<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Angela Merici</th>
<th>Corpus Christi</th>
<th>St. Patrick</th>
<th>St. Robert Bellarmine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday Vigil Mass</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela Merici</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Weekdays</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela Merici</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela Merici</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sacrament of Reconciliation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>6:15—6:50 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela Merici</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Noon -1:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Website:** hailmary1.org

**December 22, 2019**
ST. ANGELA MERICI, CORPUS CHRISTI, ST. PATRICK, ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

Clergy Team

Administrator  Rev. Terrence P. O’Connor - contact St. Angela Merici
Parochial Vicar  Rev. Jack E. Demnyan - contact St. Angela Merici
Parish Chaplain  Rev. Joseph C. Beck - contact Corpus Christi
In Residence  Rev. Pius Nwankwo - contact Corpus Christi
Deacon Reynold Wilmer - contact St. Robert Bellarmine

Grouping Staff

Business Manager - Cathy Nola
Family Faith Formation/Safe Environment Coordinator - Krista Sudyk
Director of Music Ministry - Ian Michael Brown
Assistant Director of Music Ministry - Sharon Sisley
Youth Minister - Emily Belchick
Administrative Assistant - Joyce Krasinski
Maintenance - Dan Hearn, A. J. Minyon

Individual e-mail addresses can be found on the Grouping website: www.hailmary1.org

St Angela Merici
Office Hours  9:15AM - 5:15 PM
1640 Fawcett Ave.
White Oak, PA 15131
412-672-9641
Fax: 412-672-1576
Email: parishoffice@stangelamericiparish.org
Administrative Assistant  Joyce Krasinski

Corpus Christi
Office Hours  9AM - 1 PM
2515 Versailles Ave.
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-672-0765
Fax: 412-672-2220
Email: corpuschristi3@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant  Annette Scarpino

St. Patrick
Office Hours  9:15AM - 1:15 PM
310 32nd Street
McKeesport, PA 15132
412-673-4110
Fax: 412-678-7259
Email: stpatmck@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant  Kathleen Strangis

St. Robert Bellarmine
Office Hours Mon thru Thurs. 9 AM - 1 PM
1313 Fifth Avenue
East McKeesport, PA 15035
412-824-2644
Fax: 412-824-4786
Email: strobertbellarmine@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant  Denise Lorenchick

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism: Prior to having your child baptized, both parents must attend a pre-baptismal seminar. Please contact the parish in which the child is to be baptized.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to your wedding date. Please contact the parish in which the wedding is to occur. A date will be set only after contacting a priest.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact any of the four parishes or see a priest after Mass.

Holy Communion for Shut-Ins: Please contact the parish in which the person is a member.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – This is the process to become Catholic or for Catholics to receive the rest of their Sacraments of Initiation. We also offer programs for children. Please contact any of the four parishes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Offered By</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† William Benick</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Tim Zosca</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Joseph Stinson</td>
<td>Judy Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Frank J. Perri</td>
<td>Wife &amp; Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† Pearl &amp; Edward Stanko</td>
<td>Daughter, Joanne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Joseph Zaradzki</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Dee Niedzwecki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Fr. Francis Lachowicz</td>
<td>Ken Bradley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Louise Weimer</td>
<td>Dr. Rudy Antoncic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Robert</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
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<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert</td>
<td>† Angelo Varlotto, Birthday</td>
<td>Daughter, Connie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Ken Lis</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† Kenneth Kohl, Sr. 34th Anniversary</td>
<td>Children, Grandchildren, &amp; Great Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† Margaret &amp; Maurice Kenney</td>
<td>Daughter, JoEllen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Living &amp; Deceased of Our Parishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Kenneth &amp; Ruth Bradley</td>
<td>Son, Ken</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Robert</td>
<td>† Charles &amp; Theresa Usow</td>
<td>Marge</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>† James McGinty</td>
<td>Barbara Procup</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>St. Angela</td>
<td>† Connie Turco</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>† Ernest J. Pawlak</td>
<td>M/M Jack White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From Father Terry

“For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” (Lk 2:11) Merry Christmas! Today we are filled with inexpressible joy at the birth of the Savior of the world. We celebrate the day that changed everything. We sure do need a Savior in our lives. We need Jesus! In looking for which way to go, we need Jesus! In our families, we need Jesus! In the workplace and at school, we need Jesus! In our relationships, we need Jesus! In our neighborhoods, we need Jesus! In the face of trials and tribulations, we need Jesus! In becoming a new parish, we need Jesus! In the face of sin and death, we need Jesus! We are so thrilled today because we have Jesus! God has decided to be born in our midst and life will never be the same. May we continue to invite the Christ Child into our hearts at each moment.

On behalf of Fr. Jack, Fr. Joe, Fr. Pius, Deacon Reynold, and staff, we wish all a Merry Christmas! May each of us experience the love, peace, hope, and excitement of our Savior. We need Jesus!

Christmas came early this year. Last weekend we announced our new parish name, Mary, Mother of God! What a great name! I received so much positive feedback after the announcement. This was the name that received the highest votes from parishioners, about a two and a half to one margin over the second place name. Mother of God is Mary’s highest title. It is the basis for every other title and dignity accorded her. Mary’s motherly love will help us to come together as a parish family and inspire us to spread the Good News. I find it so beautiful that we will be reminded of our parish name each time we hear the Eucharistic Prayer and pray a Hail Mary. Mary, Mother of God is celebrated each year on January 1. What a way to bring in the New Year! We will officially become a new parish on Monday, January 6, 2020. We will refer to our new parish as Mary, Mother of God, but our church buildings will retain their existing names. For example, if we take St. Angela’s, it will now be “St. Angela Merici Church” and so forth. The church names convey a sense of tradition and also helps us to know where Masses and events are to be held. I ask that you assist us in referring to our new parish with our new name. This will help us in building our identity and bring about unity. In terms of merging church buildings, we will begin that process this January of 2020.

With our new parish, I am happy to report that our Clergy Team is staying together. We were all reassigned to the new parish. The only difference is that I have been named Pastor of the new parish. What an honor! I am so happy to be your new Pastor. I look forward to walking with each of you as we continue to be On Mission. I know that Mary, Mother of God will be with us. Please see the bishop’s letter in the bulletin for more about becoming a new parish and the clergy assignments. Our new name will not affect the name of the school. It actually fits in very well with the school. Mother of God is Mary’s highest title and Mary of Nazareth is a more specific title associated with learning and formation. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Mass attendance certainly rises on Christmas. We are glad so many come to celebrate Jesus’ birth. On behalf of Jesus, I want to extend a personal invitation to all who may not be “regular” Sunday Mass attendees. I believe that you will enjoy receiving Jesus in the Eucharist each Sunday. It will forever change your life. Further, this is an exciting time as we become one new parish in January. If we can be of service to you in anyway, please feel free to contact us. All our welcome!

A long-standing tradition in the diocese on Christmas is to have a second collection for Christmas Charities for Children and Youth. The proceeds support a number of programs in our diocese which serve many children and young people. Please be as generous as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who took part in our giving trees and various charitable activities. Your generosity is amazing! You helped those in need to better know the love of the Christ child this Christmas. May God reward you for your kindness.
Sister Josephine, l.s.p.

Merry Christmas and a blessed, Happy New Year. God bless each one of you and we wish you a very will be greatly blessed for your thoughtfulness. May will never be outdone in generosity and your parish card items, gift cards and monetary donations. God donations of canned foods, paper products, personal Little Sister of the Poor


nor@diopitt.org or 412 free to also contact me with any questions, tocon-

$100 discount if you book by January 2, 2020. Feel free to also contact me with any questions, tocon-

Oconnor20 or contact Marianna at Unitours, phone 800-777-7432 or email mpisano@unitours.com. $100 discount if you book by January 2, 2020. Feel free to also contact me with any questions.

Little Sister of the Poor are very grateful for the donations of canned foods, paper products, personal card items, gift cards and monetary donations. God will never be outdone in generosity and your parish will be greatly blessed for your thoughtfulness. May God bless each one of you and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed, Happy New Year.

Sister Josephine, l.s.p.

Readings for the week of December 22, 2019


Italy Pilgrimage with Fr. Terry

In partnership with the Pittsburgh Catholic, I am leading a pilgrimage to Italy in 2020! Our Catholic faith is evident throughout all of Italy. We will of course visit Rome where our Church is built upon the rock of St. Peter. While in Rome, we will be inspired by so many places of religious significance. We will also seek an audience with Pope Francis, if he is in residence. In addition, we will be on pilgrimage to see magnificent churches and artwork in such places as Assisi, Florence, and Venice. We will walk in the footsteps of St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Mark, St. Francis, St. Clare, and many others. Daily Mass will be celebrated in amazing churches. The dates are September 21-30, 2020. The price is $4,699 per person based on double occupancy in specially selected hotels. Includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh. Breakfasts and dinners are included. You can request a roommate and Unitours will try to accommodate you. For itinerary and to book online visit www.bit.ly/Oconnor20 or contact Marianna at Unitours, phone 800-777-7432 or email mpisano@unitours.com. $100 discount if you book by January 2, 2020. Feel free to also contact me with any questions, tocon-

Grouping RCIA

We are excited to launch into our new RCIA year. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a process for adults to either become Catholic or for Catholics to receive the rest of their Sacraments of Initiation. Have you ever thought of becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but still need First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation? Is there someone you would like to invite to learn more about becoming Catholic? Are you a fully initiated Catholic but want to learn more about the faith? Simply put, to come to know Jesus is a life chang-

The Faith Formation Team would love to communicate with you via Flocknote! You can join to receive messages & notices regarding CCD & Youth Group. Please join today.
Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve:**
- 4:00 p.m. Corpus Christi
- 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick
- 4:30 p.m. St. Angela
- 5:30 p.m. St. Robert
- *10:00 p.m. St. Angela
- *10:00 p.m. St. Patrick

**Christmas Day:**
- 9:00 a.m. St. Robert
- 10:30 a.m. Corpus Christi
- 11:00 a.m. St. Angela

* 9:30 p.m. - Christmas Music Prelude
  (Choir at St. Patrick)

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Father Terry, Father Jack, Father Joe, Father Pius, Deacon Reynold and all the staff wish everyone a Blessed and Grace filled Christmas.

Merry Christmas to All

---

**Sacramental Preparation Informational Meetings**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Informational Meeting for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation**
Jan 7: 6:30-7:30 PM OR Jan 11 9:30-10:30 AM St. Patrick’s FLEC Center

**Informational Meeting for Confirmation**
Jan. 7th 7:30-8:30 PM OR Jan.11 10:30-11:30 AM

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**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**New Year’s Eve - December 31, 2019**
- 4:00 PM Corpus Christi
- 4:30 PM St. Angela

**New Year’s Day - January 1, 2020**
- 9:00 AM St. Patrick
- 10:00 AM St. Robert
- 11:00 AM St. Angela

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Father Terry, Father Jack, Father Joe, Father Pius, Deacon Reynold and all the staff wish everyone a Blessed and Grace filled Christmas.

Merry Christmas to All

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Christmas Season
The Christmas season is from Christmas Day until the Baptism of the Lord, which falls this year on Sunday, January 12. Within the Christmas season, we have so many beautiful and powerful celebrations. These include, the Holy Family, Mary, the Holy Mother of God (soon to be our new patronal feast day), the Epiphany of the Lord, and the Baptism of the Lord. There are also a variety of saints celebrated. Some of these celebrations are of obligation while others are not. I invite all to consider coming to as many celebrations as possible to enhance your Christmas journey. One final note, the Christmas Octave (Latin for eight) is an eight day period from Christmas until Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1). Interestingly, the eight days are treated as one “day” of Christmas to help better celebrate this special day. Thus, the word “today” is used in some prayers and prefaces. It is also during the octave that those saints called “the companions of Christ” are celebrated. Please follow the bulletin as to the various celebrations in the Christmas season.
My Christmas Wreath

I made a beautiful Christmas wreath
Of the blessings that I share,
wrapped ‘round with love from every friend
and filled with heartfelt care.

My friends have been such gifts to me-
each in a special way-
and I would like to let them know,
in honor of Christmas Day.

Some bring FAITH in times of doubt
and some bring HOPE to me;
some bring LOVE that casts out fear
and sets my spirit free.

With some I’ve laughed, with some I’ve danced,
as JOY is theirs to give.
From some I’ve learned of inner PEACE
and a simpler way to live.

My wreath entwines the gifts
of all the caring folks I know…
I weave a ribbon of love around
and tie it in a bow.

I’ll take my wreath to the Little Child
as I speak to HIM in prayer,
and ask for Christmas blessings
for my good friends everywhere!

Camille A. Balla

MA’S PANTRY—the next distribution
is Jan. 4th 9:30-11:00 AM at Broadway Alliance. Call 412-824-3198 with any questions. First time applicants must bring the following:

1. Proof of residence—East McKeesport or North Versailles
2. Current, government-issued photo ID such as a driver’s license
3. Proof of income
4. Names and birthdates of household family Members

The month of January Ma’s Pantry is requesting peanut butter & soup (bin located in church vestibule). Ma’s Pantry greatly appreciates your support and generosity!

Ring in the Roaring Twenties:
New Years Eve Dance at St. Robert Bellarmine, 1313 Fifth Avenue, East McKeesport. Tickets are $25 & include Beer and Hors D’Oeuvres. BYOB Tickets can be purchased by contacting Noreen Dodds 412 334-1967.

Please note all Parish offices will be closed December 24—26.

Thank you: The Ladies of Charity would like to thank everyone who contributed gifts or cash to Lifeline, Kiwanis Club, Intersection and Mary of Nazareth School. Know that you made Christmas special for a lot of families. Our Holiday Meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas was a huge success. Many families received helped with meals for the holidays. The generosity of our parish community is overwhelming. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. We will keep you all in our prayers.

St. Angela Merici – Ladies of Charity

We congratulate the family and Godparents of Gunnar Michael Murin, son of Justin and Spencer Murin who was recently Baptized in the Lord.

Baptismal Class
Prior to the birth of their first child and baptism, parents are required to attend a baptismal seminar. A Baptismal Class will be held at 7PM on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at St. Angela’s, in the church vestibule. Please call 412-672-9641 to reserve a space.

Upcoming School Masses
Mary of Nazareth
(St. Angela Church)
at 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 10th and 17th

My Christmas Wreath

I made a beautiful Christmas wreath
Of the blessings that I share,
wrapped ‘round with love from every friend
and filled with heartfelt care.

My friends have been such gifts to me-
each in a special way-
and I would like to let them know,
in honor of Christmas Day.

Some bring FAITH in times of doubt
and some bring HOPE to me;
some bring LOVE that casts out fear
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From some I’ve learned of inner PEACE
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Upcoming School Masses
Mary of Nazareth
(St. Angela Church)
at 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 10th and 17th
### Sanctuary Candle

Corpus Christi  
In Loving Memory of  
† Joseph S. Mols &  
Joseph A. Mols  
By: Wife & Mother– Cecelia

† Mary (18th Anniversary) &  
Julian (17th Anniversary) Panek  
By: Children & Grandchildren

St. Angela  
In Loving Memory of  
† Lil Martinez  
By: Sisters, Linda & Lola

Please remember in your prayers  
Dolores Kolodziej,  
Rosemarie Mazur, Martha Wawrocki

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.  
Amen

### MARY OF NAZARETH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*GROWING IN WISDOM, AGE AND GRACE*

Offers a pre-school through 8th grade program of Catholic education.  
1640 Fawcett Ave., White Oak, PA 15131  
Principal: Lynda McFarland  
Phone (412) 672-2360  
Fax 412-672-0880  
Webpage: [www.maryofnazarethschool.org](http://www.maryofnazarethschool.org)

### Safe Environment

It is the policy of the Diocese that **all** volunteers must complete the Safe Environment process before beginning a ministry or activity in any Parish.  
Please contact Krista Sudyk your Safe Environment Coordinator at [ksudyk@stangelamericiparish.org](mailto:ksudyk@stangelamericiparish.org)

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### Offertory Collections

#### St. Angela Merici

**Dec. 15, 2019**

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<thead>
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#### Corpus Christi

**Dec. 15, 2019**

Totals are unavailable at time of submission

#### St. Patrick

**Dec. 8, 2019**

Totals are unavailable at the time of submission

#### St. Robert Bellarmine

**Dec. 15, 2019**

<table>
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Thank you for your continued generosity and support.
**Protecting God’s Children**  
If you suspect any child is being abused or neglected call: Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at: 412-456-3093 (office); 1-888-808-1235 (hot line). Hot Line and PA Child Line at 1-800-932-0313. If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse please call 911 immediately.

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**McKeesport Model Railroad Club** invites you to their Holiday Open House every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in December. 2209 Walnut Street, McKeesport. Go to [www.mckeesportmodelrr.com](http://www.mckeesportmodelrr.com) for more info.

Friday- 7-10 PM  
Saturday- 1-7 PM  
Sunday- 2-6 PM  
Adults: $5.00  Children 5-17- $3.00  Under 5- Free  

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**Fathers Al Zapf and Ed Wichman** are co-hosting a Pilgrimage to Austria and Germany featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau for 11 days (September 22 – October 2, 2020). For information, contact Father Wichman at 412-751-8601 or edwichman49@gmail.com. Don’t wait for 2030 – sign up today!

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**Jack Geltz Scholarship . . .**  
The Jack Geltz Scholarship is now being offered to any Duquesne University student in good standing in any of the four parishes in our grouping. Criteria for the scholarship requires that all applicants be in good academic standing at Duquesne University and must demonstrate need as determined by the FASFA and Financial Aid Office. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year, please contact Cathy Nola cathy.nola@stangelamericiparish.org or call 412-672-9641 for the application.

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**Warming Station Supplies Needed:** Catholic Charities’ warming station in downtown Pittsburgh is open and offering warmth, coffee, and snacks to the homeless during the bitter winter months. Your help to keep the program stocked with supplies makes a big difference. Catholic Charities needs following items: hand and foot warmers; hats; gloves; mittens; scarves; coats (size XL and larger); granola bars; cereal bars; instant oatmeal; instant soup; toiletries (especially lotion and chap stick); underwear (all sizes); and warm socks. Supplies may be dropped off at the Susan Zubik Welcome Center where the warming station is housed (212 9th Street, Pittsburgh, 15222).

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**SINGLE, 21 or OVER (or know someone who is)?** - Looking for a new way to meet people and have some fun? Check out the Catholic Singles Club of Pittsburgh. We offer a variety of different activities including dinners, mini golf; hay rides, baseball games, spirituality, community service, volleyball, sports leagues, trips, and many other great events. For more information, visit our website: [www.cacpittsburgh.org](http://www.cacpittsburgh.org)
Dear Sisters and Brothers of Saint Angela Merici, Corpus Christi, Saint Patrick and Saint Robert Bellarmine Parishes:

As we journey to Christmas this Advent, we remember that great and glorious miracles await us at the end of challenging roads. For more than a year, you have journeyed together on a road that is intended to unite you on the mission to bring the Good News of Jesus to your neighbors and to strengthen all of you in faith.

On April 12, 2015, I called all the faithful of the Church of Pittsburgh to journey with me in the initiative *On Mission for The Church Alive!* so that we could focus the resources of our parishes on mission and ministry, rather than on maintenance. Since that time, you have considered, prayed and planned about how best to serve God and his people through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.

Recently, after consultation with parishioners regarding a plan for the merger of your parishes, the members of your Pastoral and Finance Councils signed a petition to move forward with that plan. In turn, your grouping administrator, Father Terrence O’Connor, petitioned me to merge the parishes. On October 21, 2019, the diocesan Priest Council and Vicars General gave unanimous consent to the proposal, and I have decided to enact these recommendations.

Effective January 6, 2020, your current parishes will cease to exist, and the new parish of Mary, Mother of God will take their place. No church buildings will close at this time. Your parish leaders and the faithful will take time to consider which buildings will best serve the needs of the faithful and the community, and your pastor will eventually make a recommendation to me. For now, Mass is to be celebrated in each of them, at a minimum on the anniversary of their dedication and on the solemnity of their patron.

Every member of your current parishes is entitled to join Mary, Mother of God Parish. Mary, Mother of God Parish will also inherit all of the assets, responsibilities and liabilities of the current parishes.

Mary, Mother of God Parish will be served by the following clergy team:

- Father Terrence O’Connor, Pastor
- Father Jack Dennyan, Parochial Vicar

Your priests and deacon have worked diligently in service to you and to God throughout this process, and I am deeply thankful for their care and leadership. They are good shepherds who will continue to lead you closer to Jesus as this new parish community grows.

One reason that you are merging now, rather than later, is that your inspiring example of collaboration, courage and compassion has been a model for the entire Diocese of Pittsburgh. As *On Mission for The Church Alive!* continues to unfold, your experience will benefit others as they seek to mobilize their resources for vibrant worship, responsive pastoral care and powerful evangelization.

This has not been a simple task. Jesus never promised that it would be easy to carry his message of love and mercy to others. He was clear that sacrifice would be necessary. However, you are positioning your new parish for more effective ministry by addressing financial needs, sharing resources and allowing your clergy to focus on the spiritual work for which they were ordained.

With your faith in Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, I invite you to warmly welcome and serve each other as you become one parish family. May you discover the mission that God has planned for you to share.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!,* and for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:lar
Last month at Family Program all of the kids made snowmen with fuzzy socks and chocolate bars! Then the Youth Group and some of the families went Christmas Caroling at Point Pleasant in North Versailles and Riverside Care Facility in McKeesport and delivered the gifts to the residents! It was so much fun celebrating the season with them and spreading joy!
We had a blast at the Youth Group Christmas Party! We played Minute-to-Win-It Games, 9 Square in the Air, and ate pancakes!

We also reflected on the Nativity and asked who in the story we identified most with and how. We had a prayer service that had us ponder Jesus' coming into the world and into our hearts!

**Join us for our upcoming Up All Night!!!**

**December 27th at St. Robert Bellarmine**

We will be sending out a Flocknote with more details. If you are not signed up for Flocknote, please contact **Emily Belchick ebelchick@stangelaericiparish.org** for more information and to sign up!
My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below
With tiny lights like Heaven’s stars, reflecting on the snow

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear
But the sounds of music can’t compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart
But I am not so far away, we really aren’t apart.

So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear
And be glad I’m spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.
For I can’t count the blessing or love He has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.
As a representative payee, I’ve arranged and attended over 100 services in the past 20 years with Chris. The last service was as special as the first. That’s some record! His employees are the pure definition of customer service. For attention to detail, warmth and understanding, count on Chris. - Diane Spivak

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