

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

Jesus said,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
Matthew 11:4-5

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December 11, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY
of
Advent

FINANCE COUNCIL

ST. GERTRUDE

Joe Caporali
Alan Lundburg
James Kunkle
John Kuruc
Margaret Yucas

FINANCE COUNCIL

CHRIST THE KING

Bill Anderson
James Favero
Martha Frech
Don Marco
Anne Troya

JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Amanda Biagioni Debbie Biagioni
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)
 srlillyaseer1984@gmail.com

Sr. Vinaya Kurian, SMI (CTK)
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 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 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 AM Mario Cesario

Wednesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

8:30 AM Dorothy Keddie

Friday, December 16

8:30 AM Yvonne Gabborini

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 17

4:00 PM David Guerrero

Sunday, December 18

8:00 AM For the Parish

10:30 AM Rose Ashbaugh

December 11

Memorial Candle

In Memory Of: Carmelina DiBiasio

by Family

December 18

Sanctuary Lamp

In Memory Of: Father Mario

by Antonio & Mary Callipare

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

17 & 18

(EM)

(L)

(AS)

Saturday

4:00 PM

Nick

Pityk

Sue

Iagnemma

Maria

Safranyos

Sunday

8:00 AM

Patty

Kiebler

Fran

Milie

Art

Ambrose

Sunday

10:30 AM

Sheila

Tilson

Crystal

Dellemonache

Dom/Rachael

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 3 and December 4

Weekly Offertory	\$ 11,977.00
Loose	\$ 387.00
Uplift Our Faith	\$215.00
Restoration	\$ 185.00
Utilities	\$ 28.00
Flowers	\$ 721.00
Immaculate Conception	\$30.00
Christmas	\$315.00
Retired Religious	\$ 10.00
Children/Family Services	\$ 28.00
Votives	\$ 97.00

Christ the King Parish

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, December 13

St. Lucy

8:30 AM Anna Marie Oberdorf
by Lorraine Speece

Thursday, December 15

8:30 AM Mary L. Chovanes
by Patti, Don and Grandchildren

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 17

8:30 AM For the Parish

5:30 PM Julie and Frank Contino
by Christine and Christopher Retarides

Sunday, December 18

9:30 AM Richard Tedeski
by Anthony Buyny



Congratulations to our
Newly Baptized
Isaac Matthew Hamm



Child of
Zachary and Lisa Hamm

May they be her guide in Christian living.

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 places 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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 17/18	GREETERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINSTER
Saturday 5:30 PM	Pam Pativa	Valerie Zanotti	Debby Vargo
Sunday 9:30 AM	Tony Buyny	Jack Billak	Margie Stull

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!!!!

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.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 3 & December 4

Adult	\$ 4,416.00
Monthly	\$ 1356.00
Loose	\$ 127.00
Uplift Faith	\$2,750.00
Utilities	\$300.00
Votives	\$ 70.00
Flowers	\$474.00
Cemetery	\$ 302.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 78.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 75.00
Christmas	\$445.00
Retired Religious	\$ 30.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief/CRS	\$ 12.00
Children/Family Services	\$30.00

Fall 2022 Calendar

Session Dates

Faith Formation: December 18th

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

Youth Ministry: December 18th

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Advent Walk. It was a beautiful evening where we prepared our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Attention 9th-12th graders: Save the date: the Diocesan Winter Retreat this year will be held February 17th-19th at Laurelville Retreat Center, in Mt. Pleasant. Please add this to your calendar and keep an eye out for many more details in the upcoming months. The cost is \$150. If you did not use your Francis Funds (Diocesan scholarship) this year yet, you are eligible for Francis Funds. **Francis Fund applications are due no later than Saturday, December 31st and can be found on the Diocese of Greensburg website. Please contact Katie Tylinski to register for the retreat by Saturday, December 31st.**

Spring Faith Formation Calendar CTK/SG

(Please note that more events will be added to the calendar.)

January—15th, 29th

February—5th, 19th

March—5th, 19th

April—2nd (Palm Sunday combined event with Christ Prince of Peace/St. Lawrence), 16th, 30th

Youth Ministry

(6th-8th and 9th-12th grades)

Meets every week from January 15th-May 7th except for Easter Sunday, April 9th

May 7th—Youth Ministry only (last session) combined with Christ Prince of Peace/St. Lawrence

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.

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



SPAGHETTI DINNER NEWS

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Kiski Valley Community Band will present a concert of Christmas and holiday music at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Marconi Club, 135 River Ave., Leechburg. Donations will be accepted for the Leechburg Food Bank.

Selections will include "Sleigh Ride," "A Christmas Festival," and many other holiday favorites. Wear your fanciest holiday attire and get into the spirit of Christmas.

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



The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

ISAIAH 35:1-2

GOOD NEWS

Good news is good news is . . . Today's messages from Isaiah (prophetic ancestor of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth) and James (spiritual offspring of John and Jesus) both have messages that resonate across the five centuries that separate them: hope in the coming power and presence of God. Isaiah was attempting to comfort and encourage the people of Israel in geographic and spiritual exile. Their exile will end, Isaiah says, with God's presence shown forth through spectacular occurrences in nature. James likewise has a community in need of encouragement and hope, since they despair over the delayed parousia, the final coming of God in glory. In the meantime, James urges patient endurance. Until Jesus returns, they ought to persist without complaint, with the lives of the prophets as their guide. Then will come the time of sight, and healing, and life and . . . Good News for the poor!

PATIENCE . . . NOW!

A friend walked me through his newly planted garden to help me see how it would look in spring. He finally stopped and said, "You can't picture any of this, can you?" I couldn't until I saw it in full bloom the following springtime. Then I could understand why he planted the seeds where he had. Then I saw the beauty and bounty that his planting represented. "Tell John what you hear and see," Jesus says to John's disciples. The signs of the Messiah proclaimed by the prophets are beginning to bloom. Look and see! Hear the singing of those once mute and the rejoicing of the crowds who witness these works. The beauty and the bounty of our generous God are all around.

JUST IMAGINE

James wrote to a community experiencing hardship, like the exiled Israelites in today's first reading. Isaiah and James exhort people to trust that they will see God's presence in their midst once again, so be patient. That's easier said than done, isn't it? Saint Francis de Sales says to be patient with everyone, and most of all with ourselves. Patience means accepting suffering and delay without becoming angry or upset. Easier said than done. Praying for this virtue each day, sometimes often throughout the day, does help. Breathe in the Spirit of God and say, "Give me patience, Lord." Then exhale anger, upset, and impatience. Staring at a garden won't make a shoot spring up any faster; however, giving thanks for the seed, the water, the soil, and the Giver of all life can deepen our trust that the garden will grow. So be patient. Rejoice always. See and be the signs of God's beauty and bounty in our world today.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

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