



Our Lady of the Assumption

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



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PARISH OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Closed 1:00 pm– 2:00 pm
2:00-4:00 pm

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 in this bulletin

Parish Website: www.olaparishpa.org



The fourth Sunday of Advent is December 18, 2022. During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

The Sanctuary Candle
burns in memory of

Dick Farabaugh

by

Wife, Jenny

(Lucerne)

&

The Vilcek Family

By

Anonymous

(Coral)

Host is in memory of Dick Farabaugh

by Wife, Jenny (Lucerne)

What are you thankful for?



Elizabeth is thankful for unicorns, Barbies, and her family!



All adult clothing is on sale for \$1 this week (white tag clothing excluded) at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Indiana.

Located in the BiLo Plaza on N. 4th Street, store hours are Monday thru Saturday from 10am to 2pm with donations accepted at the back door from 10am to 1pm (as space permits).

March for Life Please join us – The Indiana March for Life Group – For the **50th Annual March for Life** on Friday, January 20th, 2023 as we travel by bus to Washington D.C. The Theme is: Next Steps, Marching in Post-Roe America. For bus reservations and/or further information, please call Bill Ager at 724-465-4522. **Deadline for bus reservations is January 16, 2023. Seating is limited! CALL NOW!**

Here at HCN we are hosting a Community Christmas Service featuring the Music Cantata *Christmas Changes Everything* performed by a choir of our community members. There will be a time of fellowship and snacks after the service. Look for Sign up Sheets soon providing snacks for this event.



**Sunday,
12/18
6:00 pm**

Join us at the Homer City Church of the Nazarene located at 3513 Route 119 S, Homer City, PA for "Christmas Changes Everything".

**ANNUAL SOCKS FOR ALL DRIVE
Dec 3-Dec 21**

During Holiday Season 2022, the Indiana County NAACP is collecting socks to donate to a local charity during its Annual Socks for All Drive. Please consider donating a NEW pair of socks to us as part of this drive. Such a small but significant donation could help to make a difference in the life of another. Mail your donated socks by 4:30pm on Monday, December 19, 2022 to Indiana NAACP, P.O. Box 7, Indiana, PA 15701, or call/email for drop box locations until December 21. Cash app donations can be made at \$naacppa.



Dear Parishioners,
A Beautiful Gate

Did you know that every Pope has a "personal preacher" who speaks to him and advises him on matters of faith, a sort of formal spiritual director who will regularly offer the latest Holy Father reflections to stimulate his own spiritual well-being and growth? For some years now, the preacher has been a Capuchin-Franciscan, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, a humble, soft-spoken man, friar, priest, and honored not to long ago by being made a Cardinal. Friar Raniero spent time in the United States, so he speaks English; while here, he delved into the Catholic charismatic prayer revival, an exposure that enlivened his preaching.

True to his ministry, the "Papal Preacher" has just offered his second Advent Reflection. Here's what he says to church leaders and to us, according to the Vatican report (complete with a photograph of this man speaking before Pope Francis):

His second reflection for the season of Advent 2022 focused on "the gate of hope" – **one of the doors to be opened by the theological virtues: faith, hope and charity.** He noted that the Temple of Jerusalem had a door called the "**Beautiful Gate**" (Acts 3:2) and the **temple of God, which is our heart, also has a "beautiful gate" which is the door of hope** – the door we want to open to Christ who comes.

To explore the object of the "blessed hope", the Cardinal started by **placing the Gospel revelation against the background of Old Testament beliefs about the afterlife**, noting that even the Old Testament had no answer to give. However, he said, the great **thing that distinguished Israel** from other peoples was that, **despite everything, it "continued to believe in the goodness and love of its God"** and **did not attribute death**, as the Babylonians did, **to the envy of the divinity** which reserves immortality only to itself, but **rather attributed it to man's sin** (Gen 3), or simply to one's own mortal nature.

Indeed, **Israel seemed to have gone as far as to desire and glimpse the possibility of a relationship with God beyond death:** a being "torn from hell" (Ps 49:16), "to be with God always" (Ps 73, 23) and "be satisfied with joy in his presence" (Ps 16, 11). Jesus, explained the Cardinal, gave an "irrefutable proof by rising from the dead. **After Him, for the believer, death is no longer a landing, but a take-off!**"

More so, **some mystics have been given to experience something of the "ocean of joy" that God keeps prepared for His people** but all of them affirm that nothing can be said about it in human words. St. Paul says that he was taken to the "third heaven" in paradise and he heard "unspeakable words that it is not lawful for anyone to pronounce" (2 Cor 12, 2-4).

Thus, **"reflecting on Christian hope means reflecting on the ultimate meaning of our existence,"** said the Cardinal, noting that **one thing is common to all in this regard: the longing for living 'well', for 'wellbeing.'**

The Preacher noted that in contemporary times some thinkers have attacked Christian Hope. However, he stressed, the task before us with regard to hope is "no longer that of defending it and justifying it philosophically and theologically, but of announcing it, of showing it and of **giving it to a world that has lost the sense of hope and is sinking more and more into pessimism and nihilism, the true 'black hole' of the universe.**"

You and I proclaim Peace this Christmas once again, but especially by offering everyone Hope.

Fr. John

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA/RCIA)

Next Session: Tuesday, January 2nd @7pm in Podowski Hall

Topic: Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism and Confirmation)

Note: No sessions will be held on 12/20 or 12/27.

Faith Formation 2022/23

All sessions will be held in Podowski Hall at the Lucernemines worship site.

December 18th

9:30am-10:45am Grades K-5

December 25th

No Sessions: Have a blessed Christmas!

January 1st

No Sessions: Have a blessed New Year!

January 8th

9:30am-10:45am Grades K-5

5:30pm-7:30pm Grades 6-7 (plus Youth Group grades 8-12)

STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Macy Sardone, a senior at Homer Center, who was recently selected to the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association all-state team!



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our Youth Group will be hosting a blood drive by the American Red Cross on Thursday, December 29th in Podowski Hall at the Lucernemines worship site from 12 noon until 6pm.

Students may earn service hours by helping out during the drive. Please contact cmarco@dioceseofgreensburg.org to volunteer your time and talents to a very worthwhile cause. Permission slips are available for students 16-18 years old who would like to be a donor.

Registration is available online: RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood

Click on Find Location...our zip code is 15754. Please consider giving the gift of life!



Honoring the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Welcome to our community of Faith!

Best wishes to Andrew and Alexandra Smith Leydic on the December 11th Baptism of their daughter Arden Rosalie.

May God's joy, love, and peace fill your hearts!



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DIOCESE

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren hosts monthly meetings

An increasing number of grandparents are unexpectedly thrust into the role of being the primary caregiver for children in need of family members (other than their parents) to provide a home due to opioid abuse, alcoholism, incarceration, divorce, child abuse or other reasons. One in 10 grandparents (often on fixed incomes) have been the primary support of a grandchild at some time in their lives. Pennsylvania ranks seventh among the 50 states in terms of number of children, age newborn to adolescent, living in grandparent-headed households. Our churches are concerned and are putting our faith into action through Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, an ecumenical social outreach mission of St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe. Monthly meetings offer grandparents useful information and time to interact with one another, which can serve as a form of venting or therapy. A hot dinner and child care are provided. For information, call 724-423-3777 or 724-537-7358.

Divorce support group meets weekly at St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe

Anyone who has filed for divorce or completed a divorce is welcome to attend a divorce support group hosted by St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe. The group meets Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. at St. Vincent Grove through Dec. 14. Members accompany one another to find hope and healing from the grief, doubt, anger and stress brought about by the end of their marriage relationship. To register, visit divorcecare.org/groups/150150/registrations/new. For information, contact Teri Pomerleau at 724-539-8629, ext.15, or tpomeleau@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Open house Dec. 29 at Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe

An open house is planned Dec. 29 from 1-4 p.m. at Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe. Tours and light refreshments are planned. No reservations are necessary. For information, contact Erin Colcombe at 724-539-8629 or erin.colcombe@stvincent.edu.

FEEL THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS

Experience a rockin' way to witness the true love of Christmas through a classic Christmas concert performance by B.E. Taylor.

Originally performed at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, this concert has become a family tradition for thousands. The concert will be replayed in lifesize theatre quality sound and video. Surely an evening to remember!



St. Paul Church, Greensburg

Sunday, Dec. 18th • 7-9pm • Open to all no charge

Come and celebrate "The reason for the Season"

Doors open at 6pm

MASS INTENTIONS

For December 17 thru December 25



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

4:00 pm (Lucernemines) +Julie & Ben Carnish & Norman Short
(Carolyn & Bob Short)
6:00 pm (Coral) + David Stossel (Becky Segere & Linda Gardner)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 am (Coral) +Sophia Esachina (Ann & Paul Esachina)
11:00 am (Lucernemines) Pro Populo

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19- NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20- Coral

8:00 am +Anthony Mizerak (Nick Lazor & Family)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21- Coral

8:00 am +George Stelma (Daughter, Chris & Niece, Julie)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22- Coral

8:00 am +John Stipcak (Children)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23- Coral

8:00 am +John & Magdalene Baird (Son)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm (Lucernemines) +Christine & Jack Zamberardi (Family)
7:00 pm (Lucernemines) +Daniel Thomas (Sister, Peggy)
10:00 pm (Coral) +Helen Bertig (Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:00 am (Coral) Pro Populo

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 17-3:00pm (Lucerne)
Sunday, December 18-8:30am (Coral)

End of year offertory and gifts to be credited to the 2022 tax year must be received at OLOTA by January 3, 2023. Anything received after this will be credited to the 2023 tax year.

Mass Attendance

Lucerne

Dec 10, 4pm—83
Dec 11, 11am—60

Coral

Dec 10, 6pm—48
Dec 11, 9am—117

Due to bulletin publishing date changes during the holiday season, the offertory for December 10 & 11 will be published in next weeks bulletin.