

Church of the Beloved Disciple

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

1310 S. Center St. Ext.

724-748-6700

Grove City PA 16127

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



STAFF

Rev. V. David Foradori, *Pastor, ext. 111*

Rev. Mr. Owen Wagner, *Deacon, ext. 110*

724-748-6700

www.BelovedDiscipleParish.org

secretary@beloveddiscipleparish.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs.

9:00am — 12 Noon, 1:00pm — 4:00pm

Friday: Closed

MISSION STATEMENT

We, The Church of the Beloved Disciple, Are Called By Our
Baptism to Worship God through Liturgy and the Sacraments,
to Serve Others by Ministering to the Community
and to Actively Spread the Gospel.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses:

4:30pm Saturday Evening

8:00am Sunday Morning

11:00am Sunday Morning

Daily Masses: 8:00am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Adoration: Thursday; 2-4pm

Holy Day Masses: As scheduled in the bulletin

God is Good, All the Time.



Our facilities are entirely handicap accessible.

A Message from Deacon Owen,

Doubt is just a powerful feeling and thought. It can cloud just about everything we do. Doubt saps and drains away courage, logic and of course faith. It is to my mind the most difficult situation a person can find themselves in prior to entering the sad realm of denialism. When a person is in doubt trust is pushed aside and many vices seem to just trickle into a person's soul and behavior. I haven't encountered any situation in my own life where doubt was helpful. Being unsure is one thing; but when in doubt it is as if I am frozen and able to function as I should, and how God would want me to behave.

Advent is the season of hope and only Hope can overcome doubt. Not a wishful hope but a hope based on Christian affection and a sincere desire to seek happiness. During Advent we have story after story after story in the Scriptures that remind us to not enter into doubt. The often-used phrase "Be not afraid" is used over and over to calm our fears and give guidance to what is really going on inside our minds and soul.

This is not a time of doubt but a time of Hope. Hope that is based on the truth of the Gospel, the story of Love. For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to us to save us from our mind-numbing doubts, which leads us to sinful thoughts words and deeds. God, through Jesus, is coming to each of us to strengthen us, to cast aside our doubts, to have faith and trust in God and one another.

This Sunday readings remind us of that and the celebration of Christmas which we going to enjoy this coming week calls us to reaffirm our courage and faith. It may look different this year in many respects, but none the less let us take the time this day and this week to cast aside our doubts and step into the mystery of the Incarnation, the Birth of Jesus. When we do encounter the Incarnation, the power of Hope will shine the light of Christmas into our lives with the promise of true Christian affection for others and happiness that only God's Spirit can give. Merry Christmas! Peace, Deacon Owen

Book Club Update:

Our next book(s) are "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens (in keeping with the holiday spirit) and the "Chisbury Ladies Choir" by Jennifer Ryan. Both are available on line. The meeting for these two books will be on December 30, again 11:00 AM or 7:30 PM. Information on how to connect will be provided in December. Call Deacon Owen in the Parish Office if there are questions or concerns.

Parish Prayer Opportunities: For the week of Dec 20 there will be an abbreviated week of on line (via ZOOM) prayer opportunities. Join us as we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. On Christmas Evening we will have a Evening Prayer session for those that can join in our celebration.

Owen Wagner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CBD Evening Prayer

Dec 20, 2020 07:00 PM, Dec 21, 2020 07:00 PM, Dec 22, 2020 07:00 PM

Meeting ID: 852 3444 7269 Passcode: 144934

Topic: Rosary at Noon

Dec 21, 2020 12:00 PM Dec 22, 2020 12:00 PM Dec 23, 2020 12:00 PM

Meeting ID: 890 2259 5567 Passcode: 316093

Topic: Christmas Evening Prayer

Time: Dec 25, 2020 07:00 PM

Meeting ID: 838 2491 6869 Passcode: 944552

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that “more” needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp? ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Today’s reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of “salvation history?” **Second Reading:** Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent? **Gospel:** Today’s Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary’s acceptance of God’s will for her life (“May it be done to me according to your word.”) models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith? ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: What is the difference between apostles and disciples

Answer: When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus’ closest collaborators. The word *apostle* essentially means “one who is sent forth” or, as we might think of it today, “an ambassador.” The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus’ inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord’s name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the “apostle to the apostles.” In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time. When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, *disciple* literally means “student” or, more specially, an “apprentice learner.” The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

Mass Schedule for the Week

Monday, December 21

8:00am Mae Benson –

Knights of Columbus Council #3658

SG 2: 8-14, LK 1: 39-45

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Tuesday, December 22

8:00am Father Mike – Rodney Chiodo

1 SM 1: 24-28, LK 1: 46-56

Wednesday, December 23

MAI 3: 1-4; 23-24, LK 1: 57-66

St. John of Kanty, Priest

Thursday, December 24

Morning: 2 SM 7: 1-16, LK 1: 67-79

Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:30PM For Those We Honor and Remember

In Our Christmas Memorials

7:00PM For Those We Honor and Remember

In Our Christmas Memorials

10:00PM For Those We Honor and Remember

In Our Christmas Memorials

Vigil: IS 62: 1-5, ACTS 13: 16-17; 22-25,, MT 1: 1-25

Friday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

9:30am For Those We Honor and Remember

In Our Christmas Memorials

IS 52: 7-10, HEB 1: 1-6, JN 1: 1-18

Saturday, December 26

Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:30pm Anthony and Jim Gregory –

Tom Gregory

JGS 13: 2-7; 24-25, LK 1: 15-25

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Sunday, December 27,

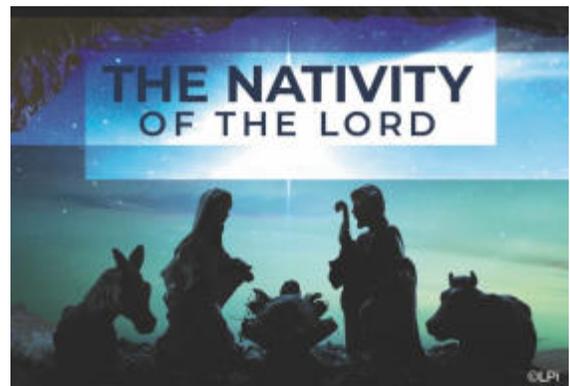
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00am (B) Donna Peters –

Jack and Nancy Leone

11:00am For the Living and Deceased

Members of Our Parish



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensées*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPi



Advent 2020

Christmas /New Year's Liturgical Schedule

Church of the Beloved Disciple

COME JOIN US THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON!

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY: 4:30PM, SUNDAY: 8:00AM AND 11:00AM

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CONFESSIONS

EVERY SATURDAY FROM 3:30PM – 4:15PM

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:30PM VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:00PM VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:00PM VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

9:30AM MASS SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY MASSES

NEW YEAR'S DAY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2021

8:00AM MASS SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

11:00AM MASS SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

LAST CHANCE CONFESSION:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH FROM 1:00PM– 2:00PM

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-Mail _____

Please check one: _____

I am new in the parish and wish to register _____

Change of Address _____

Moving out of Parish _____

Capital Campaign News: 152 Families

Pledged: \$ 139,200.36 Paid: \$134,889.11 Due: \$8,498.00

Catholic Service Appeal 163 Families

Pledged: \$93,174.00 Paid: \$72,363.00 Due: \$18,383.00

Joseph Bandi, ext. 113 *Liturgical Music, Weddings*Mikey Bancroft, ext. 100 *Parish Secretary, Outreach*Angie Felicetty, ext. 112 *LIFT Team, Sacramental Prep*Tina Greig, ext. 113, *Director of Liturgical Music*Lisa Bablak, 115, *LIFT Secretary*Dianne Schleigh, *Liturgical Environment*Victoria Wagner, 116, *LIFT Team, Outreach*Lorie Wizorek, 724-748-6868 *Little Disciples Pre School*Tony Bancroft, *Custodian*James Shuey, *Custodian***Sacrificial Giving the Week
of December 6 & 13, 2020****Online Giving is Available****Call the office, we can help to set up
your online contributions.**

Families in Parish: 390 Envelopes Mailed: 352

Envelopes Used: 135

Online Givers: 46

Yearly Budget: 535,176.00**Weekly Budget: 11,149.50****Our Total: 14,472.00****Offertory — 9727.00****Loose—370.00****Monthly —3950.00****Sister Parish — 120.00****Capital Needs — 425.00****Religious Retirement— 2145.00****We have met 77% of our budget.
Thank you for mailing in your contributions!****Thank you so much for your
continued generous support!****New to our Community? Join our Parish!**

Welcome to our parish! Please contact the parish office for an appointment to register. We hope you will become a part of our parish family!

Mission of Friendship/Sister Parish For over thirty years, the Church of the Beloved Disciple has shared its resources with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Colonia, Mexico, which is located within the Archdiocese of Yucatan. We continue to offer them our heartfelt prayers and affection.

Sacramental Preparation For all Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Marriage and Holy Orders; or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), please call the parish office for information and assistance.

Pastoral Care of the Sick We are pleased to visit the sick or home-bound and administer the sacraments. Please contact the parish office to make the staff aware of your need. NOTE: Due to privacy laws effecting hospitals and care facilities families are asked to make our parish office aware of an admission so we don't miss visiting the sick.

Stewardship We ask that all families commit to sharing their time, talent and treasure to express their love of the Lord and His Church. All parishioners have something to offer to our Church; every gift is valued and appreciated.

CENTRAL BLOOD BANK**Community Blood Drive**

at the Knights of Columbus Hall

Monday, December 28th

1:00pm—7:00pm

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