



December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

# Our Lady of Grace Church

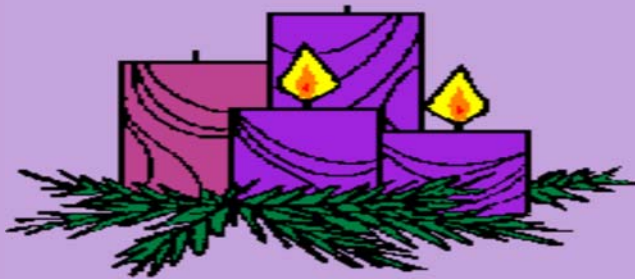
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg | A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
 1011 Mt. Pleasant Road | Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

## 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](http://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/](http://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 Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady** is Thursday, December 8. This solemnity of the conception of Mary falls nine months before the celebration of her birth on September 8. The Church teaches that Mary was free from sin from the moment she was conceived. This special grace prepared her to be the Mother of God. Mary did not earn this freedom in any way. It was simply a gift bestowed by God. The medieval scholar Duns Scotus explained that “no one owes more to Christ than Mary, the Immaculate One.” **All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on Thursday.**

*Immaculate*



*Conception*

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**MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLY DAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:**

**Our Lady of Grace:** Thursday, Dec. 8, 12:10 and 5:30 p.m.

**St. Benedict's:** Thursday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**The Parish Office will be CLOSED Thursday, December 8, in observance of the Immaculate Conception holy day.**

**THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS** is celebrated on Tuesday, December 6. Nicholas may be the most popular saint of all time. Thousands of churches are named after him. He seems to be portrayed by artists more than any other saint, with the exception of Mary. Nicholas was the bishop of the city of Myra in Asia Minor, in what is now the nation of Turkey. Centuries after he died, his bones were brought to the city of Bari in Italy. People came to his tomb to pray and many were healed of their illnesses. According to a legend, when Nicholas was a baby and his parents brought him to church to be baptized, he jumped eagerly into the water. When he grew up and was named bishop, he became known as the “wonder-maker.” He could heal the sick and calm storms. A story is told about a man who was so poor that he could no longer buy food for his family. He was going to sell his daughters into slavery so they would not starve. Bishop Nicholas found out about this. So, at night, he tossed three bags of gold into their house through a window. In many places, families are visited today by someone dressed up like St. Nicholas. His visit is usually scary. He is accompanied by a devil, who snorts and groans and who rattles chains. Bishop Nicholas tells each person in the family about the things they do wrong, and he encourages them to do better in the coming year. When he leaves, there is a feast. Tangerines are eaten as reminders of the gold he gave to help the poor women. Candy canes are reminders of his crosier, the shepherd’s staff that bishops carry.



**GIVING TREE REMINDER** ~ Please remember to bring your wrapped gifts to Albanese Hall this weekend, December 3-4. (Saturday, 3-5:30 p.m. or Sunday, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)

**Gifts must be turned in by Sunday afternoon to be ready to deliver to agencies by Monday.** Please make sure that the angel is securely attached to the outside of your gift. Don't forget that gifts are given anonymously, and should not include gift receipts. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please contact Nancy Younkin at 724-832-5609 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance with this project!

**In your charity of prayers,** please remember Jeanne Shine, mother of Marilyn Manion, Helen Isola and Rebecca Panichella, who recently passed away. May their souls 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 **St. Vincent de Paul Society outdoor** food distribution, Operation Fresh Express, in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Food Bank, will be held on **Monday, December 12.** Volunteers are requested to arrive by 3 p.m. and are normally done by 5 p.m. The event will take place in the parking lot of **Church of Jesus Christ World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg.** (This is off of Route 136 on the way to Hempfield High School.)

**Oplatky, Christmas wafers,** are available in the Gathering Area and at the parish office. The donation is \$3 a packet, each containing four individual wafers.

**Memorial Gift** ~ Our parish recently received a generous gift in memory of Mary Cirelli by her daughters, Catherine Copelli, Janet Zahorchak and Marlene Hunter and their families. The gift will be used toward purchasing a new brass altar candle stand for our sanctuary. We are grateful for this gift in Mary's memory. In your kindness, please pray for the repose of her soul.

Every year the Hispanic community of Our Lady of Grace celebrates "**Las Posadas.**" Las Posadas is a "novenario" (nine days of religious observance) during which our families participate in nightly Christmas processions that re-create the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem. This year, two of the nine Posadas will be celebrated in Albanese Hall — December 9 and December 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through readings, traditional music, and fellowship. We welcome anyone interested in joining us! Each family should bring a covered dish to share. For questions, information or to RSVP, please call Cindy Horton at 412-716-2045.



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### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**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**

**High School Youth Ministry next session ~ today, Sunday, December 4, 6-8:30 p.m., Albanese Hall. This will be our annual Christmas Party.** Open to all teens in grades 9-12. Registration is offered but not required.

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

**Middle School Youth Ministry next session ~ Wednesday, December 7, 6:30-8 p.m., Albanese Hall. This will be our annual Christmas Party.** Open to all teens in grades 6-8. Registration is offered but not required.

**IGNite** will be on December 11, 5-7 p.m., Albanese Hall. **Come join us for our annual Christmas Pageant.**

**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

Registration is still available. 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 26<sup>th</sup> and the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:kcoleman@dioceseofgreensburg.org). **SPACE IS VERY LIMITED! PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

**CALLING ALL 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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, 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

### Monday, December 5

6:45 a.m. Nita DeFloria by Bert DFloria

### Tuesday, December 6

**NO MASS**

### Wednesday, December 7

6:45 a.m. Anna Sholties by Larry/Wanda Yokopenic

### Thursday, December 8, Holy Day, Immaculate Conception

12:10 p.m. Gilbert Vucinich, Jr. by Jim/Joanne Skatell  
5:30 p.m. Berthie Nesser by Bill/Debi Hennessy

### Friday, December 9

6:45 a.m. Gerard Levesque by Ray/Rosalie Blehar

### Saturday, December 10

4 p.m. John/Nina Spino by Patsy/Patty Zello

### Sunday, December 11

8 a.m. Josephine Panichella by Jim/family  
10:30 a.m. John Paul Knizner by wife/children

### *Prayers for the Sick*

Scott McDonough	Jennie Daversa	Vic DeRubis
Sara Linder	Irma Stuchell	Jaycob Zeminski
Diane Perne	Beth Meier	Judith Messich
Rose Stabile	Janice Poole	James Murtland
Grace Rohal	Luke Grmek	Marlene Martin Warren
Georgia Mellinger	Amy Bovina	Delores Rinire
		Edward Kolczak
		Drusilla Emanuele
		Irene Noel

**Prayers of Intercession:** This form of prayer is prayer on behalf of others. This form of prayer can be a source of blessing upon others, the church, and our world. Mary, the Mother of God, and the saints intercede for us before God. This form of prayer often gives us strength, love, courage and peace. If you wish to share in this experience, on the second Sunday of the month, this month being Sunday, December 11, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, there will be a group of parishioners in the Daily Chapel to pray with individuals for their personal intentions.

## Calendar of Events



### Saturday, December 3

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

### Sunday, December 4

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

9 a.m. RCIA — *Shepherds Hall*

9:15 a.m. Baptism Prep — *Day Chapel*

6 p.m. HSYM — *Albanese Hall*

### Tuesday, December 6

5:30 p.m. 1st Reconciliation — *Church*

### Wednesday, December 7

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

6 p.m. Cantors — *Church*

6:30 p.m. MSYM — *Albanese Hall*

7 p.m. Choir — *Church*

### Thursday, December 8

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

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

### Friday, December 9

6 p.m. Las Posadas — *Albanese Hall*

### Saturday, December 10

1 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul children's Christmas party —  
*Albanese Hall*

3 p.m. Confessions — *Church*

### Sunday, December 11

9 a.m. RCIA — *Day Chapel*

5 p.m. IGNITE — *Albanese Hall*

6 p.m. HSYM — *Albanese Hall*

## **STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

11/20/16    Offertory: \$ 12,232.46  
                  Online:     4,159.00  
                  TOTAL:    \$ 16,391.46

11/27/16    Offertory: \$ 12,876.25  
                  Online:     3,386.00  
                  TOTAL:    \$ 16,262.25

In order to meet our ordinary expenses entirely from our Sunday collection, Our Lady of Grace needs about \$18,715 per week in the regular collection. Thank you!

## **ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

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