

**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  
ctkleechburg.org

JANUARY 14, 2024

**BEHOLD,  
THE LAMB  
OF GOD.**

JOHN 1:36

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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.

**OFFERTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS**



St. Gertrude

During this period of Ordinary Time leading up to the Lenten Season, our schedules and activities calm somewhat allowing time for us to reflect on our relationship with Jesus Christ. The moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become a Disciple. Discipleship is being a follower of Christ ourselves, but



Christ the King

also the process of someone helping someone else apply and obey God’s Holy Word and share the good news in order to grow as Jesus’ method of making disciples was focused on relationships and action.

Being a Disciple also means being a good steward of your time, talent and treasure. Stewardship is the way we look at the world when we become a disciple of Jesus Christ and recognize that all we have and all that we are is a gift from God. Discipleship and stewardship both beautifully intertwine with each other because together they help you live a life that is a reflection of Jesus. You are invited to consider your own calling as a disciple and steward of Christ as this is a very important part of pursuing Christ in all that you do.

**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, January 15

8:30 AM + Leonard Caldreone  
*by Family*

Wednesday, January 17  
*St. Anthony*

8:30 AM + Joanne Loperfeto  
*by Tom and Tina Brestensky*

Friday, January 19

8:30 AM + Myron Hartos  
*by Carol and Family*

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 20

4:00 PM + Melinda Silvestri  
*by Jim Soska*

Sunday, January 21

8:00 AM For the Living and Deceased  
Members of St. Gertrude and Christ  
the King Parishes

10:30 AM + Ron Groholski  
*by The Wyllly's*



Memorial Candle  
In Memory Of: Guido DePaul  
*by The Hollingers*



*Please pray for the soul of the recently deceased*  
**Jacob Tarosky**  
*May the consolation of the Lord be with his family.*

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 20 & 21	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Server
Saturday 4:00 PM	Minister Needed	Margaret Summerville	Nick Pityk
Sunday 8:00 AM	Patty Kiebler	Tammie Amendola	Anthony Nico
Sunday 10:30 AM	Minister Needed	Rebecca Borland	Dom

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

January 6 & January 7

Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,823.00
Loose	\$ 241.00
Restoration	\$ 227.00
Utility/Energy	\$ 45.00
Votives	\$ 92.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 322.00
Flowers	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 80.00
Children & Family Services	\$ 80.00

### MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will be selling raffle tickets for a \$500 drawing for St. Valentines Day. Tickets are \$5 with 5 numbers per ticket.



### SPAGHETTI DINNER

The next spaghetti dinner will be held on Thursday, January 18th from 4-7 PM in the church hall. Parishioners are asked to please donate a dessert for this event. Desserts can be dropped off at the hall at any time on the day of the dinner. Thank you.

### WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK'S MOBILE MARKET

On Thursday, January 18, 2024 from 11 AM to Noon, the Westmoreland Food Bank's Mobile Market will be at St. Gertrude parking lot between the church and school (or in case of inclement weather, in the back of the former school). The fresh food giveaway is free to all, and no ID, registration or proof of income is required; recipients must be at least 16 years old. The Mobile Market is sponsored by St. Gertrude's St Vincent de Paul conference.





## Christ the King Parish

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEULE

Tuesday, January 16

8:30 AM + Stephen Sherden  
by Virginia and Kim Sherden

Thursday, January 18

8:30 AM + Marie Kowalczyk  
by Bill and Kathy Daugherty

Saturday, January 20  
Ss. Fabian and Sebastian

8:30 AM + Vonnice Ferretti  
by Lorraine Azzarone

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:30 PM + Stella Chero  
by Flo

Sunday, January 21

9:30 AM + Elizabeth Ravotta  
by Fran Huskuliak

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 20 & 21	Hospitality	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5:30 PM	Jack Canzano	Jack Billak	Pam Pativa
Sunday 9:30 AM	John Lucjak	Valerie Zanotti	Margie Stull



John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION

January 6 & January 7

Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,046.00
Monthly	\$ 4,145.00
Loose	\$ 75.00
Votives	\$ 64.00
Utilities	\$ 223.00
Cemetery	\$ 215.00
Accent	\$ 258.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
Initial Offering	\$ 180.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 222.00
Children & Family Services	\$ 22.00

### BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

"Do you believe you are called to be a disciple of Christ?" I think many of us might answer this question something like this, "Of course, all of us as Catholics are called to be disciples of Christ, However, before we personalize this answer, we should look at what it means to be a disciple. To do this, let's first look at how Jesus defined some of the characteristics of a disciple:

- A disciple must love Jesus even more than his immediate family. (Luke 14:26)
- A disciple requires self-denial, complete dedication, willing obedience, and total commitment – even unto death (Luke 14:27)
- A disciple surrenders everything for Jesus. (Luke 14:33)
- A disciple remains true to Jesus' words and teachings. (John 8:31)
- A disciple loves others as Jesus has loved him. (John 13:34-35)

The Catechism defines a disciple this way: "The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1816).

## **\*\*MASS INTENTIONS\*\***

Mass Intentions are available in January and February at both parishes. Please call the church office if you would like to schedule a Mass.

## **FAITH FORMATION (GRADES K - 5)**

**There will be no session on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## **YOUTH MINISTRY (GRADES 6-12)**

Grades 6-12 will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM at Saint Margaret Mary Church.

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDIES**

### **Lectio: The Gospel of Mark**

Thursday, January 11- April 18, 2024

1:00-2:30 Peter's Table - Mount Saint Peter Parish

### **Acts: The spread of the Kingdom**

Tuesday, January 9-May 28, 2024

11:00-12:30 Freude Room - St. Margaret Mary Parish - All are welcome!

## **CDA**

Candy sales will be temporarily suspended and will resume on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> in time for Valentine's Day. If anyone needs candy bars for a special occasion or a bus trip get in touch with the church office.

Reminder: There will be no CDA meeting held in January, The next scheduled meeting will be held in St. Gertrude's church hall on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend.

## **OBLATES OF ST. BENEDICT**

The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet in two sessions Sunday, Jan. 21, in Brownfield 202 at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe. Benedictine Father John-Mary Tompkins will speak on "*Lectio Divina*" at 3 PM and Bishop Larry J. Kulick will speak on "Intentional Discipleship" in a special 7 PM session. For reservations, call Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Attendees may also attend vespers at 5 PM and supper at 5:35 PM.

## **MARCH FOR LIFE**

The March for Life in Washington DC is taking place on Friday, January 19. I am aware of two parish-based groups who are sending buses this year. If you would like to attend, please reach out to them to reserve a seat.

- A bus is going from St. Bernard, Indiana with departure at 6:30 AM from Indiana Alliance Church. Please contact Bill Ager at 724-465-4522 for details.
- A bus is going from Mother of Sorrows, Murrys ville with departure at 5:30 AM. Please contact Barb Koury at [barbkoury@gmail.com](mailto:barbkoury@gmail.com) or 412-480-6490 for details.

If anyone is going to the March on their own, you are welcome to attend Mass that morning with Bishop Kulick at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in the National Basilica at 10:30 AM and to march with Bishop beginning at the corner of Constitution and 12<sup>th</sup> Street around 1:00 PM.

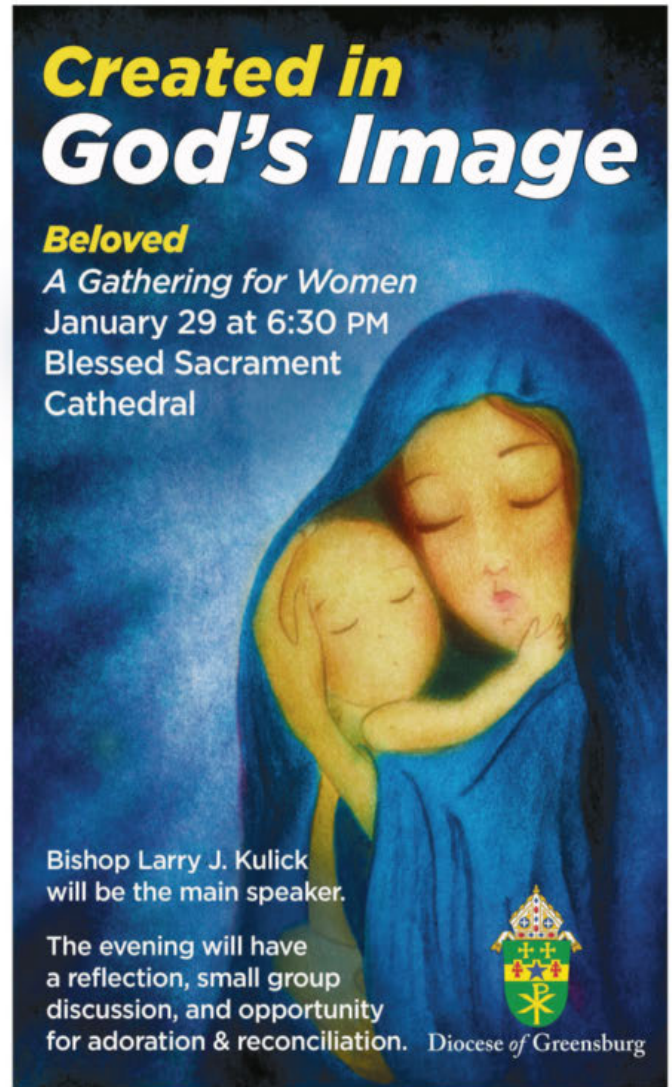
Please pray that the march and its surrounding events are successful and fruitful.

## **DCCW PRAY FOR LIFE DAY**

Everyone is invited to join in a day of prayer hosted by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, on Friday, Jan. 19, the day of the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The day will begin with the Rosary for Priests at 11:30 AM, followed by Mass at noon, Rosary for Life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 PM, Litany for Life at 3:30 PM and closing prayer at 4 PM. There is no cost, and those attending can stay all day or part of the day. The DCCW will also be accepting donations of baby items for pregnancy centers in the Diocese.

## **SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEE FUND**

Support is needed for the Ukrainian Refugee Fund administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, which provides assistance to individuals and families who have been forced to leave their homelands because of war. Visit [ccharitiesgreensburg.org/donate/donate-now/](https://ccharitiesgreensburg.org/donate/donate-now/) to donate. More than 100 families are on a waiting list to resettle in Western Pennsylvania.



### SET THE EARTH ON FIRE

My wife can get so invested in a sporting event where one of her favorite teams is playing that she sometimes must leave the room due to the stress. That is heavy-duty investment! I remember her on the sidelines for our son's soccer games or our daughter's lacrosse games. Her emotions were intense, and she cheered loudly for her children. She never yelled at a referee because it wasn't about them. It was about wanting to see her children, or her favorite team, achieve something great. Her passion was fueled by love and her connectedness to something or someone.

When we look at our Church, we need to see greater passion. Sometimes that passion is there, but many times, we approach our discipleship as just another aspect of who we have become. It needs to be more than that. As we call ourselves Christian, we need to "put on Christ" so that a world in need sees not us, but Jesus. By being serious about our discipleship and living as transformed Everyday Stewards, we bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in Luke 12, *"I have come to set the earth on fire."* Those words sound pretty emotional to me! If we are to be like him, then we need to set the earth on fire. We need to be bold and proclaim the Good News without apology. By our actions of love and justice, we need to show the world that with the Body of Christ on earth, it is not business as usual. Surely our emotions about these things should trump the emotions we have about a sporting event. We need to ask ourselves what truly sets *us* on fire.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## What Discipleship Is and Is Not (Part 1)

By Lesli White

Jesus' final instruction to His followers was "go and make disciples". Jesus made disciples, the disciples made disciples and their disciples made disciples. Jesus' method of making disciples was focused more on relationships and action and less on information and knowledge. But in an age where church no longer seems relevant or helpful – or even good – to many people, so many are leaving and losing site of Jesus' call. On top of this, many of those who make it to Sunday service are biblically illiterate, lack commitment to evangelism and mission, and have shallow faith. It's important as followers of Christ to understand what discipleship is and what discipleship is not so we are able to fulfill the Great Commission.

By definition, a disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more Christ-like. Discipleship is not knowing more information about Jesus, but knowing Jesus and being transformed into His image through the constant exposure of the Gospel of grace. Discipleship calls us to live by faith in Him in the everydayness of life by the Holy Spirit's power.



Jesus made disciples by spending time observing potential disciples. Before calling potential disciples into development, He interacted with them in a variety of settings and situations. Jesus taught discipleship along the way and gave them a mission to complete. He challenged the disciples to embrace a life fulfilling God's call. He used the things around Him to teach discipleship like the birds and the lilies. Discipleship naturally happened simply from a group of people hanging out and growing together. And don't think discipleship happened over night. Jesus spent three years developing 12 men, 24 hours out of the day, seven days a week, 365 days out of the year. In this process, Jesus treated each disciple as an individual – He confronted Peter, He loved John, He challenged Thomas. Jesus told Peter that everyone has their own, individualized path to discipleship. We do too.

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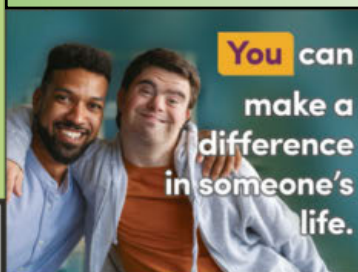
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