1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.” - Mk 13:35
Advent

Hope

+Gospel of Saint Matthew 3:3 “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

With these words of St. John the Baptist, we begin in earnest the holy season of Advent, usually the nearest Sunday to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. For Catholic Christians in our culture and society today, I believe it is one of the more difficult seasons to observe because of the competition we face with secular culture. So I wish to encourage all of us together to make a great Advent this year!

Though our society observes Christmas from Thanksgiving (or beforehand) until roughly the day of December 25, with feasting and celebration that go with it, we Catholic Christians will not observe Christmas until the first Christmas Eve liturgy and continue our celebration until at least January 6, the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

Advent is a time of serious spiritual preparation, and is observed as a Penitential Season in our Latin Church. Notice in the Liturgy the use of penitential purple in our sacred vestments, and the omission of the Gloria at Sunday Mass. The period of Advent in our Church was originally observed for 40 days, just as in Lent. The season was eventually shortened to a period of roughly four weeks.

The penitential character is a bit different than that of Lent. The Advent season is marked by the longing and anticipation of Christ. In a certain sense, such an anticipation is joyful yet most difficult, because the “moment” of the coming of the Lord is not yet here, but is eagerly anticipated. During the first period of Advent, we remember the Second Coming of the Lord at the end of time. During the second period of Advent, beginning December 17, we begin to observe an anticipation of prayerfully remembering the First Coming of the Lord, two thousand years ago at His Nativity in Bethlehem.

Though the penitential character of fasting during Advent is now limited by law to the normative day of penance that we should observe every Friday of the year, we can voluntarily choose to embrace this time of anticipation and preparation for Christmas by extra prayer and penance/fasting, and assistance to the needy. Perhaps we can set aside Wednesdays and Fridays, or a portion of the season to fast and abstain for the celebration of Christmas. That may be observed with mitigation of food, entertainment, and the use of media. Attendance at daily Mass (or on-line viewing due to COVID difficulties), Eucharistic Adoration, study of the daily scriptural Mass readings, or reading/contemplating portions of the Bible daily, or a spiritual book, are all means of possible preparation. We may choose to attend our Bible study, or assist the poor financially or prepare and distribute food for them in our parish outreach.

Each of us may determine, in our heart-felt conversation that we have with Jesus each day, to prepare for His coming in a loving way. How we will do so? Don’t put off the question until tomorrow. Make a determination today. Write it down, and each night review its observance. Parents, teach your children to embrace Advent together with you so that they know how to be prepared as observant Catholic Christians who yearn to love, know and welcome Jesus Christ our Savior! Blessed Advent everyone!
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 40:1-5, 9-11 * 2 Pt 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8 (5)

Temporary Eucharistic Adoration Times
Tuesdays: St. Bernard Church (upper church)
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: Our Lady of Grace (main church)
9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursdays: St. Bernard Church (upper church)
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m

First Friday Candlelight Mass
December 4th at 7:00pm
St. Bernard Church

Your Charity to Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
Due to the holiday printing schedule, November 29th totals will appear in the December 6th bulletin

Sunday, 11/15/2020 $17,326.50
October 2020 Online Giving (Sundays Only) $59,019.59
Thank You For Your Generosity

First Friday Candlelight Mass
December 4th at 7:00pm
St. Bernard Church

A big THANK-YOU to Laughlin’s Funeral Home for the 2021 pocket calendars which will be distributed this weekend!

Please be sure to pick one up when you leave!

2021

THE PARISH OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Parish staff is off on Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th.
IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED DECEASED

†Patricia Belisario
†Mary Virginia Hofmeister
†Phyllis Lucas

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. The promise of heaven is our eternal hope.

Jesus commissioned the eleven remaining Apostles to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Congratulations on your commitment to further His great commission by baptizing your baby at St. Michael the Archangel Parish! We know this is a very exciting and blessed time for you and your family, and we rejoice with you.

If this is your first baby, email Deacon Eric Schorr at eschorr@smaph.org to set up a time to meet, preferably before your baby is born. Your meeting with Deacon Eric gives you the opportunity to meet with a member of the parish clergy team to learn more about our parish and having your child baptized. We want to get to know your family better!

After your meeting with Deacon Eric, you will attend our Baptism Formation Evening for New Parents. These evenings are held every-other-month. You will receive the dates of the evenings at your meeting with Deacon Eric.

You will be able to schedule your baby’s baptism after you have met with Deacon Eric and attended the Baptism Formation Evening.

If this isn’t your first baby to be baptized and it has been more than three years since you have attended our Baptism Formation Evening for New Parents, you will need to meet with Deacon Eric before you schedule your baby’s baptism.

JOIN US for the Jesus 2020: Empowered by the Spirit Conference!

Jesus, the King of Kings, calls us beyond a life that is insular, tired, afraid, or bored. Instead, He anoints us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, then sends us out in Power to a world thirsting for the Gospel. Close the year with a powerful upper room encounter with Christ as we pray in unity for a new Pentecost.

Join us at Jesus 2020, a free conference on Friday December 11 (7:00pm-9:00pm EST) and Saturday December 12 (8:00am-5:30pm EST) at Franciscan University or online! Speakers include: Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, Peter Herbeck, Jim Beckman, Mary Bielski, Bishop Peter Smith, Scott Hahn. Matt Lozano, Sister Marie Fidelis, DLJC, Lauren Koath, Peter Mallampalli and Father Boniface Hicks, OSB. Music with Matt Maher and Fr. Anthony Ouellette. REGISTER TODAY for FREE @ nsc-chariscenter.org/jesus-2020

Committee Members Needed

The "Wedding Committee" at St. Michael the Archangel Parish is looking for new members to join our ministry.

Responsibilities include contacting the bride prior to the wedding day to gather necessary information, assisting with rehearsals, and coordinating the events of the wedding day. This committee is truly enjoyable.

Interested volunteers who would like to join, please contact Debbie Tony at bt.dt@verizon.net.

Thank you! Debbie
Christmas Flowers

You should have received or will receive a Christmas Flower offertory envelope with your December envelope mailing. If you would like to dedicate your offering to a loved one or loved ones, please include the name or names on the provided spaces on the envelope. Your envelope must be received by Friday, December 4th in order to appear in the Sunday, December 20th bulletin. If you do not receive envelopes you can still mail in your offering and dedication labeled “Christmas Flowers”

Thank you for your generosity!
The Angel Trees are up in our Churches and the lists for most agencies are LIVE ONLINE!!!

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic there are some new ways to select gifts for many of the agencies we serve. On the parish website smapgh.org or on Flocknote you will find a link to the Angel Tree lists for Genesis, Family Links, Asbury Heights, Heinz Center and Foster Love.

Several hundred wishes from people young and old alike are waiting for you to fill them. Our parishioners have always been most generous in their outreach to all of these communities. Time is running out so make your selection now.

Select an Angel or a recipient from the online lists, purchase and wrap the gift and label it with the information from the list. Be sure to attach the label securely to the outside of the gift. If you have an Angel it should also be placed on the outside of the gift. If you are unable to get to the online lists please reach out to Angela for assistance.

Drop off of gifts will be at Conroy Hall at Our Lady of Grace Church on December 5th and 6th after the masses and from 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Sunday. No gifts are to be left in the Churches or at the Rectory.

If you are in need or you know someone who is in need, please call Angela Gaughan, Pastoral Associate, at 412-561-6021. We are always here to help in any way we can. Thank you from the Ladies of Charity for your kind consideration. God bless and Happy Shopping!
The 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13, is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice”. We rejoice because we are almost at Christmas, the day where we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift we have ever been given. St. John Paul II began a tradition where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter’s Square on the Third Sunday of Advent. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home. John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition, and in recent years it has started to expand to other places outside of Rome.

This year we would like to celebrate this tradition with our St. Michael the Archangel families.

Your family is invited to join us!

~Bring the Baby Jesus (Bambinello) from your home Nativity Set to be blessed by our Pastor Father Brian Welding. Blessing will be in Church.
~Drinks, treats and a small craft will follow blessing.
~Priests will be available for an opportunity for Advent Confessions.

Please visit the link below to sign up your family:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4CA8AE2FAAF94-bambinelli
Temporary Mass Schedule
Parishioners must sign up on the website to attend all indoor Masses only

**Mon-Fri**
7:00am Indoors at St. Bernard Church (Main Church)
9:00am Indoors at Our Lady of Grace Church

**Saturday**
8:00am Indoors at St. Bernard Church (Main Church)
4:00pm Outdoors at Our Lady of Grace Church
5:00pm Indoors at St. Bernard Church (Main Church)

**Sunday**
7:00am Indoors at St. Bernard Church (Main Church)
9:00am Outdoors at St. Bernard Church
9:30am Outdoors at Our Lady of Grace Church
11:00am Indoors at St. Bernard Church (Main Church)
11:30am Indoors at Our Lady of Grace Church
7:30pm candlelight Mass Indoors at St. Bernard (Main Church)

**Penance**
Our Lady of Grace only in the back parking lot
Thursdays from 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Saturdays from 2:45pm - 3:45pm
Drivers please stay in your car and wear a mask

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish

Parish Office
311 Washington Road/Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Phone: 412-561-3300  Fax: 412-563-0211

Saint Bernard Church
311 Washington Road/Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Our Lady of Grace Church
310 Kane Blvd/Pittsburgh, PA 15243

New Website: smapgh.org
Sacrament of Confession
Tuesdays: 8:30am indoors - Our Lady of Grace
Wednesdays indoors following the 7:00am Mass - St. Bernard
Thursdays: 4:00-5:00pm indoors - St. Bernard
Thursdays: 7:00-7:30pm indoors - St. Bernard
Saturdays indoors following the 8:00am Mass - St. Bernard
Saturdays: 2:45 - 3:45pm outdoors - Our Lady of Grace
NO CONFESSIONS THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24
2:00pm Our Lady of Grace - Outdoors
4:00pm Our Lady of Grace - Outdoors
4:00pm St. Bernard - Main Church
4:00pm St. Bernard - Clairvaux Hall
6:00pm St. Bernard - Main Church
8:00pm Our Lady of Grace - Main Church
Midnight St. Bernard - Main Church

Added Opportunity for Confession
Wednesday, December 16th
7:00pm St. Bernard - Main Church

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25
7:00am St. Bernard - Main Church
9:00am St. Bernard - Main Church
9:30am Our Lady of Grace - Outdoors
11:00am St. Bernard - Main Church
11:30am Our Lady of Grace - Main Church

Last Day For Confession
Wed, December 23 following the 7:00am Mass – St. Bernard
Tues, December 22, 8:30am – Our Lady of Grace

Friday, January 1, 2020
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
9:00am Our Lady of Grace - Indoors
11:00am St. Bernard - Main Church

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
2020 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sunday Mass Times
Anticipated, Saturdays at 4:00pm outdoors - Our Lady of Grace
Anticipated, Saturdays at 5:00pm indoors - St. Bernard
9:30am outdoors & 11:30am indoors - Our Lady of Grace
7:00am indoors, 9:00am outdoors, 11:00am indoors & 7:30pm indoors - St. Bernard
Congratulations Bishop-Elect Bonnar!!!!

Together with Fathers Benjamin Barr, Thomas Gramc, Deacons Eckhardt, Schorr, Mayer, and the entire staff and parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel Parish (former parishes of St. Bernard and Our Lady of Grace, wherein Fr. Bonnar served as Pastor), we rejoice in the naming by Pope Francis of Bishop-Elect David Bonnar to the See of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio. May the Lord grant him many blessings as he embraces the role of the Shepherd of the people on the Diocese of Youngstown! Ad Multos Annos!!

Fr. Brian J. Welding

Below is Bishop-Elect Bonnar’s current address for those who wish to send congratulatory correspondence.

Bishop-Elect David Bonnar
Saint Aidan Parish
221 Church Road
Wexford, PA 15090

Are You or Someone You Know Struggling to Make Ends Meet During These Trying Times?
The St. Michael the Archangel St. Vincent de Paul Society may be able to help! We assist those within our Parish boundaries with rental assistance, utilities, medications, food, furniture, and clothing needs. All requests are completely anonymous. Simply call the Rectory and leave a message for the

St. Vincent de Paul Society! We are here to help!
To reach the Society: (412)561-3300 ext. 303
For Food Assistance:
St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry: (412) 200-2244
St. Winifred Food Pantry (412)343-1915

Hearts and Soles Walking Group

Thursdays 5-6pm Our Lady of Grace behind the Church
Please join fellow parishioners for an opportunity to gather to walk, talk and spend time together.
There is such a gift in community and fresh air.
Masks and safe distancing please.
Contact Katie at k.m.keating@icloud.com
to let the group know you are coming or for more details.
Mary’s Place is a semi-independent home for pregnant and parenting women that provides support in an environment of reverence and love. Located in Mt. Lebanon, in the previous home of the St. Augustine Capuchin Friars, we officially opened in January 2020. We have capacity for seven residents at once and can take mothers older than 18 who are homeless and pregnant or parenting.

Guided by Catholic social teaching, Mary’s Place welcomes women of all faiths and encourages prayer, reflection and participation in community living.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are always open to gifts of time or treasure from the local community. A few of our opportunities include:

Weekly volunteer activities
Online donations
Donations of in-kind, specifically diapers and wipes

For more information on Mary’s Place, the services we offer, or how you can get involved, contact us at (412) 207-8805 or info@marysplacepgh.org

You can also visit us online at www.marysplacepgh.org

Brochures and pamphlets are available through the Respect Life committee
St. Michael the Archangel Parish Mass Intentions Requests for 2021
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AS SOME PROCEDURES HAVE CHANGED

We will begin accepting Mass requests for the year 2021 on Monday, November 9, 2020. We will accept these by U.S. Mail, by dropping the request form into the Sunday collection or hand-delivering to the St. Bernard Rectory IN THE MAIL SLOT at 311 Washington Road. We will NOT be accepting Mass requests by phone and Masses WILL NOT be scheduled at the door. We assure you that forms will be kept in the order in which they are received (form and instructions will be published in the bulletin starting November 8th. Masses will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. You will be notified of your Mass dates and times by e-mail or U.S. mail once they are scheduled (due to cost of postage, e-mail is preferred). In order to ensure good order and fairness to EVERYONE the following rules apply:

Only two (2) specific date requests will be taken for any one family. You may request 1 weekend Mass (Saturday Vigil or Sunday) intention and 1 weekly Mass intentions or 2 weekday Mass Intentions. More than two (2) requests will be sent out of the Parish to be fulfilled or celebrated by our Priests as part of concelebrated Mass. You will not be notified of silent intention dates.

To accommodate your requests please list an alternate date in the event that your first request is not met. IF no dates are specified, they will be chosen at random and CANNOT be changed. Masses are no longer held in Clairvaux Hall except on Christmas and Easter. Suggested Mass Stipends are $10.00 each and your check should accompany your request. Make check payable to St. Michael the Archangel Parish.

**STB MASS TIMES:** Weekdays at 7:00am, Saturday at 8:00am, Weekend Saturday anticipated Mass at 5:00pm, Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am (outdoors), 11:00am & 7:30pm.

**OLG MASS TIMES:** Weekdays at 9:00am, Weekend Saturday anticipated Mass at 4:00pm (outdoors), Sunday 9:30am (outdoors) & 11:30am

Please be sure to add your phone number and e-mail address on the form and include phonetic spelling of hard to pronounce last names. Please keep in mind that it is mandated by Canon Law to offer a Mass for the people on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. The following days are NOT OPEN for individual intentions since they are offered for the intentions of parishioners.

*Holy Thursday, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day: nor are intentions accepted for Good Friday or Holy Saturday.* On civic holidays there will be only ONE mass celebrated and that will be at 9:00 a.m. Once scheduled, Mass intentions cannot be changed.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. Please fill out the information in the block on the lower left of this page 2. Fill in your mailing address on the blank lines on the block on the lower right of this page. This section will be e-mailed or mailed back to you with the dates and times of your Masses listed on the back. 3. Detach the bottom portion of this page and enclose it with your payment. Make checks payable to St. Michael the Archangel Parish 4. Mail the form to the parish office, put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the rectory (In the Mail slot)

Mass Intention Requests for 2021, @ $10.00 stipend per Mass

2 Intentions scheduled per Family. Any amount exceeding 2 will be silent or sent out of the Parish to be fulfilled or celebrated by our Priests as

Family Name (Requestor)

Email Address:

Telephone ____________________________________

1. **INTENTION**

Date/Time ___________________________ Alt. Date ____________

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2. **INTENTION**

Date/Time ___________________________ Alt. Date __________

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Silent Intention: __________________________

Method of Notification (check one):  E-mail ______ US Mail______
WORSHIP & MEDITATION

FIRST READING
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19b)

PSALM
Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

SECOND READING
God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor 1:9)

GOSPEL MEDITATION
Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

You are at the eye doctor and it’s time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It’s where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don’t concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn’t accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God’s loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That’s why we need Advent. Let’s face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. “Now” moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It’s the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God’s now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ’s second coming awakens us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For more information and/or to sign up:

1. Go to smapgh.org
2. Click on “Give” at the top of the homepage
3. Choose “Give to St. Michael the Archangel” from the drop down menu
4. Click on “Create an account”
We Love Having You as Part of Our Flock!

St. Michael the Archangel Parish will now be using Flocknote to communicate with all parishioners and individual parish ministries. Flocknote gives us the ability to email and text parishioners information. We will soon be discontinuing our use of sending email blasts through Parish Data Systems so please sign up for Flocknote to continue receiving information from St. Michael the Archangel Parish.

Thank you and God bless!

Keep in touch with us via email and text!

Text **SMAPGH** to 84576

OR

Connect with us online at: **smapgh.flocknote.com**

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.
## SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH

### CLERGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>Most Rev. David A. Zubik, MSEd, DD</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Vicar</td>
<td>Very Rev. Joseph E. Sioli, VE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Brian Welding, JCD</td>
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<td>412-561-3300 x 600</td>
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<td>Chaplain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Rev. Michael L. Yaksick</td>
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### SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH STAFF

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Daniel Thimons</td>
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<td>412-561-3300 x 325</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mjbeckham@smapgh.org">mjbeckham@smapgh.org</a></td>
<td>412-561-3300 x 102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Secretary</td>
<td>Geori Prahl</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gprahl@smapgh.org">gprahl@smapgh.org</a></td>
<td>412-561-3300 x 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Maintenance Manager</td>
<td>Jim Baranowski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbaranowski@smapgh.org">jbaranowski@smapgh.org</a></td>
<td>412-992-0326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities and Maintenance Coord. OLG</td>
<td>Stanley Zeszutek</td>
<td><a href="mailto:szeszutek@aol.com">szeszutek@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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### AVE MARIA ACADEMY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Lebanon</td>
<td>401 Washington Rd.</td>
<td>412-341-5444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA 15216</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stbschool.net">www.stbschool.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel Park</td>
<td>134 Fort Couch Rd.</td>
<td>412-833-1412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA 15241</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stmcs.org">www.stmcs.org</a></td>
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