



November 27, 2011

1st 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 PM
Sunday Masses: 8:30, 10:30 AM
Weekday and Holy Day Masses: Please see inside bulletin.



Parish Office.....724-838-9480
Fax.....724-838-1842
Religious Formation.....724-832-6730
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
Catholic Charities Pregnancy.....1-800-241-7360
www.ourladyofgracechurch.org

Rev. Paul A. Lisik, Pastor

Rev. Larry J. Kulick,
In residence

Hollie Uccellini,
Pastoral Associate
Marisa Cazden,
Music Minister
Dorothy Skoloda,
Secretary
Donna Stewart,
Secretary



Greg Petrucci,
Director of Faith Formation
Katrina Coleman,
*Director of Young Adults
& Youth Ministry*
Tom Stumpo,
Maintenance Supervisor
Dave Stumpo,
Maintenance

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

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 5:30-6 PM or until finished.

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.

SAVOR THE MOMENTS "WITHIN TIME, YET TIMELESS."

"How many days until Christmas?" Shopping days? Planning days? Travel days? So much to do! Then, the day comes and suddenly it is over. Even if we take time for services and remembering the true reason for our celebration, it soon comes to an end and is just a memory. Could it be possible this year to add to the whole preparation season something that will be lasting? Could we find something that will be timeless, letting us go beyond Christmas as changed people, not spent, but enriched? This is what Advent is all about.

Probably, the only human planning for the first Christmas was done by Mary and Joseph. They had to prepare some "swaddling cloths" with which to wrap their coming baby. Also, they had to take a trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Their life, and our lives, were changed by that experience. Jesus' coming is a timeless, enriching moment. What can we do during Advent to help us experience its fullness?

Perhaps, we can begin some consideration of this by thinking of the words "rush" and "rhythm." There is, indeed, a lot to get done. Pressure begins early, as soon as stores start pulling out the red and green ribbons and the old CDs of background Christmas music. Newspaper and television ads bombard us with suggestions as to what Susie or Sam might like as gifts. What shall we get and how can we get it all done in time? That is the "rush."

Can there also be a "rhythm," even within the "rush," that calms us down and enables us to take care of ourselves? Can we thereby work smarter instead of just working harder? The tasks will get done. Even if we miss something in the process, the day will arrive and will be rewarding. Knowing this, can we make the hurrying a flow rather than a flailing about? Seek out a "rhythm" that can be part of your inner being, enabling you, yourself, to be part of your inner being, enabling you, yourself, to be part of the Christmas gift, both in giving and in receiving? Savor the moments as the time goes along!



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. Please remember to attach the angel to your gift, and that gifts are given anonymously. Thank you for your support!

We are in the process of updating our list of those members of Our Lady of Grace who are in an assisted living — nursing home — or are homebound. If you know of someone, please contact the parish office.



JUST A LITTLE REMINDER, there is an envelope in this month's packet for Christmas flowers and decorations. We will continue to accept them throughout the coming weeks. Donations may be given in memory of a deceased loved one, the sick, your own intention, etc. A special Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day for all who gave and their intentions.

**CHOICES MAKE US WHAT WE ARE!** With

Advent, we begin a new year in the Lord. Our rebirth in Christ is at hand. We are being urged by St. Paul "to make still greater progress." Christ calls us to "stand up straight and raise your heads ... to stand secure." We have choices to make! We can glide through life with our talents buried or we can stand secure in life with our talents shared and growing. We cannot not decide!

Question: Are we Catholic only by baptism or do we express confirmed Catholicity by our sign of sacrificial commitment?

Question: Do we come to church or are we the Church?

Question: Do we rest on our faith for ourselves or do we go through the growing pains of being the faithful?

Question: Do we do for others only what pleases and satisfies or do we offer ourselves without expecting satisfaction, even thanks?

Question: Do we pray for another or do we pray to be the answer to another's prayer?

Advent is a call to rebirth, to get up and grow, to cease watching and to begin committing. We are what we choose. The choice is yours and mine to make now. We can no longer deny the call of our conscience: His Call.

THE ADVENT REGIONAL PENANCE SERVICES begin in two weeks. I ask you to take time amidst everything else for Mass and confession. Please plan ahead to make full use of our regional Advent penance services. Please find listed below the times, dates and parishes:

St. Bruno — Mon., Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

St. Paul — Tues., Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

St. Benedict, Marguerite — Wed., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Grace — Thurs., Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral — Sat., Dec. 17, 11 a.m.

Holy Cross, Youngwood — Sun., Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

THE ST. GIANNA SODALITY will sponsor a monthly rosary at 10 a.m., the first Sunday of each month, just before the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please join other parishioners in praying this most perfect prayer, next to the Mass, as it is so often referred to by many Catholic saints. Our parish will grow in the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Grace. The next rosary will be recited Sunday, December 4.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THERE IS A WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATION: If we are forced to have a cancellation of a L.I.F.E. session or a sacrament preparation session due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to generate an e-mail to all registered families who have supplied an address to the Faith Formation Office. Also, cancellation information will be posted on the Pittsburgh stations: WPXI (channel 11) and WTAE (channel 4) and will be listed as *Our Lady of Grace, Greensburg*.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!

If you are in middle school or high school and would like to participate in the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, please contact Marisa at 724-838-9480, Ext. 20. We welcome instrumentalists and singers.



THIS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, IS THE FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, THE APOSTLE —

Andrew lived a quiet and simple life as a fisherman. He worked with his brother Simon in the town of Bethsaida in Galilee. One day Jesus walked by as they cast their nets and invited them to become fishers of people. Soon afterward, Jesus worked a miracle in Andrew and Simon's house, healing Simon's mother-in-law of a fever. (All this is told in the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark.)

In the gospels, Andrew is often shown bringing others to Jesus. It was Andrew who brought forward the boy with the five loaves and two fishes when food was needed for the crowd. In the Gospel of John, Andrew tells his brother Simon, "We have found the Messiah." After Jesus marched triumphantly into Jerusalem, Andrew helped some Greek men who wanted to speak with Jesus.

After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Andrew brought others to Christ in a new way. He became a missionary. To this day, several countries in far-flung parts of the world claim to have been visited by Andrew; however, it isn't known for sure where he preached or where he died.

Tradition says that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross, called a "saltire cross." Because of legends that he preached in Scotland, that country put his cross on its flag. Thistle flowers are worn by the Scots today, the way shamrocks are worn by the Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Andrew is a patron saint, not only of Scotland, but of Greece and Russia.

Father, God of Goodness, you give man the land to provide him with food. May the produce we harvest sustain our lives, and may we always use it for your glory and the good of all.

THIS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, IS THE FIRST DAY OF HUNTING SEASON.

As some of our parishioners begin a sojourn into the fields and forests of the region, we pray for their safety and entrust them to the patron saint of hunters, St. Hubert.



"God called St. Hubert from a worldly life to his service in an extraordinary manner; though the circumstances of this event are so obscured by popular inconsistent relations that we have no authentic account of his actions before he was engaged in the service of the church under the discipline of St. Lambert, Bishop of Maestricht." The "extraordinary manner" referred to in Alban Butler's commendably guarded statement is related to have been as follows: Hubert was very fond of hunting and one Good Friday went out after a stag when everybody else was going to church. In a clearing of the woods, the beast turned, displaying a crucifix between his horns. Hubert stopped in astonishment, and a voice came from the stag, saying, "Unless you turn to the Lord, Hubert, you shall fall into Hell." He cast himself on his knees, asking what he should do, and the voice told him to seek out Lambert, the bishop of Maestricht, who would guide him.

However the retirement of Hubert from the world came about, he entered the service of St. Lambert and was ordained a priest. When the bishop was murdered at Liege about the year 705, Hubert was selected to govern the See in his place. Some years later, he transported Lambert's bones from Maestricht to Liege, then only a village upon the banks of the Meuse, which from this grew into a flourishing city. In those days, the forest of Ardenne stretched from the Meuse to the Rhine and in several parts, the gospel of Christ had not yet taken root. St. Hubert penetrated into the most remote places of this country and abolished the worship of idols. The author of his life relates as an eye-witness that on the rogation days the holy bishop went out of Maestricht in procession through the fields and villages, with his clergy and people according to custom, following the cross and the relics of the saints, and singing the litany. This procession was disturbed by a woman possessed by an evil spirit; but St. Hubert silenced her and restored her to her health by signing her with the cross. Before his death, he is said to have been warned of it in a vision and given as it were a sight of the place prepared for him in glory. Twelve months later, he went into Barbant to consecrate a new church. He was taken ill immediately after at Tervueren, near Brussels. On the sixth day of his sickness he quietly died, on May 30, in 727.

May St. Hubert guide and protect the hunters of our parish during this season and always.

IN SYMPATHY: We ask for your prayers for the family of Betty Zancha, who recently passed away. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, continue their journey to new life in the presence of God in the Heavenly Kingdom.

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, Nov. 27

9:15 a.m. RCIA

NO HSYM

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 30

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

6 p.m. Cantors – *Church*

6:30 p.m. MSYM – *Albanese Hall*

7 p.m. Choir – *Church*

THURSDAY, Dec. 1

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

SATURDAY, Dec. 3

Angel Tree gift collection after all Masses

9 a.m. Food Bank – *Shepherds Hall*

SUNDAY, Dec. 4

Angel Tree gift collection after all Masses

9:15 a.m. RCIA

10 a.m. Rosary by St. Gianna Sodality – *Church*

6 p.m. HSYM – *Youth Loft*

OPLATKY: Christmas wafers (oplatky) are available in the Gathering Area and at the parish office. The donation is \$3.00 a packet, containing four individual wafers.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS are available on the book rack in the Gathering Area. Please stop and pick your book up after Mass.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ADVENT EVENING OF RECOLLECTION, sponsored by the Greensburg DCCW, will be held on Thursday, December 1, at St. Emma's Monastery. Spiritual speaker will be The Reverend Jean-Luc Zadroga, O.S.B., from St. Vincent Campus Ministry. The theme is "Waiting with Mary." The cost is \$20 per person. Call St. Emma's at 724-836-3060 by November 29. Registration begins at 3:45 p.m. Day includes adoration, confessions, rosary for priests, two conferences, Benediction, Mass and dinner. A Christmas raffle will take place to support the DCCW Marian Shrine Project.

HOLY TRINITY, LIGONIER, will be having an all-day "Adoration of the Eucharist" on Tuesday, December 6. Following their adoration, the Greensburg DCCW is sponsoring "Prayers for Priests" beginning at 7:30 p.m., with the Rosary meditations dedicated to priests and the Litany.

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHEDRAL CHOIRS and the GREENSBURG DIOCESAN CHOIR, under the direction of J. Christopher Pardini, invite you to attend a service of Nine Lessons and Carols, on Sunday, December 11, 3 p.m., at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Come and hear the story of the birth of Christ as told through scripture and song. Admission is free.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 26

4 p.m. Mike Ritson by Kelly/Brandon/dad/mom/Pete

Sunday, Nov. 27

8:30 a.m. For the living and deceased members of
Our Lady of Grace Parish

10:30 a.m. Julian/Josephine Martini by son, Julian Martini

Monday, Nov. 28

6:45 a.m. Gerry Sedlacko by M/M Angelo DeLuca /son/
M/M James Palo

Tuesday, Nov. 29

6:45 a.m. Rose/Frank Stangl by John/Patti Stangl

Wednesday, Nov. 30

6:45 a.m. Deceased members of the Wass family
by Carmella/Frank/Joan/Gloria

Thursday, Dec. 1

6:45 a.m. Daniel Panigall/Henry Gasperin
by Genevieve Panigall

Friday, Dec. 2

6:45 a.m. Julia/John Hauser by Mary/Mike Spino

Saturday, Dec. 3

4 p.m. Violet Scuri by the Scuri family

Sunday, Dec. 4

8:30 a.m. For the living and deceased members of
Our Lady of Grace Parish

10:30 a.m. Thomas Pastor by Joe/Toni/Chris Yurkovic



Bible Sharing

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 – 10:1,
5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8

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