
 love, and won - ders of his love, and



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 as, far as the curse is found,
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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Gloria



Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God. Glo-ry to God in the high -



est, and on earth, peace on earth, peace to peo-ple of good



will. will. A - men. A - men.

1. We praise you, we bless you, receive our prayer;
 we adore you, we glorify you, you are seated at the right hand,
 we give you thanks for your great glory, the right hand of the Father,
 Lord God, heav'nly King, have mercy on us.
 O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, you alone are the Lord,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you alone are the Most High,
 you take away the sins of the world, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 have mercy on us; in the glory of God the Father.
 you take away the sins of the world,
3. For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father.

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The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 128

**Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
 and walk in his ways.**

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Homily: Reflection of the Word

Acknowledgements:

Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation Year C (LPGA)
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Lamb of God, Mass of Christ the Savior, Dan Schutte, OCP.
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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
 the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,
 born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
 through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
All Bow.
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
 and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
 I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Loving God, Hear Our Prayer.

Prayer for On Mission for the Church Alive!

Father of Mercy, as we journey
 On Mission for the Church Alive! endow us with
 your gifts of collaboration, courage and compassion.
 Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church
 through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.
 Raise up selfless, energetic leaders
 to serve the Church in fidelity and with care.

May we the Church of Pittsburgh in Allegheny, Beaver,
 Butler, Greene, Lawrence, and Washington counties,
 be sustained and strengthened, by your grace.

Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus and to live Jesus.
 Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ
 our Lord, with help of our dear Blessed Mother,
 under the mantle of her love. Amen.

Offertory Hymn: What Child Is This?

Verses

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
 2. Why lies he in such mean es- tate Where ox and ass are
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to

1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
 2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
 3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let

Refrain

1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, 'tis is Christ the
 2. si - lent Word 's plead - ing.
 3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste,

haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Na - ry.

This song may be combined with Child of the Poor; use accompaniment and instructions found for Child of the Poor.

Text: 27-27 with refrain; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871; William C. Dix, 1537-1850
 Music: Trad. English melody; 13th cent.; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871.

Holy

Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we
 proclaim your Death, O Lord until you come again.**

Amen, Amen, Amen

Lamb of God

Communion Hymn: Sleep, Holy Babe

Sleep, Holy babe, Upon your Mother's breast!
Great Lord of Earth and sea and sky,
How sweet it is to see you lie
In such a place of rest!

Sleep, Holy Babe, Your angels watch around,
All bending low with folded wings
Before th' incarnate King of Kings
In rev'rent awe profound!

Sleep, Holy Babe, While I with Mary gaze
In joy upon that face awhile,
Upon the loving infant smile
Which there divinely plays.

Meditation Hymn: O Come, Little Children



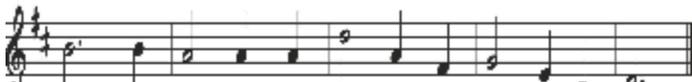
1. O come, lit - tle chil - dren; come one and come
2. O see in the man - ger so meek and so
3. His bed, lit - tle chil - dren, a man - ger with



1. all, O come to the man - ger in Beth - le-hem's
2. mild, O see in the soft light the heav - en - ly
3. hay; His Moth - er and Jo - seph in ec - sta - sy



1. stall, And see what our Fa - ther in heav - en a -
2. Child, In swad - dling clothes fold - ed, his beau - ty more
3. pray, The shep - herds in won - der their glad wor-ship



1. bove Has sent to us all on this earth with his love.
2. sweet Than an - gels, whose voic - es his low - ly birth greet.
3. bring, While cho - rus of an - gels sweet Glo - ri - as sing.

Text: 11 11 11 11; Johann C. von Schmid, 1766-1854; tr. by Melanie Schute, 1885-1922, alt.
Music: Johann A. Schulz 1749-1800

**Snow Cancellations
Mass at Saint Eugene Church
Tuesday Evening & Thursday Morning**

For everyone's safety, a delay or cancellation at Elizabeth-Forward or South Allegheny School Districts is our notice of Safety First. Mornings with a delay or cancellation—There will be no morning Mass at Saint Eugene Church. Please listen to the radio or watch TV for delays or cancellations. **Safety first! Be careful!**

Going Forth Hymn: Angels We Have Heard On High



Verses

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
4. See him in a man - ger laic Whom the an - gels



1. o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o
2. strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be Which in -
3. an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the
4. praise a - bove; Ma - ry, Jo - seph, end your aid, While we



1. back their joy - ous strains.
2. spire your heav'n - ly song?
3. Lord, the new-born King.
4. raise our hearts in love.



Refrain

Glo - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De - o! De - o!



De - o! In ex-cel-sis De - o!

Text: 77 77 with refrain trad. French carol, ca. 16th cent.;
tr. fr. Crown of Jesus Music, 11, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813-1882, and others, alt.
Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of CCP. All rights reserved.

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