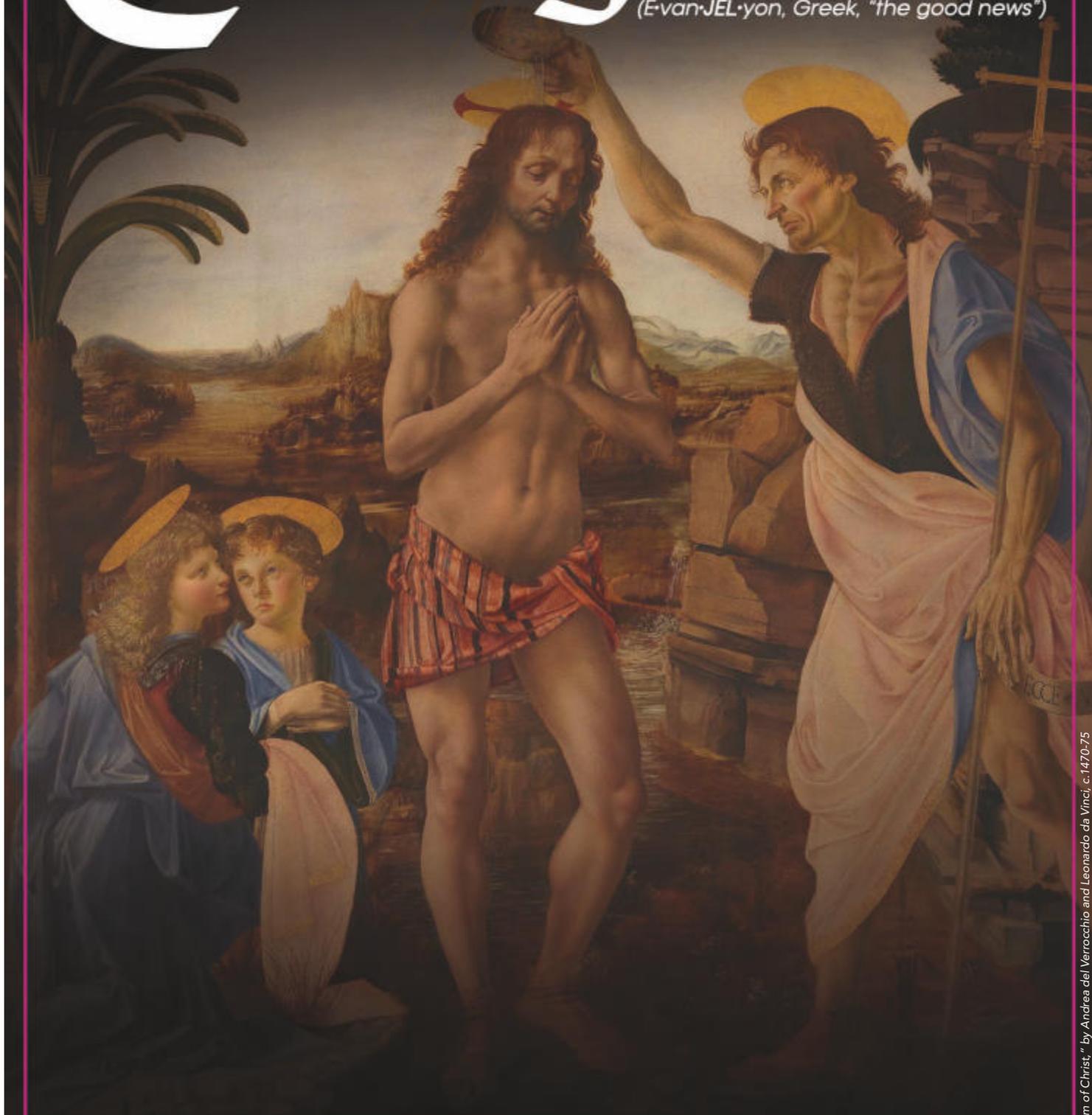


SAINTS JOHN & PAUL | GOOD SAMARITAN | OUR LADY OF PEACE | SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

GREAT PARISH GROUPING + FRANKLIN PARK EDITION

# Evangelion

(Evan-JEL-yon, Greek, "the good news")



HE is HERE! | December 13, 2020 | Third Sunday of Advent

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT + DECEMBER 13, 2020

## **PROCESSIONAL—“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3–6 para. in Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. The Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890. Reprinted with permission ONE LICENSE# A-718331.

## **FIRST READING—Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

## **RESPONSORIAL—Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54.**

**Response: My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. (R.)

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. (R.)

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy. (R.)

## **SECOND READING—1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

## **GOSPEL—John 1:6-8, 19-28**

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## **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, 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.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS—"Veni, Creator Spiritus"**

Veni, Creátor Spíritus, Mentés tuórum vísita, Imple supérna grátia, Quae tu creásti péctora. Deo Patri sit glória, Et Fílio, quia mórtuis Surréxit, ac Paráclito, In saeculórum saecula. Amen.

Text: LM; Veni, Creator Spiritus; attr. to Rabanus Maurus, 776–856; Graduale Romanum, 1974. Verses 1–6 tr. by James Quinn, SJ, © 1994, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Verse 7 tr. by Glenn CJ Byer, © 2002, OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Chant, Mode VIII.. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE# A-718331 All rights reserved.

## **RECESSIONAL—"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"**

The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord!  
Thy people pray: Come quickly, King of kings.

Text: CM; Greek; tr. by John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt. Music: Sixteen Tune Settings, Philadelphia, 1812; Kentucky Harmony, 1816. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE# A-718331 All rights reserved.



I have been entrusted with the pastoral and administrative care of four parish families. I was driving when I got the call from our diocese to tell me that I was given this mission more than two years ago. Similar to other changes in my life I felt the peace, the joy, the thrill knowing that this was of the Lord. I tend to be a positive thinker and one who sees the glass half full, not half empty. Most days I am fine. Even though “Corona Time” seems like one long nightmare mixed with a gut-wrenching election season added to the Church scandals, I still trust that the Lord loves me and guides me.

Every week I am honored with sharing in our blended parish family’s losses—such as dear Mary, 101 years young who died. I got to be at her bedside in the hospital with her two kids...

Or when our homebound heroes whom *COVID* can bend but not break...

I laughed so hard seeing our youth hit pumpkins and learn how to drive in our parking lots; I usually shed a tear when I see a dad give away his daughter and hand her over to her fiancé; it’s like music to my ears to hear babies crying at Mass or little ones causing disruptive noise; what a treat to witness our parish feeding the masses, especially on Tuesday evenings with delicious warm food and smiling, mask-covered faces; how I love the smell of pierogi at 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass.

What I truly enjoy is feeding our family with the Eucharistic Lord at Mass. By experiencing Jesus inside us, he loves us and draws us heavenward despite these pandemic-like times.

Perhaps this Christmas season we find THE reason for it in contemplating Christ as a newborn babe swaddled in the arms of Mary and adored by Joseph. I don’t pretend to know every member of our parish family. However, I wish I could. I know for certain Jesus knows us all. Jesus wants to be the reason and the season that is flavoring our life now. No matter if life tastes more like salt or sugar, hot sauce or sweet and sour sauce... whatever flavor our life is during this Christmas season, Jesus knows that. He wants us to marinate our hearts in his. Contemplating Christ imagining ourselves cuddling baby Jesus to our hearts, surrounded by his parents as we share with him the sour or sweet taste in our mouth with phrases like:

**“Forgive me, Jesus.”**

**“I need you, Jesus.”**

**“Help me, Jesus.”**

**“Thank you, Jesus.”**

**“I love you, Jesus.”**

Can you please pray for me and for our parish family to take time to contemplate baby Jesus? Let us go deeper into experiencing this baby-God who wants to be the reason for the season or seasoning the reasoning for our lives. ■



“Adoration of the Shepherds,” by Gerard van Honthorst, c.1622

# REJOICE PRAY & BE GRATEFUL

## THE CATECHIST COLUMN

**JASON GAWALDO**

*Director of Faith Formation  
jgawaldo@greatgrouping.org*

**W**hat does God want from me? This is a burning question for many of our youth and young adults as they discern their vocations. It is also an important question for many of us who are seasoned in our vocation, whether married or single, working or retired, life-long disciples or new to following Jesus. What does God want from me?

In the middle of this Advent Season, the Spirit is giving us a loud and clear answer. What is the "will of God for you in Christ Jesus"? It is to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to be grateful in all circumstances. The Lord wants us to find joy in everything, bring everything to him in prayer, and to find something to be grateful for in every circumstance. What does God want you to do with your life? Rejoice, pray, and be grateful. What does God want you to do in your family? Rejoice, pray, and be grateful. What does God want from you in your career or retirement? Rejoice, pray, and be grateful. What does God want from you during this pandemic? Rejoice, pray, and be grateful.

I find it very interesting that on the heels of this divine advice the Lord warns us not to quench the Spirit. It is as if he thinks we will get tired of rejoicing, praying, and being grateful. How do we quench the Spirit and extinguish the excitement that he puts into our hearts? We give in to cynicism and negativity. We return to the Garden of Eden and ask "Did God really say..." (see *Genesis 3:1*). We despise prophecy as the ramblings of religious fanatics. We replace a holy excitement to do God's will with a spiritual laziness that many spiritual writers have called the noonday devil. If we are honest with ourselves, we will have to admit that we have a tendency toward these things at times. I know I recognize it in my own heart.

How can we combat this spiritual entropy? Rejoice, pray, and be grateful. When we trust the Lord that this rhythm is worthwhile, we give him space to make us, not just sort of holy or most of the way holy, but perfectly holy. Which of course is what the Lord really wants from you in any circumstance.

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?

the

A series of articles highlighting the good people, places and things of the Great Grouping.

# GOOD NEWS

## FROM SOME STATUES IN THE WINDOW

The late Tom Rutkoski always wanted to own a farm. He was from Butler County and had tasted the rural life but the last many years he and Mary had lived in Pittsburgh's Highland Park area while he soldiered as a news cinematographer for *WPGH* and then *KDKA*, and she worked for a big advertising firm.

Tom was a lapsed Catholic but he seriously "got religion" and they started a nonprofit and called it *Gospa Missions* ([gospa.org](http://gospa.org)). In 1992 Tom quit his job at *KDKA* to go on the road for God. And he went around the world, anywhere he was asked, to tell the story of his conversion. His main mission was getting lukewarm Catholics closer to God, then included helping homeless and orphan children.

The farm they bought in Evans City, just 15 miles from SSJP, reminded Tom of his upbringing in nearby Butler. They needed an office, and a friendly funeral director across the street on the main drag in Evans City offered them a sweet deal on a storefront that he owned. Self-conscious that the curious locals were anxious about their new neighbor, Tom instructed Mary to "put a couple religious statues in the window" to represent what they were doing. When people kept coming into the office to inquire about buying the statues, a light went off in Tom's ever-observant head. "All of sudden, really, we were selling those statues in the window and soon a huge amount of Catholic religious articles," Mary remembered. "People would often stop to shop, including men in collars and women in habits."

The *Amazing Grace* by *Gospa Missions*  
Books & Gifts Store at 230 East Main Street in

**TOM ROONEY**

Contributing Writer

[tomrooney@trseg.com](mailto:tomrooney@trseg.com)

Evans City thrives today as one of the Tri-State Area's largest seller of thousands of Catholic Faith items. It also has a concentration on Medjugorje, the site of ongoing apparitions of the Blessed Mother Mary.

"Tom did extensive travel in his work in television and he was in and around a lot of these religious sites," Mary remembered. "Tom was very skeptical about these sites. Then one day he was supposed to meet some friends for beers at the Fox Chapel Yacht Club. Mysteriously, they didn't show. Someone else did. Tom was sure the voice was Jesus. He said, "Thomas, I took you to Lourdes, I took you to Fatima, and I took you to Bethlehem. Can't you understand that this is real?" asked the voice. Tom ran to the closest Catholic Church he could find. He knew he needed Confession—and fast.

*Gospa Missions* is a nonprofit Catholic organization founded in 1990. "We achieve our mission of evangelizing the world's people to the Catholic Church," Mary said, "through Tom's life-changing books and talks, conferences, pilgrimages and our online and Evans City stores. It enables us to fund two orphanages and schools that we founded in Nigeria and India through our sister nonprofit, *Abode For Children*, helping about a thousand children each year. We lost Tom in 2011, but he lives through these ongoing commitments," Mary said.

Note: *Gospa Missions* Bookstore invites anyone bringing a copy of this article to the store to enjoy a **15% discount** on all regularly priced inventory **through December 31, 2020**. If you prefer to shop at their online store ([gospa.org](http://gospa.org)), just use the discount code **JPSS15** for all regularly priced inventory when you check out.

*exploring*  
**CATHOLICISM**

*Christ-centered conversations with Padre Jay*

*BEAVER VALLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR*

**CHRIS PATSCH**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 2PM**



**WATCH ON...**

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[facebook.com/BVParishes](https://facebook.com/BVParishes)

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# NEAR OCCASIONS OF S I N

**KAREN WALKER**  
*Pastoral Minister*  
[kwalker@greatgrouping.org](mailto:kwalker@greatgrouping.org)

I moved to my house about 18 months ago and adopted my dog, Augustine, soon after. We walk through our neighborhood nearly every day and have quickly learned where all the other dogs live. Augie's first year of life was spent in a home where dogs were being hoarded and he learned to be territorial and fearful of other dogs from that experience. While he is friendly and mild-mannered around humans, he has great difficulty interacting well with other dogs. I found out early on that Augie believed in social distancing before that became a thing for the rest of us.

So, as we start on our 3-mile daily walk, I automatically cross from the left to the right side of the street when we approach the house where the two Labradoodles live. We then cross back to the left to avoid the Newfoundland in his fenced-in back yard. And as the woman walking the Jack Russell terrier approaches me, we bob and weave in an awkward dog-owner dance, jockeying for which side of the street each of us will end up on. A bag full of cheddar cheese chunks typically distracts Augie's attention away from these other dogs, but not without a lot of dog bravado in the form of growling and barking, none of which I think would come to any fruition if he actually were able to reach these other dogs.

It occurred to me this morning that this is a metaphor for my attempts to avoid the near occasions of sin in my daily walk through life. There are frequent temptations on either side of me, and sometimes heading right for me, that can be difficult to avoid. While I can control Augie's ability to be drawn into his daily distractions by tightening his leash or tempting him with cheese, I am less able to control my own human desires to be drawn into occasions of sin when they present themselves.

Too often I find myself growling and barking at others who have angered or displeased me. My words sometimes can be harsh and critical, biting into another person's spirit and gnawing away at their peace and, along with that, my own. And, since God grants us free will, there is no leash to pull me back and force me cross to the other side of the street -- I have to muster the self-discipline to do that on my own.

What will lure me away from these temptations to sin? Frequent prayer, participation in Mass, reception of Holy Communion, and Eucharistic Adoration are the cheddar cheese chunks in my life. Knowing that these graces are available to me helps me stay on the straight-and-narrow path, and faith in God's goodness and loving mercy when I do stray gives me the strength to walk this daily walk in Faith.



# Great Grouping Outreach

This month our daughter's preschool director shared an email with the school families, letting us know that anyone was welcome to take home frozen pie dough that had been assembled by ladies from Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church for their fundraiser that was derailed by COVID. Learning of the large volume available, I contacted Janet Roberto, who heads our parish's Outreach Ministries. She said the *Meal-Making Ministry* would be happy to use the dough. I emailed the preschool about our *Meal-Making Ministry* and the church was happy to give our Outreach ministry all of the remaining dough balls—well over 100! These were delivered to the *Samaritan Kitchen*, where the volunteers there applied their culinary skills to create meals for those in need. The Great Grouping is so blessed to have these hard-working Outreach ministries. Their corporal works of mercy provide food to our neighbors in need and a warm reminder that God always provides.

—Teresa Lander



IF YOU ARE FEELING CALLED TO HELP,  
PLEASE CONTACT KRISTA KOLLITZ  
[bkkollitz@aol.com](mailto:bkkollitz@aol.com)



# GOD IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!

Fri, May 8, 6:57 AM  
Shelley Costco  
Good morning, friends. I have 18 cases of apples, some salad mix, salad dressing, and some bread from our Foodcourt. Definitely going to need multiple vehicles if this is something you are interested in.

Mon, Jul 13, 8:26 AM  
Shelley Costco  
Good morning! Just wondering if you would be interested in 174 bags of fresh green beans.

Thu, Aug 27, 7:14 AM  
Shelley Costco  
Good morning friends! I have some pork and chicken, and some prepared food from the deli. Interested?

Saturday 6:25 AM  
Shelley Costco  
Good morning. I am so sorry to bother you this early, and on a Saturday but... There are about 500 pies that we would like to donate. I am not at work, but they tell me it is approximately 400 pumpkin and 50 each of apple and pecan.

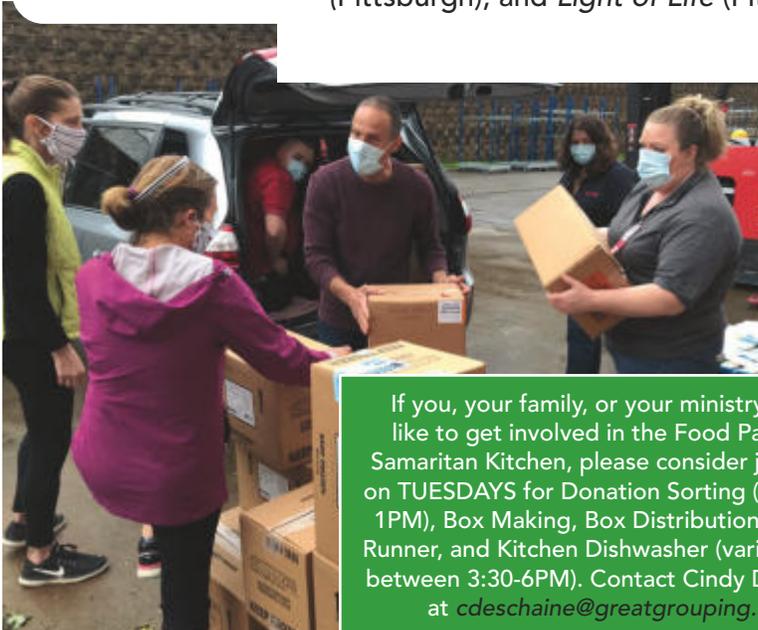
This is how I describe our gratitude toward Costco in Cranberry these past 8 months, as they have donated carload after carload of perishable food items to feed our local families who suffer from food insecurities.

It began in late April when I received a text from Shelley at Costco offering 100 chicken fajita bowls. I lined up a volunteer to pick up the bowls and deliver them to Good Samaritan where Cindy Deschaine and her volunteer team distributed them to local families via the *Great Grouping Beaver Valley Food Pantry*. A week later, Shelley offered salad kits, pasta kits and deli items from their prepared food section. A week after that, 18 cases of apples (we're definitely going to need multiple vehicles for this donation). You get the idea. Virtually every week, since April, our Great Grouping has received cases of frozen meat, hundreds of bags of fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and dozens of fresh baked goods. The icing on the cake was when Shelley offered 500 pies the week of Thanksgiving!

In speaking with Shelley, I learned that Costco's core values include giving back to the community. For the past few years, they've partnered with *Feeding America*, which allows them the opportunity to generously donate perishable food that is reaching its "sell by date" to organizations within the store's community. Without this opportunity, the perfectly edible food would end up in the dumpster.

So what do we do with all of this food? We distribute it directly to local families suffering from food insecurities through the *Good Samaritan Beaver Valley Food Pantry*, we use it as ingredients in prepared meals distributed by the *Samaritan Kitchen*, and we deliver it to local organizations like *Center for Hope* (Ambridge), *First Baptist Church* (Ambridge), *Faith Restorations* (Monaca), *Red Door* (Pittsburgh), and *Light of Life* (Pittsburgh).

—Denise Fahrion



If you, your family, or your ministry would like to get involved in the Food Pantry or Samaritan Kitchen, please consider joining us on TUESDAYS for Donation Sorting (10:30AM-1PM), Box Making, Box Distribution, Kitchen Runner, and Kitchen Dishwasher (various hours between 3:30-6PM). Contact Cindy Deschaine at [cdeschaine@greatgrouping.org](mailto:cdeschaine@greatgrouping.org).



“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.”

— Matthew 19:14

The words of Christ himself are pretty clear here. As parents and guardians, it's our responsibility to bring our children to Christ. Join us as we do just this in a *Children's Holy Half Hour* every Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Grotto Chapel.

Bring your little ones as we enter the Adoration Chapel and kneel at the foot of Christ present to us in the Eucharist to Adore, sing, dance, offer petition, and learn about the liturgical year and richness of our Catholic faith. We aim for a reverent atmosphere but also understand that most little ones need to move about, squirm, chat, and giggle from time to time. In the words of *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*, "Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God."

—Allison McLaughlin

THURSDAYS in the GROTTO CHAPEL  
10-10:30 AM

*Designed for ages 0-5, but all are welcome*

# HOLY HALF HOUR



QUESTIONS?

Allison McLaughlin at  
[mclaughlins2017@gmail.com](mailto:mclaughlins2017@gmail.com)

# LONGEST NIGHT

KAREN WALKER  
Pastoral Minister  
kwalker@greatgrouping.org

It seems fitting that the season of Advent falls at the beginning of winter when the days become shorter and the nights become longer. As we approach the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, we are plunged into darkness nearly 15 hours per day. This is evident to me each day as I walk my dog, run my errands, and commute to and from the church enveloped by darkness, longing for daylight, hoping for the sun's return to brighten my days.

I have been afraid of the dark ever since I was a young child. Too many scary movies and an older brother who enjoyed jumping out of dark corners to frighten me were the cause of my fear in those days. But the darkness that distresses me the most now is born out of grief over the loss of loved ones, accentuated by separation from family and friends, and aggravated by a strong dose of pandemic fatigue.

During the holiday season, we're bombarded with images that imply that we should be perpetually merry, surrounded by the perfect family, decking the halls, and filling our homes with presents. But the reality may be that we feel exhausted, or lonely, or may be experiencing difficult relationships with family members. We may not be able to travel to see loved ones this year or may not have the financial means to celebrate in the ways in which we are accustomed. It may be a struggle to see the light in the darkness that surrounds us.

But the lack of light doesn't mean a lack of God's continuing presence with us. He walks with us through the dark valleys, never leaving our side. He encourages us to continue to be prayerful, to be hopeful, to watch and wait in the stillness of even the darkest nights. He reminds us that the Light of the World is coming to us again this Christmas Day, and the days that follow will become brighter and the darkness will be diminished once again.

We invite you to join us for an evening of music, prayer, and reflection called *The Longest Night* on **Wednesday, December 16, from 7-9 PM in the main church**. This evening offers an opportunity for those who may be struggling with grief, loneliness, financial loss, separation from family, or other distress to reflect on God's compassionate love for all of us.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
**7-9 PM in the MAIN CHURCH**

**MUSIC**  
**PRAYER**  
**REFLECTION**

# LUMINARIES *for* LIFE

LIGHTING UP  
OUR COMMUNITIES  
FOR LIFE!

Due to the restrictions surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, our parish grouping will not be traveling to Washington D.C. for the Annual *March for Life* on January 29, 2021.

In an effort to show our solidarity and support for the unborn—and those who will be marching—we are having two events to commemorate the 48th Anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, legalizing abortion in our country.

The first event will be one that everyone can participate in at home—***Luminaries for Life!***

The *Respect Life Committee* of our Great Grouping will be making luminary kits available for parishioners to display at home on the evening of Thursday, January 21, 2021—the eve of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. You can display your luminaries at your front door, sidewalk or driveway—to show your support. Let's light up our communities for life!

—Marie Pfau

## SUGGESTED DONATION FOR THE LUMINARY KITS

- 2 luminaries for \$1.00
- 10 luminaries for \$5.00

You can purchase as many as you would like. Please visit [greatgrouping.org/luminary](https://greatgrouping.org/luminary) to place your order before January 6. Pick-up of the luminary kits will be the week of January 16-20 in the foyer of the Upper CDC at Saints John & Paul.

## SAVE THE DATE

The second event will be on **Friday, January 29, 2021**—the day of the annual *March for Life* in Washington D.C. We will be holding a prayer vigil at Saints John & Paul to commemorate the over 60 million lives that have been lost to abortion in the United States since 1973. We also remember the mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents and countless others who have been impacted by abortion during this time. Details on the prayer vigil will be forthcoming but we invite you to **SAVE THE DATE** to participate in this important event.

### QUESTIONS?

Janet Roberto, Director of Outreach  
[jroberto@greatgrouping.org](mailto:jroberto@greatgrouping.org)

Marie Pfau, Respect Life Committee  
[mariepfau@gmail.com](mailto:mariepfau@gmail.com)



## ADORATION

Adoration is available Sunday-Friday 8AM-8PM Adoration on Christmas Day will be offered as a Holy Hour following the 10 AM Mass. Questions? Deacon Tom Boucek [tboucek@greatgrouping.org](mailto:tboucek@greatgrouping.org).

## BIBLE STUDY

Revelation Bible Study registration is open. The study will begin the week of January 11. [greatgrouping.org/bible-study](http://greatgrouping.org/bible-study).

## LONGEST NIGHT

All are invited to join us in an evening of prayer & worship on **Wednesday, December 16 at 7PM at Saints John & Paul** for an evening of peaceful reflections on the joy of Christ's coming. Confession & Adoration will be available.

## LUMINARIES FOR LIFE

Due to the restrictions surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic, our parish grouping will not be traveling to Washington D.C. for the Annual March for Life. The Respect Life Committee will be making luminary kits available for parishioners to display at home on the evening of Thursday, January 21—the eve of the Roe v. Wade decision. Suggested donation for the luminary kits: 2 luminaries for \$1.00; 10 luminaries for \$5.00 Place your order online [greatgrouping.org/luminary](http://greatgrouping.org/luminary) before January 6. Pick-up of the luminary kits will be the week of January 16-20 in the foyer of the Upper CDC at Saints John & Paul.

## CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH COLLECTION

On Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, there will be a special collection for the Christmas Charities for Children & Youth. This collection stays within our local community and surrounding areas and is used for Youth Ministry programs and education for Catholic children in public schools who need faith formation. Support for youth is given to churches in need of financial assistance. This collection is applied to our Parish Share Assessment.

## LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Did you know we Livestream Mass everyday at 9 AM? Subscribe to our YouTube Channel and Facebook Page to be notified when we go live!

## MINISTRIES MEETING VIRTUALLY

All of our ministries are meeting virtually until further notice due to the spike in Covid-19 cases in our area. If you are interested in attending a ministry meeting please contact the ministry leader for more information. [greatgrouping.org](http://greatgrouping.org)

## RESPECT LIFE

The Respect Life Committee of our Great Grouping is working to build up the Culture of Life in our parish grouping and communities. We will meet on **Monday, December 14 at 7 PM virtually**. We will discuss plans to observe the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the Annual March for Life in January. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Marie Pfau at [marie.pfau@zoominternet.net](mailto:marie.pfau@zoominternet.net) or Peter Elliott at [pm.elliott@comcast.net](mailto:pm.elliott@comcast.net) if you have any questions or are interested in the ministry meeting virtually.

## NUT/POPPYSEED/APRICOT ROLL BAKE SALE

Volunteers from the Beaver Valley Parishes will be in the Conference Room/Kitchen on the lower level the church selling Nut, Poppy and Apricot Rolls for your Christmas table. They will be there after the Saturday evening Mass on December 19 and all the Sunday Morning Masses on December 20. The cost is \$13 per roll.

## DIVORCED AND SEPARATED SUPPORT GROUP

The Divorced and Separated support group will offer a virtual cycle of meetings starting on Monday, January 11 and ending on Monday, April 5. Meetings are on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM and will be conducted via Zoom.

This peer led group provides caring support to anyone who is experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. Topics covered include anger, loneliness, annulment, forgiveness, financial survival and more. Anyone who has questions or would like more information should contact Ralph Joy (412) 741-5456 or [ralph.r.joy@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.r.joy@gmail.com) If you wish to attend the meetings, you must register in advance at the following website: [divorcecare.org/groups/128566](http://divorcecare.org/groups/128566)

## ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

We issue a monthly email to all of our registered parishioners at the beginning of each month. We also send out important Covid-19 related updates. If you are not receiving these emails please sign up online at [greatgrouping.org/welcome](http://greatgrouping.org/welcome).

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

† Memorial Mass ‡ Mass for Spiritual & Physical Wellness

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 (NM 24:2-7, 15-17A/MT 21:23-27)

9:00 AM † Joseph Dresbach (Robert & Barbara Bartholow)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 (ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13/MT 21:28-32)

7:00 AM † William Baker (Wiloch Family)

9:00 AM † Johnathan Boucek & Family (Bill & Gail Boucek)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 (IS 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25/LK 7:18B-23)

9:00 AM † Al Comini (Parents)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 (GN 49:2, 8-10/MT 1:1-17)

7:00 AM † Dominic Tomasello (Watson Family)

9:00 AM † Barbara Wolford (Linda Carr)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 (JER 23:5-8/MT 1:18-25)

9:00 AM † Dale F. Offner (Bob & Carmel Kremen)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 (JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A/LK 1:5-25)

9:00 AM † James & Michael Mahunik (Greg & Carol Hycza)

5:00 PM † Theresa & Hermine Scherer (Mike & Janice Scherer)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 (2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16/ROM 16:25-27/LK 1:26-38)

7:30 AM † Rita Nowak (Mark Schroeder)

9:00 AM ‡ Faithful of the Great Grouping

11:00 AM † Michael Arrigan (Food Collection Committee)

7:00 PM † Anna & Philip Burda (Marianne Burda)

## OUR NEWEST CHRISTIANS

### Flora Mae Hook

*Brandon & Kaitlin (Foley) Hook*

## OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

### Maria Schaller-Ammer

*Mother of Walter Schaller*

### Robert Bestwick Jr.

*Father of Karen Bricker*

### LaVerne Borgelt

*Mother of Errol (Susan) Borgelt*

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*Weekend of November 29*

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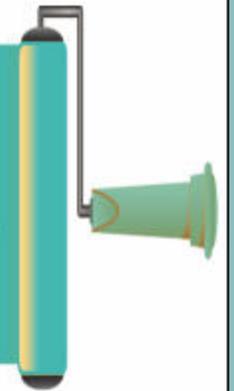


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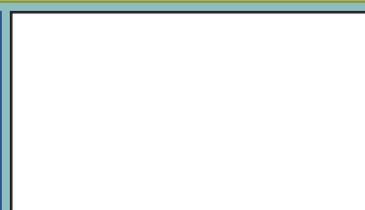
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Monday, December 14

7:00 PM Respect Life (Virtual)

### Tuesday, December 15

2:00 PM Exploring Catholicism (Virtual)  
6:30 PM Welcome Retreat Formation (Virtual)  
7:00 PM RCIA (Virtual)  
7:00 PM Spousal Loss Support Group (Virtual)

### Wednesday, December 16

7:00 PM Longest Night (Church)  
7:00 PM Six Steps to Sanity (Virtual)

### Thursday, December 17

10:00 AM Spanish Rosary (Church)  
10:00 AM Holy Half Hour (Grotto)  
6:00 PM Confession (MPR/Nursery)  
7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)

### Friday, December 18

Nothing Scheduled

### Saturday, December 19

Bake Sale following Mass (Kitchen)  
7:00 AM Catholic Men's Fellowship (Virtual)  
10:00 AM WINGS (UCDC)  
4:00 PM Confessions (MPR/Nursery)

### Sunday, December 20

Bake Sale following Mass (Kitchen)  
10:00 AM Lectio Divina (Virtual)  
1:00 PM Flame of Love Cenacle (Grotto)

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Father Antoine Kairouz, Maronite Priest-in-residence  
Deacon Anthony Giordano, Deacon James Olson, Deacon Tom Boucek

## REGULAR MASS & CONFESSION TIMES



8:00 AM Good Samaritan  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul



7:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
5:30 PM CONFESSION at Good Samaritan  
6:30 PM Good Samaritan



8:00 AM Saint John the Baptist  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul



7:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
8:00 AM Our Lady of Peace  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
6:00 PM CONFESSION at Saints John & Paul



8:00 AM St. John the Baptist  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
1st Friday 7:00 PM Saints John & Paul



9:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
3:00 PM CONFESSION at Quigley  
4:00 PM Beaver Valley Vigil Mass at Quigley  
4:00 PM CONFESSION at Saints John & Paul  
5:00 PM Vigil Mass at Saints John & Paul



7:30 AM Saints John & Paul  
8:00 AM Beaver Valley Mass at Quigley  
9:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
9:30 AM Beaver Valley Mass at Quigley  
11:00 AM Beaver Valley Mass at Quigley  
11:00 AM Saints John & Paul  
7:00 PM Saints John & Paul  
4:00 PM Spanish Mass at Quigley

*For Holy Day & Holiday times, please see Week Ahead*

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