

Partner Parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg - Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

**ST. GERTRUDE PARISH**

303 Franklin Ave.  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
sgcatholic.org



**CHRIST THE KING PARISH**

125 Park Road  
Leechburg, PA 15656  
ctkleeburg.org



FEBRUARY 18, 2024

# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**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.



St. Gertrude

## OFFERTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

As we begin this season of repentance and reflection, let us contemplate what this time means and how it can lead us to a closer relationship with God. The word Lent comes from an old English word meaning “spring,” or “a new birth.” This sacred time offers a unique opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, reflect on our lives, and prepare our hearts for the resurrection joy of Easter. Each of us should discern a personal plan for this special spiritual season and our continued journey with Christ. In order to be fully



Christ the King

immersed in the Lenten experience, the Church gives us three extraordinary ways to draw closer into this mystery: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Prayer is conversation with God and is essential for fasting and almsgiving because prayer gives us the strength to fast, draws us into a closer relationship with God and makes us grateful for the blessings we have received. Prayer is the cornerstone of our Lenten journey and is vital to all of our actions in life. Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God. In addition to the traditional forms of fasting, try fasting from social media or gossip. Almsgiving is the sharing of our blessings with others and is a way to live out our gratitude for all that God has given us. Justice, mercy, and charity are integral elements of our baptism that call us to be disciples of Jesus. May this sacred time encourage spiritual growth, self-examination and renewal that have a profound impact for you during this Lenten season and your continued journey with Christ.

**Parish Office**

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

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

**Pastor**

The Reverend Alan N. Polczynski  
apolczynski@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Senior Priest Active**

The Reverend Michael J. Sciberras

**Deacon**

Rev. Br. Romuald Duchene, O.S.B.

**Pastoral Assistant to the Homebound**

Sr. Lilly Aseervatham, SMI (SG)  
srlillyaseer1984@gmail.com

Sr. Vinaya Kurian, SMI (CTK)  
srvinayactk@gmail.com

**Business Manager**

Melissa Anderson  
manderson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Administrative Assistant/Bulletin Editor**

Sharon Robson  
srobson@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Regional Youth Ministry Director**

Heather Hensley  
hhensley@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Music Director and Organist**

Patti Donghia (SG)  
pdonghia@dioceseofgreensburg.org

George Pecoraro (CTK)  
gpecoraro@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Cemetery Contact**

St. Catherine Cemetery and St. Gertrude Cemetery  
ctkstgcem@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

**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**

Must have a Baptism Preparation Class.  
Must be scheduled in advance.

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

**FINANCE COUNCILS****ST. GERTRUDE**

Joe Caporali  
James Kunkle  
John Kuruc  
Allan Lundburg  
Margaret Yucas

**CHRIST THE KING**

Bill Anderson  
James Favero  
Martha Frech  
Don Marco  
Anne Troya

**JOINT PARISH COUNCIL**

Amanda Biagioni  
Debbie Biagioni  
Sue Iagnemma  
Carol Rzewnicki

Dolores Lucjak  
Joseph Rice  
Margaret Stull

**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.



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



## St. Gertrude Parish

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, February 19

8:30 AM            + Susan Cuffia  
                              *by Joyce and Jim Cuffia*

Wednesday, February 21

*St. Peter Damian*

8:30 AM            + Joseph Dupal  
                              *by Kathy, Suzy and Larry*

Friday, February 23

*St. Polycarp*

8:30 AM            Special Intention  
                              *by Don and Isabelle Ziegler*

10:10 AM          Stations of the Cross

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday, February 24

4:00 PM            For the Living and Deceased  
                              Members of St. Gertrude and Christ  
                              the King Parishes

Sunday, February 25

8:00 AM            + Joanne Loperfido  
                              *by Tom and Tina Brestensky*

10:30 AM          + Joan Stephenson  
                              *by Cindy King*

Memorial Candle  
In Memory Of: John Lucas

*by Wife Ida*

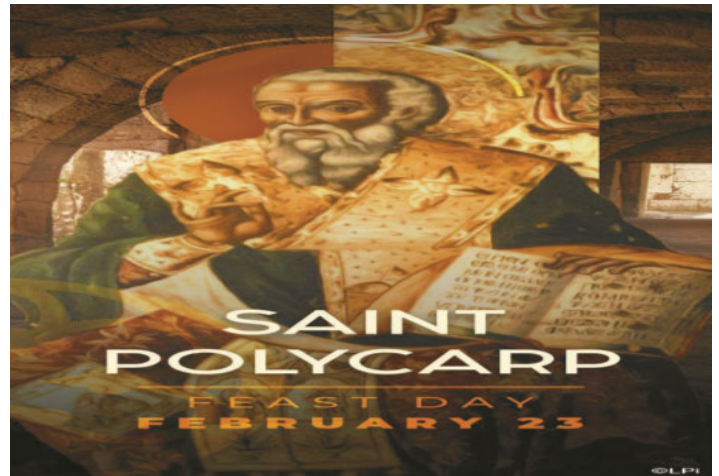
### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

|                     |                         |                    |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| February<br>24 & 25 | Eucharistic<br>Minister | Lector             | Altar<br>Server  |
| Saturday<br>4:00 PM | Gail<br>Lightner        | Sheila<br>Tilson   | Nick<br>Pityk    |
| Sunday<br>8:00 AM   | Stephanie<br>Enciso     | Christine<br>Smith | Anthony/<br>Nico |
| Sunday<br>10:30 AM  | Gerri<br>Michela        | Rebecca<br>Borland | Dom              |

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 10 & February 11

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Offertory       | \$ 3,837.00 |
| Loose                  | \$ 297.00   |
| Restoration            | \$ 90.00    |
| Utility/Energy         | \$ 73.00    |
| Votives                | \$ 115.00   |
| Ash Wednesday          | \$ 125.00   |
| Catholic Home Missions | \$ 100.00   |



As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch.

During his life Polycarp defended the Church against heresies. His important writing, the *Letter to the Philippians*, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity.

The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead. The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr.



## Christ the King Parish

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEULE

Tuesday, February 20

8:30 AM + Rose Polczynski  
*In Memory Of*

Thursday, February 22

8:30 AM + Urban and Swagzdis Families  
*by Dion Urban*

Friday, February 23

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 24

8:30 AM + Kornelia Galka  
*by Dion Urban*

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:30 PM + Al Aiello  
*by Family*

Sunday, February 25

9:30 AM + Andrew Pastva  
*by Wife and Family*



*Please pray for the soul of the recently deceased  
**Florence Truffa**  
May the consolation of the Lord be with her family.*

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

|                     |                 |                    |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| February<br>24 & 25 | Hospitality     | Lector             | Eucharistic<br>Minister |
| Saturday<br>5:30 PM | Jack<br>Canzano | Linda<br>Fedorchak | Mary Jane<br>Gruber     |
| Sunday<br>9:30 AM   | John<br>Lucjak  | Valerie<br>Zanotti | Kathy<br>Daugherty      |



### WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 10 & February 11

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Offertory              | \$ 3,401.00 |
| Monthly                       | \$ 805.00   |
| Loose                         | \$ 42.87    |
| Votives                       | \$ 105.00   |
| Utilities                     | \$ 172.00   |
| Cemetery                      | \$ 72.00    |
| Accent                        | \$ 15.00    |
| Ash Wednesday                 | \$ 65.00    |
| Eastern European Collection   | \$ 83.00    |
| Home Missions of the Americas | \$ 70.00    |

### 2024 PARISH EASTER BAKE SALE

All parishioners are invited to share their time and talent by participating in our parish bake sale.

**The schedule is as follows:**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM:** Hall set-up will take place (men...we need your muscles!).

**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM:** Measure ingredients and clean and grind nuts.

**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM:** Baking starts

**Nut, Poppy Seed and Apricot Rolls - \$14.00 each**



Order deadline is March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Pick-up: March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> between NOON - 4 PM**

**"PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOXES FOR PICK-UP"**

[Orders not picked up by March 14<sup>th</sup> will be sold]

### **Paska Bread (Round or Braided)**

**with raisins \$ 8.00**

**without raisins \$7.50**



Order deadline is March 11<sup>th</sup>

**Pick-up: March 20<sup>th</sup> between NOON - 4PM**

[Orders not picked up by March 20<sup>th</sup> will be sold.]

Order forms are available in the gathering space of the church and at the parish office.

**ORDERS MAY ALSO BE PLACED BY CALLING:**

**Teresia at 724-845-7588 \* Toni at 724-309-1976**

Donations of **Crisco, Gold Medal All Purpose Flour and Domino Sugar** are greatly appreciated! Donations may be dropped off at the parish office prior to the start of the bake sale, or they may be placed in the container marked "BAKE SALE", located in the gathering space of the church by the coat rack.

### Note from the Pastor:

The following is taken from the Thursday, January 25, 2024 edition of *The Catholic Accent* (Vol. 63, No. 5, Pg. 26):

After consultation with the Diocesan Priest Council, Bishop Larry J. Kulick is restoring the option for the faithful to receive holy Communion under both species on the first weekend of Lent, Feb. 17-18. Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, Diocesan Vicar General and Rector at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, made the announcement to priests in the Diocese to allow them to take any actions needed to restore this practice in their parishes. "Although the option for reception of the Precious Blood is being restored, it is not required that every parish implement this action," Monsignor Riffle said. "This practice is to be instituted at the discretion of the pastor or administrator on a parish-by-parish basis."

With this announcement in mind and after prayerful consideration of our own circumstances, I have decided that for the parishes of Christ the King and Saint Gertrude, we will not be restoring holy Communion under both species at this time. The primary concern right now for our parishes is not having an adequate number of extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. I am certainly open to revisit and reevaluate this decision in the future. As we are in the midst of a National Eucharistic Revival, we are all reminded that when we receive holy Communion, even if only under one species, we still receive the fullness of Christ. And, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us, "[b]efore so great a sacrament, the faithful can only echo humbly and with ardent faith the words of the Centurion: 'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed' (1386)."

May God continue to bless you and may each of us have a spiritually fruitful Lenten journey.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Alan

### FAITH FORMATION (GRADES K - 5)

Classes will be **SUNDAY** evenings for Kindergarten through Fifth Grades from 6:00-7:30 PM at St. Gertrude Parish Center.

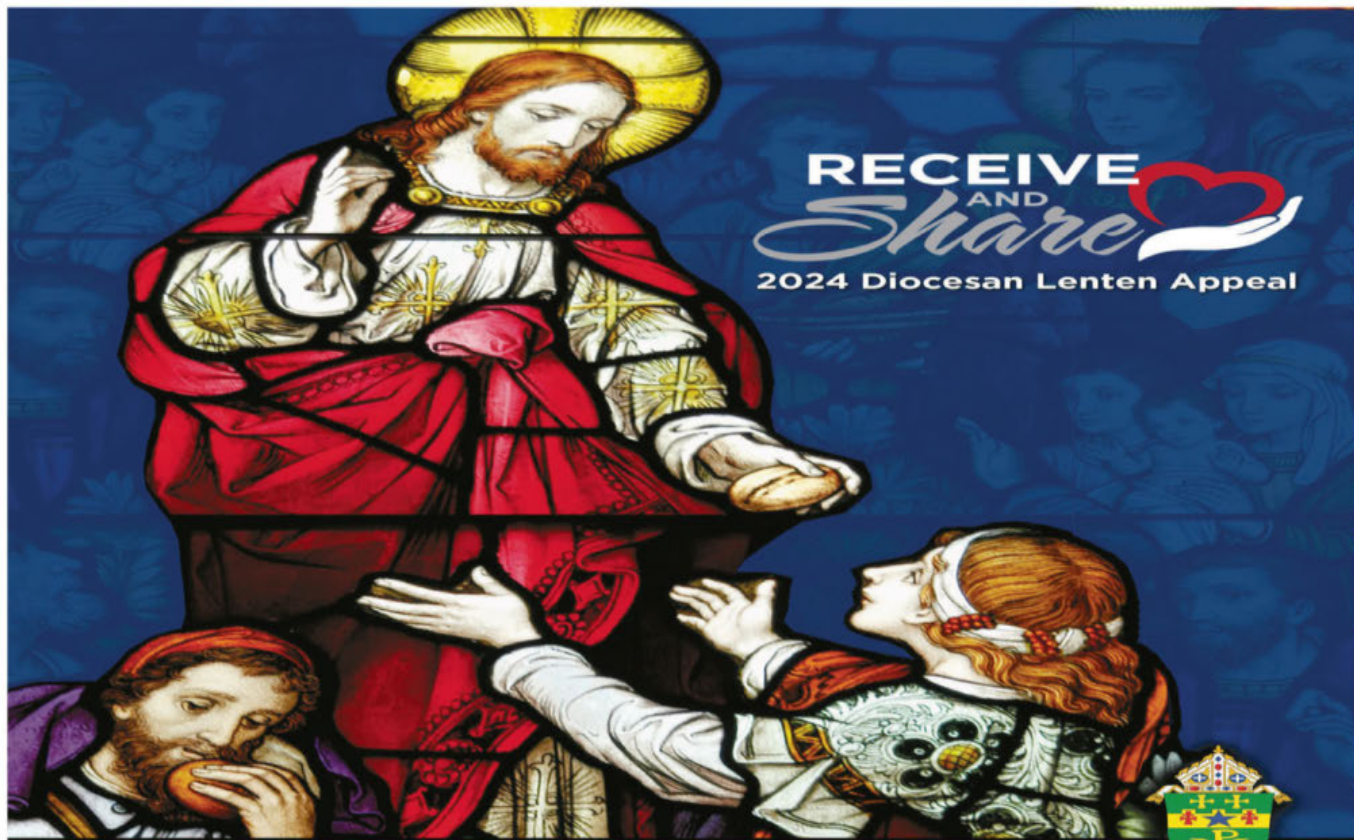
### BISHOP MORROW HOME

There is currently one (1) opening at the Bishop Morrow Personal Care Home. For more information please call (724)845-2828. Thank you.

### YOUTH MINISTRY (GRADES 6-12)

Grades 6-12 will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM at Saint Margaret Mary Church. "On Wednesday, February 7th, the youth group talked about Sacramentals. Why the church gave them to us and how they can help us in our spiritual life. We spoke about the scapular, St. Benedict medal, Miraculous medal and others. The group was able to pick any sacramental they wanted to take home. We also had a small Valentines Day celebration since Feb. 14th is Ash Wednesday!"





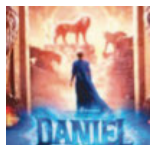
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**2024 Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

When you share your gifts through the 2024 Diocesan Lenten Appeal, you join those who are faithful in their generosity. Last year, only one-third of the faithful across the Diocese participated. When you share what you have received, you are keeping your parish energized and connected to our faith community.

 **Diocese of Greensburg**

**Donate today at [DioceseofGreensburg.org/DLA2024](https://DioceseofGreensburg.org/DLA2024)**



**St. Margaret Mary Social Committee  
Lancaster Bus Tour**

Tuesday-Wednesday April 23-24, 2024

**Daniel at the Sight and Sound Theater.** (preferred floor seating)

**Dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord**

**Accommodations at Doubletree Resort by Hilton w/ baggage handling (1 bag)**

**Breakfast at Hotel**

**Kitchen Kettle Village**

**Jukebox Jive performance at the Magic and Wonder Theater with Buffet Lunch**

**Pricing: \$497 pp double occupancy \$597 single occupancy**

We are asking those who would be interested in going on this bus trip to complete the following interest form. This is not a commitment to go on the trip, but allows us to determine if we will be able to fill the bus.

If you have any questions, please call Arleen Pavetto 724-493-3911 and leave a message with your call back #.

**PLEASE RETURN THE INTEREST FORM BY February 26th**

**Interest Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Others Traveling with You

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

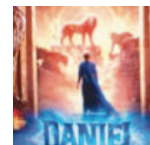
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Insurance will be available directly through Thomas Tours

Please drop off the Interest Form in the basket on the desk in the Narthex at

St. Margaret Mary Church or mail to St. Margaret Mary Church 3055 Leechburg Rd. Lower Burrell, PA 15068

Please write LANCASTER TRIP on the front of the envelope





## PRAYER THIS LENTEN SEASON

Every family and household is encouraged to take a renewed look at the penitential practice of prayer this Lenten Season.

If families gathered together once each day for prayer, we will have begun to deepen our understanding of our baptismal promises, and will be more prepared to “renew” these promises at an Easter liturgy. There are many other creative ways to build a “habit of prayer” throughout Lent that can continue “forever and ever Amen!” Other suggestions:

- \* Attend at least one daily Mass for each week of Lent.
- \* Find out when and where Adoration of the Holy Eucharist is offered or stop by a church. Spend time in prayer before Our Lord in the Tabernacle.
- \* Begin the practice of offering thanks before every meal.
- \* Help a refugee family get settled. Pray for peace in war-torn regions.
- \* Work together in a soup kitchen and converse with persons served.
- \* Write a letter of faith and encouragement to some who is incarcerated.
- \* Visit an elderly or sick person. Take care of an errand for them.
- \* Be an advocate. Write to an elected official and/or donate to a cause that provides resources to meet the needs of poor and low-income people in your community or in a troubled part of the world.
- \* Once a week eat meals that total no more than the daily cost allotted by government food assistance programs for your size family. (See USDA Modified Thrifty Food Plan). Refer to the USCCB First Fridays for Food Security Facebook event at <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/first-fridays-for-food-security.cfm>.



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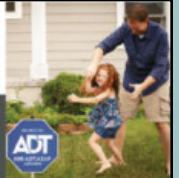
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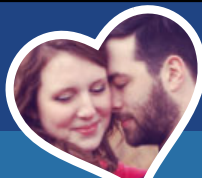
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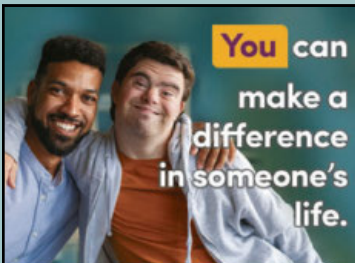
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