



November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Our Lady of Grace Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg | A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
 1011 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

Liturgical Schedule

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 10:30 a.m. (Interpreted Mass for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing)

Weekday and Holy Day Masses: Please see inside bulletin.



Parish Office.....724-838-9480

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

Parish website: www.ourladyofgracechurch.org

Aquinas Academy.....724-834-7940

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline.....724-837-5154

St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank.....724-836-0175

Albanese Hall.....724-836-8157

www.facebook.com/OLGGreensburgPA/

Rev. Daniel L. Blout, Pastor
Rev. Ryan C. Ravis, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Tyler J. Bandura, in Residence

Jason Blotzer,
Maintenance

Marisa Cazden,
Music Minister

Bob Chappell,
Youth Minister

Katrina Coleman,
Director of Parish Formation
& Evangelization



Kelly Dembiczak,
Coordinator of Parish Faith
Formation

Aurelia Sabol
Business Manager

Dorothy Skoloda,
Secretary

Donna Stewart,
Secretary

Tom Stumpo,
Maintenance Supervisor

Mission Statement

Our Lady of Grace, founded in 1910 as an Italian ethnic parish, is now a territorial parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Greensburg to which all people are welcome. The responsibility of each member of Our Lady of Grace is to hear the Word of God and live it by sharing in worship, especially at Eucharist; by nurturing our Catholic faith through formation and prayer; by reaching out to identify and serve the needs of our parish and the community; and by welcoming others into our faith community. Through our actions, we strive to share, and to encourage others to share, in the fullness of God's kingdom.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon, 3-3:30 p.m.

Baptisms

By appointment only. Please call the parish office at least four months in advance of the birth. A class for parents is required to reflect on the meaning of the sacrament, to review the ceremony, and to highlight the importance of the family's commitment to practicing the Catholic Faith.

Sponsorship Forms

Forms for our members to serve as sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation must be filled out in person at the Parish Office. To serve as a sponsor, you must be at least 16 years old and a practicing Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. If you are married, it must be within the guidelines of the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment to fill out the form.

Weddings

Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance. Do not set a date until you have contacted the parish priest. Pre-marriage preparation classes are required and are available in a couple of forms.

The Season of Advent ~ Of the sacred seasons of the Church Year, Advent is the first, observed during the first four weeks of each new Church year and leading to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of God into our world and our lives. Celebrating Advent focuses on themes of promise and fulfillment, darkness and light, hope and joy in anticipation of God's presence with us. The word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance. Advent is celebrated not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming as a baby, but also for His presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in anticipation of His final coming at the end of time.



The **Advent Wreath** and the **Colors of Advent** are probably the most popular symbols of the season. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches where four candles (and often a fifth, in the center) are arranged. During Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each week representing the coming of the Lord. The first, second and fourth weeks' candles are **purple**, the primary color of Advent, symbolizing repentance. The **rose** colored candle used during the third week represents joy and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration. If used, **white** is the color of the center candle, representing the purity of Christ.

Please join the St. Gianna Sodality Rosary for Life on Sunday, December 4, in praying the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the intentions of converting hearts to accept and work toward the culture of life, from the very moment of conception at the beginning, to the natural end of life at the close. The rosary is said at 10 a.m., before the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

The Baptism of your child is truly something to celebrate! A **Baptism preparation class** will be offered on Sunday, December 4, 9:15 a.m., in the Day Chapel. The session is meant to help parents prepare for and celebrate the Baptism of their child in a joyful and meaningful way. If it has been five years since your last child was baptized, you **MUST** attend a class. To register, please call the parish office at 724-838-9480.



Reminder ~ If you have taken an angel from the Giving Tree and still have the green ID tag, please contact Nancy Younkin at 724-832-5609. This is our only way of accounting for the angels. **Wrapped gifts are to be returned to Albanese Hall the weekend of December 3-4. (3-5 p.m. on Saturday or 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday.)** Please remember to attach the angel to your gift, and that gifts are given anonymously. Please do not include gift receipts. Thank you for your generosity!

In your charity of prayers, please remember Michael Reno, who recently passed away. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, continue their journey to new life in the presence of God in the heavenly kingdom.

The Rosary Altar Society Christmas Party REMINDER ~
Sunday, December 11, Bishop Connare Center, 1:30-4 p.m.

Cost is \$12.50 per person

To make reservations, call Esther Seranko at 724-834-3422.

Send payment to: Esther Seranko, 533 Sells Lane, Greensburg 15601
Reservations due by DECEMBER 1. (Optional \$5 grab bag!)

The **November meeting of the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Altar Society** will take place on Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 p.m., Shepherds Hall.

The Bethlehem Christian Families mission would like to express humble appreciation to the parish for allowing them to revisit Our Lady of Grace Parish on the weekend of November 12/13. With your kindness and through your generosity, the sales of the olive wood carvings totaled \$6,650. Please remember that you are included in our prayers. Thank you for your support in helping us, and our brothers and sisters in Christ, with compassion, dignity and respect. May you enjoy God's many glorious blessings!

COURTESY NOTES

Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children (located on Old Route 66, between Greensburg and Delmont) is holding a special **Breakfast with Santa**, Saturday, December 3. Choose either a 9:30 or 11 a.m. breakfast seating. The morning includes a picture with Santa, games, building a craft with Home Depot and face painting. Reservations are required. The cost is \$7 per child to participate and enjoy breakfast. Parent admission is \$3, and includes a continental breakfast (does not include photo or activities). To purchase your tickets and reserve your seating choice, please call 724-853-9540, Ext. 116.

“Enjoy 2017” coupon books are available from the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, through December 30, for \$30. “Enjoy 2017” provides hundreds of half-off and 2-for-1 coupons for travel, dining, shopping, sporting events and regional attractions in Allegheny, Westmoreland, Washington and Fayette counties. To reserve a book, call Sister Agnes Steedle at 724-836-0406, Ext. 6646. “Enjoy 2017” books make wonderful Christmas gifts that continue to give all year long.

We have opened the Mass Book for 2017. Request sheets may be found on the book rack in the Gathering Area. All Mass intentions have to be submitted in writing using the reservation form. PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES CAREFULLY! No Masses will be scheduled over the phone.

Our Lady of Grace Church



A Place to Grow in the Love and Knowledge of Jesus Christ

PARISH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO HSYM today, Sunday, November 27.

High School Youth Ministry next session ~ Sunday, December 4, 6-8:30 p.m., Albanese Hall. Open to all teens in grades 9-12. Registration is offered but not required.

Middle School Youth Ministry next session ~ Wednesday, November 30, 6:30-8 p.m., Albanese Hall. Open to all teens in grades 6-8. Registration is offered but not required.

1st Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday, December 6. Children should plan to attend. Priests will be available from 5:30-7 p.m.

IGNite will be on December 11, 5-7 p.m., Albanese Hall.

Children's Formation next session ~ Sunday, December 18.

Grades PK-1: 10:15 -11:30 a.m., Albanese Hall

Grades 2-5: 9-10:15 a.m., Shepherds Hall

Children can still register. Forms can be found on the parish website.

March for Life Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage, January 26-27 ~ All high school youth, grades 9-12, are invited to participate in the Annual March for Life Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage. The bus will leave at 1:30 a.m. on January 26, from OLG, and return at approximately 11 p.m. on January 27. Teens will be attending the **LIFE IS VERY GOOD** evening of prayer at George Mason University on the 26th and the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center on the 27th. These two events feature Mark Hart, The Afters, Father James Searby, Ben Walters, Ben Walters Band, Sister Miriam James Heidland, and SOLT. The **cost is \$25**, which includes hotel accommodations, transportation, meals, events, and T-shirt. The other \$100 is covered by the parish. For more information or to register, please contact Katrina Coleman at the parish office at 724-838-9480 or email kcoleman@dioceseofgreensburg.org. **SPACE IS VERY LIMITED! PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

CALLING ALL 8th-11th GRADERS — NCYC 2017 CHALLENGE:

FILL THE BUS ~ Fr. Dan has once again challenged the teens of the partner parishes of Our Lady of Grace and St. Benedict, to fill an entire charter bus (40 people) for NCYC 2017 — November 16-18. **What is NCYC?** It's the National Catholic Youth Conference. This conference, which occurs during the odd-numbered years, is a high-energy, uplifting, and life-changing experience. You will celebrate Mass, hear keynote speakers, listen to teen testimonies, party at a Christian music concert, attend workshops on topics of interest to you, and **experience Church with 25,000 teens from around the country!** Check out the YouTube videos at www.ncyc.info. Don't miss this amazing experience! Get on the bus! For more information, contact Katrina Coleman at the parish office, 724-838-9480.

Mass Intentions for the Week



Saturday, November 26

4 p.m. Mike Ritson by family

Sunday, November 27

8 a.m. Paul Krivacik by Barbara/Dale Lehew

10:30 a.m. Lynda Gongo by daughters/family

Monday, November 28

6:45 a.m. Jane/Ernest Springer
by daughter Pat Santia/family

Tuesday, November 29

NO MASS

Wednesday, November 30

6:45 a.m. Patsy C. Zello by Dolores/Renny Rinier

Thursday, December 1

NO MASS

Friday, December 2

6:45 a.m. Florence Butler by Catherine Rowe

Saturday, December 3

4 p.m. Michael Chislock by Paul Peterson

Sunday, December 4

8 a.m. Christine DeBone by OLG Rosary Altar Society

10:30 a.m. For the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace and
St. Benedict parishes

Prayers for the Sick

Scott McDonough	Grace Rohal	Beth Meier
Sara Linder	Georgia Mellinger	Janice Poole
Diane Perne	Jennie Daversa	Luke Grmek
Rose Stabile	Irma Stuchell	Amy Bovina
		Vic DeRubis
		Jaycob Zeminski

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;

Mt 9:35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Calendar of Events



Sunday, November 27

9 a.m. RCIA – *Daily Chapel*

Wednesday, November 30

10 a.m. Bible Sharing – *Shepherds Hall*

6 p.m. Rosary Altar Society – *Shepherds Hall*

6 p.m. Cantors – *Church*

6:30 p.m. Men's Discipleship – *Daily Chapel*

6:30 p.m. MSYM – *Albanese Hall*

7 p.m. Choir – *Church*

Thursday, December 1

10 a.m. Legion of Mary – *Shepherds Hall*

7 p.m. Adult Women's Faith Sharing – *Daily Chapel*

Saturday, December 3

9:30 a.m. Food Bank – *Shepherds Hall*

3 p.m. Confessions – *Church*

3-5 p.m. Giving Tree returns – *Albanese Hall*

Sunday, December 4

9 a.m. RCIA – *Day Chapel*

9:15 a.m. Baptism Prep – *Day Chapel*

7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Giving Tree returns – *Albanese Hall*

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Our Lady of Grace Parish. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support Our Lady of Grace for years to come. There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Due to early deadline, the Stewardship information for Sunday, November 20, will be published in next week's bulletin.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Pittsburgh East Animal Hospital

Please thank and utilize the services of our sponsors. It is through their support that this bulletin is made possible. Business owners interested in advertising, please call J.S. Paluch at 800-945-6629 and mention our bulletin number, 910060.