

## Mass Times

### SATURDAY

4:00 PM at Lucernemines

6:00 PM at Coral

### SUNDAY

9:00 AM at Coral

11:00 AM at Lucernemines

### WEEKDAY

8:00 AM at Coral (Tues-Fri)

## Stay Connected

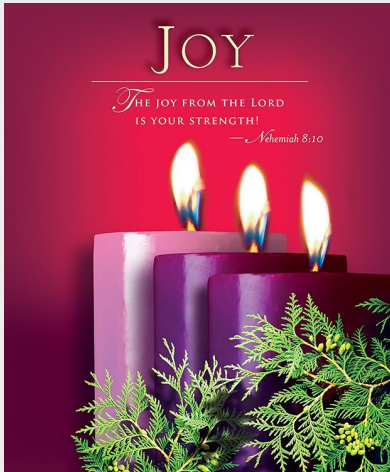


Watch Mass

[youtube.com/ourladyoftheassumption](https://www.youtube.com/ourladyoftheassumption)

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## THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

**Scripture Reflection:** "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

*\*pause for reflection*

**Advent Wreath Prayer:** Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### DECEMBER 17, 2023

*Serving Indiana County's  
Rt 119 Corridor since 1912*



# OUR LADY *of the* ASSUMPTION

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG • A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST

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### A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love. Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, Every angel and saint: Please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You! Amen.

### Last Minute Christmas Gift!

Parish T-shirts and tote bags are still available in the Parish office for \$15.00 each. They would make a great stocking suffer!

**Christian Mothers** are selling microfiber cleaning (streak-free) cloths. If interested, call Jackie at 724-549-8119.

### Holiday Office Hours

December 22nd-office closes at noon  
December 25th-office is closed  
December 26th-office is closed

### CRS Spotlight

Climate change is a moral issue. A life issue. And an essential way to protect life is to confront the changes happening to our environment. With time running out to act before a dangerous tipping point, the upcoming 28th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties in the UAE must signify a profound transformation. Please visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) for more information and to see how you can help!

A HUGE thank you goes out to the men and women who so graciously offered their time to clean the Lucerne and Coral church's.

There will be no coffee and donuts on January 7th.

Altar Rosary Society will meet on Wednesday, February 7th, at 6:45pm in the Lucerne church hall.

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 appreciate your continued support of our fundraising efforts. A Blessed New Year to all!



Christmas clothing and merchandise are half-priced this week at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Indiana. Located in the BiLo Plaza on N. 4<sup>th</sup> 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).



Dear Parishioners,

Advent Hope – What is it?

For the past two weeks I have reflected here on Peace as an expressed Advent longing. **Today I turn thoughts to hope.** Although we easily offer good thoughts or wishes or expressions of support to people by using the word “hope,” we can emasculate hope by rendering hope **nothing more than a strong wish for betterment** or for success or for healing or for happiness or, even more loosely, for good weather. These “wishes” seem to be lost in murky waters, and even when our best intentions abound, we’re offering something too vague to be a real theological virtue, that St. Paul once famously argued would last or endure until the end, as a way offered to us by God as **one of three essential theological companions tending toward salvation.**

So, what is a better way to understand hope in relation to Advent? **“Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness,** placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1817) If Advent points us directly towards the work that Christ accomplished for us in leading us towards the Kingdom, then this definition of hope firming our desire to be for and with God makes for a **grounded hope.**

Matt D’Antuono, a young Catholic husband and father of nine children, a man with impressive degrees in philosophy and theology, blogs about **real hope and misunderstood hope.** He writes: **“All is not well with the world** and the whole creation groans in agony. Disease, immorality, murder, despair, pollution, prejudice, hatred, division, laziness, poverty, tyranny, confusion, greed, depression — and the list goes on.” Furthermore, he asks, “What is the way out? What is God going to do? **What is the solution to such a myriad of problems? What revolution is in store?”** Matt honestly admits: “I have no idea. So, what do we do? *Hope.*”

Matt then asks a question that will shake up our complacency regarding hope: “And what did **God do in response to that [unwell] situation 2,000 years ago? He sent a baby** who would grow up to be wrongly accused and killed as a criminal.” Matt admits, “That **makes no sense at all,** and there is not even a shred of hope in a story like that **in the eyes of the world.**” But especially at Advent and Christmas, we remember God’s ways are not our ways.

**True Hope,** the Christian theological virtue of Hope, **is only really exercised when there doesn’t seem to be any hope at all.** When all seems completely lost and there is no earthly reason to expect any kind of a solution, that is the time for Hope because **our Hope extends beyond the world to the one thing that ultimately matters in the end: salvation.**

G.K. Chesterton wrote, **“As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is a mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength at all. Like all other Christian virtues, it is as unreasonable as it is indispensable.”** If it is a hope that is seen, then it is no true Hope (Romans 8:24-25). St. Thomas Aquinas taught that hope is **both an emotion and a virtue,** saying that our **emotions might become dispirited** from adversity or tedium, leading us to tire as we wait, while the **virtue remains as a companion on our pilgrimage to the Father.**

Last Sunday Pope Francis addressed the crowds in Rome who had brought the representations of the Infant Jesus from their Creche scenes to the Vatican square for a common blessing. Francis told them that **Advent is a privileged moment for us to turn to God** who turns towards us. What an unusual photograph this event made: hundreds of people smiling with facsimiles of the Christ Child held in the air, as people sought to take a blessing home to their family tables. **Our only hope: that God’s mercy surpasses all of us. Desire God more than desiring any thing else.**

*Father John*

**Mass Intentions for December 16-December 24, 2023**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

Lucernemines 4:00 pm ..... †Mike Buzi (Beth, Jaison, Tuscan, Rylin & Bowen)  
 Coral 6:00 pm ..... ProPopulo

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Coral 8-8:30 am ..... Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 Coral 9:00 am ..... †Sophia Esachina (Ann & Paul Esachina)  
 Lucernemines 11:00 am ..... †Mary Ann Barletta (Joanna Kuta)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18—NO MASS**

**7pm-Penance Service, Church of the Resurrection, Clymer**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

Coral 8:00 am ..... †Stanley Lucas (Bob & Barb Worcester)  
**7pm-Penance Service, OLOTA, Lucerne**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

Coral 8:00 am ..... Living & Deceased Members of McHenry Family  
 ..... (The California Zoldaks)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

Coral 8:00 am ..... †George Stelma (Daughter, Chris)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Coral 8 am ..... †Regis Troxell (Mike & Irene Grimes)  
**6pm-8pm-Last Chance Penance Service, OLOTA, Lucerne**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

Lucernemines 4 pm ..... ProPopulo  
 Coral 6 pm ..... †John Stipcak (Children)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Coral 9 :00 am ..... †Christine & Jack Zamberardi (Family)  
 Lucernemines 11:00 am ..... †Suffragia, Fr. Michael Greg

**The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of:**

Coral Krecota Family by Jeanne Henry  
 Lucernemines Rick Adamson by Mother, Brothers & Sisters

**The Host is in memory of:**

Coral Gasper & Pauline Vilcek by Gatskie Family  
 Lucernemines Harry L Williams by Lauren Williams-Klinefelter

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve —**

4pm (Lucerne) †Daniel Thomas (Sister, Peggy)  
 7pm (Lucerne) †John & Magdalene Baird (Son & Family)  
 10pm (Coral) †Helen Bertig (Family)

**Monday, December 25th Christmas Day—**

9am (Coral) ProPopulo

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2023**

**DECEMBER 18, MONDAY, 7:00PM AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, CLYMER**

**DECEMBER 19, TUESDAY, 7:00PM AT OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, LUCERNEMINES**

**\*\*LAST CHANCE\*\* DECEMBER 22, FRIDAY, 6:00PM-8:00PM, OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION, LUCERNEMINES**

Dec 9-10, 2023	Offertory
Adult, Loose, Children & Online Giving	\$7376.00
Votive Candle	\$124.50
Maintenance	\$379.00
Flowers	\$865.00
Catholic Accent	\$36.00
Diocesan Collections	\$20.00
Special Collections	\$1242.00
Cemetery	\$72.00
Families receiving envelopes—462	
Envelopes used this week—304	
Online giving this week—33	

**Mass Attendance Dec 9 & 10**

Lucerne 4:00 pm—98  
 11:00 am—92  
 Coral 6:00 pm—44  
 9:00 am—115

**HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Blue Christmas Liturgy Dec. 17 at Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville**

Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville, will hold a Blue Christmas Liturgy Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m., for those who find the holidays difficult. The liturgy allows people to acknowledge their sense of loss or pain and the shadow it casts over the holiday season.

**Jeannette parishes plan trip to Oglebay, W.Va.**

Ascension and Sacred Heart Parishes, Jeannette, are planning a trip to Oglebay, W.Va., Thursday, Dec. 28. A chartered bus will leave at 12:30 p.m. The day will include a tour of the Oglebay Mansion and Museum, a holiday buffet at the Ihlenfeld Dining Room and the famous "Festival of Lights." Cost is \$149, due Dec. 7. To register, visit [scholasticatravel.groupcollect.com/v2/go/15630a](http://scholasticatravel.groupcollect.com/v2/go/15630a). For information, contact Amy Altieri at 724-396-1298 or [amya354@comcast.net](mailto:amya354@comcast.net).

**Find Advent penance services, Christmas Masses and activities online**

As we journey through Advent toward the birth of our Savior, the Accentonline.org has compiled a list of activities, Advent penance services and Christmas Mass schedules throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Information provided by parishes is available at [theaccentonline.org](http://theaccentonline.org).

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# **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

## **The Chosen, Season 2**

Wednesday evenings in Podowski Hall beginning at 6pm, 12/20 (Episode 8)...season finale!

## **Advent Enrichment Series: The Infancy Narratives**

Our final session was held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. "The Jewish Roots of Christmas" proved to be a very interesting topic as it related to the Infancy Narratives included in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Thanks to all of our participants for some very meaningful discussions about our Faith. Stay tuned for more enrichment opportunities beginning in January 2024!

## **FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

### **Elementary Grades K-5**

9:30am-10:45am at Podowski Hall (Lucernemines)

12/17 (immediately following 11am Mass)

### **Middle School Grades 6-8 and Youth Group Grades 9-12**

Podowski Hall (Lucernemines)

12/17 (immediately following 11am Mass)

**Please note:** Faith Formation for both Elementary and Middle School/Youth Group will be held from noon until 2:30pm on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at Podowski Hall. We are preparing a very special afternoon focusing on Family Catechesis for all of our students and their families as we explore "Christmas Around the World!"

## **Upcoming Service Projects for Youth (grades 6-12)**

If you are interested and available in volunteering for any of the following events, please contact [cmarco@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:cmarco@dioceseofgreensburg.org) at your earliest convenience with the time that you would be available to help out. These service hours will count toward Confirmation for middle school students, and as community service for high school students.

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive at Podowski Hall**

Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> from noon until 6pm

### **Art Workshop for Epiphany Fundraiser**

Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm in Podowski Hall

## **Give the gift of love and time this holiday season!**

Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sponsored by our Youth Group!

Noon until 6pm at Podowski Hall

Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

Register online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

or call 1-800-733-2767



## **THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS:**

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND MORE!**

Everyone is invited to join our Youth Group as we get into the spirit of the holiday season on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Coral Social Hall!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE CORAL COMMUNITY (6-7PM)**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL BINGO AND KARAOKE (7-8PM)**

Prizes, hot chocolate, and snacks! Hope to see you there!



## **Students in the News**

Ava King and Oshen Maratita, both juniors at Homer Center and members of the Interact Club, helped with the Turkey Trot over the Thanksgiving holiday. Ava is also a member of the National Honor Society which made blankets for the homeless. Your service to our community is greatly appreciated!

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## **DCCW Pray for Life Day Jan. 19 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg**

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 a.m., followed by Mass at noon, Rosary for Life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m., Litany for Life at 3:30 p.m. and closing prayer at 4 p.m. 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.

## **Geibel Catholic students to perform Christmas concert Dec. 20 at Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville**

Geibel Catholic Junior High School students will perform a Christmas concert Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville.



# **MARCH FOR LIFE**

Friday, January 19, 2024

## **YOU ARE INVITED**

to join the

**Indiana March for Life**

as we travel round-trip to Washington D.C. for the

**51st Annual March for Life**

### **WHY WILL WE CONTINUE TO MARCH?**

Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished.

With the role of the states being more important, we are also growing a strong state march for life initiative quickly, however, we will continue to march every January at the national level until a culture of life is restored in the United States of America.

The Indiana, PA March for Life group will be marching alongside **Bishop Larry Kulick of the Diocese of Greensburg**

to protect the right for life for all born and unborn

We will travel to the March For Life by deluxe coach bus round-trip from Indiana, PA to Washington D.C.

**For bus reservations and/or further information:**

Call Bill Ager of Indiana, PA at (724) 465-4522

**DEADLINE FOR BUS RESERVATIONS: MONDAY JANUARY 15, 2024**

**Seating is limited - CALL NOW!**