

Christ Our Savior

Roman Catholic Parish

Diocese of Pittsburgh

December 20, 2020

SAINT BONIFACE CHURCH

2800 East Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

SAINT CYRIL CHURCH

3854 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

SAINT PETER CHURCH

720 Arch Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Sunday Masses

4:00 p.m. (Vigil) Saint Cyril Church

9:00 a.m. Saint Boniface Church

10:30 a.m. Saint Peter Church

11:00 a.m. Saint Cyril Church

Daily Masses

9:00 a.m. Saint Cyril Church
Mon - Sat

12:05 p.m. Saint Peter Church
Mon - Fri



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9:30 a.m.
Saint Cyril Church



Christ Our Savior Parish Office

3854 Brighton Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: 412-761-1552

Fax: 412-415-0707

www.cospgh.org



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Fr. Nicholas Vaskov, Pastor
Fr. Dam Nguyen, Senior Parochial Vicar
Fr. Lawrence DiNardo, in residence
Fr. Louis DeNinno, in residence
Fr. Ferdinand Okafor, in residence
Deacon Gery Pielin

December 20, 2020—4th Sunday of Advent

Reading I: 2 Sm 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 Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II: Rom 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: Lk 1:26-38

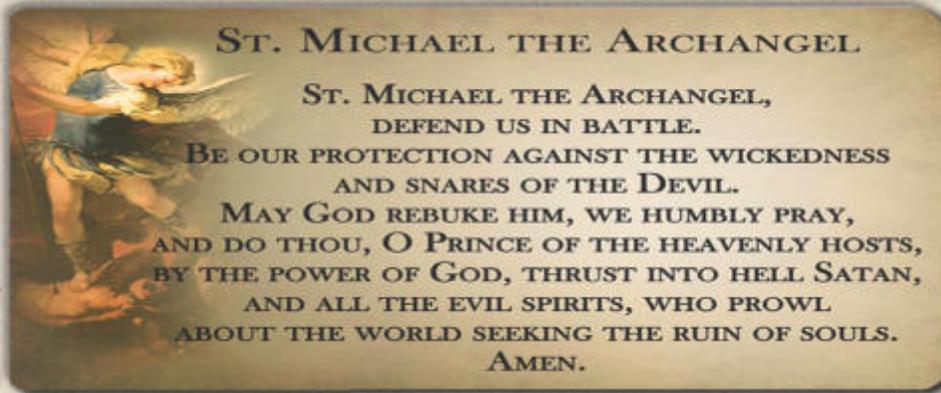
The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered 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.

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.



This week, the Sanctuary Candles in our church buildings are lit in honor of the following intentions:

**St. Cyril Church:
Veronica & Albert Markovich
(Nancy Markovich)**



Sharing of the oplatek (pronounced opwatek) is the most ancient and beloved of all Polish Christmas traditions. Oplatek is a thin wafer made of flour and water, similar in taste to the hosts that are used for communion during Mass. The Christmas wafer is shared before Wigilia, the Christmas Eve supper. The head of the household usually starts by breaking the wafer and then continues to share it with everyone at the Wigilia table. Wishes for peace and prosperity are exchanged and even the pets and farm animals are given a piece of oplatek on Christmas Eve. This tradition dates back

many centuries when a thin, flat bread called podplomyk was baked over an open flame and then shared with the family gathered around the fire on Christmas Eve. Patterns would be cut onto the bread to make breaking easier. This is why oplatki today still have patterns on them, usually of Nativity scenes.

If you would like to share in this beautiful tradition, packages of Oplatki are available in the vestibule after Mass this weekend and after Christmas Mass, while supplies last. A suggested donation of \$4.00 is requested to cover the cost.



**Altar Servers, Cantors, Choir Members, Eucharistic Ministers,
Lectors, and Ushers:**

Please stop by the sacristy after Mass this weekend or next to pickup a small gift of appreciation for your dedication to ministry.
Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

From the Desk of Father Nick



A few Christmases ago, my sister and brother-in-law took my now 5-year-old nephew Mac and now 3-year-old niece Anna to see Santa. After Mac told Santa that he wanted a dump truck for Christmas, Santa reached into his sack of toys and pulled out a wrapped gift for Mac, a little pre-Christmas present to tide him over until he opened present on Christmas Day. When Mac opened the gift, Santa had given him, wait for it, a **dump truck**! For anyone who doesn't think that Santa reads our letters and hears what we ask of him, I hope you'll reconsider now.

As we celebrate this last Sunday of Advent and the Christmas holiday, we are convinced that God has listened to and answered the requests of his people. After sending the patriarchs, judges and kings to lead his people, through the prophets they pleaded that he would send them a savior to free them from sin and death. Their prayers and pleadings did not fall upon deaf ears. Instead, at the appointed time, God sent his Son into the world to save us and lead us to everlasting life. While God had never failed to provide for his people and shepherd them as his precious flock, in sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to become one like us, God showed us the extent to which he was willing to humble himself so that we might always know how near he is to us.

As we joyfully celebrate Christmas and the mystery of the Word made flesh, may it not simply be a day for us to grow in love of family and friends as we gather for visits and meals. Let it, above all, be a day for us to grow in love for and trust in the God who loves us so much. As the generations before Christ patiently awaited the coming of the Savior, may we patiently await the ways in which God will continue to provide for us, especially if we feel our prayers and petitions are falling on deaf ears. Christ has come into the world and dwells among us so that we might always be at peace in the presence of the Lord. From the clergy and staff of Christ Our Savior Parish may you have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

CHRISTMAS MASS SIGN-UP

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the need for physical distancing, as well as not knowing how many people who have not been coming to Mass regularly and may choose to do so for Christmas, we are asking people to sign-up to attend the Mass of their choice. This will allow us to prepare for overflow Masses, if necessary, so that no one is turned away from Mass on Christmas.

You can sign-up yourself at www.cospgh.org/sign-up or call the parish office and we will register you. You will be asked to give your name, your phone number or e-mail address, and the number of people attending in your family.

Not signing-up will not prevent you from attending the Mass time of your choice. However, those who do register will be given preference in the church over the overflow location. Please encourage those who plan on attending Christmas Mass to sign-up.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAYS

In celebration of the holidays and in gratitude for all of the hard work our parish staff members undertake throughout the year, the parish offices will be closed beginning at Noon on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 and will not reopen until Monday, January 4, 2021. During this time, if you are in need of a priest for a sacramental emergency, please call (412)295-8876.

God bless!

Fr. Nick

CHRISTMAS 2020 & NEW YEARS 2021

Solemnity of Christmas

Holy Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

Thursday, December 24	4:00 p.m. at Saint Boniface Church
	4:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril Church
	4:00 p.m. at Saint Peter Church
	Midnight at Saint Boniface Church
Friday, December 25	9:00 a.m. at Saint Cyril Church
	10:30 a.m. at Saint Peter Church

*Overflow seating will be available in the church halls, if necessary.
Please sign-up for the Mass of your choice at www.cospgh.org/sign-up
or by calling the parish office at (412)761-1552*

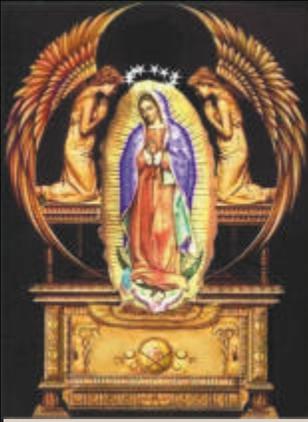


Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

Thursday, December 31	4:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril Church
	9:00 a.m. at Saint Boniface Church
Friday, January 1	9:00 a.m. at Saint Cyril Church
	10:30 a.m. at Saint Peter Church

**All times are subject to change based on changing COVID-19 restrictions.
Please visit www.cospgh.org or see the bulletin for updates.**



Scripture Reflection

The Covenant Ark of God Dwells In the House of King David and in the Womb of the Blessed Mary.

Like a tabernacle to the Catholics, Ark of Covenant stands for not only the national, religious and cultural identity of the chosen people, but also the very faithful presence of God and His divine closeness among His people. In good and bad times, in success and failure, God is in their midst to comfort and guide them.

David never forgets such faith traditions and values when he asks himself why he and his royal cohorts live luxuriously in the palace and mansions built of precious cedar while the Ark of God is in a simple tent and poorly constructed hut. With his keen observations and the advice of the Prophet Nathan, the king built a beautiful house for God, not merely to thank Him, but also to remind His people of the divine presence in their midst. Since then, his kingdom becomes wealthy and strong, gaining admiration from the tribe leaders and neighboring countries.

Mary likewise, a Jewish woman, comes from the family tree of King David. She never imagined that she would have been entrusted and chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the carrier of the new Ark of Covenant or the Ark of Salvation. At her visitation, she gets confused at the unusual greeting of the angel. Did God select Mary as the right person for His plan? Were David and Mary more competent and qualified than other contemporary people? Were their qualifications up to the task as the Covenant carriers?

God rarely calls the equipped, but He will equip those He calls. In fact, both David and Mary were called from their humble backgrounds. The former was the youngest son of Jesse's eight children, busy with shepherding his sheep in the field when he was called. The latter was simply a humble young country lady from the tiny village of Nazareth. She did not build a palace with precious stones and costly materials for God's house. Yet, she built a cozy home and family for God's dwelling. With her unselfish and self-emptying obedience, the Ark of the Covenant, Jesus himself had a safe place in her womb and in her flesh.

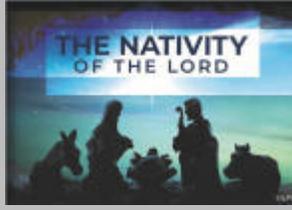
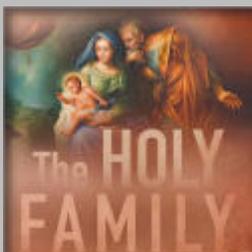
Do we have a house or home dignified and ready for God in this Advent?

Fr. Dam D. Nguyen

ADVENT PRAYER TREE

Advent calls us to be more prayerful as we await the coming of EMMANUEL (God with Us). Christ Our Savior Parish will have the ADVENT PRAYER TREE at all three sites. We invite you to write your prayers, petitions on the tags provided and place them on the prayer tree throughout the season of Advent. The weekend Masses will include a General Intercession for all the intentions you have placed on the prayer tree.

Mass Schedule for the Week of December 20, 2020

Date	Time	Location	Intention	Offered By
Sunday, December 20 Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8  Fourth Sunday in Advent	4:00 p.m. (vigil)	St. Cyril	Ray Kemmler	Arlene & Family
	9:00 a.m.	St. Boniface	Robert Ehrenberger	Wife & Children
	10:30 a.m.	St. Peter	Living & Deceased Members of St. Mary's Lyceum	St. Mary's Lyceum
	11:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Christine Feeser	Ron, Donna, & Bryan Kramer
Monday, December 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45	9:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Joanne Standish	
	12:05 p.m.	St. Peter	Seanna Donley	Swindal Family
Tuesday, December 22 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56	9:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Rose Gizzo	Dina Melaragno
	12:05 p.m.	St. Peter	Joseph Merry	
Wednesday, December 23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66	9:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Joanne Standish	
	12:05 p.m.	St. Peter	Antonina Bugajski	K.J.
Thursday, December 24 Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14	4:00 p.m.	St. Cyril	Joanne Standish	
	4:00 p.m.	St. Boniface	Sandy White	
	4:00 p.m.	St. Peter	James Harding	Family
	12:00 a.m.	St. Boniface	Eleanor Grundler	
Friday, December 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas) Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 	9:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Eleanor Grundler	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Peter	Lorraine Fithian	Pat Harding
	2:30 p.m.	St. Boniface	Vietnamese Mass	
Saturday, December 26 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22	9:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Eleanor Grundler	
Sunday, December 27 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/ Lk 2:22-40 	4:00 p.m. (vigil)	St. Cyril	Dale Pappert	Karyn Pappert
	9:00 a.m.	St. Boniface	Robert Ehrenberger	
	10:30 a.m.	St. Peter	James Harding	Donna Duffola & Family
	11:00 a.m.	St. Cyril	Living & Deceased Parishioners	

Christ Our Savior Parish

Staff

Business Manager -

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Sacramental Preparation -

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Faith Formation - faithformation@cospgh.org

Catechetical Administrator—

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David Butler stpetermm@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate -

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Youth Ministry -

Joann Giuffre —youth@cospgh.org

Maintenance - John Dey

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Fr. Lawrence DiNardo.....ldinardo@diopitt.org

Fr. Louis DeNinno.....ldeninno@diopitt.org

Fr. Ferdinand Okafor.....ferdggun@yahoo.com.au

Deacon Gery Pielin.....gpielin@diopitt.org

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Hugh Mulvey

Shirley Novak

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Sacraments

Baptism: Please contact Jean DiDonato for information of the requirements, conditions and options for baptisms. Classes for first time parents can be taken before or after their child's birth.

Matrimony: Arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance of the wedding date. Please contact the parish office.

Sick and Shut-ins: The Sacraments are available to those who are unable to celebrate Mass due to sickness or age. To make arrangements for visitation to your home, call the parish office.

Sacramental Sponsor: To be a Sacramental sponsor, one must be a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish.

Due to the early submission date, the stewardship update for December 13, 2020 will be included in next week's bulletin.



We welcome those who are interested in joining our parish family. We invite new members to complete a registration form, which can be submitted online through our website.

www.cospgh.org.

Northside Catholic Assumption Academy



ENTER TO LEARN

LEARN TO SERVE

Principal: Rosanne Kwiatkowski

kwiatkowski@ncaacademynow.org

Administrative Assistant: Helene Kocay

hkocay@ncaacademynow.org



G is for Gingerbread! Kindergarten B at Northside Catholic Assumption Academy is getting ready for Christmas by participating in Gingerbread week! All week long Kindergarten will be engaged in different reading and math activities all revolving around Gingerbread. Some of these include listening and comparing The Gingerbread Man and The Gingerbread Girl stories and creating their own gingerbread man or gingerbread girl with different 2D Shapes. At the end of the week students will design and create their own Graham Cracker Gingerbread House.

For more information on our preschool 3- 8th grade school, please give us a call at 412-761-5043.

Blessed, Merry Christmas to all of our parishioners at
Christ Our Savior Parish.



Northside Catholic Assumption Academy is looking for someone to help work in our Afterschool Program.

The paid position is Monday – Friday 2:30 – 6:00. Applicant must have all diocesan clearances.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Rosanne Kwiatkowski at 412-761-5043 or rkwiatkowski@ncaacademynow.org

Are you looking for a Christ centered, academically challenging, safe environment, and welcoming school for your child? Come and see Northside Catholic Assumption Academy! We offer full day 3 and 4 year old preschool programs, as well as the traditional half day two or three days a week. Our preschool through 8th grade boasts small class sizes – our largest class is 24 and the smallest is 13. Your child will receive individualized attention so that he or she can thrive! Our teachers are more than just certified by the state and accredited by the Diocese. They are dedicated teachers with an average of 20 years of experience in the Diocese. Our school is supported by the Extra Mile Education Foundation and has low tuition - \$3,600 for one child and \$4,200 for two or more children and generous financial aid. For more information on our school, give us a call at 412-761-5043 or email rkwiatkowski@ncaacademynow.org.



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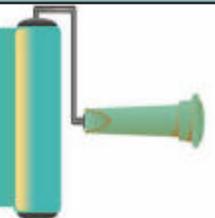


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