

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 20, 2020 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Annunciation," by Caravaggio, c.1608

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT + DECEMBER 20, 2020

PROCESSIONAL—"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all humankind; Bid thou our sad divisions cease, And be thyself our Prince of Peace.

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—2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"'It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

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

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. (R.)

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations." (R.)

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm." (R.)

SECOND READING—Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL—Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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—"Lo, How a Rose Blooming"

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, As those of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, This Rose I have in mind, With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior, When half spent was the night.

Text: 76 76 6 76; based on Isaiah 11:1; trad. German carol, 15th cent.; tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt. Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1599. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE# A-718331 All rights reserved.

RECESSIONAL—"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; Behold the King of glory waits! The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.

So come, my Sov'reign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin; Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

Text: LM; based on Psalm 24; George Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878. Music: Williams' Psalmody Evangelica, Part II, 1789. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE# A-718331 All rights reserved.



OUR LORD STILL COMES TO US

If we think we are having it tough in our communities, imagine France: first, the billowing fires of their iconic church—Notre Dame of Paris; then, just a few weeks ago in Nice, three people were brutally murdered. As one of the victims said with their last breath, “Please tell my children that I love them.” Since 2015, 263 such murders have happened at the hands of Islamic terrorists.

Father Stephane Drillon, a priest of the Diocese of Nice puts these tragedies in context:

“What do French secularism and nihilism have to propose to a young Muslim today, apart from abortion, the Pill, drugs, castrating feminism, games, hobbies and a lockdown where people are paid for not working?” he said. “There is nothing here that makes a young Muslim willing to become part of a national narrative or to respect the country that welcomes them, and the choice to take refuge in the religion of their ancestors and homelands in a most radical manner is one of the few options they have.”

The culture of secularism in our country has successfully infiltrated our US Catholic Church where our values and way of life seemingly are no different than non-Catholics. Many who call themselves Jesus’ followers are only following the next secular trend, like lemmings. COVID time and election season have quarantined many from keeping Holy the Sabbath and the reception of the Eucharist.

Due to lockdowns and the secular climate, some of us choose hybrid lives—appearing Catholic in name but interiorly worshipping our convenience culture. Jesus Christ will never stop being “the hound from heaven” who is in search of us. But we must freely give ourselves completely from the heart to Jesus in a trustful surrender despite the heroic challenges this might cause.

“It is not by closing our churches or by curling up in rectories that we will avoid beheadings: On the contrary, the first thing the Catholics should do is to massively rush to Mass tomorrow morning and unite with Christ,” Father Drillon said. “It is a duty, especially at a time when the French authorities could decide to forbid it in the whole country.”

This Advent season—the days leading up to Our Lord’s birth—we need to make room for Him in the inn of our hearts, minds and daily life. Remember that one biblical character who never seems to make our Nativity scenes: the Inn Keeper, who had no room for the hidden, pre-born Jesus. Let us make room for Jesus by receiving his Eucharist and opening our hearts to make a manger, as Mary and Joseph did.



“THE FIRST THING THE CATHOLICS SHOULD DO IS TO MASSIVELY RUSH TO MASS.”

THE MYSTERY KEPT SECRET

THE CATECHIST COLUMN

JASON GAWALDO

Director of Faith Formation

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In this fourth and final Sunday of Advent, we read the final few verses of St.

Paul's *Letter to the Romans*. This doxology concludes and summarizes his only systematic presentation of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

As we approach Christmas, one line from this reading really stands out: Jesus Christ is the "mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings." The word mystery is used 28 times throughout the New Testament. St. Paul uses it in his *Letter to the Colossians* where he speaks of "the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (*Colossians 1:27*). The mystery manifested at Christmas was not simply an infant Messiah but the Divine Messiah who lives within his disciples as our hope of glory.

Do not let this final week of Advent, these last days of 2020, this unusual celebration of Christmas, be just another time to reminisce about the past and look to the future. The Christmas story is about the mystery becoming manifest, about God breaking through. Bethlehem is your heart. Mary and Joseph's difficult circumstances are the difficulties of your life. Mary did not expect the mystery to be manifested in her body, but the Holy Spirit made it so. In these waning days of Advent and of 2020, we all need to beg the Spirit to overshadow us, to let the mystery be manifest in us, to let it grow in us until the divine Messiah bursts forth into the difficult circumstance of our lives.

If we translate the word mystery (mysterion in Greek) into Latin, we get the word sacramentum or sacrament. A sacrament is an outward sign of an inner reality. The appearances of bread and wine are in reality spiritual food, Jesus' very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The outward sign of water brings about spiritual rebirth. Jesus Christ is the sacrament kept secret for long ages but now made visible, but how? In Jesus Christ, God and man are forever united. When I beg the Spirit to make this mystery (sacrament) manifest in me, I become a mystery (sacrament), an outward sign of an inner reality. Remember what St. Paul said to the Colossians, that the mystery or sacrament is Christ in me. The outward sign is me; the inner reality is Jesus Christ living in and through me, God and man united.

This week, the Spirit is reminding us that the build up to Christmas is not simply about remembering Mary's pregnancy and delivery. It is supposed to be about me being a God-bearer as well. How can that be? And yet it can be. St. Paul begins (1:5) and ends (16:26) his *Letter to the Romans* with the phrase "the obedience of faith." One interpretation of this phrase is the faith that causes one to obey even in the face of confusion and uncertainty, in the face of mystery. How can I, a human being, bear God in the world? I can start by looking to the only person to bear God in her womb, who once said, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (*Luke 1:38*). **Come, Holy Spirit. Come, oh come, Emmanuel.**

the

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

GOOD NEWS

THE FIRST CHURCH IS THE DEEPEST

The undated picture accompanying this article is from the vantage point of my parked car. It's a common stopover if I am in the vicinity of the old Annunciation Church at Charles and Norwood streets on Pittsburgh's North Side.

It's a church of another denomination now, certainly a worthier fate than a Catholic church turned into a brew pub. I was at the "last Mass" there several years ago where former priests came back for one final Celebration of the Eucharist. It was emotional to share memories with clergy and parishioners I hadn't seen in years. Unless, of course, you count North Side Catholic Cemetery where my parents are buried. My brother Jamie says that headstones in that specific area "look like the 12:15 PM Mass at Annunciation." Watch it, Jamie, we'll be there someday too!

The holiday season brings out the memories in me. I think about all the parishes I belonged to all over the Pittsburgh area, in Philadelphia and Texas, also. But the first parish where I was baptized, gave confession, received Communion, Confirmed and was an altar boy will always resonate and those memories seem to get even clearer and more compelling as the years drift past.

The chance to become an altar boy at Annunciation was not taken lightly. It was competitive. The Sisters of Saint Joseph called for recruits and there were drills and you better know your Latin even if you didn't know what it meant as you chanted it. The afternoon of "the cut" when our class was chosen was very emotional.

TOM ROONEY

Contributing Writer

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Those that didn't make the cut, well, the boys cried shamelessly. Our exhilaration of making the grade was tempered by sympathy for our friends sent home. It was worse than being cut by the grade school football team. Which I was. I couldn't walk and chew gum at the same time.

I have this recurring sequence in my memory chain of my mother getting me up at 5:30 AM to serve the 6:30 AM weekday Mass for an entire five-day stretch. Trudging through the virgin snow. Getting into the sacristy. Putting on the cassock and freshly ironed top and the scent of starch. Of putting out the holy books, bell ringer and filling the cruets with water and wine. Lighting the candles in the still-darkened church.

Checking the clock. 6:25. No priest. Crossing the open corridor through the snow to the rectory. In my formal dress. Ringing the doorbell over and over. "All right, all right," Father Bill said. "I'll be there." My altar boy partner and I weren't totally surprised. Father Bill had a habit of sleeping in.



I recall vividly the Stations of the Cross at Lent, baptisms and weddings—the latter a plum assignment because it usually meant a new \$5 bill. The funerals and going to the cemetery with the priest. For me, Annunciation—the first church—is the deepest. ●

exploring CATHOLICISM

Christ-centered conversations with Padre Jay

Every week, Father Jay sits down with a different guest to delve into who they are and how their faith informs their lives. It's a fun, funny, informative, and heartfelt exploration with people who are letting God work through them!



WATCH THEM ALL ON...

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facebook.com/BVParishes

You Tube

youtube.com/c/SaintsJohnPaul

Saints John & Paul



GIFT OF PRAYER

AND CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Intercessory prayer is a chance for us to intervene on someone else's behalf or for someone who cannot pray for themselves.

The *Christmas Flower donations* from our parishioners help to defray the cost of decorating our church with beautiful flowers during the Christmas season. On many of the *Christmas Flower* envelopes, our fellow parishioners are asking us to pray on their behalf, in honor of their loved ones who remain here with us, and in memory of their faithful departed. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are given an opportunity to gather around the altar as a family and lift each other up in prayer. **We encourage you to pick up a prayer card located on the side ledges within the church. Each card will provide a name or names in need of your prayers. A prayer suggestion will also be provided on the card or you may choose your own prayer.**

In addition to the prayer request above, we are including prayers for the sick, listed weekly on page 15 of *Evangelion*. 'Pray-ers' and prayer name requests will be available on signupgenius.com for those who participate in Mass online, or in their car from the parking lot. A link to will be made available at greatgrouping.org. **We invite you to sign up for an individual via this link during the Advent and Christmas season by typing your name in the "volunteer" slot next to the name selected.** Your personal information will remain private and will not be shared with other parishioners on the signup sheet.

Let us join together and offer up our daily prayers as a "Spiritual Bouquet" to Jesus for our church family living here with us, and for the faithful departed. The flowers around the altar will be an outward sign of our prayers united this Advent and Christmas season ending on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 10, 2021.

—Sue Simon

VIAL OF LIFE



We have a duty to God, our families, and society not only to take care of our health but to take precautions that will maximize the chances of a successful outcome if we become seriously ill. I can tell you from professional and personal experience how valuable accurate medical condition, medication, and allergy information is to emergency medical personnel, as well as the doctors and nurses who would take care of you in the hospital.

And think of the comfort it would give your loved ones if they didn't have to be rummaging through your cabinets and paperwork to figure out your medical conditions and medications when minutes count. The Vial of Life simplifies this process and makes it more reliable.

So this Advent Season, please consider participating in this worthy program. Think of it as a gift to your family and yourself.

—Andrea Grennan, RN, MSN, FCN

PURPOSE: The *Vial of Life* makes it easier for people to have medical information available in one place so family and rescue workers can locate it in an emergency.

WHAT IS THE VIAL OF LIFE?: It is an empty prescription bottle containing the following:

1. A form to list your prescription and over the counter medications as well as vitamins, minerals, supplements, herbal remedies, etc. Topical medication should also be listed.
2. A form to provide important medical information such as health conditions, allergies, surgeries, health insurance, doctors, emergency contact information, etc. Please update as necessary.
3. A vial of life participant sticker

WHO IT IS FOR?: It is useful for seniors, those with chronic health conditions, those with special needs, or anyone who feels they can benefit by it.

WHY?: Being a participant allows Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel who are familiar with the program and family quick and easy access to important health information in an emergency situation when time is of the essence. Having this information in one place prevents scrambling to gather it under stressful circumstances which can lead to a delay in obtaining necessary medical attention. The information will alert rescue workers of any allergies, chronic health ailments, or health conditions they need to know about to treat you effectively.

It is especially useful during flu season and now during the pandemic.

WHERE THE VIAL SHOULD BE STORED: The vial should be stored on the top shelf of the refrigerator and be visible at all times. It also can be placed in a glove compartment of your car.

WHERE THE STICKER SHOULD BE PLACED: The sticker should be placed either on your front door, if the vial is placed in your refrigerator, or on your car windshield if the vial is placed in your glove compartment indicating to EMS that you are a participant in the program. They will know the *Vial of Life* is in the refrigerator or glove compartment upon seeing the sticker.

HOW TO OBTAIN A VIAL OF LIFE: Vials will be available before and after each Mass in the narthex. Please ask a member of the Welcome Committee for one.

The *Vial of Life* program has been supported by the Saints John & Paul Men's Club, CVS Wexford, Giant Eagle Wexford, and Medicap Pharmacy Millvale. We are grateful to all our supporters!

CRITICAL COVID-19 SAFETY REMINDERS!



FATHER JOE CARR
Parish Chaplain
frjoecarr@me.com

AS ALWAYS,
**9AM MASS IS
LIVESTREAMED**
DAILY FROM
SAINTS JOHN & PAUL,
AND **8AM MASS**
ON SUNDAYS FROM
QUIGLEY.

LISTEN TO MASS
FROM THE PARKING
LOT ON **98.5FM**
**AT SAINTS JOHN &
PAUL, AND 89.7FM**
**ON WEEKENDS AT
QUIGLEY.**

For details, visit
greatgrouping.org

As Parish Chaplain to our Great Grouping, it has been an honor to visit many parishioners in nursing homes and hospitals. At our most recent clergy meeting, we discussed the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the local hospitals and on our own parishioners.

COVID-19 cases are now at an all-time high. The PA Health Department issued an order on November 17 mandating that masks be worn indoors and outdoors if you are away from your home. Out of concern for our parishioners, and in response to a significant number of emails from parishioners, the Clergy Team has issued the following guidelines:

- Masks must be worn at all times when attending Mass or while visiting parish offices.
- Masks must cover both the mouth AND the nose.
- Please remember to maintain a social distance of six feet during Communion, and when entering or exiting the church.
- **COMMUNION ON THE TONGUE:**
For those choosing to receive Communion on the tongue, please wait and enter the end of the Communion line. The priest or deacon will sanitize his hands before moving to the next section of the church to distribute Communion.

While these guidelines may upset some people, they are necessary for the physical and emotional well-being of our parishioners. As the cases of the virus continue to grow, some parishioners will stop coming to church if they do not feel safe. What's more, there is a legitimate concern that there may be an attempt to lock down the churches once again as they did several months ago. I would hate to see us go back to limiting funeral Masses to 10 attendees.

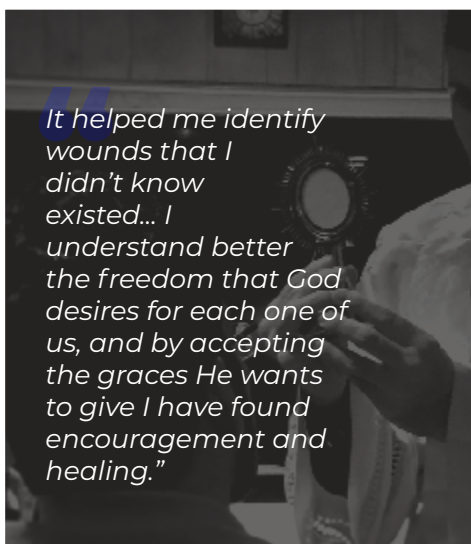
Even if you do not agree with these guidelines, please take into consideration the stress that could be caused in numerous parishioners if we fail to abide by them—particularly for those with underlying conditions.

Please pray for the safety of our staff and fellow parishioners as we weather this storm together.

May God bless and keep you all.



"This gave me a sense of what the first disciples may have experienced as they followed and learned from Jesus together."



"It helped me identify wounds that I didn't know existed... I understand better the freedom that God desires for each one of us, and by accepting the graces He wants to give I have found encouragement and healing."



What is it?

The Way, our discipleship forum, is a two-month formation experience for those who have been awakened to a personal relationship with Jesus and are wondering, "what's next?" In The Way, you will discover how to live as a disciple of Jesus in today's world. Each cohort has no more than 20 participants.

What to expect

- » A live group experience, in person or online
- » Teachings on the spiritual life
- » Guided spiritual exercises
- » A community of faith
- » Group and private prayer
- » Personal growth along the path of healing
- » Large and small group discussion
- » Registration Fee: \$50 (\$35 for Online Cohorts)

Join an upcoming cohort at
mtyryou.org/the-way



"It's an intimate fellowship that I have not seen much of in the Catholic Church...I was deeply impacted by this fantastic opportunity."



Upcoming Cohorts:

Starting in January
Tuesdays, 1 – 3 p or
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p

Starting in March
Tuesdays, 10 a – 12 p or
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p

Saints John & Paul



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 PM Mass will be livestreamed

CHRISTMAS DAY 8 & 10 AM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
NEW YEAR'S EVE (Vigil) • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 5 PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY • FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021 9 AM

Visit greatgrouping.org for all
Mass, Confession & Adoration times,
for links to our livestream broadcasts,
and much more!

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 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.

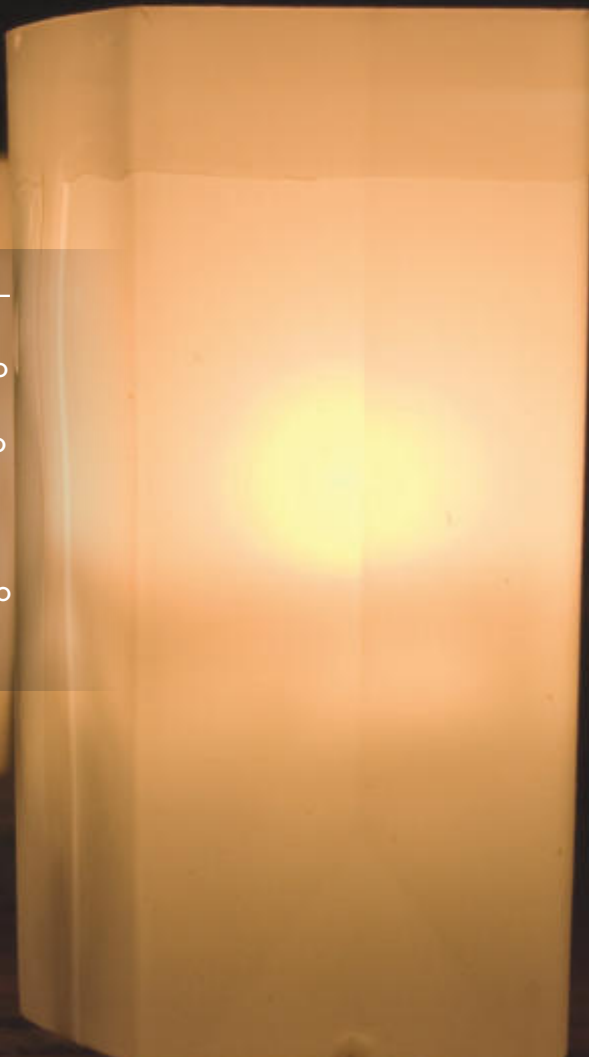
SAVE THE DATE

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

Marie Pfau, Respect Life Committee
mariegpfaugmail.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.

BIBLE STUDY

Revelation Bible Study registration is open. The study will begin the week of January 11. greatgrouping.org/bible-study.

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 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!

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

We issue a monthly email to all of our registered parishioners at the beginning of each month. We also email important COVID-19 related updates. If you are not receiving these emails please sign up online at greatgrouping.org/welcome.

OFFICES CLOSED

Our offices will be closed **Thursday, December 24 through Sunday, January 3**. We will be back in the office on Monday, January 4. If you need a priest during this time please contact Deacon Tony Giordano at (724) 385-8628.

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

NUT/POPPYSEED/APRICOT ROLL BAKE SALE

Volunteers from the Beaver Valley Parishes will be in the Conference Room/Kitchen on the lower level of 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. If you wish to attend the meetings, you must register in advance at the following website: divorcecare.org/groups/128566

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1

Saints John & Paul will celebrate a Vigil Mass on December 31 at 5:00 PM and a Mass on January 1 at 9:00 AM.

Beaver Valley Parishes will celebrate a Vigil Mass on December 31 at 5:00 PM and a Mass on January 1 at 9:00 AM, both at Quigley.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

† Memorial Mass ‡ Mass for Spiritual & Physical Wellness

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 (SG 2:8-14/LK 1:39-45)

9:00 AM † Jackie Bachinsky (Rick & Nancy Piotrowski)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 1 SM 1:24-28/LK 1:46-56)

7:00 AM † Gary Price (Mike Miniotas)

9:00 AM † Anna & Philip Burda (Marianne Burda)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 (MAL 3:1-4, 23-24/LK 1:57-66)

9:00 AM † Fr. Theodore Rutkowski (Great Grouping Priests)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 (GN 49:2, 8-10/MT 1:1-17)

*2:00 PM Living & Deceased Members of the Wagurak & Weigand Families (Weigand Family)

*4:00 PM Living & Deceased Members of the Kokai & Feduska Families (Drs. John & Linda Kokai)

6:00 PM † Eileen & Bill Dimond & Christopher Groetsch (Dimond Family)

8:00 PM ‡ Faithful of the Great Grouping

10:00 PM † Frances Young (Heidi McMurry)

* CDC Masses ‡ Faithful of the Great Grouping

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 (IS 9:1-6/TI 2:11-14/ LK 2:1-14)

8:00 AM † Ron Misencik (Randy & Donna Wise)

10:00 AM † Rose Melda Abbott (Rice Family)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 (ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59/MT 10:17-22)

9:00 AM † Joseph & Clara Giuffre (Clare Giuffre)

5:00 PM † Francis & Mary McLoughlin (Joe & Noreen Fischer Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 (GN 15:1-6; 21:1-3/HEB 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/LK 2:22-40)

7:30 AM † Gary Price (Keith & Rosemary Boyce)

9:00 AM ‡ Faithful of the Great Grouping

11:00 AM † Virginia Eyerman (Tom & Christine Vincent)

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Gregory T. Weaver, Sr.

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Weekend of December 6

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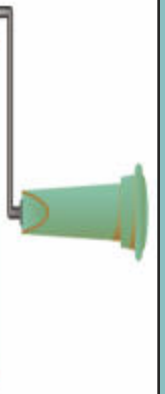


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THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 21

7:00 PM Men's Club (Virtual)

Tuesday, December 22

2:00 PM Exploring Catholicism (Virtual)

6:30 PM Welcome Retreat Formation (Virtual)

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 PM Six Steps to Sanity (Virtual)

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

2:00 PM Mass (Church)

4:00 PM Mass (Church & Upper CDC)

6:00 PM Mass (Church & Upper CDC)

8:00 PM Mass (Church)

10:00 PM Mass (Church)

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

8:00 AM Mass (Church)

10:00 AM Mass (Church)

Saturday, December 26

7:00 AM Catholic Men's Fellowship (Virtual)

4:00 PM Confessions (MPR/Nursery)

Sunday, December 27

10:00 AM Lectio Divina (Virtual)

1:00 PM Flame of Love Cenacle (Grotto)

Father Jay Donahue, Administrator—(412) 697-5876 | seefrjay@gmail.com

Father John Batykefer, Sr. Parochial Vicar—(724) 470-6689 | frjib317@gmail.com

Father Michael Roche, Parochial Vicar—fatherroche@gmail.com

Father Joe Carr, Parish Chaplain—(412) 867-8673 | frjoecarr@me.com

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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