

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

GREAT PARISH GROUPING + BEAVER VALLEY EDITION

# Evangelion

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



HE is HERE! | January 10, 2021 | The Baptism of the Lord

# THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD + JANUARY 10, 2021

## **PROCESSIONAL—“When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized”**

When Jesus comes to be baptized, He leaves the hidden years behind, the years of safety and of peace, to bear the sins of humankind.

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## **GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **FIRST READING—Isaiah 55:1-11**

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

## **RESPONSORIAL—Isaiah 12**

**Response: We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully; we shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of salvation.**

We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully; we shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of salvation. (R.)

Give thanks, O Give thanks to the Lord; give praise to his holy name! Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations; proclaim his greatness. (R.)

Sing a psalm, sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds. Make known his works to all of the earth; people of Zion, sing for joy, for great in your midst, great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

## **SECOND READING— 1 John 5:1-9**

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

## **GOSPEL—Mark 1:7-11**

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

## **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.

## **RECESSIONAL—"Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

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LET'S CELEBRATE

# 40 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JAY

I am struck how “Happy Holidays” greetings, the tinsel of shopping commercials, and the emotionalism of the Hallmark Channel seem to start early in November, then crescendo with vague platitudes of New Year’s peace, prosperity and positivity. This can leave us with rising expectations unmet by draining schedules, the disappointment of Zoom calls, and January bills to pay for presents. The sentiments can be warm for a while but usually don’t abide for the longterm.

When I lived in Rome, a favorite pastime of mine was going to the crèche at St. Peter’s square and praying in front of the life-sized images. I was struck by how the Pope would tenderly bless the baby Jesus (the *Bambinelli*) or the baby Jesus statues—for “the Nativity Scene is like a living Gospel”—on the third Sunday of Advent, and then not put baby Jesus away until 40 days after Christmas! I so enjoyed this prayerful contemplation until February 2nd (the *Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple*). There is no law saying when you have to take down your nativity set, but there is good reason to extend it beyond the 12 days of Christmas to 40 days. Biblically, there is reason to think this is what the Holy Family faithfully did... as faithful Israelites did: Eight days after a boy’s birth was his circumcision, and 33 days later came the presentation in the Temple. So, 40 days after Christmas there is a deep-rooted tradition in many Catholic countries to finalize the celebration of Christmas with the blessing of candles and throats, serving special foods and celebrating religious life.

In fact, one enjoyable Mexican tradition ties *Epiphany* to the *Presentation* by offering an Epiphany King Bread that was baked with a little baby Jesus inside. Whomever got the piece with baby Jesus was to make tamales and host the February 2nd conclusion to the Christmas season!

Now, all this might make you say, “Big deal! Whenever you get time, just take down the Christmas stuff and the nativity scene!” And why yes—do that. But I would consider taking the days leading up to the *Presentation of the Lord* to present to the Lord the disappointments of 2020, the current status of your soul today, and your dreams for 2021. Present yourself—your real self—not politically correct platitudes of utopia, the bright painted smiles of Hallmark, or the sounds of silver bells. For these things pass away and miss is the very reason for the season: Jesus.

Jesus Christ rescues us while still remaining in our earthly homes in this *COVID*-cultured world. Baby Jesus’ effect on Mary and Joseph are the same effect he wants to have in us: real cleansing from sin, real cradling of Himself and real love for our neighbor.

So when you see our Great Grouping parishes with our Nativity sets up through January, ask yourself, “Am I freer from attachments to sin, do I cradle baby Jesus into my life, and what acts of charity do I perform for love of my neighbor today?”

# GOD IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!

Fri, May 8, 8:57 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 8:25 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.

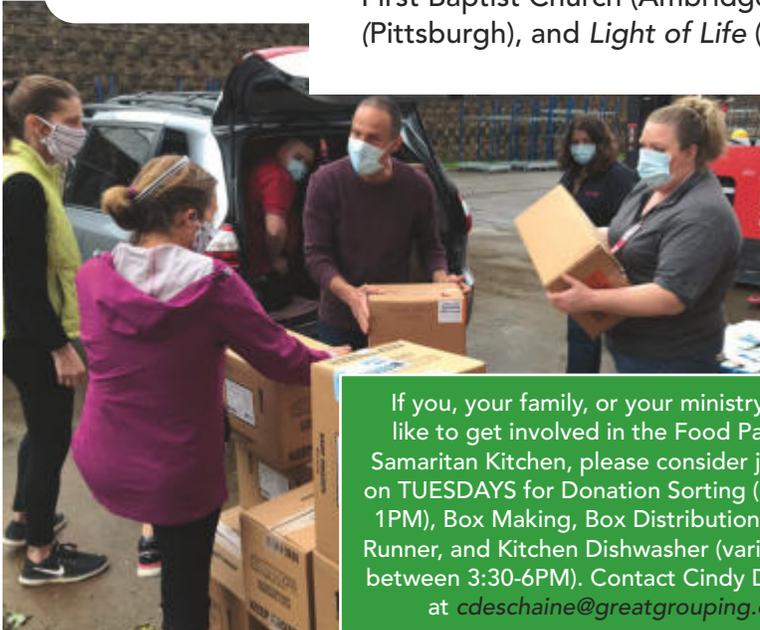
This is how I describe our gratitude toward Costco in Cranberry these past 8 months, as they have donated carload after carload of perishable food items to feed our local families who suffer from food insecurities.

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).

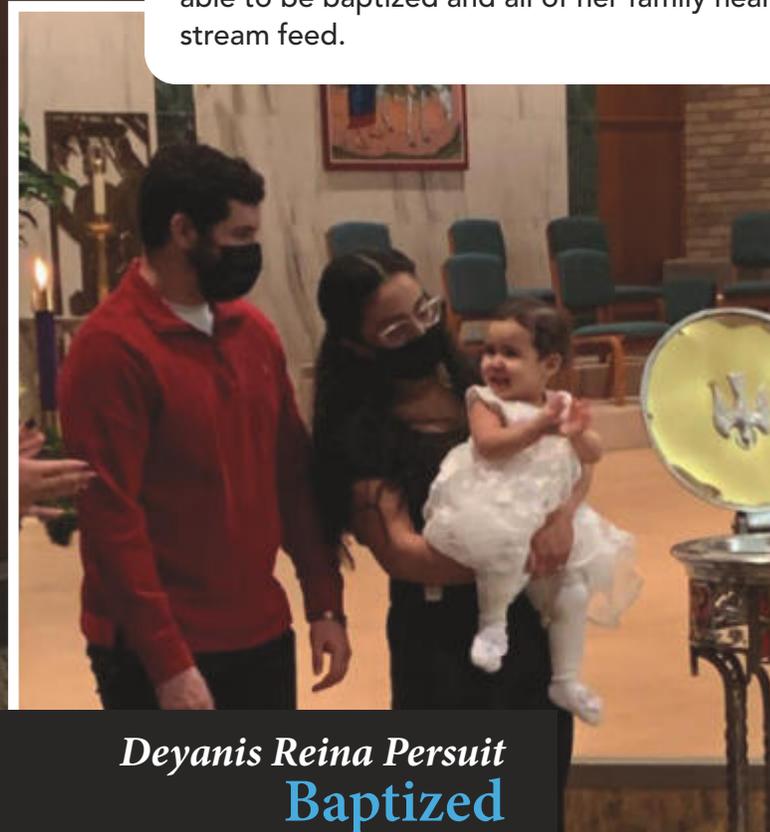
# BAPTIZED IN



**A**s we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord this week, two families share the deep and lasting blessings of Baptizing their child during a pandemic.

Fourteen month old Deyanis Reina Pursuit is the daughter of Derek and Yaneydis who recently moved back to Ambridge from Lancaster, PA. Yaneydis and her family are originally from the Dominican Republic and were grateful to Father Jay for providing the service in both English and Spanish. Yaneydis captured her gratitude, saying, "It was great for my daughter to be able to receive the Sacrament of Baptism especially during these uncertain times. My family was able to be a part of it, which was important to me. Everyone loved that Father Jay included my family by speaking Spanish."

Derek's sister Janelle said she was saddened at the thought of not having all family members present. She was amazed by the live streaming capabilities at Good Samaritan parish. Janelle continues, "This is important to us specifically because the families surrounding Deyanis are large and devoted." Baby Deyanis was finally able to be baptized and all of her family near and far could witness through the live stream feed.



*Deyanis Reina Pursuit*  
**Baptized**  
December 2020

# THE FAITH

“BAPTISM IS GOD’S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MAGNIFICENT GIFT...”

—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 121

Reagan Lynn, daughter of Chelsea and Cory Bates was also recently baptized. Her father, Cory expressed his feelings, saying, “It was very important for us to get Reagan baptized. I have so many great memories of going to church with my parents, both of whom have passed away. I hope to continue the Catholic traditions I was taught with Reagan. The pandemic only strengthened my thoughts and resolve on the importance of the Catholic faith. In these times of crisis and uncertainty, looking to religion for guidance is crucial. It is so important to stay connected and keep faith in God to get through these hard times.”

The Valley parishes of the Great Grouping are here for you and your families whatever your need may be. We will work with you to provide sacramental, emotional, and spiritual support as we travel through these times together.



Reagan Lynn Bates  
Baptized  
December 2020



## MASS INTENTIONS

We have opened our 2021 Mass Book. Forms are available online at [greatgrouping.org/online-forms](http://greatgrouping.org/online-forms), on the Welcome tables at the entries of Quigley or by calling the office (no walk-ins) at (724) 266-6565.

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## HOME BLESSING KITS

Home Blessing Kits are available at Quigley for people to take home.

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## SECOND COLLECTION

**January 16-17** is the Special Collection to benefit the students of St Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech. Thank you for your continued generosity.

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## ADORATION

Adoration is available Monday-Thursday 8AM-8PM at Our Lady of Peace. Questions? Deacon Tom Boucek [tboucek@greatgrouping.org](mailto:tboucek@greatgrouping.org).

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## 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. For more information 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)

## HAS YOUR PHONE NUMBER CHANGED?

Many of us have dropped our landlines in favor of our cell numbers. There are times when we need to reach you and if you no longer use the only phone number which we have in our database, that is not possible. If your number has changed, please call the parish office to update: (724) 266-6565.

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## 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](http://greatgrouping.org/welcome).

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## XLT

Ring in the New Year with XLT on **Wednesday, January 13, 7:00-8:30 PM, at Saints John & Paul** in the church. XLT is an evening of worship music led by our band Anchor1, an uplifting message from a guest speaker, and Eucharistic Adoration. All ages are welcome.

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## CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

The Good Samaritan Christian Mothers & Ladies Guild must postpone the January 17 Christian Mothers Anniversary celebration. We will reschedule at a later date.

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## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Many families are still food insecure. We are accepting food and monetary donations to be able to continue offering Tuesday hot meals and distribution of food boxes at Good Samaritan (3:45 PM-5:00 PM). Food donations may be dropped off at any of the Valley parishes and at Quigley on weekends. Donation checks may be made payable to "Good Samaritan Parish"—please note "Food Pantry" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at (724) 266-6565. Your continued support is so appreciated by local families.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 11** (Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20)

8:00 AM Good Samaritan • Lynn Berckmiller (Marge & Family)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12** (Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28)

6:30 PM Good Samaritan • Patsy Bevilacqua (Mary Bevilacqua)

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13** (Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39)

8:00 AM St. John the Baptist • Health & Welfare of Lyric Vetterly (Lieb Family)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14** (Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45)

8:00 AM Our Lady of Peace • For the Intention of the celebrant

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15** (Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12)

8:00 AM St. John the Baptist • Lynn Berckmiller (JoAnn Smith & Family)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16** (Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17)

4:00 PM Quigley • Lawrence Baptiste (Great Grouping Staff)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17** (1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42)

8:00 AM Quigley • Our Parents (Ed & Gerri)

9:30 AM Quigley • Teresa Montini (Deacon Tony)

11:00 AM Quigley • 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Anthony & Heather Valerino

4:00 PM Quigley • Spanish Mass

### OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

#### Debra Miketa

Parishioner of St. John the Baptist

#### Mary Watt

Parishioner of Good Samaritan

#### Joseph Bichey

Parishioner of Good Samaritan

### THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER

#### SANCTUARY CANDLE

(GS) In Memory of Lynn Berckmiller  
by Marge & Family

(OLOP) In Memory of Ronald Kennedy  
by Kennedy Family

(SJ) In Memory of Debbie Miketa  
by Jan Culp

### OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Christmas

#### GOOD SAMARITAN

Offering—\$ 8,185  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$43,080

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Offering—\$2,827  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$8,809

#### OUR LADY OF PEACE

Offertory—\$5,381  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$31,797

#### SAINTS JOHN & PAUL

Offertory—\$23,036  
Online Giving—\$1,510  
Christmas Charities—\$15,225

### OUR GIFTS TO GOD

For the weekend of December 27

#### GOOD SAMARITAN

Weekly Offering—\$16,252  
Online Giving—\$1,252  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$43,580

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Weekly Offering—\$1,332  
Online Giving—\$100  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$8,809

#### OUR LADY OF PEACE

Weekly Offertory—\$2,333  
Online Giving—\$1,391  
Parish Share to Date—  
\$32,647

#### SAINTS JOHN & PAUL

Weekly Offertory—\$10,375  
Online Giving—\$8,007  
Parish Share—\$6,400  
Parish Share Online—\$1,080



## CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM FOCUS ON THE CAREGIVER

For Caregivers of older adults & Grandparents raising grandchildren

Complete an assessment, financial verification, and a care manager will create a care plan that may include benefits counseling, caregiver training and emotional support.

Beaver County Office on Aging  
Call Teresa 724-847-2262 CSP@bcoa.us

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Monday, January 11

4:00 PM Catechsis of Good Shepherd (OLOP)  
6:00 PM Catechsis of Good Shepherd (OLOP)  
6:30 PM Grief Share (Virtual)

### Tuesday, January 12

1:00 PM Catechsis of Good Shepherd (OLOP)  
4:00 PM Outreach Samaritan Kitchen (GS)  
5:30 PM Confessions (GS)  
7:15 PM Pastoral Council Mtg (GS)

### Wednesday, January 13

10:00 AM Catechsis of Good Shepherd (OLOP)  
6:30 PM Choir Practice (GS)

### Thursday, January 14

10:00 AM Catechsis of Good Shepherd (OLOP)

### Friday, January 15

6:30 PM Marian Prayer Group (GS)

### Saturday, January 16

3:00 PM Confessions (Quigley)

### Sunday, January 17

11:30 AM Maronite Mass  
2:00 PM CCM Anniversary Mass (GS)

Father Jay Donahue, Administrator—(412) 697-5876 | [seefrjay@gmail.com](mailto:seefrjay@gmail.com)  
Father John Batykefer, Sr. Parochial Vicar—(724) 470-6689 | [frjib317@gmail.com](mailto:frjib317@gmail.com)  
Father Michael Roche, Parochial Vicar—[fatherroche@gmail.com](mailto:fatherroche@gmail.com)  
Father Joe Carr, Parish Chaplain—(412) 867-8673 | [frjoecarr@me.com](mailto: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*

## HELP LINES

**24 Hour Child Abuse Hotline**  
**1-800-932-0313**

**Crisis Pregnancy Option Line**  
**1-800-395-4357**

**Post-Abortion Healing/Project Rachel**  
**(412) 456-3167**

**Pittsburgh Diocese Victim Assistance**  
**1-888-808-1235**

**Crisis Management Services**  
**1-888-796-8226**

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

As Catholics, we believe that Christ becomes truly present within the Blessed Sacrament. As promised by Him, His Presence is abiding, not something that vanishes at the conclusion of Mass. During Eucharistic Adoration, we can sit silently in His Presence and open ourselves to His Graces.

