## **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)

### **Donate Here**

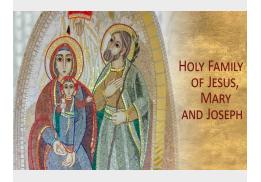


## **Stay Connected**



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## Feast of the Holy Family:

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 2023

Serving Indiana County's Rt 119 Corridor since 1912

OUR LADY of the ASSUMPTION

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As we welcome 2024, let us embrace the new things the Lord has in store, trusting in His guidance and provision even in unexpected places.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19

## **CRS Spotlight**

"We've been burning fossil fuels and that's what's created the problem. That's why we're in a climate crisis." ~Gina Castillo, Catholic Relief Services' climate policy and research advisor speaking to WYPR's "On the Record" about COP28 and fossil fuel phase-out. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the overseas aid agency of the United States Catholic bishops, recently released a statement in response to the historic outcome of COP28 in Dubai. Please visit <a href="https://www.crs.org">www.crs.org</a> to view the full statement and to see how you can help!

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



Happy New Year! The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store is closed on Monday, but reopens on Tuesday, January 2 with everything

Christmas related on sale Buy ONE, Get TWO free. Located in the BiLo Plaza on N. 4th Street, the store hours are 10am-2pm with donations accepted 10am-1pm at the back door (as space permits)

The March for Life in Washington DC is taking place on Friday, January 19. I am aware of two parish-based groups who are sending buses this year. If you would like to attend, please reach out to them to reserve a seat.

A bus is going from St. Bernard, Indiana with departure at 6:30 AM from Indiana Alliance Church. Please contact Bill Ager at 724-465-4522 for details.

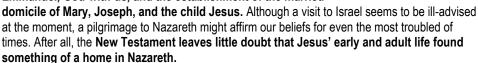
A bus is going from Mother of Sorrows, Murrysville with departure at 5:30 AM. Please contact Barb Koury at <u>barbkoury@gmail.com</u> or 412 -480-6490 for details.

If anyone is going to the March on their own, you are welcome to attend Mass that morning with Bishop Kulick at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in the National Basilica at 10:30 AM and to march with Bishop beginning at the corner of Constitution and 12th Street around 1:00 PM

Dear Parishioners.

#### Nazareth and Family Life

In the Holy Land, in Galilee of Israel, in the busy contemporary city of Nazareth, two events central to our Catholic Faith occurred starting off the First Century: the Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, and the establishment of the married



If contemporary Bethlehem in Palestinian territory often experiences severe security restrictions and lacks stability, contemporary Nazareth in Israel manages to mix a population of Jews, Arabs (both Muslim and Christian), and Christians (both native and representing various nationalities), with far less challenge and conflict. In Jesus' human lifetime, Nazareth received un-flattering references as being backward, bucolic, tiny, and fairly empty. Visit Nazareth now and find a fairly prosperous town with two modern shopping malls and various hotels and convention centers.

A few years ago Muslims wanted to build a large mosque adjacent to and blocking the Church of the **Annunciation**, a huge basilica, the largest church in Israel; protests stifled the project. A quick glance at a current map of the municipality shows numerous Christian churches: Coptic (Egyptian), Greek, and Russian orthodox; Church of Christ; Maronite; Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic (both shrine and parish churches). One Catholic Church bears the name of "Jesus, the Adolescent."

Before advising the building of a large church as a focal point for pilgrimages, Pope Paul insisted that **archeology investigate the lower regions beneath the church** to learn if any references point out these places as associated with Jesus. In an area beneath the altar of the Basilica a carving into stone said, "**Here is where the annunciation took place,**" or here **is where the Virgin conceived** to bear a savior. In typical fashion, people bow low to touch a holy spot.

More interesting, however, is another reference next door at the much smaller Church of St. Joseph where another ancient tradition saying that this is the *place of Joseph*. Note that reference isn't the strongest one, but that people have long visited the site to be **the workshop of Joseph**. The New Testament Greek says Joseph worked as a builder, a craftsman, likely working in wood and stone and perhaps commuting to work via a 35 minute walk. Most who study this site say that the case is weak for that claim as a workshop because the site is partly another cave. They also note however that a **very early worshiping community gathered here**, because archeologists have uncovered a **baptismal pool dating before the year 100**. Imagine finding this in Jesus' hometown.

All of this points out that our **Catholic faith** owes **its origins to real events in history** rather than to good ideas enacted, or to great moral teachings, or to even exclusively to significant supernatural events, miracles, that healed multitudes. In Nazareth we hear **an echo of the reading from the Prophet Isaiah that Jesus read to the village** and to the world **regarding God the Father's plan for salvation**. To think that of all the real estate in ancient Israel, God chose this village to be the place where Mary and Joseph would raise Jesus and help him to come to adult manhood says that this spot is worthy of attention and of our own trust that if God can work in Nazareth, God can work anywhere..

Learning how Jesus survived and thrived in Nazareth gives us pause: our postage stamp estate in Indiana County can become a place of grace for our families, too. Can we teach one another the way of the Lord **here** so that together with Jesus we walk the pilgrimage to the Kingdom?

Father John

## Mass Intentions for December 30—January 7. 2024

Mass Intentio	is for December 30—January 1, 2024	
SATURDAY, DEC		
	4:00 pm †Stanley Lucas (OLOTA Money Counters) 6:00 pm ProPopulo	
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31		
•	9:00 am †Mike Buzi (Dave & Renee Hallow)	
	11:00 am †Barbara McMasters (Husband, Irv)	
Coral	6:00pm †Regis Troxell (Maryanne Troxell)	
MONDAY, JANUARY 1		
Lucernemines	11:00 am+Ronald Jones (Debbie Mitchell Fawcett)	
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2		
Coral	8:00 am †Stanley Grabowsky (Jean & Terry Walker)	
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3		
Coral	8:00 am†Gervase Degenhardt, OFM Cap.(Suffragia)	
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4		
Coral	8:00 am+Stanley Greczek (Darrick Bertig)	
FIRST FRIDAY, JANUARY 5		
	8 am+Arthur & Helen Prato (Joanne & Scott)	
	Adoration until noon	
	11:30 am	
FIRST SATURDAY	12:00 pm Benediction	
	8 am †Frances Rado (Sam & Betsy Arone)	
	3-3:30pm	
	4 pm†Teresa & Vincent Flocco (Daughter, Teresa Buggey)	
	6 pmProPopulo	

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of:

Coral Aldo & Katherine Tedeschi by Terri Tedeschi

Lucernemines Mary Popp by Zicha Family

The Host is in memory of:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Coral

Coral

Coral Leonard Evansic by Mike & Irene Grimes

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Rosary recited Wednesdays in Latrobe

The Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, Rosary Society recites the rosary, with Eucharistic adoration, Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel.

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.

... Continued on page 4

Due to the early publication date of this bulletin, the offertory information, as well as attendance will be in the bulletin for the weekend of January 6th& 7th.

There are dates still available for sponsorship for both the Sanctuary Candle and the Host in 2024. Forms can be found in both church locations as well as the parish office.

## 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.



His light to shine our path.

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

# FAITH FORMATION WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 10<sup>th</sup> *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.

## **ADULT ENRICHMENT SERIES**

## WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY IT by Brandon Vogt (author of RETURN)

Reflect on how to discuss your Catholic Faith with confidence on the following subjects:

Explaining the Eucharist (January 25<sup>th</sup>)

Answering Atheism (February 8<sup>th</sup>)

Trusting the Gospels (February 15<sup>th</sup>)

Two identical sessions will be held on each of the above dates.

The morning session will begin following the 8am Mass in the Coral Social Hall.

The evening session will begin at 6pm in Podowski Hall at Lucernemines.

A \$10 donation will help to defray the costs of refreshments and resources.

Evil and Suffering (February 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Season 3 of The Chosen to begin January 24th...watch for details!



## **EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING KITS**

On Epiphany weekend (January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>), House Blessing Kits will be available to purchase for only \$10 after all Masses in the back of the churches. Our Youth Group has created a limited number of kits for this special occasion. The kits contain blessed chalk, holy water, incense, a blessed St. Benedict medal, and special prayer card in a gift box. Blessed chalk will also be distributed to all parishioners.

### STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to  $\underline{\text{Taylor Rado}}$ , an  $8^{\text{th}}$  grader at Homer Center, whose team recently placed third in the ARIN Invention Convention with their entry "Tread Mend!" Best of luck as they travel to Hershey for the next level of competition!

A special thank you to Santa and the Christian Mothers for their help in creating memorable experiences for everyone! Our Christmas Around the Workd was a great success!

#### Continued from page 3 -

# Grandparents Raising Grandchildren hosts monthly meetings

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, an ecumenical social outreach mission of St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney, Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, offers monthly meetings to provide grandparents useful information and time to interact with one another. A hot dinner and child care are provided. For information, call 724-423-3777 or 724-537-7358.

Rummage sale Jan. 5-7 at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, will hold a rummage sale Friday and Saturday, Jan. 5 and 6, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 7, from noon-1 p.m. Christmas items will be 75% off. For information, call 724-478-4958

# Parishes planning Jan. 9 Rivers Casino bus trip

Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, and St. James Parish, Apollo, are planning a Rivers Casino bus trip (21 and older) Tuesday, Jan. 9. The motor coach will leave St. James Parish at 9 a.m. Participants will be at the casino for five hours. Cost is \$35, which includes gratuity for the bus driver and \$10 in free play (state-issued photo ID required). To sign up, call 724-478-4958

## 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.

PROLIFE MASS: The Youth Ministry at SFOA is hosting a ProLife Mass at 10am on Saturday January 13 at the Masontown worship site. A Rosary For Life will be recited at 9:30am.Fr Daniel Carr will be the main Celebrant. A reception will follow the Mass. Please RSVP by January 6th to KStavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org if you plan to attend the reception."