



Our Lady of the Assumption

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



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Parish Website: www.olaparishpa.org

Prayer Chain..... 724-464-8716

PARISH OFFICE

P.O. BOX G, 2434 NEAL RD.
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm—Walk-in
1:00 pm– 2:00 pm—Lunch
2:00-4:00 pm—By appointment

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 4:00 pm - Lucernemines
Saturday 6:00 pm - Coral
Sunday 9:00 am - Coral
Sunday 11:00 am - Lucernemines

Schedule for daily Masses, Holy Days, & other services can be found inside.

**The Sanctuary Candle for
December 24 to January 7
burns in memory of
Mandy & Mildred Thomas
By
Peggy Watkins
(Lucernemines)
&
George & Frances Voytek
By
Cindy, Georgette & Families
(Coral)**

Young Adult Evening of Exploring God's Call with the Seminarians

Young adult-aged men interested in learning more about answering God's call in life are invited to join the diocese seminarians for an evening of prayer, fellowship, and conversation. Doing God's will can be a challenge for each of us, but it is not impossible. So come and listen as the seminarians share their experience of God's call and how it changed their journey in life. This event will take place on December 30, at 5:45 PM at Christ Our Shepherd Center. Please visit greensburgpriest.org for registration information.

Sanctuary Candles

No requests for specific dates for sanctuary candles can be accommodated at this time. Both sites are booked through June after that time the first available date will be given in the order that the request was received. We can accommodate host requests. Watch the bulletin for openings in the future.

St. Joseph Candle

Burns in memory
Of
Michael Gatskie
(Coral)
By
Patty Call

Millions in Catholic school tuition assistance available

SPREAD THE NEWS! The 12 Diocese of Greensburg Catholic schools now have millions of dollars in tuition assistance available! Become a TOP Student today. Visit www.CatholicSchoolsGuide.org or call 724-552-2565.



True, Lasting Peace in the last Days of 2021

Dear Parishioners,

An old American "spiritual" hymn sings a refrain, "*We've come this far by faith, trusting in the Lord.*" In dark times and in bright, people have intoned this prayer with fervor distinct and genuine, perhaps responding as they sang to a **two-sided perception** by people hearing their song, 1. *That goodness sometimes flees into hiding*, or 2. *That goodness always stays firmly in place.*

Many of our beloved Christmas carols deal with similar perceptions, even though we believers attest the arrival of a bundle of peace in the birth of Light shining brightly into the dark corners and into the interior life of every person alive to God. Far from generic, Christmas specifies that **peace comes upon those who want what God wants for the world.**

In this last week of the year 2021, indeed in every last week of the year after we solemnize Christmas, Catholics remember three events which unfolded in the Incarnation: 1.) Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, living as a **family**; 2.) The Beloved Disciple as a true **friend** and companion to Jesus; and 3.) King Herod as a deadly **foe** acting out cold-blooded attacks, even against innocent babes.

Put another way, the last of each calendar year presents to us **three reflections and questions**: 1.) *How does holiness intersect with a family, especially one of unusual configuration (e.g., a pregnant virgin become a mother, with an, at first, reluctant father, and with a child of great promise)?* 2.) *How does true friendship intersect with true holiness in Christ?* 3.) *How does God work in response to deadly destruction by powerful forces apparently out of control?*

Regarding family life, I suspect that God would tell us **that holiness arises in any family** because of **God's choice to love us and to work on our behalf when we have chosen and loved God**, regardless of the unusual configurations of mixed family or blended family or distant family. Just **make the choice and allow that others may see the good and desire it.** The good that God does **becomes contagious, desirable, and pleasing to encounter.**

Regarding friendship, remember that **friendship partakes of both affection and charity in anyone's life.** Choosing worthy friends flies in the face of a theory that friendship is only born, not awakened or developed within us. The beloved disciple became beloved because **he practiced devout, other-centered, chaste love** that rejoiced to see awesome, grace-operating events and persons. This disciple viewed awesome events from the first days encountering Jesus. True friendship endures and sustains us through tragedy as friends stand with one another. Add God to the equation; the miraculous happens. Think of this true friend at the cross and at the empty tomb, faithful to death and beyond.

Regarding deadly force, maniacs like Herod **seem to believe that force without regard for any person reveals enduring power. Force bears sorrows that run deep and agony that penetrates all of one's body and soul.** No one loved Herod in life or in death. This power ends in loneliness, desperation, condemnation, and soul-regret. Herod seems to have chosen hell, in complete separation, enduring in death both agony and emptiness. Do persons like Herod convince themselves that they have no ultimate accountability? Do not let anyone convince you that in our day people living like Herod win a crown, whether they lived lies about sex or drugs or domination.

We, too, have come and will come far by faith, trusting the Lord and in the Lord's ways. The truth Jesus reveals exposes the real peace that comes bundled at this Holy Season.

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

All sessions will take place in Podowski Hall at the Lucernemines worship site.

Grades PreK-5 will meet from 9:45-10:45am.

Grades 6-7 and additional Youth Group (grades 8-12) will meet from 5:30-7pm.

December 26th

No sessions: Have a blessed Christmas!

It was certainly a joyful celebration on Sunday, December 12th, as Youth Group members worked together creating delicious cookies to share with their families during Advent!

A very special thanks to Tracy and Frank Galasso for their assistance!

Our Best Wishes for a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season!



Welcome, Santino!

Congratulations and best wishes to Santino John Sbardella, son of Michael and Samantha Sbardella, who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, December 12th. As you begin your faith journey, may it bring lasting peace and joy to your life!



Catholic Charities offers in-person, face-to-face counseling services

Catholic Charities offers face-to-face, in-person counseling services. Clients must adhere to CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance. Those who are not vaccinated are asked to wear masks. Clients who are sick are asked to avoid coming to the office. Virtual counseling is available for those who prefer that option. To make an appointment, call 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Matters of Sexual Misconduct

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.

DECEMBER 11/12/, 2021	OFFERTORY
Adult Offertory	\$5,892.00
Loose Offertory	\$341.00
Children's Offertory	\$3.00
Votive Candles	\$153.00
Maintenance	\$214.00
Flowers Collection	\$875.00
Catholic Accent	\$47.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$5.00
Children/Family	\$95.00
Retired Religious	\$20.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$30.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief	\$27.00
Thanksgiving	\$10.00
Immaculate Conception	\$783.00
Christmas	\$750.00
Cemetery Collection	\$112.00

MASS INTENTIONS



For December 25 to January 2, 2022

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00am+Rev. Fr. Elmer Kacinko (Gert Mlinarich)

No 4 pm or 6 pm Anticipated Masses

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

9:00 am+John & Magdalene Baird (Son & Family)

(Coral)

11:00 am+Christine & Jack Zambernardi (Family)

(Lucernemines)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27—NO MASS

Saint John, apostle and Evangelist

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 - Coral

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:00 am Pro populo

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 – Coral

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am+Edward D'Aurelio (Sherry Renosky)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 - Coral

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am+John "Slugger" Golba (Nicolina & Mary Jo
Stabile)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

No 8:00 am Mass

4 p.m. -Vigil Mass-Solemnity of Mary

+Harold & Velma Hans (Stan & Peggy Lucas)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. Pro populo

No Anticipated Mass

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

9:00 am +August "Goose" Vilcek (Family)

(Coral)

11:00 am- Pro Populo

(Lucernemines)

Host for January 1 to January 6 is in memory of
John Zicha by Family
(Coral)

Host for the weekends of December 26 & January 2 in
memory of Mandy, Mildred & Dan Thomas
By Peggy Watkins