

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



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 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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The Fourth Week of Advent

Scripture Reflection: "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

**pause for reflection*

Advent Wreath Prayer Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Revival

Lord Jesus, You are the living bread who satisfies the hunger of the human heart. In the Eucharist, the bread and wine become Your Body and Blood, the gift of Yourself to the Church. Deepen our faith in Your Eucharistic presence and strengthen us as members of the Church, the Body of Christ. As we encounter and revere Your Eucharistic presence, open us to the needs of our brothers and sisters here and everywhere throughout the world. Help us to reveal Your love, Your promise, Your presence to them by our lives and in all we say and do. Amen.



Merry Christmas to all our customers and donors from the volunteers at the Indiana St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Store. We wish you a very blessed Christmas season and healthy, happy New Year. The store will be closed until Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and we look forward to seeing you then.

Holiday Office Hours

December 25th-closed
 December 26th-closed
 January 1st-closed

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

CRS Spotlight

Climate change adaptation programming is cost-effective. In 5 Central American countries, more than 40,000 farmers have learned to protect their soil, to plant cover crops to build soil fertility, to apply the right fertilizer, and to capture rainwater to boost crop yields. Visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can help!

Special Collection-at all Christmas masses will benefit the Children and Family Services Appeal.

Mass obligations for this weekend.

*Saturday evening (December 23rd) masses and Sunday (December 24th) morning masses will fulfill your Sunday obligation.

*Sunday evening masses (December 24th) and Monday morning masses will fulfill your Christmas obligation.

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



Dear Parishioners,

Our Spiritual Heritage

During the Holiday season I wish people “Merry Christmas,” Happy Holidays, Felix Navidad, Merry Christmas. Did you ever notice that the name “Christmas” combines the name for the Messiah (i.e., the *Christos* – in Greek – the Anointed One) with the name for our most common worship service, the Mass? The Russians say, “congratulations on the birth of the Christ” while the Poles greet one another with “celebrate the holy birth.”

Dr. Scott Hahn urges us to think of the birth of Jesus as a historical event. Pope Benedict wrote in his scholarly study of Jesus that the accounts recorded by St. Matthew and St. Luke were not merely a theological meditation under the guise of stories, as some beginning in the eighteenth century thought. Some thought that story of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem was like the fables written by Aesop to teach a moral.

Pope Benedict examined various approaches to explain the infancy and nativity stories but ultimately he rejected these efforts to explain away the holy. Benedict taught that theology and history are not mutually exclusive or contradictory. Dr. Hahn wrote that as Benedict understood it, “If God exists, he is Lord of History, and history cannot be reduced to the accumulation of political, economic, and military data.... His purposes may be fulfilled as we see them fulfilled in the family of Israel in the Old Testament and the family of the Church in the New Testament.”

Pope Benedict concluded, Dr. Hahn quotes: “The infancy narratives are not a mediation presented under the guide of stories, but the converse: Matthew is recounting real history, theologically through thought and interpreted, and thus he helps to understand the mystery of Jesus more deeply.”

In fact, much in agreement with Pope are two very fine scholars. Michael Patrick Barber and Brad Pitre who have opened doors for our understanding by carefully examining the Jewish roots of each of the facets of the nativity and infancy accounts. Pope Benedict spoke bluntly: “The birth of Jesus is not a fairy tale! It is the story of a real event, which occurred in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.” Dr. Hahn adds that this history is our family history carefully kept and passed down in the household we call the Church, to bring joy to every generation.

In his Apostolic Exhortation [2013] “The Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*,” Pope Francis called the world to accept the joy God wants to offer us in Jesus, adding that God is inviting us to attend to a “higher plane” than what secular life presents. Then, wisely, the Pope adds advice on some attitudes to avoid: say no to selfishness and spiritual sloth; say no to sterile pessimism; say no to spiritual worldliness; and say no to warring among ourselves.

The spiritual heritage we hold and carry is a joyful one that works and serves, keeping its eyes fixed on a supernatural divine work, looking to the power of goodness and grace, and honoring one another. That’s a pretty good plan for our holiday this year and will make for blessed conversations around our family tables.

Keep the holy Birth in mind.

Father John

Mass Intentions for December 23—December 31, 2023

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Lucernemines 4:00 pm †ProPopulo
 Coral 6:00 pm †John Stipcak (Children)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

Christmas Eve - Lucernemines, 4:00pm †Daniel Thomas (Sister, Peggy)
Lucernemines, 7:00pm.. † John & Magdalene Baird (Son & Family)
Coral, 10:00pm †Helen Bertig (Family)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25-Christmas Day-Coral 9:00am †ProPopulo

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26-NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

Coral 8:00 am †Francis Voytek (Cindy, Georgette & Families)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Coral 8:00 am †Regis Troxell (Mimi Yanoscsik & Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Coral 8 am †Mary Ann Barletta (Greg & Chris Mitchell)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Lucernemines 3-3:30pm.....Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Lucernemines 4 pm †Stanley Lucas (OLOTA Money Counters)
 Coral 6 pm †ProPopulo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Coral 8:30 amSacrament of Reconciliation
 Coral 9 :00 am †Mike Buzi (Dave & Renee Hallow)
 Lucernemines 11:00 am..... †Barbara McMasters (Husband, Irv)
Coral 6 :00 pm †Regis Troxell (Maryanne Troxell)

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Lucernemines 11:00 am..... †Ronald Jones (Debbie Mitchell Fawcett)

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of:

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

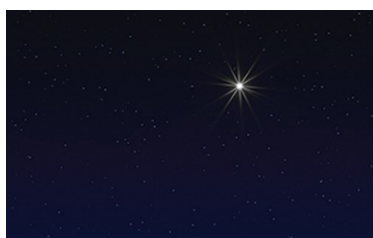
The Host is in memory of:

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

“The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was” (Matthew 2:2).

One of the most popular symbols of Christmas is the star. Many people top their tree with a star or place a star that is brightly lit over their homes. It was the star which led the Magi to the humble crib of the new born King.

The magi were the first non-Jewish people to visit Christ and they represented all people outside the nation of Israel. The star can remind us that we are invited to come to Christ and to offer our gifts and talents to him. In a sense, the Christmas Star is God’s invitation to offer ourselves to the Father of all people and nations and to adore him.



Dec 16-17, 2023	Offertory
Adult, Loose, Children & Online Giving	\$13,263.00
Votive Candle	\$102.50
Maintenance	\$143.00
Flowers	\$318.00
Catholic Accent	\$20.00
Special Collections	\$1080.00
Diocesan Collections	\$20.00
Cemetery	\$121.00
Families receiving envelopes—462	
Envelopes used this week—215	
Online giving this week—37	

Mass Attendance Dec 16 & 17

Lucerne 4:00 pm—90
 11:00 am—92
 Coral 6:00 pm—60
 9:00 am—127

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DIOCESE

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.

St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City, cookbook is available The Ladies Guild of St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City, are selling St. Barbara's Taste of Heaven Cookbook. For information, call the parish at 724-744-7474.

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FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SAVE THE DATES!!!

800th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRECHE: PLENARY INDULGENCE

Join us on Wednesday, December 27th, for an opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence for praying in front of a crèche in a Franciscan church or a church staffed by a Franciscan. This is to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the first public display of a Christmas crèche in Greccio by St. Francis. There will be a short prayer service at noon in Coral, and at 4pm in Lucernemines. The blessing of wine will also take place during both services. You are welcome to bring your own bottle.

BYZANTINE CHURCH TOUR WITH REV. MASH

Explore the common ancient expression of our Faith! Everyone is welcome to attend a church tour of Saint Mary's Holy Protection Byzantine Catholic Church with Rev. Mash on Tuesday, January 9th at 6pm. The church is located at 279 Yellowcreek Street, Homer City. Members of Saint Mary's will host a reception following the tour. We will follow up with an evening of reflection on Thursday, January 11th at Podowski Hall at 6pm.

ASSUMPTION CINEMA

Wednesday, January 10th

The Miracle Club (PG-13, 91 mins., 2023 release) A group of women from Dublin embark on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. Starring Laura Linney, Kathy Bates, and Maggie Smith.

Wednesday, January 17th

Route 60, The Biblical Highway (NR, 100 mins., 2023 documentary) Discover the historic and sacred link to the roots of Judaism and Christianity along Route 60 as you trace the steps of Abraham, Jacob, and Jesus.

NO FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS UNTIL JANUARY 7th

Our best wishes for a blessed and joyful Christmas season!

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 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 28th from noon until 6pm

Art Workshop for Epiphany Fundraiser

Friday, December 29th 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 28th

Register online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767

Christmas Around the World &

Christmas Carol Bingo & Karaoke at it's BEST!



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Visit on Wednesday, December 27

between 1:00 and 4:00 PM to tour **Saint Vincent Basilica**, a local historic treasure. The perfect family holiday outing! Light refreshments will be served. No reservations necessary. Contact Erin at the Parish Office for more information 724-539-8629 ext. 16; erin.colcombe@stvincent.edu
Hosted by Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650

Masses in Spanish in Jeannette

All are invited to Mass in Spanish Sundays at 6 p.m. at Ascension Parish, Jeannette, with reconciliation at 5 p.m. Todos están invitados a la Misa Espanol en Domingos en Jeannette: La Santa Misa en Espanol, Todo los Domingos a 6 p.m., reconciliación a 5 p.m., Iglesia La Ascensión.

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/ to donate. More than 100 families are on a waiting list to resettle in Western Pennsylvania..

