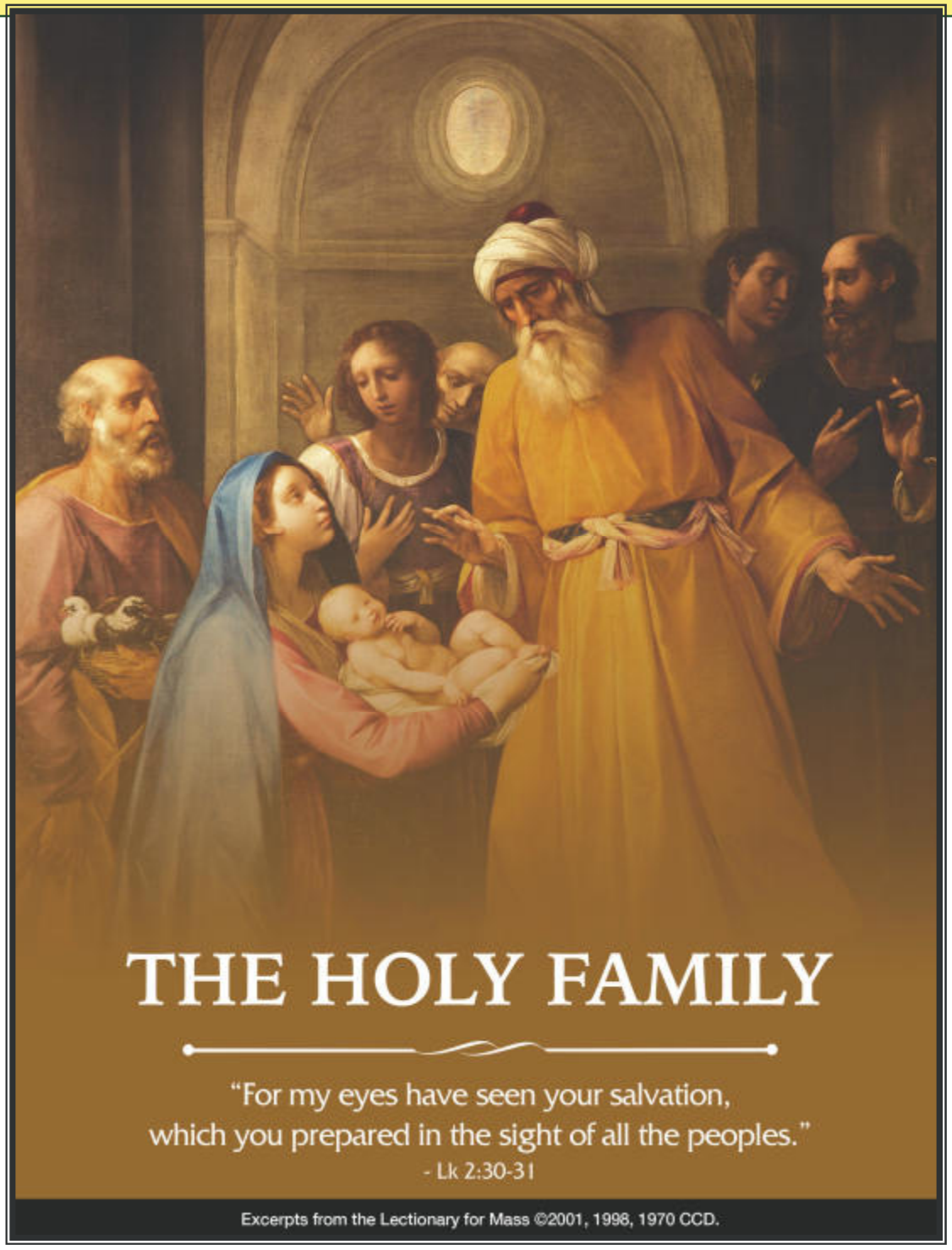
THE CATHOLIC PARISHES of
Saint Joseph · Saint Juan Diego
Saint Padre Pio · Saint Scholastica



December 27, 2020

PARISH STAFF and CONTACTS

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Parochial Vicar
412-784-8700

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Parochial Vicar
412-781-0186

Deacon Robert Wertz, Jr.
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In Residence:

Fr. Hyeong Cheol Lee
Saint Juan Diego Parish
Korean Catholic Community

Fr. John Mark Ogu
Saint Juan Diego Parish
Student, Duquesne University

Fr. Dozie Egbe
Saint Padre Pio Parish
Chaplain, Presbyterian Hospital

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

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Live Streamed Mass: www.LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos

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SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

Madonna of Jerusalem Church in Sharpsburg
Saint John Cantius Church in Sharpsburg
Saint Mary Church in Sharpsburg

201 9th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215
Phone: 412-784-8700 | Fax: 412-781-1101
Food Pantry: 412-781-2866
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SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

Saint Edward Church in Blawnox
Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Harmar

450 Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Phone: 412-828-4066 | Email: sted-fran@verizon.net
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SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

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Bruce Hassing and Harley Caro
Facilities Maintenance

Website: www.LAVCatholic.org
Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline: 1-888-808-1235
PA Child Line: 1-800-932-0313

To watch our weekend Mass or Children's Liturgy of the Word online go to LAVCatholic.org/mass-videos

Subscribe to Flocknote to receive LAV updates by text or email:
Text "LAVRC" to the number "84576"
OR
go to lavcatholic.flocknote.com

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Lower Allegheny Valley Catholic Community

MASS INTENTIONS

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

SATURDAY **December 26—Feast of the Holy Family**
4:00 pm † John P. Grsetic, Sr. & Deceased Family (The Boyer Family)

SUNDAY **December 27—Feast of the Holy Family**
9:00 am † Arnold G. Huwar (The Huwar Family)
11:00 am † David Goncar (Wife and Daughter)

MONDAY **December 28—The Holy Innocents**
8:00 am The people of Saint Joseph Parish

TUESDAY **December 29—Christmas Weekday**
8:00 am † Richard Hillwig (The Hillwig Family)

WEDNESDAY **December 30—Christmas Weekday**
8:00 am † Jack Claus (Gloria Claus)

THURSDAY **December 31—Christmas Weekday**
8:00 am The people of Saint Joseph Parish
December 31—Vigil, Mary, Mother of God
4:00 pm The people of Saint Joseph Parish

SATURDAY **January 2—Epiphany of the Lord**
4:00 pm † Matthew Elder (Family)

SUNDAY **January 3—Epiphany of the Lord**
9:00 am The people of Saint Joseph Parish
11:00 am The people of Saint Joseph Parish

SAINT JUAN DIEGO PARISH

SATURDAY **December 26—Feast of the Holy Family**
Madonna Church
4:30 pm † Helen Grsetic (Friend, Evelyn)

SUNDAY **December 27—Feast of the Holy Family**
Saint Mary Church
11:30 am † Andrew, Marian, & Betty Kost (The Kost Family)

MONDAY **December 28—The Holy Innocents**
Madonna Church
9:00 am † Ethel Marsico (Joseph & Joan Bruno)

TUESDAY **December 29—Christmas Weekday**
Madonna Church
9:00 am † Alice Murphy (Michael Acendy)

WEDNESDAY **December 30—Christmas Weekday**
Madonna Church
9:00 am † Mary Capone (Christian Mothers & Rosary Society)

THURSDAY **December 31—Vigil, Mary, Mother of God**
Madonna Church
4:30 pm The intentions of Robert Cedolia (Class of 1978)

FRIDAY **January 1—Mary, Mother of God**
Saint Mary Church
11:00 am The people of Saint Juan Diego Parish

SATURDAY **January 2—Epiphany of the Lord**
Madonna Church
4:30 pm † Salvatore R. Procopio (Judge & Donna Gallo)

SUNDAY **January 3—Epiphany of the Lord**
Saint Mary Church
11:30 am † Deceased of the Poli & Cozza Families (Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Poli)

REST IN PEACE

Saint Pio
† Cincinnatus Ladie • December 10, 2020
† Angela Rosenal • December 12, 2020

SAINT PADRE PIO PARISH

SUNDAY **December 27—Feast of the Holy Family**
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
8:00 am The people of Saint Padre Pio Parish
Saint Edward Church
10:00 am † Harry Bougher (Family)

THURSDAY **December 31—Christmas Weekday**
Saint Edward Church
9:00 am For frontline healthcare workers

FRIDAY **January 1—Mary, Mother of God**
Saint Edward Church
9:00 am † Connie Stemm (Joe Stemm)

SATURDAY **January 2—Ss. Basil & Gregory**
Saint Edward Church
9:00 am † Regis Doerfler (Valerie & David)

SUNDAY **January 3—Epiphany of the Lord**
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
8:00 am † Tom Arneson (Theresa Arneson)
Saint Edward Church
10:00 am Special Intention

SAINT SCHOLASTICA PARISH

SATURDAY **December 26—Feast of the Holy Family**
5:00 pm † Peggy DiPasquale (The Pilewski Family)

SUNDAY **December 27—Feast of the Holy Family**
9:30 am † Elizabeth Benckart (Kathleen McAndrews)
12:00 Noon † Peggy DiPasquale (Mr. & Mrs. Gerard E. Werrries & Family)

MONDAY **December 28—The Holy Innocents**
10:00 am † Edwin Fairley, birthday (Daughter, Kathleen Piper)

TUESDAY **December 29—Christmas Weekday**
10:00 am † Rita Daily (The Daily Family)

WEDNESDAY **December 30—Christmas Weekday**
10:00 am The people of Saint Scholastica Parish

THURSDAY **December 31—Christmas Weekday**
10:00 am † Faith Kosmack (The Donnelly Family)

FRIDAY **January 1—Mary, Mother of God**
10:00 am † Edward F. McLaughlin (Mary Grace McLaughlin)

SATURDAY **January 2—Epiphany of the Lord**
5:00 pm † Gertrude Panza (Karen Lynd & Cheryl Kearney)

SUNDAY **January 3—Epiphany of the Lord**
9:30 am † Peggy DiPasquale (Concha Baxter)
12:00 Noon The people of Saint Scholastica Parish

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Saint Scholastica
Mai Marie Boast • December 19, 2020

TABERNACLE VIGIL CANDLE

Week of December 27

Saint Edward: † Julia Marie Janoski (Sister, Til & Family)
Saint Joseph: † The Trakofler Family (Carl Trakofler)
Saint Scholastica: For the priests and people of the LAV (Kathleen McAndrews)

LITURGICAL LIFE

Worship Schedule

DAILY MASSES WEEK OF DECEMBER 28

8:00 am	Saint Joseph Church *Monday through Friday*	Fr. Mike Decewicz
9:00 am	Madonna of Jerusalem Church *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*	Fr. Dale DeNinno
	Saint Edward Church *Thursday, Friday, Saturday*	
10:00 am	Saint Scholastica Church *Monday through Friday*	Fr. Bill Siple

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES—JANUARY 2

4:00 pm	Saint Joseph Church	Fr. Dale DeNinno
4:30 pm	Madonna of Jerusalem Church	Fr. Mike Decewicz
5:00 pm	Saint Scholastica Church	Fr. Bill Siple

SUNDAY MASSES—JANUARY 3

8:00 am	Saint Francis of Assisi Church	Fr. Bill Siple
9:00 am	Saint Joseph Church	Fr. Dale DeNinno
9:30 am	Saint Scholastica Church	Fr. Mike Decewicz
10:00 am	Saint Edward Church	Fr. Bill Siple
11:00 am	Saint Joseph Church	Fr. Dale DeNinno
11:00 am	Saint John Cantius Church	Fr. Lee (Korean Mass)
11:30 am	Saint Mary Church	Fr. Mike Decewicz
12:00 noon	Saint Scholastica Church	Fr. Bill Siple

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday

9:30-10:00 am	Saint Edward Church
11:30-12:00 noon	Saint Joseph Church
3:30-4:00 pm	Madonna of Jerusalem Church

Every Thursday

6:30-7:00 pm	Saint Scholastica Church

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday—December 27
Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Hebrews 11:8-19 Luke 2:22-40

Monday—December 28
1 John 1:5—2:2 Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday—December 29
1 John 2:3-11 Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday—December 30
1 John 2:12-17 Luke 2:36-40

Thursday—December 31
1 John 2:18-21 John 1:1-18

Friday—January 1
Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Saturday—January 2
1 John 2:22-28 John 1:19-28

Sunday—January 3
Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

SACRAMENTS and MORE

Baptisms: Celebrated during any of the weekend liturgies or after the last Sunday liturgy (11:00am at Saint Joseph, 11:30am at Saint Mary, 12:00pm at Saint Scholastica). First time parents must complete a baptism preparation class. Contact the parish office of the appropriate church for details.

Weddings: Celebrated at 2:00pm on Saturdays. Contact the parish office of the appropriate church at least six months before the desired date.

Funerals: Offered at 10:00am, Monday through Saturday.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the appropriate parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: See the bulletin schedule for times and locations.

Mass Intentions: Offered at each Mass for deceased loved ones or for other special intentions. Please call the parish office to schedule.

Family Faith Formation: Offered for grades K-8 on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings at Saint Joseph Church, September through April. Contact the Faith Formation Office at 412-963-8885 for details or to register.

Volunteer Opportunities: All parishioners are encouraged to contribute their time and talents to the church. We have opportunities to serve at Mass as lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, ushers, music ministers and altar servers. Please contact the parish office for information on all our volunteer opportunities. All staff and volunteers in the Diocese of Pittsburgh are required to obtain clearances and training to comply with the Safe Environment Policy. See diopitt.org/compliance or contact the parish office for details.

Membership: To register at one of the Lower Allegheny Valley Catholic parishes, update your contact information, or let us know if you or a family member is homebound or has moved to a nursing home, please use the form at the end of this bulletin or contact the appropriate parish office.

Parish Support

Collection for	December 12&13:	Immaculate Conception:
Saint Joseph Parish: *Needed each week:*	$15,014 *$10,500*	$693
Saint Juan Diego Parish: *Needed each week:*	$4,507 *$7,550*	$760
Saint Padre Pio Parish: *Needed each week:*	$4,588 *$6,950*	$498
Saint Scholastica Parish: *Needed each week:*	$12,345 *$7,950*	$717

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus was the Son of God. Mary was immaculately conceived. Joseph was a good and righteous man. Named as the Holy Family, the Church honors them . . . and rightfully so. But lest we think it impossible to learn from their experience of being family, it is important to remember that their lives were not without challenge. For starters, Mary had an unexpected pregnancy and Joseph was in a quandary as to how he should respond. And then with a new born son they had to flee to another country when they learned that his life was in jeopardy. Growing into adulthood Jesus faced misunderstanding and even rejection by the very people who knew him best.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew well the stresses of the human condition. They were confronted by them at every turn. So, too, do we. As individuals and certainly as members of a family, we know the experience of facing the daily struggles and challenges that come our way. The pandemic of 2020 has made them even more real.

Today's families are dealing with daunting challenges that are impacting them in multiple ways:

- trying to educate children and young people on-line
- adjusting to working from home because the office is closed
- paying the bills when furloughed or suddenly unemployed
- fearing for the health of frail elderly parents
- struggling with the issue of alcohol and/or drug addiction for oneself or a parent or spouse or child
- exercising caution over the desire to gather with family for significant occasions
- grieving loved ones who have died
- doing everything possible to stay mentally, physically and spiritually healthy

My dear sisters and brothers, family unites us biologically, as members of the human race, and as beloved children of God. As such there are responsibilities that we have - one to the other - to take care of each other and help each other to stay strong. Jesus, Mary and Joseph provide us with the example that we need. Despite the difficulties of life, we can look to them and learn what it means to be a Holy Family, united above all else in faith, hope and love.

Father Dale DeNinno

January 1, 2021

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

At the start of a new year filled with hope, we beseech the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly Mother. May her prayers before the throne of God give expression to the deepest desires of our hearts.

Everyone is encouraged to be in attendance at Mass on the solemnity of this holy day. The schedule is:

Thursday, December 31ST—New Year's Eve

4:00 pm	Saint Joseph Church
4:30 pm	Madonna of Jerusalem Church

Friday, January 1ST—New Year's Day

9:00 am	Saint Edward Church
10:00 am	Saint Scholastica Church
11:00 am	Saint Mary Church

Twenty Suggested Names for the Lower Allegheny Valley Grouping of Parishes

To Honor Christ

1. Christ the King
2. Christ the Servant
3. Lamb of God

To Honor the Blessed Mother

4. Annunciation
5. Our Lady of the Rosary
6. Queen of Heaven

To Honor the Saints

7. Saint Anthony of Padua
8. Saint Bruno
9. Saint Dominic
10. Saint Gemma
11. Saint Ignatius of Loyola
12. Saint John the Apostle
13. Saint Kateri Tekawitha
14. Saint Louis
15. Saint Lucy
16. Saint Luke
17. Saint Paul VI
18. Saint Rita of Cascia
19. Saint Timothy
20. Saint William of Vercelli

Prayer for Families

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this thought Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAV Parish News

Children and Youth Collection: Every year at the Christmas Masses a second collection is taken to help support programs throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh that serve as an outreach to children and youth. Please show your usual generosity and use the special envelope that is in your packet. The proceeds of this collection also count toward the Parish Share Program goals for each of our parishes in the Lower Allegheny Valley. It's a win-win for everyone.

Looking for a Practical Gift? The former Saint Edward School in Blawnox still has some school desks and chairs that are suitable for children. The inventory includes 19 small desks with chair, 29 medium size desks with chair, and 16 one-piece desk & chair. These are all well-suited for our children who are currently learning-at-home. It gives them their own space for books and computers.

A donation of $20 is requested for the desk and chair. You may inquire at: DESKS-R-US. Speak with Marilyn: 412-828-4066.

Parish Calendar for 2021: Thanks to the generous support of our local funeral homes, the parish calendar is now ready for distribution. Please take one for your home. They are on the tables at the exits of church. Our gratitude for the sponsorship of Smith Funeral Home in Blawnox, Weddell-Ajak Funeral Home in Aspinwall and Worrell Funeral Home in Sharpsburg. They serve our communities and the Lower Allegheny Valley grouping of parishes with compassionate and professional service.

Thank you from the Little Sisters of the Poor: *"The response by your parishioners to the Little Sisters of the Poor canned good drive was overwhelming. We are very grateful for your donations of canned goods, paper products, personal care items, gift cards, and monetary donations, especially in this very difficult time. Our Mother foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan said, 'Never forget that the Poor are Our Lord.' You have exemplified her words through your contributions and we, the Little Sisters, appreciate your sharing in the reality of our mission of caring for the elderly."*

Enrich your faith with two brief online Bible studies: *"Christmas, Season of Wonder & Hope"*- We will use a booklet by Catherine Upchurch of the Little Rock Scripture Study to help us meditate on three New Testament passages that invite us more deeply into the wonder of the Nativity. We will meet online on three Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45, on December 28, January 4 and January 11.

"Moses, Called and Equipped"- As we begin a new year with things in even greater flux than usual, and as we look forward to our new parish community officially forming, it seems appropriate to stop and reflect upon our calling. What does God ask of us now? Who does God call us to be? We will reflect upon the call of Moses as a model. This study will also meet online on three Monday evenings, January 25 and February 1 and 8, from 7:30 to 8:45.

If you would like to participate in either study (or both!), please contact Andrew Bechman at 412-781-0186, Ext. 18 or by e-mail at: andybechman@saintscholastica.com. You can order either text online as a booklet or as an eBook. These studies are meant to be reflective, but low-key and relaxed. There is no expectation that you do "homework" ahead of time unless you wish to. We hope you can join us!

A Prayer for Peace of Mind and Heart

Eternal, Holy God,
I come to you burdened
with worries, fears, doubts and troubles.
Calm and quiet me with peace of mind.
Empty me of the anxiety that disturbs me,
of the concerns that weary my spirit,
and weigh heavy on my heart.

Loosen my grip on the disappointments
and grievances I hold onto so tightly.
Release me from the pain
of past hurts,
of present anger,
of future fears.

Sometimes it's too much for me Lord -
too many demands and problems,
too much sadness, suffering and stress.

Renew me spiritually and emotionally.
Give me new strength, hope and confidence.
Prepare me to meet the constant struggles
of daily life
with a deeper faith and trust in you.

Let your love set me free . . .
for peace, for joy, for grace, for life,
for others . . . forever. Amen.

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

High School Life Night: High school students, start off the New Year on the right track! Join us virtually on Sunday, January 3, at 5:30pm for an evening of faith and friendship. Email Meredith Troyan to receive a link.

Are you still in a gift-giving mood? The LAV Youth Ministry has an Amazon Wish list of items to help create a fun and welcoming program for the youth of our parish. Go to LAVCatholic.org/youth-ministry and scroll down to Links.

A Prayer for Protection In Time of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, health of the sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother, you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.
Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself
our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us,
through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always
from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday, December 28	7:30pm	Christmas Bible Study	Virtual
December 31-January 3		Parish Offices Closed	
Sunday, January 3	3:00pm	Women's Shelter Meal	St. Joseph, upper parking lot
Sunday, January 3	5:30pm	High School Life Night	Virtual

Membership Form

Check One:
- ☐ St. Joseph Parish
- ☐ St. Juan Diego Parish
- ☐ St. Padre Pio Parish
- ☐ St. Scholastica Parish

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check One:
- ☐ New Registration
- ☐ Change of Address
- ☐ Moving out of Parish
- ☐ Requesting Envelopes

GIVE SERVE LIVE

Members of our community who are in need of short-term assistance can contact the LAV Saint Vincent de Paul Society at 412-254-4446 or loweralleghenyvalleysvdp@gmail.com.

The LAV parishes provide a hot meal for the women's shelter at Bethlehem Haven on the first Sunday of each month and the men's shelter at Community House on the fourth Saturday of each month. For details on how you can participate in this ministry, go to lavcatholic.org/homeless-ministry.

The Aspinwall Homeless Ministry is not currently accepting donations of clothing. However, they are very much in need of non-perishable food items such as soups, (both condensed and ready-to-serve), jelly, and powdered or shelf-stable milk. Please leave donations in plastic bags in the gray bins at the Saint Scholastica church entrance.

Donations of Giant Eagle gift cards are gratefully accepted. They can be brought to the Saint Scholastica parish office.

Collection bins for local Food Pantries are located in the following Church entrances:

Saint Edward Church and Saint Francis Church are collecting cereal and soup.

Saint Joseph Church is collecting non-perishable items. Please leave donations in the drawer in the vestibule.

Saint Scholastica Church is collecting canned vegetables and fruits. Please put donations in the red collection bin.

Clothing Donations: At this time, the St. Vincent DePaul Society is not accepting donations at the clothing collection bin in the back parking lot of Saint Francis Church.

ADDICTION RECOVERY MINISTRY NEWS

412-218-5410 • rhaasarm@gmail.com
addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org
Facebook: Addiction Recovery Ministry Pittsburgh

Promise 4: "We will know peace"

How simple and yet how profound this promise is—to know peace.

Imagine no lying, no excuses, no forgetting, no more being embarrassed or humiliated. No more self-loathing, disgusted with self. No more feeling like two very different people, sober or stoned.

No more being humiliated or humiliating others. A life where you don't have to always look back; being not just always a little afraid, but also not really sure or even remembering what you said or did. Imagine no more blackouts.

Imagine what it would be like to just be you. No false bravado; no more perpetual victim. Imagine being you and liking you.

Peace! The noise, lying, pretending, forgetting. Just being you! And not hating yourself—a life without self-loathing.

But peace is so much more than the absence of chaos. No, peace is living in the awareness that we are all broken and we are all loved. Peace is learning to accept and love ourselves, warts and all. Peace is the stillness that comes from honesty, humility and service.

I have come to believe that the peace promised here is a peace built on self-acceptance, seeing ourselves as we are, in our truth, as people struggling with recovery, able to not just accept but also to love ourselves. This is a peace based on the belief and indeed the experience of knowing God's love for us—as we are—fragile, broken and hurting. And knowing God loves us allows us to begin to embrace our truth, accept our addiction and recovery, loving who we are because we know that God has always loved us.

That love of God can liberate us from the abyss of addiction. So yes, we will know peace.

Next week, we will reflect on Promise 5: "No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others"

And we can only do this living in the peace of God's love.

A.R.M. is collaborating with the Light of Life Rescue Mission to provide a monthly bagged lunch for their guests. The items still needed for January's Light of Life lunches are:

- 71 small individual bags of cookies
- 128 packs of chewing gum
- 121 individual fruit cups
- 60 small boxes of raisins
- 114 individual packs of drink mixes
- candy of any type

Please drop donations at the John Paul I Center or contact Rosemarie at 412-784-8700.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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.

Amen.

The 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,

[*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.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."

Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile—for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, [just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,* and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,* in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.] When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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