

Partner Parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg - A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

303 Franklin Ave.
Vandergrift, PA 15690
sgcatholic.org



CHRIST THE KING PARISH

125 Park Road
Leechburg, PA 15656
ctkleechburg.org

December 4, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY
of
Advent

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**John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”**

Matthew 3:1

FINANCE COUNCIL

ST. GERTRUDE

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Alan Lundburg
James Kunkle
John Kuruc
Margaret Yucas

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CHRIST THE KING

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Sue Iagnemma
Fran Milie
Carol Rzewnicki

Dolores Lucjak
Joseph Rice
Margaret Stull

Parish Council Mission Statement ~ We, the partnered parish communities of St. Gertrude and Christ the King, are faith-filled Catholics who have been called by our Baptism and empowered by the Good News of Jesus Christ to be Church for all. Although made up of multicultural faith communities we are ever united by our common faith.

We are committed to “building up the Body of Christ” through Word, Worship, Evangelization, Leadership, Service, Stewardship, and Fellowship. Dedicated to deepening our love of Christ and one another, together we strive to become a living reflection of Christ for our region.

We willingly accept our obligation to be the “Light of the World” for others and in that spirit we promise to use our resources to practice gospel justice, to heal divisive wounds among God’s people and to join with all people of good will in addressing the spiritual and physical needs of all.

Parish Office

125 Park Road
 Leechburg, PA, 15656
 (724) 845-8191

Monday to Friday.....9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Pastor

Father James Loew O.S.B.
 jloew@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Senior Priest Active

Rev. Michael Sciberras

Deacon

Brother Celestine Xu O.S.B.

Pastoral Assistant to the Homebound

Sr. Lilly Aseervatham, SMI (SG)
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Sr. Vinaya Kurian, SMI (CTK)
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Patti Donghia (SG)
 pdonghia@dioceseofgreensburg.org
 George Pecoraro (CTK)
 gpecoraro@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Cemetery Contact

St. Catherine Cemetery and St. Gertrude Cemetery
 ctkstgcm@gmail.com

Mass Times**Monday**

8:30 AM.....St. Gertrude

Tuesday

8:30AM.....Christ the King

Wednesday

8:30 AM.....St. Gertrude

Thursday

8:30 AM.....Christ the King
 Second Thursday of the month (Anointing Mass)
 12:10 PM.....Christ the King

Friday

8:30 AM.....St. Gertrude
 9:00 AM – 10: 00AM (Holy Hour)

Saturday

8:30 AM.....Christ the King
 9:00 AM – 10: 00AM (Holy Hour)
 4:00 PM.....St. Gertrude
 5:30 PM.....Christ the King

Sunday

8:00 AM.....St. Gertrude
 9:30 AM.....Christ the King
 10:30 AM.....St. Gertrude

CONFESSION / RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:15 PM-3:45 PM.....St. Gertrude
 Saturday, 9:00 AM.....Christ the King
 (or by appointment)

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance of the anticipated date.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Class
 Second Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM at Christ the King. Must be scheduled in advance.



All bulletin submissions must be and turned into the parish office by Monday, 12:00 noon.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT-INS OF OUR PARISHES.

**MATTERS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT INFORMATION**

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

St. Gertrude Parish

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 5

8:30 AM Yvonne Gabborini

Wednesday, December 7

St. Ambrose

8:30 AM Stanley Tygielski

Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

8:30 AM Evelyn Guinta

6:00 PM For the Parish

Friday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin

8:30 AM John Gadola

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 10

4:00 PM Ralph and Anna Scanga

Sunday, December 11

8:00 AM For the Parish

10:30 AM Loretta Putignano



Sanctuary Candle

In Memory Of: Stephanie Lombardi

by Adele and John Ameno

*Please pray for the soul of the recently deceased
Angelina "Lena" Trozzi
May the consolation of the Lord be with her family.*

GIVING TREE

We ask that the wrapped gift with angel tag attached be returned no later than Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30 mass. After mass we will then begin immediately sorting and delivering the gifts to children at the Alle-Kiski Hope Center and the physically handicapped and mentally challenged adults residing in West-N-Arms and Kiski Valley opportunity Group Homes. May God bless you for helping with this worthwhile project.

LOTTERY TICKET FUNRAISER

Golly Gee 2023 January/February/March lottery tickets for \$25 are available by calling Fran at 412-780-0164. These tickets make a good stocking stuffer! Thank you for your continued support of this popular fund raiser.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 10 & 11	(EM)	(L)	(AS)
Saturday 4:00 PM	Fran Milie	Gail Lightner	Gary Lightner
Sunday 8:00 AM	Stephanie Enciso	Fran Milie	Anthony Guerrera
Sunday 10:30 AM	Geri Michela	Crystal Dellemonache	Dom/Rachael

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 19 & November 20

Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,616.00
Loose	\$ 348.00
Restoration	\$ 205.00
Utilities	\$ 37.00
All Saints	\$ 75.00
All Souls	\$ 25.00
Flowers	\$ 300.00
Retired Religious	\$ 25.00
World Mission	\$ 25.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief/CRS	\$ 658.00
Votives	\$ 125.00

November 26 & November 27

Weekly Offertory	\$ 4,171.00
Loose	\$ 360.00
Restoration	\$ 70.00
Utilities	\$ 75.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 40.00
Christmas	\$ 35.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief/CRS	\$ 55.00
Votives	\$ 199.00

BLESSING OF THE ALTAR - SAVE THE DATE!

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L. will be here to celebrate the 10:30 AM Mass and bless the new altar on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Following the mass, there will be reception in the church social hall.

HELP A SENIOR

Open Your Heart to a Senior enriches the lives our neighbors, age 60+, by matching volunteers with those in need of assistance and companionship, thus extending their ability to remain independently. Volunteers provide a range of non-medical services including transportation, appointment escorts, friendly phone calls, errands, friendly home visits, and caregiver relief. For more information contact 724-205-6282 or OYHS@wfspa.org

Christ the King Parish

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 6

St. Nicholas

8:30 AM

Phyllis Mottillo
by Sandra Shapiro

Wednesday, December 7

Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

6:00 PM

Sister Mary
by Sisters of Mary Immaculate

Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

12:10 PM

For the Parish
Anointing Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 10

8:30 AM

For the Parish

5:30 PM

Mary Kepics
by Marcie Lubresky

Sunday, December 11

9:30 AM

Rick Meyer
by John and Carol Hollenbaugh



*Please pray for the soul of the recently deceased
Anthony Moravec
May the consolation of the Lord be with his family*

GIVING TREE UPDATE

All gifts must be returned "unwrapped and with the tag" no later than Monday, December 12.

" THE PAJAMA & BOOK PROJECT"

The Rotary Club of Leechburg and the Leechburg HS Interact Club is sponsoring " The Pajama & Book Drive" from thru **December 14th** in the Leechburg Area. We are asking for donations of New Pajamas and/or a New Child's Book. The Pajamas can be All Sizes-, Infants', Children's, Womens and Men's sleep pants. Donations may be placed in the collection box located in the gathering space. Monetary donations may be sent to "The Rotary Club of Leechburg", PO Box 163, Leechburg, PA 15656". Thank you in advance for your generosity.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is helping the St. Anne Personal Care Home again this year by selling lottery calendars for 2023. The cost is \$30 and you will have a chance to win every day in 2023. The number is taken from the Pa. Lottery Pick 3 evening drawing. Calendars will be sold after all weekend Masses.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December
10 & 11

GREETERS

LECTOR

EUCCHARISTIC
MINSTER

Saturday
5:30 PM

Tony Buyny

Jack Billak

Chris Vigna

Sunday
9:30 AM

Jack Canzano

Kathleen
Uncapher

Sisters of Mary
Immaculate

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONING

It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner!

The trees will be placed **Sunday, December 18, following the 9:30 AM Mass.**

"We will be truly grateful for men and women willing to help set up the trees and string the lights! " All are welcome!!!!

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 19 & November 20

Adult	\$ 3,779.50
Monthly	\$ 700.00
Loose	\$ 146.00
Votives	\$ 102.00
Cemetery	\$ 10.00
All Saints	\$ 559.00
All Souls	\$ 716.00
World Mission	\$ 5.00
Retired Religious	\$ 845.00

November 26 & November 27

Adult	\$ 4,931.00
Monthly	\$ 815.00
Loose	\$ 196.00
Votives	\$ 91.00
Cemetery	\$ 156.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 375.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 11.00
Christmas	\$ 155.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 2.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief/CRS	\$ 66.00
Children/Family Services	\$ 251.00
Retired Religious	\$ 46.00

BAKE SALE UPDATE

A big "THANK YOU" to all who helped in way to make our Thanksgiving/Christmas Bake Sale a success. We baked 1578 nut, poppyseed and apricot rolls. This a new record!!!! We also baked 160 dozen crescent rolls and 45 cinnamon rolls.

Please mark these dates on your calendar—March 20-28. These are the baking dates for the Easter Bake Sale. Hope to see you there.

Fall 2022 Calendar
Please note that this is an updated calendar
Session Dates

Faith Formation:

4th (Advent Walk at 5:30 PM), 18th

*****Parents are expected to work with their child(ren) on assigned homework during the Parent-led week.***

Reminder: Saturday, December 10th, 2022 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM is our First Reconciliation Parent meeting/workshop at Christ Prince of Peace/Divine Redeemer School. Please meet at the Divine Redeemer School (726 4th Ave. Ford City, 16226) at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be provided.

First Reconciliation—at Penance Service on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 PM.

Youth Ministry:

Every week until December 18th

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The **Kiski Valley Community Band** will play a Christmas concert at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at Vandergrift Volunteer Fire Department No. 1, 278 Franklin Ave. Doors open at 4:30 PM Donations will be accepted to benefit the fire department and snacks will be sold. For details, call 724-567-7171 or email vandergriftvfd1@gmail.com.

**OUR CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY
RECONCILIATION SERVICES FOR THE
ALLE-KISKI VALLEY**

- ✦ Tuesday, Dec. 13; 7:00 PM at St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell
- ✦ Wednesday, Dec. 14; 7:00 PM at Mount St. Peter, New Kensington
- ✦ Thursday, Dec. 15; 7:00 PM at Christ the King, Leechburg
- ✦ Friday, Dec. 16; 7:00 PM at St. James, Apollo

**SVC BENEDICTINE SCHOLARSHIP
(ST. GERTRUDE AND CHRIST THE KING
PARISHES)**

Saint Vincent College is again offering a Benedictine Scholarship of \$2,000 per year for four years to students from our parishes. This award will be in addition to other scholarship/grant aid from the College. The deadline to apply is January 1, 2023 with a letter of recommendation for the pastor. www.st.vincent.edu/apply

CD OF A CANDY BARS

The CDA will be selling different varieties of Sarris candy bars until the end of December, take a break the month of January, and resume candy sales for Valentines Day in February.



SPAGHETTI DINNER NEWS

There will be "no spaghetti dinner" in December. They will resume on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
STEELERS TAILGATE
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



December 11, 2022

Steelers vs. Ravens – 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
St. Gertrude Church Hall

Menu Includes: Barbecued Chicken (breast, thigh, and legs), Chicken Tenders,
Chef's Pasta of the Day, Baked Beans and Seasoned Cut Green Beans,
Cole Slaw, and Fresh Rolls/Butter

Provided by The Chef and I, Brackenridge, PA
(724-295-2400 www.chefandcatering.com)

Cost will be \$5 per person or \$10 per family
"Anyone who expresses an interest in joining the
Knights will be admitted free"

Reservations by December 8, 2022
(Please let us know if you need transportation)

To RSVP Please Call: Jeff Stewart (412-736-7769)
Mike Warcholak (724-882-3811)

Please join us for a fun day with Christmas movies
for the kids
and a visit from Santa at halftime!

God's Love and Peace to all this Christmas Season
St. Gertrude Church and Christ the King Church



Communal Penance Services at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Friday, December 16, 2022

St. Margaret Mary, Lower Burrell, PA

Mount Saint Peter, New Kensington, PA

Christ the King, Leechburg, PA

St. James, Apollo, PA



St. Gertrude Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

303 Franklin Avenue

Vandergrift, PA 15690

724-568-2331

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24, 2022

4:00 PM and 10:00 PM

Sunday, December 25, 2022

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM



Christ the King Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

125 Park Road

Leechburg, PA 15656

724-845-8191

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24, 2022

5:30 PM and 10:00 PM

Sunday, December 25, 2022

9:30 AM

Father James Loew, O.S.B., Pastor
Reverend Michael Sciberras, Senior Priest Active

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Advent

DECEMBER 4, 2022

John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

MATTHEW 3:1

NEW LIFE

In our scripture translations, word choices matter. When today's first reading tells us that a “stump” will bring forth a new shoot, it's Isaiah's way of telling us that God's miraculous power is at work. Seeds bring forth shoots. Even buried roots can bring forth shoots. But a stump? When we look at a stump, essentially we are seeing the corpse of what used to be a tree. Mortal eyes look and see death, but divine eyes look and see new life. And what a life the Spirit of God will bring forth from this stump! A life filled with wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—the life that we name “Jesus.” How fitting it is that we will also look upon the wood Calvary's cross—a tree of death—and behold that the Spirit of God has turned that tree into a Tree of Life!

NAME CALLING

We often change our tone of voice and vocabulary when we really want to get somebody's attention. Parents will add a middle name to indicate a child is in trouble (a middle and last name when the child is really in trouble). Change of tone and words invites attention, demanding a response. Today John the Baptist does a bit of name-calling: “You brood of vipers!” Even for someone like John, who regularly used potent vocabulary, this way of addressing the holy men—the Pharisees and Sadducees—this level of name-calling stands out. Snakes were commonly understood as a representation of evil, and a poisonous snake in the ancient world held the power of life and death, as the holy men thought they did. Instead of thinking about their own power, John tells them to produce good fruit. We still get ourselves in trouble today when we think that we truly hold any type of power over others, when it's a power that belongs only to God.

EMBRACING CHANGE

Words like John's might cause fear in us, or may hold us back, hesitant. Words like these can also invite us to change our lives. When we do so, we open ourselves to a core virtue of the Advent season: hope. Changing our lives can also open us up to a more vigorous presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—named in Isaiah today. Recall that it was in that very Spirit we were named for Christ at Baptism. Open your ears and heart to the voice of God, who knows the name given to you on that day. Respond not out of fear, but in love, to the ways that God is calling to you today; calling you to change what needs to be changed, and to welcome Christ today, as you will once again on Christmas day.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 11:1–10
Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17
Romans 15:4–9
Matthew 3:1–12

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