



Our Lady of the Assumption

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



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Christmas Crèche and St. Francis of Assisi

It is believed that St. Francis of Assisi created the very first crib scene in the year 1223. By gathering live animals and people in a stable to re-enact the first Christmas, he hoped to help the local townspeople better understand the poverty and love of Jesus. The Christ Child was lying on the hay in a manger between a live ox and a donkey. Legend has it that the Christ Child himself appeared in the manger to complete the scene.

PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box G, 2434 NEAL RD.
CORAL, PA 15731
Fax:724-479-1130

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 Sanctuary Candle
burns in memory of

Gary M Welsh

by

Gregory Feltz

(Lucerne)

Host is in memory & honor of

The Altar Rosary Society

by

Mary Ann Ciranni

(Lucerne)



A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Jesus, the Father's only Son,
whose death for all redemption won,
before the worlds, of God most high,
begotten all ineffably.

The Father's Light and Splendor Thou
their endless Hope to Thee that bow:
accept the prayers and praise today
that through the world Thy servants pay.

Salvation's author, call to mind
how, taking the form of humankind,
born of a Virgin undefiled,
Thou in man's flesh becamest a Child.

All honor, laud, and glory be,
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee;
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost forevermore. *Amen.*

—6th Century Hymn

A huge THANK YOU from the Christian Mothers to all who helped in some way to make both our Holiday Bake Sale and our Koeze Candy/Nut Sale a great success. We truly appreciated your continued support of our fundraising efforts. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all!



Dear Parishioners,

When the kindness and generous love of God appeared....

Every year someone writes an article questioning **if December 25 is the actual birthday of Jesus**. Behind that question emerges another question, "did Jesus really exist or is this all fictional?" Last evening I heard an interview on radio from a woman who doubted that Jesus was actually born in Bethlehem. Wow!

A short answer to the **first question** about the actual birthday is that **neither the Bible nor the faith handed down to us tells us the actual date**. Scholars of the Bible and of the Faith-Handed-Down **say this question is a contemporary one**, and ancient peoples could accept the fact of a birth without concerning themselves about an actual date. The second question and the radio-program-doubt concerns the reliability of ancient witnesses: **did they tell the truth?**

Research for this Christmas article about how people in the Holy Land commemorate the birth of Jesus now, and we also learn something about how they remembered Jesus' birth **over many centuries**. The sites associated with Jesus are hardly novel, with most of them honored from the 300s. I thought it might be instructive to type into a search for "Christmas in the Holy Land, 2022" **to learn when and how the Solemnity of Jesus' Birth is celebrated in the land of His birth**.

When the search found Israel-Palestine-the Holy Land (after a detour around Bethlehem in Pennsylvania), **articles told of the three Christmases celebrated each year in that part of the world**, all based on **differing calendars**. The more ancient calendars were ones still used by the Armenian Christians and by the Orthodox Christians. The former celebrates Christmas on **January 17 or 18** by the Armenians while the Julian Calendar is based on an early attempt to correct some timing issues regarding the months of year, and they celebrate the birth of Jesus on **January 6**. Roman Catholics like us and the churches of the west, celebrate the birth of Jesus on **December 25**, as our calendar was developed based on greater improvements in science and more exact mathematical calculations. Note how close these various observances fall, all within a month of each other. What matters is that **Jesus was born so the love of God appeared**.

The State of Israel invites Christians to visit the land of Jesus' birth and their brochures point out that Bethlehem (in the Palestinian authority) is **not** the only one place that Christian liturgies **commemorate the moment** when Jesus emerged in human birth from the womb of Mary, the one selected to be the Mother of God. **Nazareth** has great celebrations in the Basilica of the Annunciation and a huge Christmas market place in the square at "Mary's Well," complete with a large, lighted Christmas Tree. **Jerusalem** has processions and events **culminating at the Holy Sepulcher**, to show the direct relationship of the **Manager to the Cross and the Empty Tomb**.

When people doubt that Jesus really lived, they might as well doubt that Augustus Caesar or Cleopatra or Nero lived, because the testimony by witnesses about Jesus is strong, firm, consistent, clear, and unequivocal. **Yes, He was born**. He lived. He gave his life on the Cross. He was buried. He rose from the Tomb. We've got to celebrate His birth sometime. **Christ is born/Glorify Him**. And, we've got to "glorify him," as an ancient greeting holds.

Father 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)

Faith Formation 2022/23

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

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)

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 cmarcoline@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!**

Spirited Singing!

The streets of Coral were bustling with Christmas carolers on Sunday, December 11th! Thanks to everyone who participated in this festive evening! Special thanks to Altar Rosary and Christian Mothers for helping with refreshments. Also, to Lindsey and Steve Holt for entertaining us with musical Christmas Carol Bingo! It was a blast! Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!





Things are looking a lot brighter in
Coral!
Thank you Al Paratto and
Mark Little!

St Bernard's Catholic Church is sponsoring the viewing of the documentary ***The Matter of Life*** on **Monday, January 16th** at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish Hall from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Featuring powerful stories from doctors, women, historians, and many more. The Matter of Life stresses entering the conversation about life with understanding, love, and support. Carolyn Cannizzaro, Director of Pro-Life Advocacy will be present to facilitate discussion.

Warning: This content may not be suitable for all audiences, but strongly encouraged for parents and their teenagers, young adults, and all interested in being educated on the facts about life issues.

There will be a “special” visitor at mass on Christmas Eve for those who have been good all year!

There will be no Altar Rosary Society meetings until March, 2023.

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!**

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.



ASSUMPTION CINEMA



*Special “Fifth Day of Christmas” viewing
of*

“The Fourth Wise Man”
TV-PG/90 minutes/no charge

MASS INTENTIONS

For December 24 thru January 1



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4:00 pm (Lucernemines) +Christine & Jack Zambarnarti (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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- NO MASS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27- Coral

- 8:00 am +Robert Alexander (Mike & Irene Grimes)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28- Coral

- 8:00 am +David Stossel (Susan Lazere)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29- Coral

- 8:00 am +Isabel Silveri (Peg McHenry)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30- Coral

- 8:00 am +A Marge Radakovich (Son & Grandson)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 4:00 pm (Lucernemines) +Geneva Lazor (Patty & Mike Gaydosh)
- 6:00 pm (Coral) Pro Populo

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY

- 10:00 am (Coral) +Marcella Horchar (Steve , Denise & Family)

There will be no Reconciliation on December 24 and 25th.

DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2022	OFFERTORY
Adult, Loose, Children & Online Giving	\$6633.00
Votive Candles	\$137.05
Maintenance	\$276.00
Catholic Accent	\$63.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$5.00
Cemetery	\$80.00
Flowers	\$576.00
Children/Family	\$25.00
Retired Religious	\$9.00
Military	\$10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$48.00
Immaculate Conception	\$893.00
Christmas	\$379.00
Diocesan Poverty Relief	\$10.00

Due to the early submission of the bulletin during the holiday season, the offertory for December 17 & 18 will be published in next weeks bulletin along with the attendance totals.

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