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Engaging the faithful during Advent, Christmas



PAUL NIEMIEC FOR THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, decorated for Christmas, will be the site of in-person, streaming and televised Christmas Masses.

Diocese plans in-person, streaming and televised Christmas Masses

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — With concerns over a resurgence in coronavirus cases, particularly in the four counties of the Diocese of Greensburg, diocesan leaders are making efforts to stay connected to parishioners during Advent and Christmas.

A virtual Advent calendar and related content are live on the Diocese of Greensburg Facebook page. A list of in-person and streaming Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses for

parishes is on page 4. Be sure to confirm Mass times by visiting parish websites or social media, as changes may occur due to the pandemic.

Additionally, the Diocese has decided to televise Christmas Masses to engage the faithful who may not have internet access or cannot attend in-person due to health-related concerns.

This is the first time the diocese will televise Christmas Masses, even though in-person Masses are still scheduled in all parish communities in Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

A Christmas Vigil Mass from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg celebrated by the cathedral rector, Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, will air at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, will celebrate a Mass from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, which will be broadcast at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. Both Masses will air on PCNC, the Pittsburgh Cable News Channel. Christmas Day Mass also will air at noon on WPXI Channel 11.

For nearly nine months, the

Continued on page 14

Televised Mass from Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

Watch on **PCNC** Pittsburgh Cable News Channel
Check your local listing.

Christmas Eve 2PM Christmas Day 10AM

Watch on **WPXI**

Christmas Day Noon



Masses will be in-person, virtual and televised for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Parish Masses are listed on page 4.

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA

Mission: Faith is a gift.
Our mission is to share it.

Vision: Create a more connected,
accessible Catholic Church,
inspire a deep spiritual connection,
mobilize clergy as change agents
and strengthen faith formation and
evangelization.



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www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

OBITUARIES

Father Bede Joseph Hasso, OSB

LATROBE — Benedictine
Father Bede Joseph Hasso,
91, a monk of Saint Vincent
Archabbey, died Nov. 2, 2020.
Born March 26, 1929, in Port
Vue, he earned a bachelor
of arts degree in philosophy
from Saint Vincent College
in 1953. He attended Saint
Vincent Seminary and also
studied at Columbia Technical College,
Columbus, Ga., Pratt University,
Brooklyn, N.Y., and the former Beaver
College, Glenside, Pa.

He was ordained a priest in Saint
Vincent Archabbey Basilica by Greens-
burg Bishop Hugh Lamb May 26, 1957.

Father Bede served as assistant
pastor of St. Vincent Basilica Parish,
Latrobe (1957-62) and Sacred Heart
Parish, Jeannette (1962-64), and pastor
of St. Martin Parish, New Derry (1984-
96). He also served in parishes in



Pittsburgh, Waynesburg, Ohio,
Virginia Beach, Va., and Cov-
ington, Ky. From 1997-2009 he
assisted on weekends at par-
ishes in the Diocese of Greens-
burg, including Holy Family
and St. John the Evangelist
parishes, Latrobe; St. Bruno
Parish, South Greensburg; St.
Benedict Parish, Marguerite;
and St. Bede Parish, Bovard.

Father Bede taught at James Bar-
ry-Robinson School, Virginia Beach
(1966-67) and Benedictine Military
High School, Savannah, Ga. (1967-75).
He was a prefect in the former Saint
Vincent Preparatory School (1953-54)
and registrar at Saint Vincent College
(1964-66).

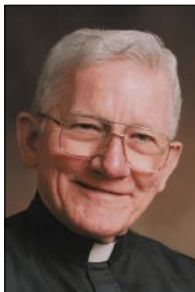
A funeral Mass was held Nov. 6 in the
Archabbey Basilica, with interment in
the Mary, Mother of Mercy Mausoleum
Chapel at Saint Vincent Cemetery.

Father Jonathan J. Murrman, OSB

LATROBE — Benedictine
Father Jonathan J. Murrman,
94, a monk of Saint Vincent
Archabbey, died Nov. 2,
2020.

Born in Jeannette May
12, 1926, Father Jonathan
received a bachelor of arts
degree from Duquesne Uni-
versity, Pittsburgh, and his
theological training at Saint Vincent
Seminary. He entered Saint Vincent
Archabbey in 1958 and was ordained a
priest in Saint Vincent Archabbey Ba-
silica by Greensburg Bishop William
G. Connare May 22, 1965.

Father Jonathan served as assistant
pastor at parishes in Patton and St.



Marys, Pa., from 1965-1977.
He provided pastoral assis-
tance on weekends at par-
ishes in the Greensburg and
Pittsburgh dioceses. He was a
coordinator and carpenter in
the Maintenance Department
at Saint Vincent Archabbey,
College, and Seminary since
1977.

Before entering the monastic com-
munity, Father Jonathan served in the
U.S. Army in Germany.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 7 in
the Archabbey Basilica, with inter-
ment in the Mary, Mother of Mercy
Mausoleum Chapel at Saint Vincent
Cemetery.

Sister Marlene Mondalek, SC

GREENSBURG — Sister of
Charity Marlene Mondalek
(formerly Sister Marie
Maron), 79, died at Mother
Seton House, a community
residence in Seoul, South
Korea, Nov. 16, 2020. Born
in Pittsburgh, she was in her
61st year of religious life.

Sister Marlene taught in
schools of the Greensburg and Pitts-
burgh dioceses. She taught at the Sisters
of Charity of Seton Hill's Saint Joseph
Girls' High School in Gangjin, South
Korea, from 1967-78.



She served as regional supe-
rior for the Sisters of Charity in
Korea from 1984-93, when she
was elected provincial supe-
rior. In 1997, she was elected
vice president of the Sisters of
Charity. In 2002, when the U.S.
Province of the Sisters of Char-
ity was formed, Sister Marlene
was elected general superior
of the two provinces, United States and
Korea, and re-elected in 2008.

A funeral liturgy was held in Ko-
rea Nov. 21, followed by burial in the
Damyang Catholic Cemetery there.

Sister Catherine Mary Malloy, SC



GREENSBURG — Sister of Charity Catherine Mary Malloy, 92, died
at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton
Hill, Oct. 16, 2020. Born in Altoona, she was in her 58th year of
religious life.

Sister Catherine Mary taught in schools of the dioceses of
Altoona-Johnstown, Greensburg, Phoenix and Tucson, and the
Archdiocese of Washington.

Funeral arrangements were private.

Sister Mary Evelyn Labik, CSSF

MOON — Felician Sister Mary Evelyn
Labik, 78, died at Excelsa Health



Westmoreland
Hospital, Greensburg,
Oct. 30, 2020. She
was in her 60th year
of religious life. She
was a receptionist
at St. Anne Home,
Greensburg, for 27
years. A funeral Mass

was celebrated Nov. 6.

Sister Edna Marie Meyers, SC



GREENSBURG — Sister
of Charity Edna Marie
Meyers, 95, died at
Caritas Christi, the
motherhouse of the
Sisters of Charity of
Seton Hill, Nov. 1,
2020. She was in her
76th year of religious

life. Funeral arrangements were private.

Sister Marilyn Washington, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Marilyn



Washington, 78,
died Nov. 13, 2020.
She was in her 62nd
year of religious
life. Sister Marilyn
taught in schools in
the Pittsburgh and
Altoona-Johnstown
dioceses, including St.

Joseph High School, New Kensington.

Sister Maxine Little, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Maxine
(Clarence) Little, 90, died Nov. 22,



2020. She was in
her 74th year of
religious life. Sister
Maxine served as a
teacher for 54 years
in the dioceses
of Pittsburgh,
Altoona-Johnstown
and Greensburg,

including the former St. Mary, Our
Lady of Guadalupe School, Kittanning.

Sister Rosaleen Scott, CSJ

BADEN — Sister of St. Joseph Rosaleen
(Mary Joel) Scott, 87, died Nov. 28,
2020. She was in her 70th year of



religious life. Sister
Rosaleen served as a
teacher for 26 years
in the dioceses of
Altoona-Johnstown,
Greensburg,
Pittsburgh and
Columbus, Ohio.
She taught at Geibel

Catholic High School, Connellsville
(1966-68), and Greensburg Central
Catholic High School (1978-80).

The Gift of GRACE is waiting for you.

Advent is a time of preparation and penance. During the Week of Grace, prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas. Extended opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance are happening at every parish community throughout the Diocese of Greensburg.

For a list of confession times and locations, please visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/WeekofGrace

Confession times may change due to COVID-19. Please check the website for updates or contact your parish for information.



THE WEEK OF GRACE

Extended opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance
DECEMBER 14-18, 2020

Message from Msgr. Kulick

Dear Friends in Christ:

Once again we have entered into a new Church year with the arrival of the Advent season. What an extraordinary year it has been! I think we are all looking forward to a fresh new start! The Church reminds us that this beautiful time of year has a twofold nature. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time, and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord — Christmas.

This year, we all realize that the celebration of Christmas and our preparations leading up to it will differ from years past. Family gatherings will be modified and social activities curtailed, and even some of our parish and diocesan events will be modified.

I want to assure you that all parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg are doing their best to continue in-person worship in the safest way possible, while also offering streaming Masses via parish websites, YouTube channels and Facebook pages.

In order to provide for the safest in-person worship this Christmas, I am pleased to announce that parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg will offer in-person, streaming and televised Christmas masses this year. All pastors have made great efforts to stay connected to the faithful during this special time. I thank them and their staff members for the sacrifices, hard word and attention to detail these important outreaches demand.

Inside this issue of *The Catholic Accent* is a schedule of all our parish Christmas Masses that will be celebrated. Because of health and safety concerns, our long-standing tradition of communal Advent penance services cannot be offered this year. However, in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, we have announced a special "Week of Grace," which offers extended opportunities to receive the sacrament of penance.

If this past year has taught us anything, it has reminded us how quickly our best laid plans may need to be modified. In light of this, I encourage you to stay connected to the Diocese of Greensburg website and social media pages, along with your own parishes to confirm all scheduled Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation. It marks new beginnings and fills our hearts and souls with hope. I know we are all praying for a new and healthier year, which will also bring the arrival of a new bishop. May we unite our prayers to the Christ Child, whose coming to Earth we celebrate at Christmas.

The Reverend Monsignor Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., Diocesan Administrator

Week of Grace provides penance opportunities

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg has announced "The Week of Grace" with extended penance opportunities during the Advent season. During The Week of Grace, prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.

The Week of Grace is scheduled for Dec. 14-18 and provides extended opportunities for the sacrament of penance at every parish community throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Times are listed by county at dioceseofgreensburg.org/weekofgrace, providing the opportunity to find a location that works best for

you to receive the sacrament.

The sacrament of penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after baptism can be forgiven. Confession involves the private confessing of sins to a priest and receiving absolution for those sins.

Advent is traditionally a time when Catholics choose to receive the sacrament of penance as they ask for healing and forgiveness time in preparation for Christmas and celebrating the birth of Christ.

"Every effort is being made to keep penitents safe during The Week of Grace. Every parish has submitted a safety plan in compliance with COVID-19 protocols for confession," said Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, diocesan

administrator. "We are observing social distancing, adhering to cleaning and sanitization protocols, and using face coverings.

"We realize that many still will not feel comfortable gathering at their parish. But extending the opportunity for individuals to receive the sacrament of penance should help our parishes avoid long lines and large gatherings."

Additional resources, available at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/weekofgrace, include videos about the importance of making a confession, preparing for confession, and a guide on making a confession by Father E. George Saletrik, pastor of St. Regis Parish, Trafford, and Christie Smith, director of youth ministry.

Parish Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Mass times

Below are scheduled Mass times as of Dec. 7. Be sure to confirm times by visiting parish websites or social media, as changes may occur.

<p>Ascension Parish, Jeannette Dec. 24: 4, 6, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8:30, 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg Dec. 24: 2 p.m. (live), 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 10:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8:30, 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Christ the King Parish, Leechburg Dec. 24: 3, 5:30, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 10 p.m. (live)</p> <p>Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 6:30 p.m. (live), 10 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>Church of the Resurrection Parish, Heilwood Dec. 24: 4, 7 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Church of the Resurrection Parish, Ernest Dec. 24: 5:30 p.m. (live)</p> <p>Church of the Resurrection Parish, Rossiter Dec. 24: 6:30 p.m. (live)</p> <p>Church of the Resurrection Parish, Glen Campbell Dec. 24: 8:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Church of the Resurrection Parish, Clymer Dec. 24: 4 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Holy Cross Parish, Youngwood Dec. 24: 2, 5, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8, 10 a.m. (live); 12:30 p.m. (streaming only)</p> <p>Holy Family Parish, Latrobe Dec. 24: 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. Latin Mass (live)</p> <p>Holy Family Parish, Seward Dec. 24: 4, 8 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Holy Family Parish, West Newton Dec. 24: 7 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Holy Trinity Parish, Ligonier Dec. 24: 4, 6:30, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8, 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Immaculate Conception Parish, Connellsville Dec. 24: 4, 9 p.m. (live)</p> <p>Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin Dec. 24: 4, 6, 8, 10 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 8:30, 10 a.m. (live)</p>	<p>Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville Dec. 24: 2 p.m. (live and streaming), 4:30, 7 p.m. (live), 10 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 8:30 a.m. (live), 11 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington Dec. 24: 2 p.m., 4 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg Dec. 24: 4, 7 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Coral Dec. 24: 7:30 p.m. (live and streaming), 9:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Lucernemines Dec. 24: 2, 4 p.m. (live)</p> <p>Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift Dec. 24: 4:30, 6:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Sacred Heart Parish, Jeannette <i>See Ascension Parish, Jeannette</i></p> <p>Sacred Heart Parish, Youngstown Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live), 5:15 p.m. (streaming only) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live), noon (streaming only)</p> <p>Seven Dolors Parish, Yukon Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance Dec. 24: 4 p.m., midnight (live)</p> <p>SS. Simon and Jude Parish, Blairsville Dec. 24: 4, 7, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live) <i>Reservations required.</i></p> <p>St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 6, 8, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live) <i>All Masses will be broadcast on 87.9 FM.</i></p> <p>St. Aloysius Parish, Dunbar Dec. 24: 4:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Ambrose Parish, Avonmore Dec. 24: 10 p.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Anne Parish, Rostraver Dec. 24: 5, 10:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City Dec. 24: 4, 7, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Bartholomew Parish, Crabtree Dec. 24: 4, 9 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8, 10:30 a.m. (live)</p>	<p>St. Benedict Parish, Marguerite Dec. 24: 3:30, 7 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana Dec. 24: 4, 9 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Bruno Parish, Greensburg Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Cecilia Parish, Grindstone Dec. 24: 6, 8 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. Cecilia Parish, Whitney Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live), 5:15 p.m. (streaming only) Dec. 25: 8 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Edward Parish, Herminie Dec. 24: 2, 6, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, North Huntingdon Dec. 24: 4, 6, 8 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8:30, 10 a.m., 4 p.m. (live) <i>A prerecorded Mass will be available starting at 4 p.m. at operationsafemode on YouTube and icirwin.org.</i></p> <p>St. Florian Parish, United Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi Parish-Footedale, Western Fayette County Dec. 24: 2, 4, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Masontown Dec. 24: 2, 4, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Gertrude Parish, Vandergrift Dec. 24: 2, 4, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 8:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Hubert Parish, Point Marion Dec. 24: 5:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. James Parish, New Alexandria Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 6 p.m. (live), midnight (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. James the Greater Parish, Apollo Dec. 24: 2, 4, 8 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington Dec. 24: 3 p.m. (live and streaming), 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live and streaming), 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live) Dec. 30: 7 p.m. (Blue Christmas Mass, live)</p>	<p>St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis Dec. 24: 4:30 p.m., midnight (live and streaming), 7 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. John the Baptist Parish, Scottdale Dec. 24: 10:30 p.m. (live)</p> <p>St. John the Evangelist Parish, Connellsville Dec. 24: 5 p.m. (live), midnight (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. John the Evangelist Parish, Latrobe Dec. 24: 5 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. John the Evangelist Parish, Uniontown Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (streaming only), midnight (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Joseph Parish, Derry Dec. 24: 4, 10 p.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Joseph Parish, Everson Dec. 24: 4:30 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington Dec. 24: 2:30, 4:15 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (streaming only), 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan Dec. 24: 7 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (streaming only), 7, 10:30 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. Martin Parish, New Derry Dec. 24: 6 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro Dec. 24: 2 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 11 a.m. (live) <i>With live streaming in Kittanning for 4 p.m. via partnered parish Facebook page</i></p> <p>St. Mary (Nativity) Parish, Uniontown Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (streaming only), midnight (live) Dec. 25: 8:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Mary of Czestochowa Parish, New Kensington <i>See Mount St. Peter Parish and St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington</i></p> <p>St. Mary Parish, Freeport Dec. 24: 3:30 p.m. (live), 6 p.m. (live in both church and fellowship hall), 10 p.m. (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 9, 11 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p>	<p>St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Export Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: midnight (live)</p> <p>St. Matthew Parish, Saltsburg Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Patrick Parish, Brady's Bend Dec. 24: 5, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Paul Parish, Greensburg Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Peter Parish, Brownsville Dec. 24: 2, 4 p.m., midnight (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live and streaming)</p> <p>St. Pius X Parish, Mount Pleasant Dec. 24: 4, 8 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish, Donegal Dec. 24: 4, 6 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Regis Parish, Trafford Dec. 24: 4:30, 7 p.m., midnight (live) Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m. (live) <i>At least one Mass will be recorded and uploaded to parish YouTube channel</i></p> <p>St. Rita Parish, Connellsville Dec. 24: 3 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Rose Parish, Latrobe Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 10 p.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Sebastian Parish, Belle Vernon Dec. 24: 4, 9 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Sylvester Parish, Slickville Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus Parish, Uniontown Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (streaming only) Dec. 24: 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Thomas More University Parish, Indiana Dec. 24: 5, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe Dec. 24: 2:30 p.m. (live), 5 p.m., midnight (live and streaming) Dec. 25: 8, 10:30 a.m. (live) <i>Reservations required for live Masses.</i></p> <p>The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Monessen Dec. 24: 4 p.m. (live and streaming), 9 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 10 a.m. (live)</p> <p>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Mount Pleasant Dec. 24: 4, 8, 10 p.m. (live) Dec. 25: 9:15 a.m. (live)</p>
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Indiana parish adapts faith formation for children during pandemic

By Paul Pattera
Editor

INDIANA — Children continue to develop their spiritual connection to God using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd approach at St. Thomas More University Parish.

This model of faith formation offers children a hands-on opportunity to explore the words of Jesus and the liturgy of the Church in a specially prepared room called an atrium.

"It's very much relational with the inner teachings of the Holy Spirit, working with the children together as families and together with each other," explained Mary Beth Palko, director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and youth ministry at the parish.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in 2006 at St. Thomas More University Parish for children ages 3-6. Over the years it has grown to include children through age 12.

Palko said in most years, more than 80 children participate in the atrium. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 44 children are taking part.

The pandemic caused a shift in the process, and materials were sent to families so they can participate.

"When we went into COVID, it was a difficult time for everyone, so, with the national organization, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd USA, we began to look at how we can bring parts of this work into the home for the families," Palko said.

For the Advent season, this includes maps of Israel in the time of Jesus; scrolls containing prophecies from Isaiah, Numbers and Micah; handwritten Scripture chart scrolls of the infancy narratives found in the Gospels; handwritten Scripture chart scroll of the regions, waterways and cities of Israel in the time of Jesus; an Advent wreath blessing; an Advent song to sing with the name for each candle — peace, hope, joy and love; Advent candles; and tabs to place in Bibles.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

At right, Pat Barone, left, and Mary Beth Palko put together Advent packages for parish families. Above are packages sent to families at the beginning of the liturgical year.

"They have all of those possibilities to begin to explore more fully the Bible and the Scripture pages referenced in them," Palko said. "They also have the Bible tabs so that they will be able to feel much more at home in looking through them and being able to relate to the Bible itself, and looking for the particular Scriptures. It's much more hands-on for the families, and they feel more comfortable with the Scripture."

In the beginning of the catechetical year, the parish provided each family with a Bible, four liturgical prayer cloths in white, purple, green and red, an image of the Good Shepherd, and a prayer candle.

"Since October, they have had the opportunity to gather as a family or as individuals to be able to take that time by themselves or with their families working on their materials," Palko said.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based in Scripture and liturgy and uses the teaching method of



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

renowned Italian educator Maria Montessori, which views children as naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive and well-prepared learning environment.

At St. Thomas More University Parish, virtual encounters take place twice monthly and last about 20-30

minutes. During this time, the catechist and children reflect on a particular Scripture or material related to the liturgical year.

"The time between our gatherings allows for the families to continue the work and prayer in their own time to nurture the life in the domestic church," Palko said.

Faith formation, youth ministry overcome COVID-19 challenges

By Christie Smith
Director of Youth Ministry
and Interim Director of Faith
Formation

GREENSBURG — When it first became prevalent in March, the COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges to all aspects of life.

Parish leaders in faith formation and youth ministry were not immune to these challenges. As schools and churches closed, the way that parishes provided faith formation to young people was required to change significantly.

No longer could parishes gather students for faith

formation in classrooms and atriums, or for intergenerational meals and lessons. It quickly became apparent to parish leaders that they, too, would need to pivot to make sure that the faith was still being shared with the parish children and youth.

"It was like a disaster," recalled Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Jeanne Marie Vonder Haar, director of faith formation of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. "I had no clue what I should be doing. The parents were so overwhelmed. We didn't start with kids until the fall."

Sister Jeanne Marie said

video clips of the readings of the upcoming Sunday are sent to children each week, as well as different activities in which they can become involved.

"It allows me to stay connected with the kids," she said. "At least they know that they're connected to the parish in some way."

That has been the hardest part for Sister Jeanne Marie throughout the virtual faith formation — not having the interaction with the students.

But she said it has gone "pretty well."

As the school year ended and summer progressed, it became apparent that more

than likely parishes would not be returning to the traditional models of faith formation in the fall.

Throughout the summer, leaders continued to develop plans for how they would share and teach the faith in the fall as children and teens prepared for a new school and formation year. Leaders familiarized themselves with online classroom management tools and virtual presentation platforms.

The new faith formation year began this fall with more than 50% of diocesan parishes doing some form of virtual learning. Other parishes shared resources with

parents so that as the primary catechists of their children, they were able to continue with formation at home.

While the world has looked less than ordinary, parish communities have strived to continue bringing formation to young people.

"The attendance has been pretty good with the kids," Sister Jeanne Marie said. "Recently we had a reconciliation retreat for the second-graders. I scanned every activity that we were going to be doing and sent it to their homes. It was just amazing to see their participation. I was excited about that, and I think the kids were, too."

First Guardian Angel Appeal exceeds goals, raises \$233,950

By Paul Pattera
Editor

GREENSBURG — Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle was absolutely delighted with the results of the inaugural Guardian Angel Appeal, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg's six-week virtual fundraising campaign.

It's understandable for the managing director of Catholic Charities to feel that way. The campaign eclipsed every goal set by raising \$233,950 to honor Heroes of Hope — those who continued contributing to the community amid the COVID-19 crisis.

"There's no way I could express how amazed I am at the success of the campaign, not because of any doubts about the generosity of the people of the diocese, but about the reality of the situation, that we went out to ask for support in the middle of a pandemic," Msgr. Riffle said. "I think it literally says (Diocese of Greensburg parishioners) are always mindful of their responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ to care for the people God has placed in our lives."

Heather Rady, director of community relations and special events for Catholic Charities, also was pleased.

"This is just phenomenal, truly," she said. "I am over the moon. Overall, this was just far more wonderful than we even expected."

Initially, modest goals were set as the campaign kicked off Oct. 2, such as \$25,000, then \$100,000. An anonymous donor offered to match \$25,000 in donations. Then the campaign received an anonymous donation of \$100,000, and a goal to raise \$200,000 was set.

Msgr. Riffle admitted that the \$100,000 donation was a boost to the campaign, but he was impressed with all the donations that were received.

"Obviously, it was a game-changer, but it shows us the depth of an individual's commitment to the work that Jesus has entrusted to us for the poor," he said. "I would like to believe each and every person, regardless of what they gave, has the same motivation and dedication."

Funds raised will help to continue the charitable works of Catholic Char-

"I think it literally says (Diocese of Greensburg parishioners) are always mindful of their responsibility as followers of Jesus Christ to care for the people God has placed in our lives."

MSGR. RAYMOND E. RIFFLE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ities for people in Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties, regardless of their faith, who may be struggling to afford necessities such as food, utilities, fuel and baby items.

"Every year, we use all of the money that comes in, so it's not like we're storing up money from past years," Msgr. Riffle said. "We've used it all as it has come in, so this year is no different; and I expect, given the climate going forward, that that will also be the case this year — that we'll be able to use it and put it where it's most needed."

The Guardian Angel Appeal was launched as part of the Diocese of Greensburg's ongoing response to COVID-19. Not only was this virtual event held in lieu of three annual fundraisers that are a tradition, but it also honored those who are giving back during the pandemic. The Heroes of Hope honored were:

- Dr. Heather Walker, assistant director of emergency medicine, Excelsa Health Westmoreland, parishioner of St. Vincent Basilica, Latrobe.
- Cathy Duez, treasurer, Tri-City Meals on Wheels, parishioner of Ascension Parish, Jeannette.
- Jeff Peterinelli, firefighter, Greensburg VFD, parishioner of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg, and a Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council 1480.
- Joe Rice, principal, Aquinas Academy, parishioner of Christ the King Parish, Leechburg.
- Ashley Chappell, Mutual Aid EMT, parishioner of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg.
- Anne Kovalcik and Debbie Sorce, parishioners of Church of the Good

Continued on page 7

Thank you to the donors who supported



Hero of Hope (\$5,000 and above)

- Three anonymous donations
- Bozzone Family Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gothie
- Knights of Columbus Council 1480
- Drs. Justin and Staci Sheba

Guardian Angel (\$2,500)

- Four anonymous donations
- Businesses and Individuals of the Fourth Annual Oktoberfest (First Baptist Church members Jennifer Frazier, Debbie Beer and Karen Valasek; Christ, Prince of Peace Church, Father Alan N. Polczynski, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church members George Snyder, Nancy Smith and Lia Rush; Second Baptist Church member Rose Bell; Appleby Manor Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Heilman Lutheran, First Church of Ford City, Ford Memorial United Methodist Church, Cecilia Bartolovic, Ted Brightmyer, Robert and Tracie Brink, Family A.C.T.S., Ford City Sportsmen, Jennifer Frazier, Gross Embroidery, Janny's Hallmark, Mantini's Funeral Home, McDonald's in Kittanning, Grace Lutheran Church in Manorville, Marsha O'Neill, NexTier Bank, John

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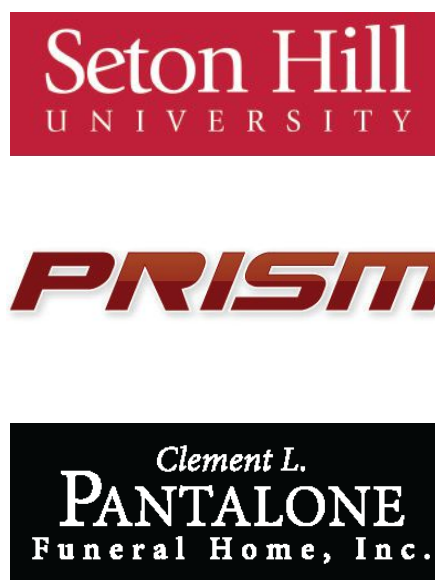
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- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sobota
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Whalen
- Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Zufelt — in memory of Teri Scurci



Ford City churches donate funds to appeal

By Paul Paterra
Editor

FORD CITY — In recent years, Ford City area churches have raised money for disaster relief with their annual Oktoberfest fundraiser. This year, the funds are staying local.

Oktoberfest brought in \$3,050, which was donated to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, as part of its Guardian Angel Appeal virtual fundraising campaign.

A check recently was presented to Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, managing director of Catholic Charities, and Heather Rady, director of community relations and special events for Catholic Charities, by Joan Moore, a parishioner of Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, who serves as Oktoberfest co-chair.

Catholic Charities' six-week campaign concluded Nov. 13, honoring Heroes of Hope, people who donated their time to support people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the six weeks, the campaign brought in \$233,950.

The Oktoberfest began in 2017, with funds ticketed for disaster relief efforts throughout the country. Since COVID-19 has affected all area communities, Oktoberfest committee members decided the funds should go to Catholic Charities, Moore said.

"I like to go local first. Then if you have extra money, it can go out of the area," Moore said.



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Joan Moore, left, presents a check to Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle and Heather Rady.

Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the diocese.

This year's Oktoberfest, which took place at First Baptist Church of Ford City, had to be a takeout event, as the churches adhered to protocols necessitated by the pandemic.

Other participating churches were First Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church, Appleby Manor Church, Emanuel Heilman Lutheran Church, First Church of Ford City, Ford Memorial United Methodist Church and Grace Lutheran Church of Manorville.

"No matter what faith we are, this shows that we can come together for the common purpose of sharing God's love with people," Moore said, getting emotional when talking about the fundraiser. "With God, everything is possible."

In 2019, Oktoberfest raised about \$2,300 and included raffles. Since this year was so successful, Moore said it could stay a takeout event in the future.

"If we're making (more) money and you don't have to cover the tables and do the dishes and throw the garbage away and you can have more people, we just thought it worked out well," Moore said. "Churches are doing a lot of takeouts and it's really working."

Rady was impressed with the joint effort of churches of various denominations.

"These are all churches that have to respond to the needs of their parishioners," she said. "I thought it was really admirable and selfless that they made the donation to us when they could use the money themselves."

Appeal exceeds goals

Continued from page 6

Shepherd, Kent, for a project through the church in which wedding gowns are repurposed for infants who are seriously ill to be baptized at the hospital.

"My goal as a volunteer fireman is to go out and help people who have had tragedies, who have had fires, loss of loved ones," Peterinelli said. "That's the big thing in the fire service. We give back to the community, not only in fighting fires, but in charitable donations. If someone needs something, we'll try and help you out."

Rice admitted to being humbled and honored to be considered one of the Heroes of Hope.

"As I looked at all of the other Heroes of Hope, I could not believe that someone thought that I was worthy of being included with that group. I only hope that I have represented the group well, and that we were able to do something good for Catholic Charities and people of the area."

Catholic Charities continues to accept donations this holiday season, as the appeal page will remain active at www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org. Also, checks may be made out to Catholic Charities, 711 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601. Heroes of Hope should be notated in the memo line so the donation goes to the Guardian Angel Appeal.

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Ashley Chappell (Saint Paul Parish, Greensburg)

Jeff Peterinelli (Saint Paul Parish, Greensburg)

Cathy Duez

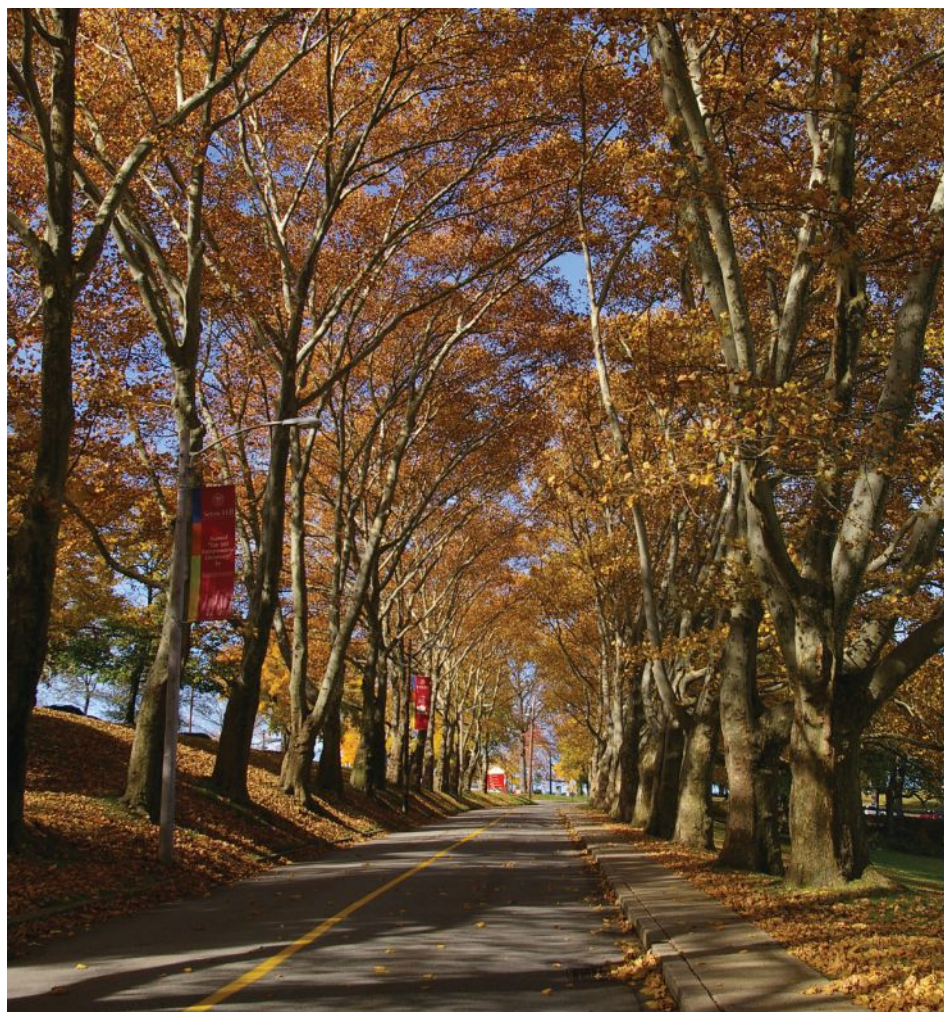
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Congratulations to all the Heroes of Hope, especially our own Grand Knight Jeff Peterinelli. May your campaign be a success, and thanks to Catholic Charities for all your good works in the diocese.

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Uniontown parishes partner with Fayette County Community Action



PHOTOS BY JOHN ZYLKA THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

The Catholic parishes of Uniontown, in partnership with Fayette County Community Action, distributed food boxes drive-thru style at Uniontown Mall Nov. 11. The four parishes — St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph, St. Mary (Nativity) and St. Therese, Little Flower of Jesus — raised funds to pay for the food boxes, which included chicken, eggs, milk and more. Community Action helped with distribution, traffic direction and COVID-19 safety protocols. Father Anthony J. Klimko, pastor of the Uniontown parishes, said none of the parishes would have had the room to pack and distribute 600 boxes. On their own, the parishes typically pack and distribute about 150 Thanksgiving baskets each. "This enabled the number of people we help to skyrocket," Father Klimko said.



Filipino priests seek help for typhoon devastation in homeland

By Mary Pickels
Contributing Writer

GREENSBURG — When Typhoon Goni, known in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Rolly, tore through his homeland last month, Father Ronald L. Maquiñana wanted to help those dealing with its aftermath.

The pastor of St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Kittanning and St. Mary, Mother of God Parish in Yatesboro contacted Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, diocesan administrator, asking that his parish and others be allowed to help.

Msgr. Kulick wanted to help, especially since one-quarter of the Diocese of Greensburg's priests are international.

When disasters occur in their home countries, he said, "We try to respond as we can."

Helping their homeland

Father Maquiñana is a native of Daraga in the province of Albay, Bicol Region of Philippines, one of the areas hardest hit when Typhoon Goni (Rolly) made landfall Nov. 1.

In his appeal, Father Maquiñana wrote of his concern and that of his fellow Filipino priests in the diocese for their "Filipino brothers and sisters" who were devastated by the typhoon.

Many families lost loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods, prompting the Filipino priests to find ways to provide assistance.

"My region was badly affected. All of my siblings were affected," Father Maquiñana said. "They are struggling right now because their houses were damaged."

Shelters are full, and worries about the spread of COVID-19 make the possibility of relocating, even temporarily, difficult.

"It's really heartbreaking," Father Maquiñana said. "It was scary. They told me the typhoon started in the morning and lasted until evening."

Homes, worship sites hard hit

The typhoon brought wind gusts reaching 164 mph and was reported as one of the strongest typhoons to hit the Philippines in seven years. More than a dozen people were reported to have been killed, while tens of thousands were left homeless. Churches, some historical, also were damaged, Father Maquiñana added.

Residents are in need of basic necessities, such as clothing, food and water.



"It will take a lot of time to rebuild their homes," he said.

Faraway plea

Msgr. Kulick also was petitioned directly by Archbishop Rolando J. Tirona of Caceres, Philippines.

In his Nov. 10 letter, Archbishop Tirona noted Rolly's resulting "terrible destruction to properties, vegetations and displacement of many poor families."

Many parish churches served as evacuation sites, he added.

"Reports from our Social Action Center state that many families affected by the super typhoon are farmers and fishermen. Many of the parish churches in the Archdiocese of Caceres were not spared by the whipping strong winds, with churches' roofs and even heavy doors blown away, and in some instances there was flooding (to) the interior of the church," Tirona wrote.

Funds raised will assist with "present dire needs and help rebuild their livelihood," he said.

A collection designated for the typhoon relief efforts will be taken at certain diocesan parishes. Donations also may be sent to the Diocese of Greensburg, 723 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601, with the notation "For Philippine Typhoon Relief Effort."



PHOTOS COURTESY VINCE VILLAR

Residents survey the damage from Super Typhoon Rolly in the Philippines.

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Family relies on faith, community during daughter's cancer battle

By Jerry Zufelt
Contributing Writer

HILLER — For the Sealy family, COVID-19 has become a secondary challenge during this year that is testing their faith.

Last spring, shortly after the statewide shutdown to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, Shannon Sealy and her husband, Ron, noticed that their usually active 10-year-old daughter, Olivia ("Livi") was dragging her left foot and not using her left arm normally.

After a series of doctor appointments and tests, Livi and her mother were at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where a May 22 MRI confirmed a diagnosis no parent ever wants to hear.

Their daughter has a pilocytic astrocytoma, a mass on the right side of the thalamus, which was causing the problems on the left side of her body.

"I got physically sick and remember screaming," Shannon said.

After two biopsies, it was determined the tumor is benign. But surgery is not a treatment option because of the tumor's location. Livi is going through a grueling 18-month routine of twice-monthly chemotherapy treatments at Children's Hospital, where she also undergoes physical and occupational therapy.

"While the prognosis is good, getting there is a marathon," Shannon said.

Shannon is the business manager and secretary at the partner parishes of St. Peter Parish, Brownsville, and St. Cecilia Parish, Grindstone. Ron works at California University of Pennsylvania. The couple also has a 3-year-old son, Colin.

Shannon said the first chemo treatment of the month is "horrific," leaving Livi sick from Friday to the following Wednesday or Thursday, but the second treatment is not as harsh.

She admits to occasional moments of anger about the situation, but also says that she and Ron, who recently had successful surgery to clean a carotid artery, are blessed.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Shannon, Colin, Livi and Ron Sealy

"We are very blessed, and we know that," she said. "We could be dealing with a totally different diagnosis."

The tumor has not affected Livi's cognitive abilities and schoolwork, as she has maintained an A average at Brownsville Area Elementary School, according to Shannon.

Shannon said she believes God is helping her through the frenetic schedule.

"I don't know how I get up every morning, how I put one foot in front of another," she said. "You do what you have to do for your child."

Livi said she was "scared, confused and nervous" when she learned about her condition, but she talks with God about it. She is thankful for all the help her family has received.

Her maternal grandparents make frequent trips from the Philadelphia area to help take care of Livi and Col-

in, and members of Ron's family, who live in the Brownsville area, also help.

Their presence "makes me feel better because I love them," Livi said.

Father Timothy J. Kruthaupt, pastor of the partner parishes, said parishioners are going out of their way to help the family.

"That is beautiful to see," he said.

Parishioners and friends from throughout the Brownsville community formed Team Livi this summer to provide emotional and financial support. More than 1,200 tickets were sold for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser in September.

Livi was not able to attend because her immune system is weakened by the chemotherapy. But she was able to watch a livestream of the event, which was held at the Brownsville Sons and Daughters of Italy, from the new parish center. Friends from

DeeDee's Studio of Dance, Brownsville, where Livi danced when she was healthy, performed some of her favorites.

A family friend, Davis Slagle, established an online store through his company, Bee Graphix, to help offset the family's medical expenses. The site's items include T-shirts and protective face masks with a Team Livi graphic.

He also helped establish a GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/help-livi-beat-brain-cancer.

Shannon repeated the Thanksgiving message the family posted on the page: "We can't begin to thank each and every one of you for your love, support, prayers, gifts and attending fundraisers during the hardest times of our lives. 2020 has made us put into perspective what love means. You all have shown us love."

THE WELL men's conferences planned virtually, in-person for 2021

By Jennifer Miele
Chief Communications Officer

GREENSBURG — The Diocese of Greensburg men's conference, THE WELL, has been expanded to two events in 2021: a virtual seminar March 20 and an in-person conference Sept. 25.

The virtual seminar is free to anyone who wishes to attend and will be available on the Diocese of Greensburg website and Facebook page. The theme of the event is "Jesus is Knocking. Open the Door!"

Two dynamic speakers will be featured: Mike Aquilina of Bridgeville, an award-winning author of more than 50 books on Catholic history, and Benedictine Father

Boniface Hicks, director of spiritual formation at Saint Vincent Seminary, Latrobe.

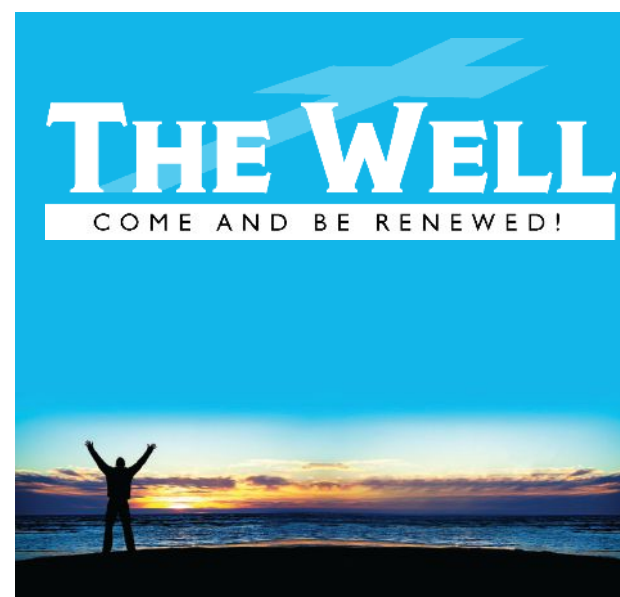
Interested men are asked to register for this free event so they can receive information. Registration can be found at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL.

Men who registered for the 2020 conference and want to remain registered for the in-person 2021 conference do not need to take any action; they are automatically registered for both the virtual seminar and in-person conference. Each will be contacted 90 days prior to confirm attendance. New registrants can email www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL for more information. Men who want

a refund of their 2020 registration fee can email THEWELL@dioceseofgreensburg.org or call 724-552-1812.

The diocese's Men's Ministry Team, which is planning the conference, felt a call from God to connect with men virtually next spring due to the continuing spread of COVID-19.

"We have had conversations with many men who do not want to wait until we can gather in person to have an opportunity to enhance their faith," said Chuck Boyer, chairman of THE WELL. "With these two events we can help take care of the spiritual health of men, which is also of the utmost importance."



THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

2021 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Material
Jan. 21, 2021	Dec. 21, 2020
*Feb. 18 (magazine)	Jan. 22 (Faith and Food)
March 18 (Easter, April 4)	March 4
April 15	April 1
*May 20 (magazine)	April 15 (Summer Events)
June 17	June 3
July 15	July 1
*Aug. 19 (magazine)	July 15
Sept. 16	Sept. 2
Oct. 21	Oct. 7
*Nov. 18 (magazine)	Oct. 14
Dec. 16 (Christmas)	Dec. 2

The Catholic Accent is published monthly on the third Thursday of the month. The publication is magazine style (listed in bold) once a quarter and newspaper style the other eight months. Please observe the deadlines for submitting advertising and editorial material for each issue.

*The Around the Diocese events and announcements are NOT included in the magazine issues (in bold). Please plan accordingly to have events submitted in time to be included in the newspaper issues.

Information: news@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-834-4010.

Two SVC staff members honored

LATROBE — Recognition has come to two Saint Vincent College employees.

Julia Cavallo, director of assessment and institutional research, has been named executive director of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU). Cavallo, who will remain in her position at Saint Vincent, will be responsible for helping to advance the needs and priorities and increasing the visibility

and viability of the ABCU, a consortium of 13 Catholic, Benedictine higher education institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Jason King, theology professor, was presented the Thoburn Excellence in Teaching Award at the college's Founders' Day honors convocation Nov. 20. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, service to students and commitment to the college values.



King



Cavallo

Engaging faithful for Advent, Christmas

Continued from page 1

Diocese of Greensburg has been streaming Masses on its website, Facebook page and YouTube channel for those with safety concerns during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses from the cathedral will premiere on those outlets as well.

"The diocese and its parishes have consistently had thousands of faithful viewers watch our streaming Masses from their computers, tablets and smart televisions for many months now," said Msgr. Kulick, who is also pastor of St. James Parish, New Alexandria. "In fact, 50 of our 78 parishes now stream Masses, including my own. However, there are still many in our community who cannot access the internet and still others who have not been connected to the Catholic Church for many years. I hope these televised Masses will provide an opportunity for us to engage individuals and families in celebrating the birth of Jesus with them in their own homes.

"It is important to note, that for the foreseeable future, the dispensation of the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is still in force. As always, the diocese will continue to maintain our efforts to prioritize the health and safety of all parishioners."

The Diocese of Greensburg thanks the generous donors who underwrote the cost of the broadcasts. Each will be recognized during the Masses.



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

Greensburg — Catholic Charities is offering virtual counseling to help people address anxiety, depression, interpersonal conflict, grief and more. Information: 724-837-1840 or counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

GCC VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Greensburg — Prospective students and families can learn more about Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School in a virtual open house and tour. Students can meet administrators, faculty and staff; learn about the school's college-prep curriculum; see how Catholic identity is at the center of the school's mission; and get a taste of the school's many extracurricular and athletic offerings. Registration: www.gcchs.org (a link will be sent immediately).

PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Connellsville — AlternativesYes pregnancy support center is sponsoring its annual pro-life essay contest for students in grades 6-8. The theme is "Life, God's Most Precious Gift." Essays must be 300-500 words, typed, double-spaced, with name, grade, phone number, address and school name on the back or on a separate page. They will be judged on originality, creativity, grammar and neatness. Essays can be emailed to pregnancysupport@zoominternet.net or mailed to/dropped off: AlternativesYes, 6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville, PA 15425. Submissions

must be postmarked by Jan. 22.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

Latrobe — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Dec. 20 (speaker Benedictine Father Shawn Matthew Anderson on "Hospitality in Benedictine Spirituality") and Jan. 17 (speaker Benedictine Father Isaac Haywiser on "Silence in Benedictine Spirituality") from 3-4:15 p.m. in the Archabbey Basilica Crypt. Masks required. Reservations: Benedictine Father Donald Raila, 724-805-2291. Supper at 5:35 p.m. and additional sessions at 6:30 p.m., both in the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College, will be held if possible; call Father Donald at least two weeks in advance to register for evening events.

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

New Kensington — Saint Joseph High School is enrolling the class of 2025 for the fall 2021-22 school year. A placement test will be given Dec. 12 from 9 a.m.-noon. For a virtual tour, visit SaintJosephHS.com; private tours are available by appointment. Information: Shane Palumbo, admissions@SaintJosephHS.com or 724-226-4932.

VENDOR FAIR

Apollo — St. James Parish will hold a vendor fair from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 12 in the parish center. All vendors are needed. Masks and social distancing are required.


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Emily Marshall and Kevin Plowcha, members of the youth group at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Coral, hold their version of the Salvation Army's red kettle.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Christmas artwork contest open to K-8 students

Entries are being accepted for the 2020-21 Missionary Childhood Association National Christmas Artwork Contest.

The contest is open to young Catholics in grades K-8. Over the last five years, nine winners have come from the Diocese of Greensburg.

Students must choose from one of the following subjects:

- The Nativity (a manger scene, Jesus, Mary, Joseph and animals)
- Three Wise Men (presentation of gifts or following the star)
- Shepherds (with sheep, in fields, seeing the angel or visiting the manger)
- Mother and Child (mother with her infant son)
- Mother and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem
- Newborn Jesus in manger
- The angel Gabriel

Artwork must be original. Students chosen as finalists will be asked to validate the

originality of their artwork.

Entries must be accompanied by an official entry form or submitted online.

Entries must be horizontal, on 8½-by-11-inch white paper or card stock; digital copies are permitted. Acceptable media include crayons, pastels, markers, tempera or watercolor paints.

Artwork should not be folded, and the entry form should not be glued or stapled to the artwork. First and last name must be written on the artwork in lead pencil.

Entries become the property of the MCA national office, which reserves the right to depict all or part of the selected illustrations.

Entries must be postmarked or received by the diocesan mission office or online at mcaartcontest.missio.org by Jan. 31, 2021. Entries can be mailed to MCA Artwork Contest, 70 W. 36th St., 8th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Youth group members pitch in to help Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign

CORAL — Youth group members from Our Lady of the Assumption Parish are taking part in the Indiana Salvation Army's Create-a-Kettle Challenge.

Members Emily Marshall and Kevin Plowcha created their own version of the Salvation Army's red kettle for the Rescue Christmas fundraiser.

The Salvation Army started its annual national holiday fundraising campaign early this year in an effort to "rescue Christmas." The funds raised through the iconic red kettles are at risk this year due to COVID-19, while

requests for services are at an all-time high.

The youth group is competing with students from five area high schools in a quest to raise the most in donations. As of Dec. 7, the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish group had raised \$570.

"The students were glad to get involved, especially with how difficult it is for the Salvation Army to raise funds this year and the wonderful programs they provide for the community," said Cindy Marcoline, director of parish and family life at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

— *The Catholic Accent*

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