



## EPISCOPAL ORDINATION FEB. 11



**VIRTUAL DIOCESAN  
COVERAGE  
STARTS AT 1 P.M.**

### *Bishop-elect Kulick will become sixth bishop of Diocese of Greensburg*

**GREENSBURG** — The ordination and installation Mass for Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg will be celebrated Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

In an abundance of caution and in order to prioritize the health and safety of the faith community, attendance will be extremely limited and by invitation

only. However, the entire diocesan community is invited to participate in the celebration, which will be available for viewing on the diocesan website, [DioceseofGreensburg.org](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org), Facebook page and YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be broadcast live on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network).

*Continued on page 4*

## Time for your student to shine!

A double-digit increase in Catholic school enrollment in the midst of a pandemic was a challenge principals and staff at the 12 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg readily accepted.

"The resilience of educators has been remarkable in the way that they can reinvent their teaching methods to meet the needs of students who are in-person and who are virtual learners," said Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools. "The personal amount of time and dedication that it took to focus on the students has been exceptional."

Enrollment is up 13% throughout the diocese, thanks to a record amount of tuition assistance: \$2.4 million by an anonymous donor who established the St. Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership and an additional \$1.7 million available from the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC).

Positive experiences by new and previous Catholic school students will be celebrated during Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31-Feb. 6. This year's theme is "Faith. Excellence. Service."

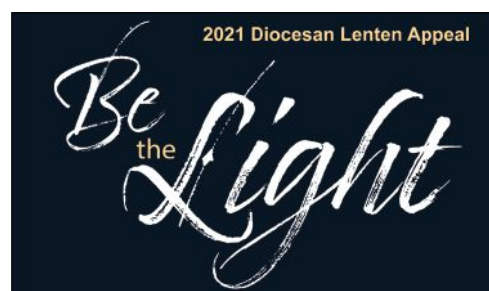
Catholic Schools Week is also an opportunity for those interested in one of the 12 schools of the Diocese of Greensburg to make a Catholic school connection.

A complete list of virtual open house dates and information on how to schedule a private tour is on page 22. That information is also available at [www.CatholicSchoolsGuide.org](http://www.CatholicSchoolsGuide.org).

Stories and photos from all our diocesan Catholic schools can be found starting on page 8.



**CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS  
WEEK**  
**JAN. 31-FEB. 6**



Our parishes are a place to find the light of Jesus, especially during the pandemic. Inside, how you can "Be the Light" for your faith community.

**PAGE 7**



## 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



## OFFICIAL

Bishop-elect Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, has made the following announcement and appointment:

**Effective Monday, Feb. 1, 2021**  
**RESIGNATION OF OFFICE:**  
In anticipation of his Episcopal  
Ordination and Installation,  
**Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick, JCL,**  
resigns the Office of Pastor of Saint

James Parish, New Alexandria.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**  
**The Reverend Tyler J. Bandura,** to  
Administrator of Saint James Parish,  
New Alexandria, while remaining

Director of the Office for Priestly  
Vocations, Chaplain and Instructor  
of Religion at Greensburg Central  
Catholic Junior-Senior High School,  
Greensburg, and Episcopal Master of  
Ceremonies.

## OBITUARIES

### Father Noel H. Rothrauff, OSB

**LATROBE** — Benedictine  
Father Noel H. Rothrauff,  
a monk of Saint Vincent  
Archabbey for 73 years, died  
Dec. 15, 2020. He was 94.

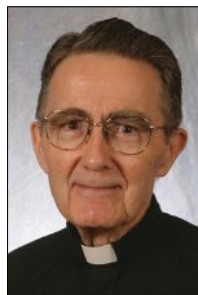
Born in Wilkinsburg Dec.  
31, 1925, Father Noel gradu-  
ated from the Saint Vincent  
Scholasticate, Latrobe, in  
1945, and went on to study at  
Saint Vincent College.

He made simple profession of mo-  
nastic vows July 2, 1947, and solemn  
profession of vows July 11, 1950, at Saint  
Vincent Archabbey Basilica. He was or-  
dained a priest by Bishop Hugh Lamb  
May 22, 1954, in the basilica. He earned  
a master of divinity degree from Saint  
Vincent Seminary in 1994.

Father Noel served in many capaci-  
ties at Saint Vincent. He began working  
as assistant director of maintenance in  
1947, then taught at Saint Vincent Pre-  
paratory School from 1953-54. In 1982,  
he was named the archabbey's foreign  
mission director and served in various  
capacities at the archabbey's São Bento  
Priory in São Paulo, Brazil, and Wim-  
mer Priory in Taipei, Taiwan.

Also at Saint Vincent College and  
Seminary, he was moderator of the  
Saint Vincent Women's Auxiliary (1982-  
2007); articulation and institutional  
research specialist (1982-83); Finance  
Committee member (1983-84); per-  
sonnel director (1984-86); post office  
manager (1983-92); and post office staff  
member (1992-2000).

Father Noel was in Covington, Ky.,



from 1954-59, serving as  
assistant pastor of St. Joseph  
Parish and teaching at La  
Salette Academy. From 1959-  
61, he was assistant pastor of  
Queen of the World Parish  
while teaching at Central High  
School in St. Marys, return-  
ing to the parish as parochial  
vicar in 1994. From 1961-80, he

taught at Bishop Carroll High School,  
Ebensburg.

He served as assistant pastor of St.  
Benedict Parish, Carrolltown (1961-  
72); administrator of Immaculate  
Conception Parish, New Germany  
(1972-73); pastor of St. Gertrude Parish,  
Vandergrift (1973-74); and pastor of St.  
Nicholas Parish, Nicktown (1974-80).  
In 1980, Father Noel became pastor of  
St. Benedict Parish in Canton, Ohio,  
and then served at St. Benedict Parish  
in Baltimore. From 1995-96, he served  
as administrator of St. Benedict Parish,  
Marguerite.

He was temporary administrator at  
the former Holy Trinity and St. Casimir  
Parishes, East Vandergrift (1983-84);  
confessor for the Sisters of Charity of  
Seton Hill, Greensburg (1985-94); and  
chaplain of Olympia Place, Latrobe,  
and Mountain View Nursing Center,  
Greensburg (1986-94).

He was also a professional photo-  
grapher.

A funeral Mass was held Dec. 18,  
followed by burial in the Mary, Mother  
of Wisdom Mausoleum at Saint Vincent  
Cemetery.

### Sister Marguerite Coyne, CSJ

**BADEN** — Sister of St. Joseph  
Marguerite (Moya) Coyne, 80, died  
Jan. 14, 2021. She was in her 63rd year  
of religious life.

Sister Marguerite was a teacher in  
the dioceses of  
Pittsburgh, Al-  
toona-Johnstown  
and Greensburg  
for nine years  
and later served  
as a principal of  
Catholic schools in  
State College and  
Ambridge before  
assuming key



leadership positions in the Diocese of  
Greensburg.

She served as educational consul-  
tant (1987-1990), associate director for  
schools, associate superintendent of  
schools and superintendent of schools.

As superintendent of schools, Sister  
Marguerite directed the regionaliza-  
tion of 15 schools, oversaw the budgets  
of 32 schools, and collaborated with  
teachers and administrators in devel-  
oping elementary curricula. She also  
initiated a policy that directed dioc-  
esan funds to schools in neighborhoods  
of poverty.

Following 42 years in education,  
Sister Marguerite was elected to the  
congregation's leadership team, serv-  
ing from 2003-13.

A memorial Mass will be scheduled  
at a later date.

### Sister Mary Louise Lisowski, SC



**GREENSBURG** — Sister of Charity Mary  
Louise Lisowski, 74, died Dec. 7, 2020, at  
Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the  
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

Born in Pittsburgh, she entered the  
congregation Aug. 27, 1967.

Sister Mary Louise taught elementary  
and secondary students in schools of the  
dioceses of Greensburg and Pittsburgh,  
including the former St. Pius School,  
Mount Pleasant. She served as religious

education coordinator for the Diocese of Greensburg and an  
adjunct social work faculty member at Seton Hill University.

Funeral arrangements were private.

### Sister Marie Corona Miller, SC



**GREENSBURG** — Sister of Charity Marie  
Corona Miller, 85, died Dec. 22, 2020, at  
Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the  
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.

Born in Pittsburgh, she entered the  
congregation Oct. 11, 1956.

Sister Marie Corona taught at DePaul  
School for Hearing and Speech in Pitts-  
burgh, worked in the nursing department  
of Assumption Hall, the sisters' former  
retirement residence and infirmary, and

was on the staff of the Doran Hall Retreat and Renewal Center.  
She assisted in the sisters' archives department for 35 years.

Funeral arrangements were private.

## In memoriam

- Peggy Rafferty, 85, Dec. 2, 2020; sister of Msgr. Lawrence R. Kiniry, retired priest of the diocese.
- Edward Manchac, 63, Jan. 13, 2021; brother of Father Lawrence L. Manchac, pastor of St. Paul and St. Bruno parishes, Greensburg.



# Bishop-elect Kulick to continue good works in diocese

By Jennifer Miele  
Chief Communications Officer

**GREENSBURG** — Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick is a Western Pennsylvania native and a devoted servant to the Lord, best characterized as a “roll up his sleeves and get to work” kind of leader. On Dec. 18, he was appointed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Prior to his appointment as bishop-elect, he served as diocesan administrator after his predecessor, Bishop Edward C. Malesic, was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland in September.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the Holy Father for his confidence and trust in appointing me as bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg. Western Pennsylvania has always been my home. I feel honored to be able to serve as bishop in the diocese where I was born, raised, educated, ordained and have served my entire life,” said Bishop-elect Kulick.

“Two things that define the people of Western Pennsylvania, which were also crucial in my upbringing and formation, are a strong faith and a strong work ethic. As I begin my episcopal ministry, I know we have a great deal of work to do in caring for our community of faith in a post-pandemic world. Working with each other, I believe the Church and its people can continue to be of great assistance to those who are in spiritual and physical need.”

Bishop-elect Kulick is a canon lawyer and recognized by many to be a strategic and energetic administrator, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. With attendance at Mass at 30% to 40% of pre-pandemic levels,

he acknowledges that the pandemic has greatly impacted every form of stewardship.

Believing transparent communication with parishioners is imperative, he directed each parish in the Diocese of Greensburg to publish an annual fiscal report simultaneously, for the first time in diocesan history. These reports, issued last month, detailed the impact of COVID-19 on each parish, but also illustrated their outreach efforts to those in need during the pandemic.

The following are highlights of these efforts.

- 110 new ministries were created during the pandemic, including homebound phone and mail outreach, volunteer cooks who packed and served free takeout meals, and clothing, coats and canned good drives. Additionally, there were grocery deliveries to the homebound, expanded prayer phone trees, virtual religious education and youth ministry, and a nuanced Ministry of Hospitality, consisting of ushers who ensure socially distant seating, volunteers to greet worshippers and cleaning crews to sanitize churches and restrooms after each use. To increase connectivity, many parishes boosted or developed new video ministries, which often utilize the expertise of volunteer parishioners to stream Mass on YouTube and social media.

- 2,000 of the faithful dedicated their time and talent to operationalize these new ministries.

- All 78 parishes donated items or facilitated financial assistance for those in need during the pandemic.

- \$250,000 of assistance was distributed by parishes in the four counties of the diocese, as well as an additional \$200,000 in COVID-19 relief



Above, Bishop-elect Kulick enjoys coffee with parishioners at St. James Parish, where he was pastor until his appointment; at right, with his parents, Myrna and Larry; below, in one of his classic cars.

THE CATHOLIC ACCENT FILE PHOTOS

funds via Catholic Charities.

- To date, more than 15,000 people have been helped by the people of the Diocese of Greensburg.

- 44 diocesan parishes are now streaming Mass to the faithful.

Bishop-elect Kulick and his team stressed the importance of creating multiple paths to connectivity during the pandemic.

In November, he announced that in addition to in-person Christmas Masses throughout the diocese, there also would be streaming and televised Christmas Masses for those who could not gather.

As the pandemic continued, Bishop-elect Kulick was instrumental in establishing a committee to recommence in-person worship, which developed safety protocols for parishes and schools. New evangelization tools, including an e-mail and text message alert system, online and printed resources for worshiping at home, and both live and premiated social media events, all helped to bring many people closer to the Church.

Bishop-elect Kulick is a classic car enthusiast. Parishioners with similar interests and a devotion to their Church have assisted him for many years in bringing hundreds of people to his parish car cruises for



a day of summer fun and fundraising. As pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria, then-Msgr. Kulick proudly spoke about his lifelong love of one particular car — the General Motors Pontiac. He has often displayed one of his most prized automotive possessions, his 1966 Pontiac LeMans, at these car shows. It is the car in which he was brought home from the hospital as a newborn and was his 18th birthday present from his grandmother.

Due to his heritage, Bishop-elect Kulick is active in many Slovak cultural and fraternal organizations locally and nationally. He has been a life member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and has served as chaplain for the George Onda District for more than 25 years.

Bishop-elect Kulick was born Feb. 24, 1966, to Larry J. Sr. and Myrna Dolores Coleman Kulick. He is a native of Leechburg, where he was a parishioner of the former St. Martha Parish.

A 1984 graduate of St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights, Bishop-elect Kulick earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Vincent College in 1988. He attended Saint Vincent Seminary, where he received a master's degree in systematic theology in 1991 and a master of divinity degree in 1992. He was ordained to the priesthood May 16, 1992, by Bishop Anthony G. Bosco at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.

He earned a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 2012.

## Bishop-elect Kulick's pastoral appointments:

Parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg (1992-95) and Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin (1995-97). Pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent (1997-2002), St. Joseph Parish, New Kensington (2002-08) and St. James Parish, New Alexandria (2012-present).

## Bishop-elect Kulick's diocesan appointments:

Consultant on priestly vocations (1999-2004); co-director of priestly vocations (2004-08); director of clergy vocations (2008-10); co-director of clergy vocations (2010-12), co-director of the permanent diaconate (2012); episcopal master of ceremonies (2008-10); co-episcopal master of ceremonies (2010-12); and acting chancellor (2012-13). He was appointed vicar general and moderator of the curia in 2012 by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt and reappointed vicar general by Bishop Edward C. Malesic in 2015. He was elected diocesan administrator by the College of Consultors, a priest advisory group in the Diocese of Greensburg, Sept. 15, 2020, the day after Bishop Malesic was installed as bishop of Cleveland. Bishop-elect Kulick also has served on the Priests' Council and Board of Consultors. Bishop-elect Kulick received the title of monsignor by virtue of his office as vicar general of the diocese May 21, 2014.





# Bishop-elect Kulick ordination, installation Mass to be celebrated Feb. 11

*Continued from page 1*

Diocesan coverage of this much-anticipated event will begin at 1 p.m. with special coverage by *The Catholic Accent*; a video biography of Bishop-elect Kulick will include a visit to his hometown of Leechburg and his alma mater, St. Joseph High School, Natrona Heights. Messages from former parishioners, well wishes from youth ministry groups, Catholic schools and two of the previous bishops of the diocese, an in-depth look at his Slovak roots, and stories about his selection of a coat of arms, miter, crozier and pectoral cross will be included.

Metropolitan Archbishop Nelson Jesus Pérez of Philadelphia will be the principal consecrator. Bishop Edward C. Malesic of Cleveland, former bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, and Greensburg Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt will serve as co-consecrators.

The celebration will be in the presence of Archbishop Christophe Pierre, titular archbishop of Gunela, apostolic nuncio to the United States, who will present the Papal Bull from His Holiness, Pope Francis, an-

nouncing the appointment of Bishop-elect Kulick.

Unlike an episcopal ordination without COVID-19 safety concerns, attendance at this Mass will be limited to Bishop-elect Kulick's immediate family and a small number of clergy and members of the diocesan leadership team.

The diocese will also live-stream evening prayer on the vigil of the Mass of Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Kulick Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. The homilist will be Erie Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, a former priest of the Diocese of Greensburg. That ceremony also will be available for viewing on the diocesan website, [DioceseofGreensburg.org](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org), Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

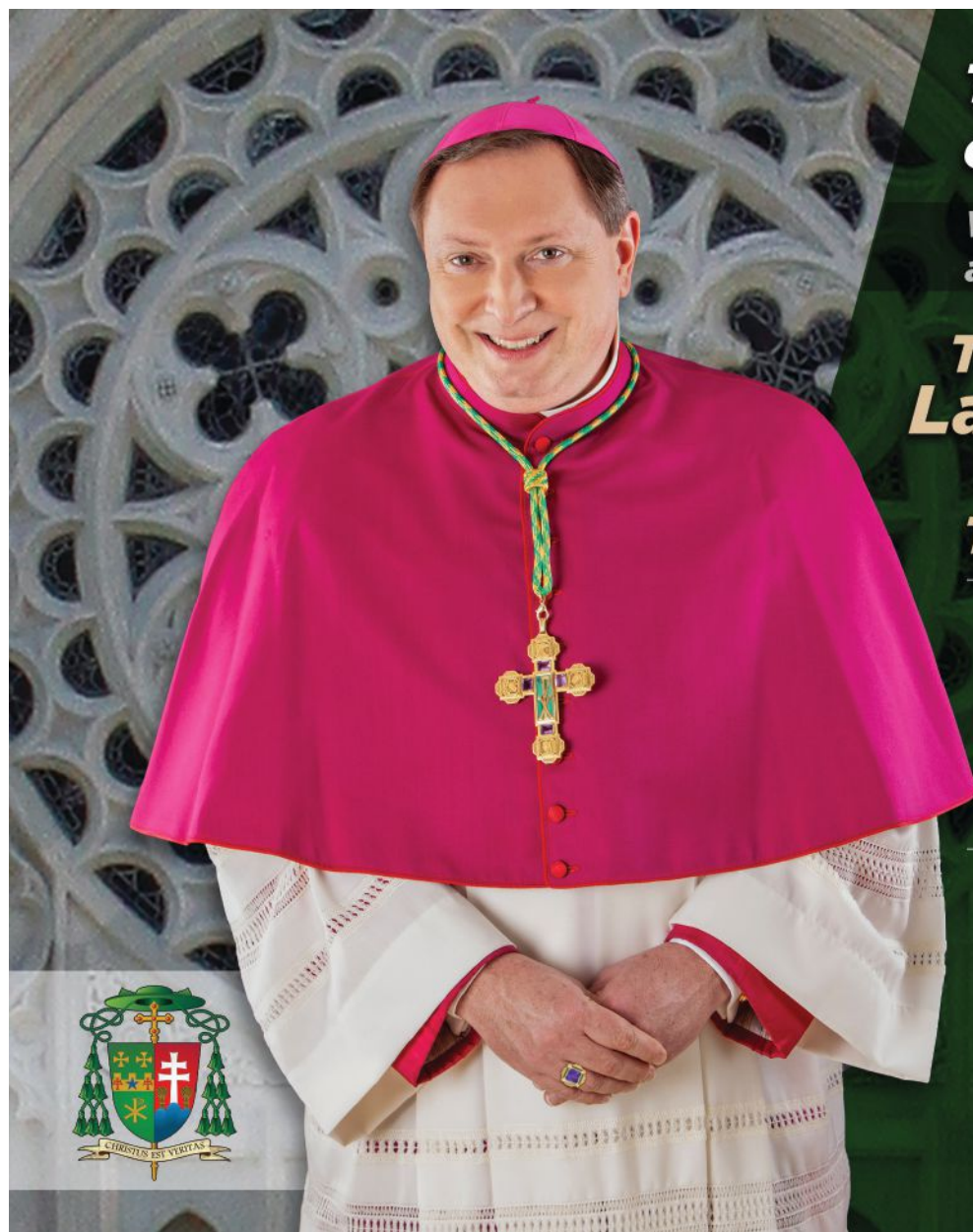
Bishop-elect Kulick is a native of Leechburg and is the first native son and priest of the diocese to be appointed bishop for the Diocese of Greensburg.

Pope Francis appointed him bishop Dec. 18. Prior to his appointment as bishop-elect, he served as diocesan administrator after his predecessor, Bishop Malesic, was installed as bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland in September.



THE CATHOLIC ACCENT FILE PHOTO

From left, Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Bishop Emeritus Lawrence E. Brandt and Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick at an Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem event in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, in 2015.



***The Diocese of Greensburg  
cordially invites you to join us!***

***Watch the live streamed ordination  
and installation Mass of our new Bishop,***

***The Most Reverend  
Larry James Kulick, J.C.L.  
as Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg***

***Thursday, February 11, 2021***

**Diocesan Coverage Starts at 1:00 PM**

**Watch LIVE at [DioceseofGreensburg.org](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org)**

**Or the Diocese Facebook Page  
or YouTube Channel**

**EWTN Broadcast Starts at 2:00 PM**

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 **Diocese of Greensburg**





# THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

## Episcopal Ordination Special Edition

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*Ad purchase deadline: February 5*

*Ad submission deadline: February 10*

**Please consider  
purchasing a  
congratulatory ad  
for Bishop-elect  
Larry J. Kulick.**

To purchase and submit your ad online visit  
[www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/AccentAds](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/AccentAds)





# Students, parishes donate 1,000 gifts, cards to hospital patients

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — Students and parishes throughout the Diocese of Greensburg demonstrated the true spirit of the holiday season with heartfelt donations to patients at area hospitals.

Students donated nearly 1,000 cards and gifts, many of which were beautifully hand-made, along with donations from students and parishes, including rosaries, pocket prayer shawls, blankets, prayer cards and scapulars blessed by Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick. The gifts were taken to Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg, Indiana Regional Medical Center, Armstrong Center for Medicine and Health in Kittanning and Uniontown Hospital, where patients may not have been allowed to have visitors over the holidays due to coronavirus mitigation efforts.

"This pandemic provides too many reasons to feel isolated and apart," said J. Kevin Frye, head of school at Christ the Divine Teacher School in Latrobe. "How wonderful of our students to take such advantage of the opportunity to give; to reach beyond the school walls into our community and help provide to those in need. I am so impressed with their caring and generosity, and our school community is beyond grateful for their efforts."

This generosity was a result of two outreaches, one from diocesan Mission Director Father Anthony J. Carbone to parishes asking for assistance, and the other as part of the Christmas Care Card project, which involved 800 Catholic school students who have benefitted from the Saint Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership. The TOP student initiative was founded by anonymous donors who received Catholic educations and were profoundly influenced by Pope John Paul II.

These anonymous donors allocated \$2.4 million in tuition assistance this year, which helped to increase enrollment by more than 13%.

In return for tuition assistance, TOP students were asked to act in service to their faith communities. They were asked to participate in the Care Card Project to try to bring some comfort to those who are hospitalized. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited hospital visits, resulting in

“Receiving a blanket from our community is a simple gesture, but it really blankets the recipient with love and compassion. It’s not about the gift per se, but the kindness and understanding that is shared.”

KATHY RADOCAJ, EXCELSA WESTMORELAND HOSPITAL

many patients feeling isolated and lonely, especially during the holiday season.

"The patients who are hospitalized, particularly during this time of COVID, find themselves removed from what is personally comforting and familiar," said Kathy Radocaj, clinical director of the intensive care unit at Excelsa Westmoreland Hospital, where some blankets were donated. "Receiving a blanket from our community is a simple gesture, but it really blankets the recipient with love and compassion. It's not about the gift per se, but the kindness and understanding that is shared. And when our patients are well enough for discharge, they will have something tangible to remind them of the good that came of something bad."

TOP students in the diocese's 10 elementary schools and two junior-senior high schools were asked to become servant leaders in their faith community and fulfilled the mission of this project in a big way.

"Generosity is second nature to all Mother of Sorrows students, and I am so proud of all that they do," said Theresa Szmed, principal of Mother of Sorrows School in Murrysville. "Each student strives to share their God-given time and talent to help others in the community and place the needs of others before theirs."

Cathy Collett, principal of Mary Queen of Apostles Catholic School in New Kensington, added, "When the students and families of the Mary Queen of Apostles School community see a need or hear of a project, they participate wholeheartedly. They pray, they share talents and they contribute financially or with donations of goods or their time. I am humbled by their willingness to serve and grateful for their kindness and generosity."

Cards and gifts poured into the diocese, with a number of



Above, Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick blesses gifts, donated by students and parishes for patients in area hospitals, Dec. 16 at St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon. At right are some of the many cards created by students.

PHOTOS BY MARY SEAMANS  
THE CATHOLIC ACCENT



students making multiple donations.

"We are thrilled to see so many students with caring hearts. I think many of them were eager to find a way to help during the pandemic, and that is why we got such a tremendous response," said Jennifer Miele, chief commu-

nications officer and managing director of evangelization for the diocese.

Boxes packed with donations were taken to area hospitals.

"The outpouring has been beautiful," said Al Novak, a parishioner of St. Bartholomew Parish in Crabtree, who serves

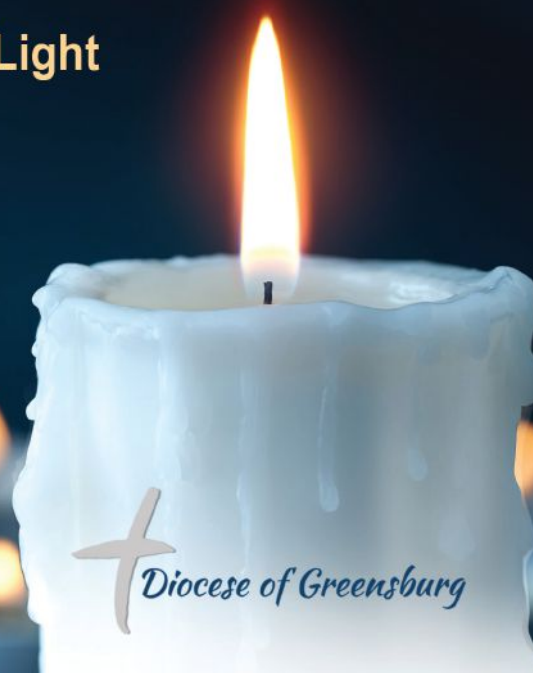
as vice president and chief development officer of Excelsa Health. "The timing couldn't be better. We have a lot of patients that can't have visitors because of the pandemic. It's going to pick people up to know they've been remembered. It will be a blessing to them."



## 2021 Diocesan Lenten Appeal

# Be the Light

**“Be the Light” for your community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donate to the “Be the Light” campaign to support God’s work being done in the Diocese of Greensburg. [DioceseofGreensburg.org/BeTheLight](https://DioceseofGreensburg.org/BeTheLight)**



Notwithstanding the pandemic, there is good news to share! Through the stewardship of parishioners in the Diocese of Greensburg, our church continues to “Be the Light” for our faith community.

Thanks to your generosity, our parishes have been able to continue to facilitate spiritual, emotional and/or financial assistance to those in need. Thank you so much!

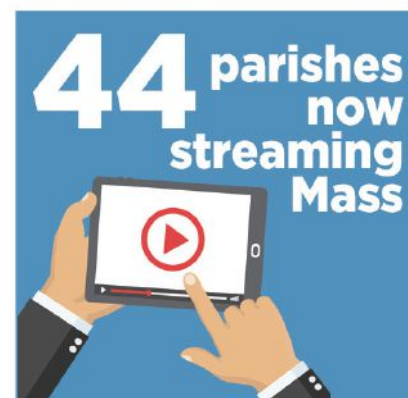
In fact, generous donors have enabled God’s work to continue all over the Diocese of Greensburg. In 2020, the 78 parishes of the diocese distributed nearly \$250,000 in donated food, clothing or related financial assistance to 15,000 people in need. Our Catholic Charities responded to urgent calls for food, baby supplies, and rent and utility assistance by

distributing an additional \$250,000.

In 2020, we clearly experienced that the Church, the Body of Christ, is not a building, but a people who, despite physical separation, remain united in faith with God and each other to perform an ongoing mission to be the light and share the good news. We continue to serve our neighbor with joy, sustained through prayer, as we follow Christ’s example.

In the upcoming Lenten season and through this year’s Diocesan Lenten Appeal, we are called once again to **Be the Light**. Prayerfully consider how you can **Be the Light** once again during this Lenten season.

To donate to this year’s Diocesan Lenten Appeal, visit [DioceseOfGreensburg.org/BeTheLight](https://DioceseOfGreensburg.org/BeTheLight).





# Catholic schools continue their mission in challenging times

## Message from Bishop-elect Kulick

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is no doubt that these have been challenging times, especially for our young people. We do not know from one day to the next if students will receive their classes in person or by virtual instruction at home. I am proud to say that, with only a few *temporary* exceptions, the students in our 12 schools have been in their classrooms, receiving a top-notch, faith-based education.

All the while that our students have been in class, I know our diocesan and local Catholic school leadership have constantly prioritized and reevaluated protocols for the health and safety of our students, even as these conditions and safety protocols have evolved over time.



I could not be prouder of the efforts and dedication of our administrators, teachers, staff and parents who are all working in conjunction toward a successful school year under difficult circumstances. It takes everyone, including our parents, striving toward the common goal of providing the best

for our students on a daily basis.

Speaking of parents, let me acknowledge that the duties of our parents and families related to their children's education have increased exponentially. I can imagine moms and dads, grandparents and even other adult relatives have all been asked to be a tutor or teacher at times, or even an expert in technology as they help their children navigate through a time like no other

we have experienced.

Providing a Catholic education is one of the most important youth ministries in the Diocese of Greensburg, and the work of everyone involved has allowed us to continue that mission at the highest level. Our children are learning to know, love and serve Jesus every day.

Jesus said, *"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* (Lk 18:16)

The love of God continues to help us and guide us in this ministry. And while these are very challenging times, they are exciting as well. An anonymous donor provided \$2.4 million in tuition assistance last summer. There is also \$1.7 million available from the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. This financial assistance has gone a long way to support the 13% increase in enrollment we experienced throughout the diocese this fall.

I am extremely grateful to the donor. This generosity not only allowed us to continue to help our students receive a marvelous education, but also helped provide more young people the opportunity to receive a Catholic school education.

The 800 students in the Saint Pope John Paul II Tuition Opportunity Partnership (TOP) program have also engaged in service activities to help their faith communities. This includes a Christmas Care Card project for the 2020 Christmas season, which saw our students combine with diocesan parishes to provide nearly 1,000 cards and gifts for patients at area hospitals. That is just one example of the Christian generosity of our excellent students.

As I serve this diocese as its sixth bishop, the education of our students will always be a high priority for me. I often think back to my days as a student attending Catholic high school. It brings back special

memories of how a Catholic education helped shape me in so many ways into the person I have become. I pray that the education our students receive will help them in the same way. I know it will!

Finally, yet importantly, I have a message for our students: Keep up the great work you are doing. The way you have handled these challenging times has been noticed. Keep your light shining brightly!

In closing, I ask you to pray for all of our administrators, teachers, staff, volunteers, parents and students as well as for me, as your new bishop. I know prayers are something we can all use and will greatly appreciate as we move forward together in faith and hope.

In Christ,

*Larry J. Kulick, JCL*  
Bishop-elect of Greensburg

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week in time of COVID-19

**By Dr. Maureen Marsteller**  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Did you get the invitation for the Zoom meeting? Are you connected to Schoology? How much longer do you have to stay quarantined? Make sure you have muted yourself! We can't hear your answer, you are muted.

This Catholic Schools Week is one like no other. We have grown accustomed to the questions and commands listed above. We have learned to understand what people are saying when they have a mask on. And we have found ways to interact that do not involve sustained contact. We have acquired skills that we never would have dreamed of before. But through it all, we remain strong as a Catholic school community determined to remember that God is the center of our existence, and it is through Him that we will triumph over confusion and distress.

We were fortunate in the Diocese of Greensburg to be able to sustain in-person instruction throughout the pandemic with small periods of school closures when the health and safety of the school community dictated. Our children are being taught in the most effective way possible while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing in the classrooms. Buildings are being cleaned and sanitized so that school members may feel as confident as possible when entering the facility.

All of this has come through the great effort of many people. It is through their efforts that our children are in the best

place possible to learn and flourish. Catholic Schools Week provides the perfect opportunity to express many thanks to all those who have gone out of their way to ensure the safety and viability of our schools during the pandemic.



A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the educational professionals, administrators, teachers and aides, who have unselfishly pitched in to teach both in the classroom and synchronously, substitute for their colleagues, clean their

classrooms, provide tutoring and, most importantly, provide support for the children in their care. Their efforts will be remembered long after the trauma of the pandemic, for when we reach out in kindness and support, the memories of those moments last a lifetime.

In addition to the educational professionals, there are a host of other school employees who have put in many hours to facilitate the education of the children. They have had to adjust to many and varied schedules, duties and challenges so that an orderly and "normal" environment could be provided to all. They often work behind the scenes in the offices and cafeteria, or on the janitorial and cleaning staff, to complete thankless tasks with great devotion.

A thank-you as well to the parents who have been called upon to be babysitter, tutor, teacher and so much more to their children. It is not easy to support your children while they are engaged in virtual learning or to discern when your child cannot go to school because of symptoms she/he

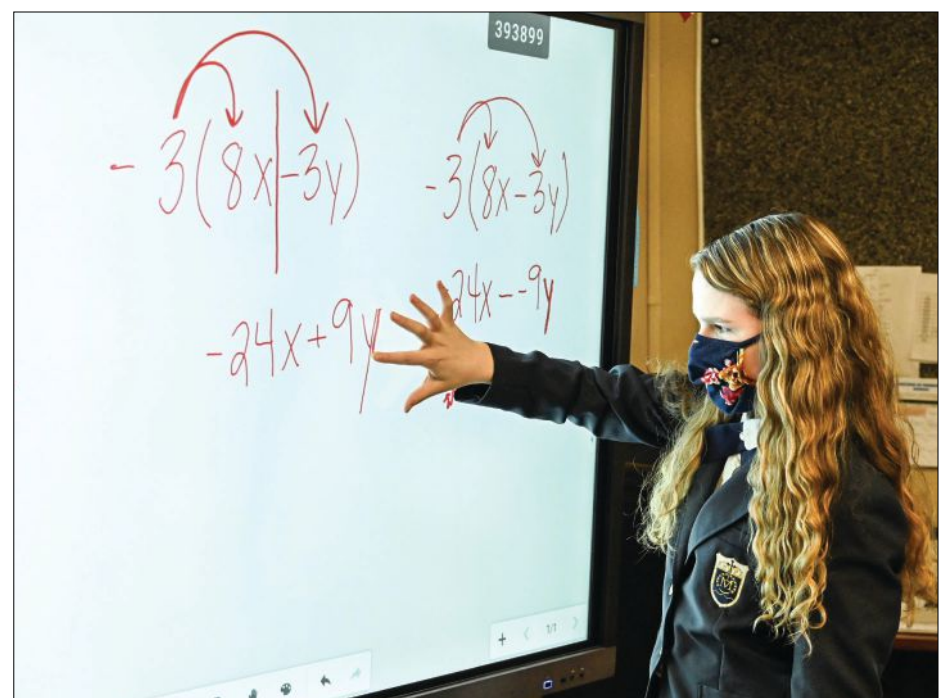


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Student Maggie Hudock works on a lesson at Mother of Sorrows School, Murrysville.

may have. We appreciate your diligence in supporting the education of your children and protecting the safety of all through your attention to the need to quarantine and your decisions to keep children home when they may be ill.

As we live through the turmoil that COVID-19 and political unrest have caused, it is more important than ever to provide students with a faith-based education. We need to find our guidance and solace in the arms of our loving Father. The spiritual guidance that is provided by our schools allows children to learn how to keep joy,

hope and faith as the center of their existence when all around them seems chaotic. God provides us with pathways through life that can be followed on a daily basis, but only if we know they exist and accept the guidance. That is what is taught in our Catholic schools: God's pathway through life; His plan for our future.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education. I pray that throughout Catholic Schools Week you take the opportunity to pray as a family for the future of Catholic education in the diocese and throughout the world.





**The Divine Redeemer  
Catholic School**  
Ford City  
Grades PK-6  
724-763-3761  
[www.divineredeemer.org](http://www.divineredeemer.org)

**St. Bernard Regional  
Catholic School**  
Indiana  
Grades PK3-8  
724-465-7139  
[www.stbernardlc.org](http://www.stbernardlc.org)

**Mary Queen  
of Apostles  
SCHOOL**  
**Mary Queen of Apostles  
School**  
New Kensington  
Grades PS-8  
724-339-4411  
[www.mqaschool.org](http://www.mqaschool.org)

**Mother of Sorrows  
School**  
Murrysville  
Grades PK-8  
724-733-8840  
[www.mossschool.org](http://www.mossschool.org)

**Christ  
the Divine Teacher  
School**  
**Christ the Divine Teacher  
School**  
Latrobe  
Grades PK-8  
724-539-1561  
[www.cdtschool.org](http://www.cdtschool.org)

**Queen of Angels  
Catholic School**  
**Queen of Angels  
Catholic School**  
North Huntingdon  
Grades PK-8  
724-978-0144  
[www.queenofangelsch.org](http://www.queenofangelsch.org)

**Aquinas Academy**  
Greensburg  
Grades PK-6  
724-834-7940  
[www.aquinasacademy.org](http://www.aquinasacademy.org)

**Greensburg Central  
Catholic Junior-Senior  
High School**  
Greensburg  
Grades 7-12  
724-834-0310  
[www.gcchs.org](http://www.gcchs.org)

**St. Sebastian  
Regional Catholic School**  
Belle Vernon  
Grades PK-8  
724-929-5143  
[www.sssbv.org](http://www.sssbv.org)

**St. John the Evangelist  
Regional Catholic School**  
Uniontown  
Grades PK-8  
724-438-8598  
[www.stjohntheevangelistschool.org](http://www.stjohntheevangelistschool.org)

**CONN-AREA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
*Centered In Christ*  
**Conn-Area Catholic  
School**  
Connellsville  
Grades PK-6  
724-628-5090  
[www.connareacatholic.org](http://www.connareacatholic.org)

**GEIBEL  
CATHOLIC**  
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
**Geibel Catholic  
Junior-Senior  
High School**  
Connellsville  
Grades 7-12  
724-628-5600  
[www.geibelcatholic.org](http://www.geibelcatholic.org)

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS

**Clelian Heights School for  
Exceptional Children**  
Greensburg  
Grades: PK-12+  
Principal: Sister Charlene Celli, ASCJ  
724-837-8120  
[www.clelianheights.org](http://www.clelianheights.org)

**Elizabeth Seton  
Montessori School**  
Greensburg  
Grades PK-K  
Director: Linda Fidazzo  
724-837-8500

**Verna Montessori School**  
Mount Pleasant  
Grades PK-8  
Principal: Cindy Copeland  
724-887-8810  
[mrs.copeland@vernammontessorischool.org](mailto:mrs.copeland@vernammontessorischool.org)



# Aquinas Academy students ready for reading competition

By Mary Pickels  
Contributing Writer

**GREENSBURG** — Aquinas Academy Reading Team members are hitting the books, preparing for this spring's Westmoreland Interscholastic Reading Competition.

"Last year, we placed seventh (out of 40 teams). Our team name was Readers in a Locked Library, based on the title of one of the books on the list, 'The Girl in the Locked Room' by Mary Downing Hahn," said Jessica Brecht, librarian and computer teacher.

And though the coronavirus pandemic means this year's competition will be virtual, rather than held at Seton Hill University as in other years, the team is larger than most years, Brecht said, with 17 members.

"Usually, we have 12 or 13. We have a big team this year. There are no extracurricular conflicts (due to the pandemic)," she said.

Brecht and co-leader Maria Cochenour, the school's business manager, start preparing the team in August for the annual event that involves quizzing them on

the contents of 40 books.

Students from middle schools in Westmoreland, Fayette, Indiana and Allegheny counties are readying for the March 23 competition.

As Aquinas Academy offers education from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, its reading team of fifth- and sixth-graders often competes with students from other schools in grades five through eight, Brecht noted.

During the competition, students are asked comprehensive questions from each of the 40 books. Students who have read specific books discuss a question before the team captain submits an answer.

If one team guesses wrong, the opposing team has a chance to win those points. "The great thing about it is that it is a competition, but they are a team," Brecht said.

Each book on the list must have been read by at least one team member, and each team member is required to have read five books by January.

"Some students will read over half of the books. Maria does the 'Cochenour Challenge' to see if anyone can out-read her," Brecht said.

Because Aquinas remained open during the pandemic, the students were able to continue meeting in person to prepare for the competition.

"We meet twice a month for an hour or so after school, six feet apart, wearing masks," Brecht said.

A committee chooses the books, keeping in mind what is appropriate for middle-school readers, including fiction, nonfiction, science fiction and graphic novels.

"It's nice because of all of the different genres," Brecht said.

Around mid-January, the team reviews who has read which books and determines which titles are in a "danger zone" and still need readers.

Some books are bound to hold less appeal than others, Brecht said.

"We focus on the team aspect — take (read) one for the team," she said, laughing.

Others, including last year's "The Unteachables" by Gordon Korman, prove to be crowd pleasers.

So far this year, "The Last Kids on Earth" by Max Brallier and "The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl" by Stacy McAnulty are particularly popular.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Aquinas Academy Reading Team members hit the books outdoors Nov. 4.

As the competition approaches, students start a "question bank," quizzing each other on questions they think might be asked.

Fifth- and sixth-grade reading teacher Jennifer Davis gives students a lot of encouragement, Brecht said.

As a librarian, she said, it's a thrill to see students get excited about reading.

The team offers an outlet to students who might not be involved in another competitive group, she added.

"Even with all of the devices and the internet and technology, reading is not going away. It's fundamental to who we are. It's still popular, and this brings the social and competitive aspects together," Brecht said.

## AQUINAS ACADEMY

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS PRE-K to 6th grade

# VIRTUAL AND PRIVATE TOURS

CHECK DATES  
REGISTER ONLINE

[AquinasAcademy.org](https://AquinasAcademy.org)





# Food drive inspires CDT students

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**LATROBE** — In November, the student government at Christ the Divine Teacher School hosted a food drive for the Union Mission shelter for men.

As an added motivation, the drive was organized as a friendly competition among the school's houses to see which could donate the most.

Donations were placed under each house banner so that students could see the donations as they came in.

The eighth grade, which forms the school's student government executive board, was responsible for maintaining an inventory of the donations and promoting the drive.

In 2018, the school added a house system to complement its classical curriculum, which includes Greek mythology. Students are divided into four houses named after constellations: Andromeda, Cassiopeia, Pegasus and Orion.

"The house system builds community between students across grade levels, giving our older students leadership roles and our younger students role models and interaction with



PHOTO SUBMITTED

older students," said J. Kevin Frye, head of school. "In normal (non-COVID-19) times, our houses share monthly lunches and jointly participate in projects."

Eighth-grade students serve as prefects (leaders) in each house and form the student governing body. Students are assigned to a house upon enrollment and remain in that house throughout their time at the school.

The winner of the food drive competition was the House

of Orion, donating 271 items. More than 750 items were collected overall; one of the school's families was enlisted to transport the food to the Union Mission.

Frye was pleased with the outcome.

"The COVID world has become very insulated," he said. "It is more inspiring at this time to see students provide so much support to those in need who they may not know personally. We are all extremely proud of their effort."

# Eighth-grader competing for Carson scholarship

**LATROBE** — Eighth-grader Martin Meyer is Christ the Divine Teacher School's nominee to compete for a Carson Scholars Fund scholarship this year.

Martin was chosen from nearly 30 candidates who were asked to submit essays. In answering the prompt "write about the book that has had a great influence on your life thus far and explain how that book had an impact," Martin wrote about "Learning to Weave" by Deborah Chandler.

Christ the Divine Teacher students have won the prestigious scholarship for eight consecutive years. The fund, established by world-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson and his wife Candy in 1994, awards \$1,000 scholarships to students in grades 4-11 who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities. Scholarships can be renewed each year through reapplication.

Last year, Avianna Mucci, a current eighth-grader at



Martin Meyer

Christ the Divine Teacher, won a Carson scholarship. She was not the first member of her family to land the award: Her brother, Augustine "Augie" Mucci, now a senior at Greater Latrobe High School, received a scholarship while a student at Christ the Divine Teacher; he has received the award every year since sixth grade.

One student from each school, nominated by an educator, can apply for a Carson scholarship.

— The Catholic Accent



**Christ  
the Divine Teacher  
School**

323 Chestnut Street,  
Latrobe, PA 15650

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

**February 21 - 1PM**  
**March 10 - 6PM**  
**April 11 - 1PM**

**PROSPECTIVE  
STUDENTS**

**PRE-K to  
8th grade**



REGISTER  
ONLINE

**cdtschool.org**



# Pandemic doesn't slow good works at Conn-Area Catholic School

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**CONNELLSVILLE** — Students at Conn-Area Catholic School are not limited by the COVID-19 pandemic when it comes to outreach programs.

The student body, 158 pupils strong, has continued to find ways to help those in need or create a special memory for someone who might need one.

One way they go about it is writing to shut-ins for every holiday. Area parishes supply the school with names of people to whom letters, cards or notes can be sent.

"Depending on their age, they'll send a card or write a letter," explained Cecilia Solan, Conn-Area Catholic principal. "Sometimes the shut-ins will write back to the kids, which is really nice. They enjoy that, especially when a letter is returned."

Those return letters express to the young letter-writers how nice it was of them to take time to correspond with the shut-ins. Solan said sometimes, when the recipient of a card or letter has died, family members reach out to tell the students how much their simple act meant. A recent response letter was read aloud to second-graders.

"The class sees how their outreach affects these people who are receiving these. I think we need a lot more of that in the world today," Solan said.

The letter-writing program has been taking place at the school for many years, even before Solan arrived in 2002.

"It's been a great tradition that's kept going," she said. "My kids went to Conn-Area, and they remember those letters."

The school also holds an "Advent Tree" baby-item drive each year. Donated items are sent to Alternatives. Yes, a pro-life pregnancy support center in Connellsville.

This Christmas marked the first time the school became involved in the Greater Connellsville Rotary Club's Greater Connellsville Toy Drive.

"They've done Make-A-Wish toy drives before, but they wanted to do something specific to our local families," Solan explained. "We put it out there to our families, knowing we were asking for two donations at the same time, but parents stepped up. We brought in a lot of toys."

Other outreaches include canned



food drives throughout the school year for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Connellsville's food pantry and the Lenten coin box collection, in which coins are collected throughout the Lenten season and sent to the Missionary Childhood Association in New York to be dispersed as seen fit,

usually to needy countries.

The organizations on the receiving end of this generosity often send the school thank-you cards.

"We make sure we read that over the PA to all the students so they understand what their outreach is doing for other people," Solan said.

#### PHOTOS SUBMITTED

From top: Francesca Herman and Mia Trice with donations to the baby-item drive; Maverick Shaffer with donated toys; and Jackson Broadwater and Sophia Harbaugh with cards made for shut-ins.





**CONNAREA**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
*Centered In Christ*



VIRTUAL  
TOUR

**PROSPECTIVE  
STUDENTS**

**PRE-K to 6th grade**

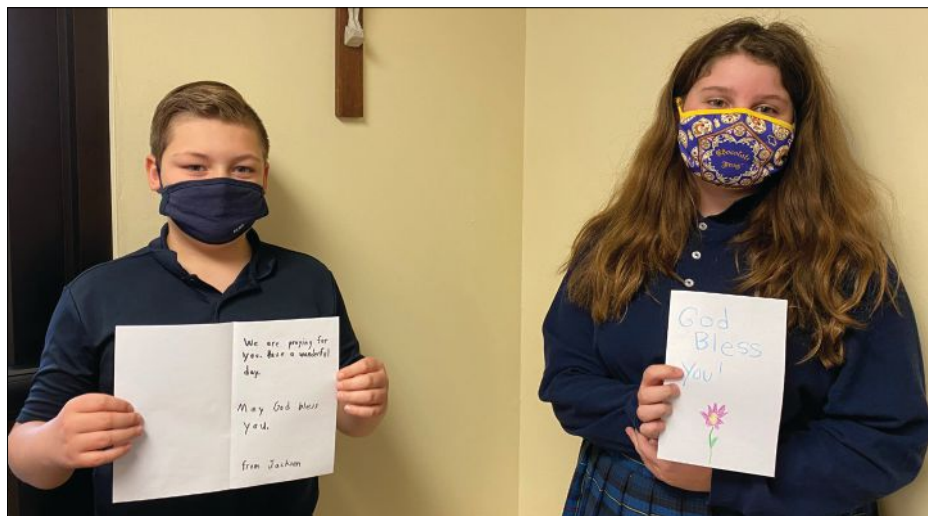
**FEBRUARY 21**  
**1PM**

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**MARCH 24**  
**6PM**

**REGISTER ONLINE**

**ConnAreaCatholic.org**





# Divine Redeemer School gets creative with fundraisers, service

**By Mary Pickels**  
Contributing Writer

**FORD CITY** — Fundraising to help support their schools and providing community service are cherished traditions for Catholic school students.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck, many such efforts at The Divine Redeemer School in Ford City evolved to meet new social-distancing guidelines.

School fundraisers and community service projects are always well-received, and the fall 2020 efforts — if a little different this time around — met the same response, said Lori Guthrie, a Divine Redeemer alumna who has three children enrolled in the school and a fourth in preschool and is active in the school's PTO.

Each year the PTO sets fundraising goals, with some events repeated year after year. Planners try to offer events where people can socialize, something not possible this year. So they got creative.

"We wanted to keep the momentum going," Guthrie said.

A spirit wear/school logo sale also supported a local business, Gross Embroidery.

"Our parents were super supportive of that," she said.

One family offered their garage for a socially distanced drive-thru hoagie sale.

December's Cash Bash was virtual, aired live on Facebook from Guthrie's basement.

"We dressed up like elves. My husband was the DJ," she said. "It's sad we didn't have an actual event — they sell out each year. This one sold out faster than before. We have huge community support. A lot of people went to that school, and now their kids and grandkids attend."

Lottery calendars, sold just before Christmas break, were popular once again, with more than 1,000 sold, many likely ending up under Christmas trees or in stockings.

Classroom penny collection competitions and pay-to-dress-down days raised funds for the Diocese of Greensburg's sister diocese, the Diocese of Sicuani, Peru.

Another effort the school worked to maintain is its holiday Homeless Heroes Stocking Project.

Kindergarten teacher Natalie Schmidt, a military



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Divine Redeemer School students collect items for homeless veterans.

widow, discovered the project through another veterans' outreach she works with.

"Veterans and their families are very important to me, and I attempt to help the students find a sense of pride in their country and those who defend it," she explained. "This was our school's second year working with this outreach, and we include the entire school."

"I personally feel that it is important to act as a role model for our youth on how to take care of others as God wants us to. When we can come together on an outreach program such as this, the students not

only see an example of God's mission at work, but they find pride in themselves."

Each year, the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania collects full-size toiletries, gloves/hats and grocery gift cards to fill stockings for more than 2,500 homeless veterans in western Pennsylvania. The school provided families with a list of needed items and ask for donations.

"Last year we were able to partner different grades together to personally stuff the stockings and included personalized cards. However,

this year we had to take a more distanced approach," Schmidt said.

Principal Tom Dinga appreciates the efforts many parents, staff, faculty and students make to help benefit their school and community.

"During these mandated restrictions, we really wanted to maintain some form of school-community connection by way of annual fundraisers, service projects and events," he said. "We have found, whether it was our virtual cash bash, lottery calendar, or collections/donations, the interest to help support Divine Redeemer is as focused as ever, if not more so."

"I can't thank Lori and all of the parents enough for their time and creative efforts that have helped us during this first semester. It is certainly that spirit of commitment from staff and community that has maintained a school here since 1891," he said. "Now that Divine Redeemer School has made enrollment gains, with students attending from five different school districts in the Alle-Kiski Valley, we see that commitment steadily growing."

## A dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

- 1 We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
- 2 We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
- 3 We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
- 4 We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life.
- 5 We use technology effectively to enhance education.
- 6 We instill the value of service to others in every student.
- 7 We teach children respect of self and others.
- 8 We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
- 9 We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
- 10 We have a 100% high school graduation rate. 97% of our graduates go to college.
- 11 We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring, and effective.
- 12 We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.

# The Divine Redeemer School

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

**FEBRUARY 7** for PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
**MARCH 7**  
**2 PM** PRE-K to 6th grade

**726 Fourth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226**

REGISTER ONLINE

DivineRedeemer.org



# Geibel Catholic welcomes Dan Thele as new assistant principal

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**CONNELLSVILLE** — Dan Thele's time at Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School has been brief, but he's been at the school long enough to have gained a favorable impression of the school and the students.

Thele, 33, took over his new post as Geibel's assistant principal in October. The school has a familiar feeling to him.

"I grew up in a small-town Catholic school in Iowa (with) a similar setup, grades 7-12. I really got a good feel from the school," Thele said. "The kids are great. The faculty is great. I've been impressed by the faculty and staff's dedication and professionalism, how engaged the students are, and the general sense of community. There are a lot of great things happening here, and there's a lot of energy to make it even better."

Thele boasts an impressive resume. His job prior to coming to Geibel was as principal of Fairmont Catholic Grade School in Fairmont, W. Va. But Thele has made other stops on his journey. He was a teacher at Catholic schools in Maryland, Ohio and Arizona, and has worked in other jobs in New York, Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire.

"I've gotten to see the vast diversity of Catholic schools in the United States, in terms of school structure, the diversity of the students,"

Thele explained. "You really get to see the beauty of the Catholic Church that way."

He received his bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College, a Master of Education at the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Arts, Politics at the Catholic University of America.

Thele said it has been a different experience trying to get to know the school's 110 students, a challenge made tougher as they sport masks.

"Despite the masks, the students have been very welcoming," Thele said. "As I get into classrooms more, I'm sure I'll get to know them better."

Then again, that's just one of the challenges that come with education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The goal of the Catholic educator always has to be to submit yourself to the will of God when you're trying to serve his people," Thele said. "That can mean a lot of different things. I try to come in with humility and try to learn the context of the place where I am and listen to those around me and draw from that to develop the goals."

Working toward those goals is what attracted Thele to working in education.

"(It's) the opportunity to journey along with others as they try to make some sense of the world. Being able to work with young people as they're trying to figure who they are and how they fit in, and what God's plan has for them — that's a really great gift to be able to be a part of that," he said.



Dan Thele

## THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

### 2021 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Publication Date	Deadline to Submit Material
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*Feb. 18 (Bishop special edition)	Jan. 22
<b>*March 18 (Faith &amp; Food/Easter)</b>	<b>March 4</b>
April 15	April 1
<b>*May 20 (Summer Events)</b>	<b>April 15</b>
June 17	June 3
July 15	July 1
<b>*Aug. 19 (magazine)</b>	<b>July 15</b>
Sept. 16	Sept. 2
Oct. 21	Oct. 7
<b>*Nov. 18 (Christmas Traditions)</b>	<b>Oct. 14</b>
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](mailto:news@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or 724-834-4010.

# GEIBEL CATHOLIC

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



for PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
7-12th grade



# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

February 7 - 1PM  
March 18 - 6PM

REGISTER ONLINE

[GeibelCatholic.org](http://GeibelCatholic.org)

611 East Crawford Avenue, Connellsville, PA 15425



# 2020 a banner sports year for Greensburg Central Catholic

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — To say the fall sports season at Greensburg Central Catholic was successful may be understating the achievements of the student athletes a bit.

WPIAL championships were captured by the boys and girls soccer teams, as well as the girls golf team, and the girls volleyball team advanced to the WPIAL championship game. Each of the three WPIAL championship teams finished second in the PIAA.

That made for a lot of excitement at the school.

"There was a lot of pride, pride in our school, pride in our student athletes," said athletic director Dan Mahoney. "I always say we're small number-wise, but our kids' work ethic really shows academically and on the field. That work ethic that they have in the classroom really carries over to whatever sport they're playing, and I really think that's why we have so many successful programs."

There also was junior Corinn Brewer, who won the Westmoreland County cross

country meet for the third year in a row, and the boys golf team, which finished second in its section.

The girls golf team continued to be one of the most dominant forces throughout the WPIAL, winning its sixth straight WPIAL championship Oct. 5.

Not only did the team win the title, but it claimed the Class AA crown by an amazing 99 strokes.

The team advanced to the PIAA championship Oct. 26, finishing second to District 10 champion North East. GCC girls had their best-ever PIAA score with a 31 over par 247 at the Heritage Hills Golf Resort in York.

The girls also did well at the WPIAL individual championship. Junior Ella Zambruno placed second, just two strokes out of first; her twin sister Meghan finished third; senior Angelika Dewicki placed fourth; and freshman Isabela Aigner placed fifth.

"I expected this team to have the level of success that we did with the return of the Zambruno twins and the addition of freshman Izzy Aigner," said coach Gerry Police. "I also



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jack Cryblsky (11) and Seth Skowronek in action during the 2020 season.

knew that Angelika Dewicki would continue in her role as a strong supporting player. Our second-place finish at states was notable since we carded a score that was one stroke better than last year."

The "pitch" was an exciting place to be in the fall as the boys and girls soccer teams advanced to the PIAA finals with

a combined record of 35-1, each winning a WPIAL Class A championship.

Nov. 19 was a tough day in the history of those two teams, as the boys lost to Faith Christian by a score of 5-1, and the girls were upended by Southern Columbia, 2-1, at Hersheypark Stadium.

But there was plenty of

quality soccer played along the way. The girls tallied an eye-popping 121 goals in the 17 games they played (they won two by forfeit) for an average of more than 6 goals a game, while allowing just 22.

Sophomore Sara Felder (29 goals on the season), senior Sam Felder (25) and junior Tatum Gretz (25) paced the offense. Gretz, a Villanova recruit, has 76 career goals.

The Centurions defeated Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 3-2 in the championship game Nov. 5 at Gateway High School, Monroeville.

The boys made their first trip to the PIAA championship game, and they had a knack for finding the net with 97 goals in 20 games, or just a shade under 5 per contest. They also were stingy, allowing just 28 goals.

Sophomore Carlo Dennis shined in the playoffs, with eight goals in seven postseason games, and finished the season with 37 goals. Senior defender Seth Skowronek was the WPIAL Class A player of the year.

The playoffs included a 3-2 win in the WPIAL

*Continued on page 27*

# GCC

## GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC

for PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
7-11th grade

# VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

## FEBRUARY 21 and MARCH 21

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# Forensics tradition going strong at Mary Queen of Apostles School

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**NEW KENSINGTON** — Mary Queen of Apostles School has had an award-winning forensics team for years, but this year has its largest team ever.

Twenty-one students in grades 5-8 compete against students from area Catholic schools as well as such districts as Mount Lebanon, South Fayette and Peters Township.

Principal Cathy Collett says students gain many benefits from participation.

“(It helps them develop) poise and confidence and the skills of public speaking,” she said. “You have to do your presentation with your voice and your face. There’s no acting involved in this. You can use some movement, but you’re criticized if you do too many. You have to introduce your piece and present it in such a way it moves the audience.”

Collett started the team when the Mary Queen of Apostles School was formed in 2002, when the former St. Joseph and Mount St. Peter schools in New Kensington were merged with the former St. Margaret Mary School in Lower Burrell.

“One of the things I thought would be important was not only bringing some of the culture of the merging schools to Mary Queen of Apostles, but beginning some things that would be new to Mary Queen of Apostles that everyone could participate in,” Collett said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mary Queen of Apostles School forensics team members pose with some of their ribbons in February 2020. From left are, back row, Vanessa Ibrahim, Elissa Mlinarcik and Abby Ruffini, and front row, Logan Polito, Mia Andring and Louisa Palumbo.

Each competition features individual presentations in categories such as poetry, prose, drama, declamation, impromptu and extemporaneous. In the multiple reading category, two to five students make a presentation together.

“Children compete in two rounds,” Collett explained. “There’s usually only one judge in a room at a time. You never

judge your own children. There’s no one else from your school in the room with you. You’re mixed with people from all over the area. They give you your score.”

The league is a developmental league; competitors are judged against a rubric, so there could be multiple first- and second-place winners and so on. Team awards are given.

## MQA students winners in VFW essay contest

Eighth-graders from Mary Queen of Apostles School were district-level winners in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot’s Pen essay contest.

Leah Troiano won first place and Maggie Nesko won second place. Leah’s essay will be judged at the state level. Leah won first place at the local level through VFW Post 92. Maggie and Alexa Bronkaj were runners-up.

“Rarely are there honorable mentions because judges know there are kids competing for the first time in something like this,” Collett said.

The team will compete in a couple of local tournaments in the coming months with teams from 15 other schools. As with everything else, competitions have been affected by COVID-19. Six-foot social distancing recommendations prohibit multiple reading because the participants sit in a semi-circle.

“Every school has to do their own local competition, and those results are submitted to the person who chairs the Southwestern Pennsylvania Forensics League. She sends the ribbons out for each round,” Collett said.



Mary Queen  
of Apostles  
SCHOOL

VIRTUAL  
OPEN HOUSE

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS  
Preschool to 8th grade

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 31

1:00 PM

110 Elmtree Road • New Kensington, PA 15068

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MQAschool.org



# Mother of Sorrows School teachers rise to COVID-19 challenges

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**MURRYSVILLE** — Principal Theresa Szmed is absolutely effusive with praise when talking about the teachers at Mother of Sorrows Catholic School.

Szmed said the teachers have been “phenomenal” in navigating the tough times presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to provide the school’s 309 students a quality, faith-based education.

“To do a turnaround to adapt to a pandemic situation has been a great feat for the elementary schools that went one to one (each student having a laptop) to be able to accommodate the fluctuation our students would be in this school year,” Szmed explained. “We have students in the building. We have students who, for one reason or another, their parents have chosen to have them online.”

Szmed said some students’ parents who work in the medical field had concerns that they would be exposed to the virus, thus exposing their children, who could possibly bring it to the school.

These parents saw how well “distance learning” went in the spring and felt comfortable having their children learn from home.

“They said ‘My child’s fine learning at home, I’m just going to keep them home, but I really want that delivering of education that you did in the spring,’ so all of our lessons are delivered synchronous,” Szmed said. “We’re teaching in the classroom, and the students at home are on the computer watching live teaching, and they’re able to interact with the teacher.”

She said it’s been a challenge to accommodate both students in the classroom and at home at the same time, but the teachers gladly accepted the challenge and have had much success. Each student having his or her own laptop has helped.

Adding to the challenge has been the need for some students to quarantine.

“Those students, since we were able to supply them with one-on-one technology in case they had to be virtual, they knew how to get on from home,” Szmed said.

The technology also has



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Teacher Anne-Marie Battaglia leads a class at Mother of Sorrows School.

enabled the school to take programs “on the road,” including Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program for grades 6-8. A classroom is designated for the program, but pandemic protocols do not permit students to go from one classroom to another.

Anne-Marie Battaglia, instructor for Project Lead the Way and the Smart Lab, worked to get the software for students to continue to access these programs.

“The students can access it from their computers, or she does a hybrid where she is presenting that without the computer program itself,” Szmed said. “Every other special program is on a cart as well, so we have a dynamic that not only does art instruction for all of my grades, but also does project-based learning, so she works with all of my grades to develop projects in art that reflect something they’re learning about in another class.”

It’s just one of the ways the teachers have had to adapt to a challenging time.

“At first, it was so overwhelming,” Szmed said. “Every routine in the building has changed, so you’re limiting kids’ interaction with one another. It’s been interesting. I don’t know if anyone knows what has gone into this entire school year. When we talk about dedicated teachers, we’re certainly talking about the bunch I have in this building.”



## Mother of Sorrows School

### PRE-K to 8th grade

# OPEN HOUSE

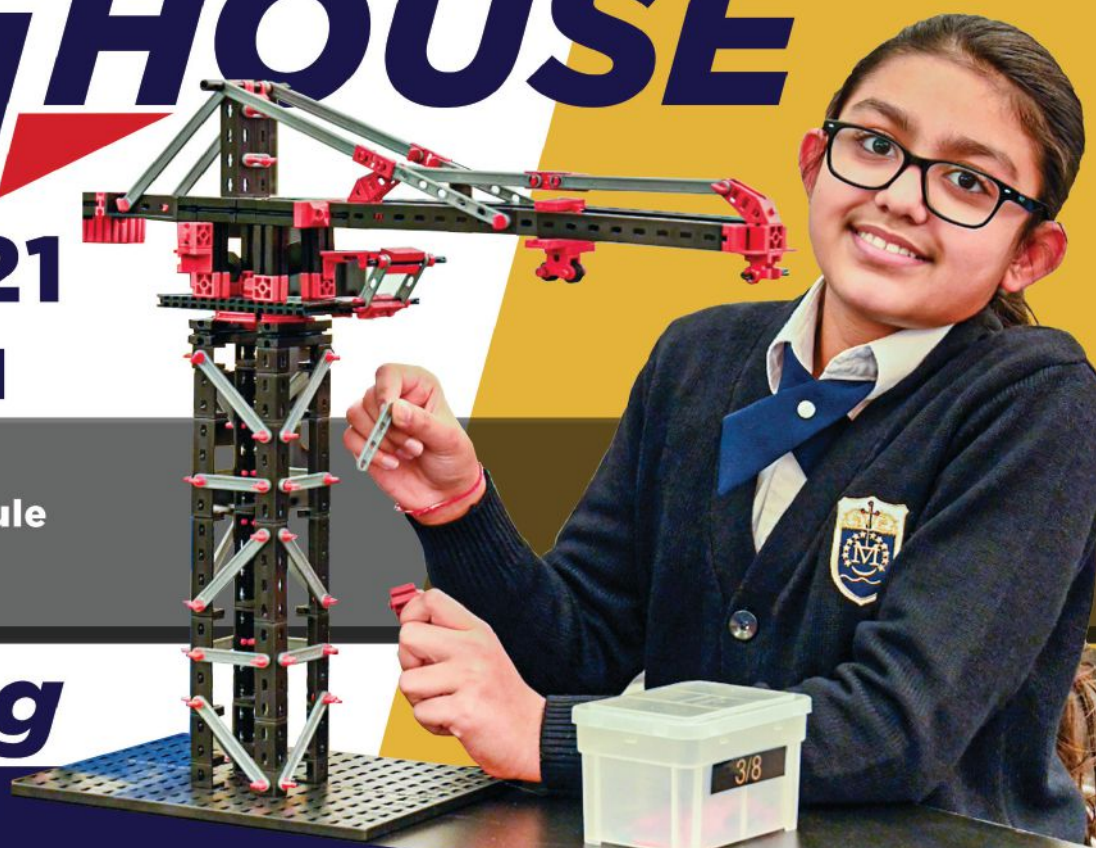
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# Queen of Angels students, families generously help those in need

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**NORTH HUNTINGDON** — Every year, students at Queen of Angels Catholic School participate in food pantry drives and turkey drives to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The students take part in the charitable efforts in conjunction with the parishioners of St. Agnes and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes, North Huntingdon, and Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin.

This year's efforts raised \$1,325, along with many boxes of food and paper products.

"Usually around Thanksgiving and into Christmas, the students donate canned goods, paper goods — mainly a lot of paper goods that Father John (Moineau, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Immaculate Conception parishes) asks for, because that is needed, with diapers and paper towels and any paper products, more than just the canned goods," said Ruth Ann Noblick, director of publicity and public relations.

In past years, walls at the school have been decorated with paper turkeys as part of the turkey drive, which was started by the school's Kindness Club. For every \$10 donated, a turkey was placed on the wall with the name of a family that donated the money for it. The more that was donated, the more feathers each turkey would have.

"The turkeys were all over the walls and up the steps," Noblick said. "That kind of gave them a visual (reminder) every day."

The drives were modified this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including combining them into one event instead of the traditional separate events.

"We thought with them being in school and out of school that it would be better to put the turkey drive with the food drive," Noblick said. "That's where the cash donations came in. We thought we would do them together, and it just seemed to work."

Noblick, as well as Principal Jennifer Filak, were happy with the outcome of this year's combined drives.

"It was very good," Noblick said. "The parents want to find ways that they can help. They see the need, even in this community, to help."

"It was great," Filak added. "I think it went well despite some of the constraints we've had to experience this year with COVID. Our community is always so generous and so giving. It just is really so heartwarming to see every time we ask families to prayerfully consider stewardship, they are so giving. They didn't disappoint with the food drive this year."

Typically there is some fanfare around the check presentation, but that was not able to take place this year as a result of COVID-19 protocols.

"We were glad to get a signature on



PHOTO SUBMITTED

With boxed donations are, from left: Principal Jennifer Filak, Tyler Shields, Cassidy Vehar, Davin Albensi and Luca Holderbaum.

it and just hand the check over to them because they were unable to be here," Noblick said.

Noblick said there is a need for some families in the Queen of Angels communities that may not be realized.

"Most of our families are very well-fed; you don't see it," she said. "We are blessed with so many people who can help."

Noblick added that the students get a

feeling of satisfaction with their involvement in a project that helps others.

She said fourth-graders enjoyed helping pack boxes.

"They only see, 'Mom told me to take these canned goods.' They got to see the other side of it," Noblick said. "It's not just one grade that does it. It's all of the grades that really help out. We have a really giving community here at Queen of Angels."

# Queen of Angels Catholic School

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 17, 6:30 PM GRADES 1-8

MARCH 10, 6:30 PM PK-K

for PROSPECTIVE  
STUDENTS

PRE-K to 8th grade

One Main Street, North Huntingdon, PA 15642

REGISTER ONLINE

[QueenofAngelssch.org](http://QueenofAngelssch.org)



# St. Bernard students, fiber artist create liturgical weaving

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**INDIANA** — After returning from Christmas break, St. Bernard Regional Catholic School students noticed something different in their commons area.

Sandy Trimble, a fiber artist and Indiana University of Pennsylvania ArtsPath resident, had set up two wooden looms that were to remain through Jan. 22.

A large loom looks like a piano crossed with a wooden desk, with moving wires, bars and pedals, according to middle school teacher Katelyn Waterhouse, who noted that a smaller loom looks like a device that could simultaneously dispense wax paper, foil, cling wrap and paper towels.

The equipment draws lots of questions and excitement from both students and staff.

Working with art teacher James Rickard and Waterhouse, Trimble selected colors, patterns and shapes to begin to create a decorative liturgical cloth for the school. The finished weaving will be white with different greens, as well as cross patterns.

“Green is used during Ordinary Time, which is a time for growing in our faith and relationship with Jesus,” and white symbolizes the birth and resurrection of Christ, Waterhouse said.

Students begin weaving early. In first grade, they weave strips of painted paper to make an abstract artwork. In

second grade, they weave yarn patterns across rectangular looms. In third grade, they weave together complementary and analogous colors while learning color theory on plate looms.

“I feel it is important for the students to be involved in weaving because it offers them insight into the mechanics, time and creative energy used to create material goods,” Waterhouse said. “More importantly, though, this is an opportunity for us during the social distancing to build community and practice solidarity.”

This unique opportunity with Trimble allows students to see a professional artist using professional tools to create a professional product.

Trimble, an art gallery manager whose work has been shown across the country and in France, says she believes the arts provide a perfect crossroads for applying learning across curricular areas. ArtsPath is a partnership between IUP and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Once the design for the St. Bernard School project was finalized, students set to work using their math skills to determine what the final project would look like. Then they set the warp (up and down) strings before running the shuttle back and forth through the loom with the weft (side to side) strings.

Every student had a chance to use the looms. Safety precautions, including social distancing and regular disinfecting, were maintained during the project.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fifth-grader Ashton Majernik works on a loom temporarily stationed at St. Bernard Regional Catholic School.

## 12 Days of Christmas a lesson for St. Bernard School students

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**INDIANA** — St. Bernard Regional Catholic School students had some fun during the holidays by exploring Christmas carols.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students created new lyrics for “The Twelve Days of Christmas” to explore mathematic concepts, the logistics of gathering all the animals and the true meanings of the original lyrics, according to teacher Katelyn Waterhouse.

“We had a lot of fun,” Waterhouse said.

The students created algebraic expressions to determine the cost of each day in the song, and then each gift. The total came out to 364 gifts, with a price tag of \$156,507.88.

“The students then did some problem solving to determine real places that these gifts would be welcomed,” Waterhouse said.

There would be so many animals to care for, the class had to find realistic homes for them.

For example, the National Aviary in Pittsburgh could serve as a home for a flock of turtle doves, and the geese would enjoy the freedom of living on a farm for foraging. The maids-a-milking could find work at a dairy farm. Other locations for the animal gifts included

the Pittsburgh Zoo and a circus.

The students also determined the animals could be sold to recoup the cost of their own gift-giving purchases this season.

“Students had fun creating their own lyrics about school and the pandemic,” Waterhouse said. “It was a great way to really think, reflect and use the creative energy by understanding content, word choices, rhythm and rhyme scheme.”

Some students worked on the religious component of the song, completing a jigsaw activity to research the Catholic meanings of each gift, creating artwork and making presentations.

“The ‘Twelve Days of Christmas’ jigsaw activity was designed so that individual and partnered students could discover the true meanings of each day,” Waterhouse said. “Then each student or partner group shared what they learned with the class.”

Most importantly, Waterhouse said, was the students’ discovery of how Christians are creative in their ways to combine the secular necessities with praise and a genuine understanding of the faith.

“Our true love is God, and the gifts of our faith are revealed through the 12 days,” she said. “Students were blessed with the knowledge revealed in each day of giving and will use it to help them remember, understand and evangelize.”

# SAINT BERNARD

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12-2 PM

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# Uniontown teacher uses ukulele to encourage math practice

By Holly Hendershot  
For The Catholic Accent

**UNIONTOWN** — Third-grade teacher Amy Palya uses unique ways to teach her students at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School.

Most recently, she has been encouraging her students to learn their math facts by learning something new of her own: the ukulele.

Palya said she always wanted to learn the ukulele and finally decided to get one for her birthday. Around the same time, she introduced multiplication facts to her students, which can be difficult for them to remember. She told her students that learning can be as difficult for adults as it is for children, and they need to practice, too.

To demonstrate, she told her students she was going to learn the ukulele and show them how much she improved by practicing every day.

"I hope that them seeing me practicing and trying and seeing my progression of getting better will encourage the students to practice their

"Each one of them that I talked to said, 'If she can do it, we can do it. If she can play the ukulele and never did before, then we can learn our math facts. She practices a half hour every day, so we should practice a half hour every day.'"

**CHRISTINE ROSKOVENSKY,**  
PRINCIPAL, ST. JOHN THE  
EVANGELIST REGIONAL  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

math facts at home as well," she said.

Palya said her students have been excited to see her progression.

Christine Roskovensky, principal, said students have told her they were encouraged by Palya's dedication to learning.

"Each one of them that I talked to said, 'If she can do it, we can do it. If she can play the ukulele and never did before, then we can learn our math facts. She practices a half hour every day, so we should practice a half hour every day,'" Roskovensky said. "They



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Amy Palya and her students practice in their classroom at St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School.

just really respond to her."

Roskovensky said Palya has used other innovative methods to teach her students and

lead by example.

"She's an excellent teacher and just tries so hard to reach these kids," she said.

Holly Hendershot is a staff writer for The Herald Standard, Uniontown.

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# OPEN HOUSE

## SUNDAY JANUARY 31 Noon-2PM

### PRE-K to 8th grade VIRTUAL and PRIVATE TOURS AVAILABLE by REQUEST

52 Jefferson Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

[StJohnEvangelistSchool.org](http://StJohnEvangelistSchool.org)





# Giving back is a way of life at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**By Paul Paterra**  
Editor

**BELLE VERNON** — Students at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School have been extremely charitable this school year, taking part in a number of fund drives for worthy causes.

"It's a way of giving back to our communities for all they do for us," said Carole Aiello, principal. "If we can do for others, that's important, even if it's something small. It can make a difference for someone else."

In October, students held weekly Pink-Out Wednesdays to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The effort resulted in more than \$1,000 that was divided between the National Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation and Team Livi, a fundraiser for Olivia Sealy, a 10-year-old from Hiller who is battling a rare form of brain cancer.

Students also made hundreds of cards for area veterans.

They have been able to participate in after-school clubs even though there are many changes as a result of COVID-19.

In the new Friendship

Bracelet Club, students make bracelets for community members.

"Even though we are apart, they want you to know the love from their hand-made bracelets is like receiving a big hug from a friend," said Lance Russell, development coordinator.

An annual effort at the school is the Bus to Bethlehem, in which a bus is stuffed with items to be donated to local children in need.

The motto for the program, a partnership with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, is "Joy is increased when the love is shared."

"This year more than ever, families in our community needed assistance providing a little Christmas magic," Russell said. "We are honored that St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School was able to help 100 children this year and that our partnership with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services is stronger than ever."

"Seeing that our students from PreK 3-8th grade all recognize the importance to give and share means that we are doing something right here at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School students wear pink for a recent Pink-Out Wednesday. From left are Sophia Yatchyshyn, Sydney Duda, Sydney Dunn, Madison Keller and Johanna Conklin.

Students also regularly participate in collections for local food pantries, and donations were made to the Friends of Fayette Animals Animal Shelter in Uniontown.

"Local dogs and cats will be warm this winter with the many blankets donated," Russell said. "Their bellies will be full of all the treats and

food. They will have many new toys to play with during the day, shelters will be kept clean with all of the cleaning supplies and a monetary donation was made to help our furry friends."

Every Wednesday in December, money was raised or items brought in for select organizations.

On one Wednesday, everything that was collected — including many gifts and \$200 — went to the affiliate programs of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

"These programs were extremely grateful, since they have received a decline in donations due to the ongoing pandemic," Russell said.

## ST. SEBASTIAN

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

GRADES PK-8

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[www.aquinasacademy.org](http://www.aquinasacademy.org)  
Joe Rice, principal, 724-834-7940 or  
[jrice@aquinasacademy.org](mailto:jrice@aquinasacademy.org)

### Christ the Divine Teacher School

**FEB. 21, 1 P.M.; MARCH 10, 6 P.M.;  
APRIL 11, 1 P.M.**

Grades PK-8  
323 Chestnut St., Latrobe  
[www.cdtschool.org](http://www.cdtschool.org)  
Kevin Frye, head of school, 724-539-  
1561  
or [kfrye@cdtschool.org](mailto:kfrye@cdtschool.org)

### Conn-Area Catholic School

**FEB. 21, 1 P.M.; MARCH 24, 6 P.M.  
IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE:  
APRIL 11, 1 P.M.**

Grades PK-6  
613 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville  
[www.connareacatholic.org](http://www.connareacatholic.org)  
Cecilia Solan, principal, 724-628-5090 or  
[csolan@connareacatholic.org](mailto:csolan@connareacatholic.org)

### The Divine Redeemer Catholic School

**FEB. 7, 2 P.M.; MARCH 7, 2 P.M.**

Grades PK-6  
726 Fourth Ave., Ford City  
[www.divineredeemer.org](http://www.divineredeemer.org)  
Thomas Dinga, principal, 724-763-3761  
or [tdinga@divineredeemer.org](mailto:tdinga@divineredeemer.org)

### Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School

**FEB. 7, 1 P.M.; MARCH 18, 6 P.M.**

Grades 7-12  
611 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville  
[www.geibelcatholic.org](http://www.geibelcatholic.org)  
Sharyn Zalno, acting principal,  
724-628-5600 or  
[szalno@geibelcatholic.org](mailto:szalno@geibelcatholic.org)

### Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School

**FEB. 21, 2 P.M.; MARCH 21, 2 P.M.**

Grades 7-12  
911 Armory Drive, Greensburg  
[www.gcchs.org](http://www.gcchs.org)  
Ben Althof, principal, 724-834-0310,  
ext. 4214, or [balthof@gcchs.org](mailto:balthof@gcchs.org)

### Mary Queen of Apostles School

**JAN. 31, 1 P.M.**

Grades PS-8  
Two sites: 110 Elmtree Road (Greenwald  
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[www.mqaschool.org](http://www.mqaschool.org)  
Cathy Collett, principal,  
724-339-4411 or  
[ccollett@mqaschool.org](mailto:ccollett@mqaschool.org)

### Mother of Sorrows School

**IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE:  
JAN. 31, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.**

Grades PK-8  
3264 Evergreen Drive, Murrysville  
[www.mossschool.org](http://www.mossschool.org)  
Theresa Szmed, principal,  
724-733-8840 or  
[tszmed@mossschool.org](mailto:tszmed@mossschool.org)



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### Queen of Angels Catholic School

**FEB. 17, 6:30 P.M. (GRADES 1-8);  
MARCH 10, 6:30 P.M. (PK-K)**

Grades PK-8  
One Main Street, North Huntingdon  
[www.queenofangelssch.org](http://www.queenofangelssch.org)  
Jennifer Filak, principal, 724-978-0144 or  
[jfilak@queenofangelssch.org](mailto:jfilak@queenofangelssch.org)

### St. Bernard Regional Catholic School

**IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE:  
FEB. 21, NOON-2 P.M.**

Grades PK3-8  
300 Clairvaux Drive, Indiana  
[www.stbernardlc.org](http://www.stbernardlc.org)  
Denise Swope, principal,  
724-465-7139 or  
[dswope@stbernardlc.org](mailto:dswope@stbernardlc.org)

### St. John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School

**FEB. 27, 2 P.M.; MARCH 7, 2 P.M.  
IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE:  
JAN. 31, NOON-2 P.M.**

Grades PK-8  
52 Jefferson St., Uniontown  
[www.stjohnnevanglistschool.org](http://www.stjohnnevanglistschool.org)  
Christine Roskovensky, principal,  
724-438-8598 or  
[croskovensky@stjohnnevanglistschool.org](mailto:croskovensky@stjohnnevanglistschool.org)

### St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**FEB. 7, 1 P.M. (GRADES K-8);  
FEB. 28, 1 P.M. (PREK)**

Grades PK-8  
815 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon  
[www.sssbv.org](http://www.sssbv.org)  
Carole Aiello, principal, 724-929-5143  
or [caiello@sssbv.org](mailto:caiello@sssbv.org)



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From left, Mary Queen of Apostles School students Natalie Hulslander, Clara Girardi, Lucia Cicconi, Delaney Sobecki, Jacob Sobecki, Frank Girardi and Gabriella Girardi hold some of the items collected for the TryLife Center.

## Mary Queen of Apostles School students generous with service

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**NEW KENSINGTON** — Every year students at Mary Queen of Apostles School collect donations for the TryLife Center, a pregnancy and resource organization in Lower Burrell, one of a number of service activities at the school.

"This year, it was a little more limited. Usually (we donate) toys or things like that. This year, they wanted clothing for (sizes) 0-4 toddler, nothing above that, and diapers and baby wipes," said Principal Cathy Collett. "We take those supplies over to TryLife. It's a good organization."

Items collected are placed on an Advent tree in the school before they are taken to TryLife.

"When we put up an extra Christmas tree that we had, we decided that instead of putting Christmas tree ornaments on it, we would use it for one of our projects," Collett said.

The school also does a "Please No Uniform Today" (PNUT) day as part of charitable efforts.

"Students will bring in a dollar in order to not have to wear their school uniform to school, and that money is used to support their cause as well," she said.

Another PNUT day is set for Jan. 29, with proceeds going to help those in the Philippines affected by Typhoon Goni.

"Each one has a different theme," Collett said. "Sometimes they're for families in need, but most of the time they're for an organization."

These include the Knead Community Café, a pay-as-you-are-able restaurant in New Kensington.

This year, the students also participated in a Christmas/winter sock campaign in which they donated money to wear Christmas socks instead of the traditional uniform socks.

This year's campaign earned \$257.25 that went to Rich in Mercy Institute in Ligonier, which in turn donated the money to the Education for Change Fund that provides scholarships to students in Haiti.

"We encourage service to God through service to other," Collett said. "Students are a part of a Christ-centered learning community that supports one another. One of our baptismal duties is to minister to all. By offering opportunities to support causes that make a difference in the lives of others, we hope to instill the act of service as a lifelong responsibility to others."

## Saint Vincent College offers free courses

**LATROBE** — Prospective students of all majors who have been accepted into Saint Vincent College for fall 2021 can enroll in the following free one-credit online courses during the spring semester:

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  - Introduction to Poetry, 6-7 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 25-Feb. 12.
  - Musical Theater in History, 3:30-4:45 p.m. Mondays, March 1-22.
- To register, call 800-782-5549 or email [admission@stvincent.edu](mailto:admission@stvincent.edu).

## Principal humble Hero of Hope

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg's virtual Guardian Angel Appeal honored seven Heroes of Hope for contributing to the community amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Honoree Joe Rice, principal of Aquinas Academy in Greensburg and parishioner of Christ the King Parish in Leechburg, was humbled by the recognition.

"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 in that group," he said. "I only hope that I represented the group well, and that we were able to do something good for Catholic Charities and people of the area."

Catholic schools throughout the diocese were able to make a quick transition to distance learning shortly after a stay-at-home mandate came from Gov. Tom Wolf.

"The way education was taught

before March of 2020 had taken about 300 years to evolve," Rice said. "The way students are being taught today took about six months, so we have completely revolutionized the way students

learn. And I don't mean just us, but all over the world."

Rice was an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh studying psychology when he sensed a need to change his path.

"I discovered I really liked learning how people learn," Rice said. "It really drove me towards education. So I finished up my degree in psychology and realized right away what I really wanted to

do was teach."

Rice worked at Mother of Sorrows School in Murrysville, where he attended elementary school, as a teacher and principal before coming to Aquinas Academy.

"He's a wonderful representative of what our principals do at a time of crisis," said Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools. "I'm very happy that one of our principals has been recognized."



Joe Rice

## Laptops a hit in Connellsville

**CONNELLVILLE** — There was some excitement at Conn-Area Catholic School recently.

That's because the 80 students in third through sixth grade received their laptop computers that were provided by the school.

Every school has had to adapt during these challenging times.

"That's new for us," said Principal Cecilia Solan. "Of course, that's being done because of COVID and remote learning. Fortunately, we've been able to be face-to-face every day. We've been blessed."

Conn-Area Catholic is among the schools that is doing that with this one-to-one approach — one laptop for each student.

"They'll take that with them each year as they progress through

Conn-Area," said Solan.

Students in kindergarten through second grade each will have their own iPad.

Even though the students just received their computers, the lessons already have included technology.

"The teachers have been sharing the iPads that we had prior to the laptops arriving, so the teachers have been having the kids on technology," Solan said. "The teachers have adapted to it as much as the kids to having that option to access things right there at their desk."

Of course, today's youth adapt to technology quite easily.


"If I have to step in to sub, they help me out," Solan said with a laugh. "They're very excited about it."

— Paul Paterra


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# Geibel Catholic athletes help get meals to 100 needy families

By Paul Pattera  
Editor

**CONNELLSVILLE** — When Geibel Catholic Senior High School athletes passed out Christmas meals to needy families, some of those on the receiving end wept.

"I think that if we didn't do this, they may not have had a meal for Christmas," said Don Porter, Geibel athletic director, who also serves as boys basketball coach.

Members of the school's boys and girls basketball teams, along with the cheerleaders and a few other students, took part in a food drive at the school Dec. 23. Connellsville Area Community Ministries provided a list of 100 families in need of meals.

The students packaged the meals, which consisted of a turkey, canned vegetables, potatoes and a pie, and then distributed them as cars pulled up to the school.

"It's for a good cause," said junior A'moni Tunstell, who is not a member of the basketball team but was asked to help. "With the current situation with COVID, this helps out a lot of families."

Porter said the students were enthusiastic about participating and noted that it also was a chance for them to get together, something that has not been taking place as much as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The school spent a good portion of December in remote learning as a result of staffing issues, not a high rate



PAUL PATERRA THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Geibel Catholic Senior High School students take part in a food drive at the school Dec. 23.

of COVID-19.

"It was more heart-touching this year," Porter said. "In the time we're going through right

now, with remote learning, the kids miss that in-person touch with their classmates. This was a chance to get with their

friends and help those in need. It was pretty rewarding for all. It's definitely a project I would like to continue annually."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sara Felder (6) handles the ball during a 2020 game against Springdale.

## 2020 banner sports year for GCC

*Continued from page 15*

championship game over Winchester-Thurston Nov. 7 at Gateway High School, avenging the team's only loss of the regular season.

"It was a season we were blessed to have, and we tried to make the most of it, said Tyler Solis, boys soccer coach. "I'm happy they were able to take it as far as they did. When things got tough, they really bounced back and made the most out of what we had."

The girls volleyball team advanced to the WPIAL Class A championship game Nov. 7 at Fox Chapel High School. Bishop Canevin, Pittsburgh, emerged victorious in straight sets, 25-19, 26-24, 25-21. It marked Bishop Canevin's fourth straight WPIAL championship, and it came one day after the death of 14-year Bishop Canevin coach Kevin Walters.

Through it all, the players on each of the teams were aware of the success of the others and were often their biggest fans.

"It was awesome," Solis added. "We were playing for our community. We were playing for our school. Everybody was supporting us because



PHOTO SUBMITTED

GCC golfers, from left, Meghan Zambruno, Isabela Aigner, Angelika Dewicki and Ella Zambruno, at the PIAA championship in October.

there were not a lot of other things to do. We were always supporting the girls (soccer team), and they were always supporting us. It was a fun season."

"The teams are all aware of what each other is doing and pull for each other," Police added. "This was a year in which the school had many talented athletes."

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For more information or to register for an event go to [gbgvocations.org](http://gbgvocations.org)



# New Queen of Angels principal takes on COVID-19 challenges

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**NORTH HUNTINGDON** — Jennifer Filak's first year as principal of Queen of Angels Catholic School has not taken place under the most normal of circumstances.

Starting a new position in the middle of a pandemic is anything but normal.

Still, she feels it has gone well.

"I'm very familiar with this community because I taught here several years ago for seven years. A lot of the teachers that are still here were teachers that I actually taught with, so it's been great to be able to come back and work with them again," said Filak, who started July 1.

"We're doing well. We had a big jump in enrollment, despite all of the challenges with COVID. Our teachers are just working so hard, and I'm so proud of our students and their families. We're all trying to work as a community to keep each other safe and do what we can for one another."

That jump in enrollment saw about

35 new students enter Queen of Angels for this school year.

Filak started her Catholic education career more than 20 years ago, including 14 years at the Campus Laboratory School of Carlow University, Pittsburgh, where she was the pre-kindergarten and first-grade teacher, assistant director of early childhood programs and assistant head of the school.



Jennifer Filak

On the first day of classes for the 2020-21 school year, Filak said she wasn't sure what the reactions would be when students got off buses and out of cars and embarked on a school year that involved wearing masks, having their temperatures

taken and social distancing, along with other safety protocols.

"They come to school every day with smiles on their faces," she said. "You can see it in their eyes. We can't see their full face in their mask. They're just so resilient. I think they're really happy to be here, and we are beyond happy to have them here and just feel incredibly blessed that we are to be in person with them."

## CYO basketball, volleyball canceled

**GREENSBURG** — Traditional CYO competitive basketball and volleyball seasons will not take place in the diocese this year due to continuing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision came from the Office of Catholic Schools in consultation with diocesan principals.

In-house athletic programming will continue for the remainder of the school year.

In November, the decision was made to postpone CYO elementary school basketball until January. As COVID-19 rates continue to increase in the four counties of the diocese — Westmoreland, Fayette, Armstrong and Indiana — the decision was made to cancel the competitive seasons for basketball and volleyball as well.

"Although all involved in this decision continue to acknowledge the importance of sports for our youth, our first priority continues to be education,

which diocese administrators feel is best accomplished with in-person instruction," said Amanda Iwinski, CYO coordinator.

Schools offering in-house programs must follow the CYO COVID-19 guidelines as well as their school safety plan to ensure compliance with all diocesan and state mandates.

A similar approach is being taken with cheerleading. Some schools have been practicing, some plan to start and others are pushing the program to the spring so the girls can practice outside.

"As with all other decisions made involving sports, this one does not come lightly. The Diocese of Greensburg remains committed to providing a faith-based education, combined with academic excellence, while at the same time protecting the health and safety of our students," said Dr. Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools.

— The Catholic Accent



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kurt Eckert and Lucette Saffer visit with Kurt's mother, Carolyn Eckert, in a tent at St. Anne Home.

## St. Anne Home opens visitation tents

**GREENSBURG** — St. Anne Home has made visits with residents possible during the COVID-19 pandemic by installing four heated tents on the grounds.

"The outdoor tents offer families and residents the opportunity to safely be together, which is a huge benefit for their emotional health," said Jeff Long, president and CEO of St. Anne Home. "We continue to offer FaceTime and window visits to keep families connected, but recognize that there is no replacement for the chance to visit in person while physically distancing, but socially connecting with each other, especially during these long winter months."

The tents feature ventilation and heating technology that protects residents and families.

Kurt Eckert was able to enjoy what he described as a "brief but very uplifting visit" with his mom over the holidays. He also brought along one of her friends.

Kathleen Leeman was able to visit with her mother on her 93rd birthday.

"My sister and I surprised her with a birthday visit," said Leeman. "Being able to be with our mom and to see her looking so good gave us so much peace."

St. Anne Home follows stringent procedures and COVID-19 testing protocols for family visits.

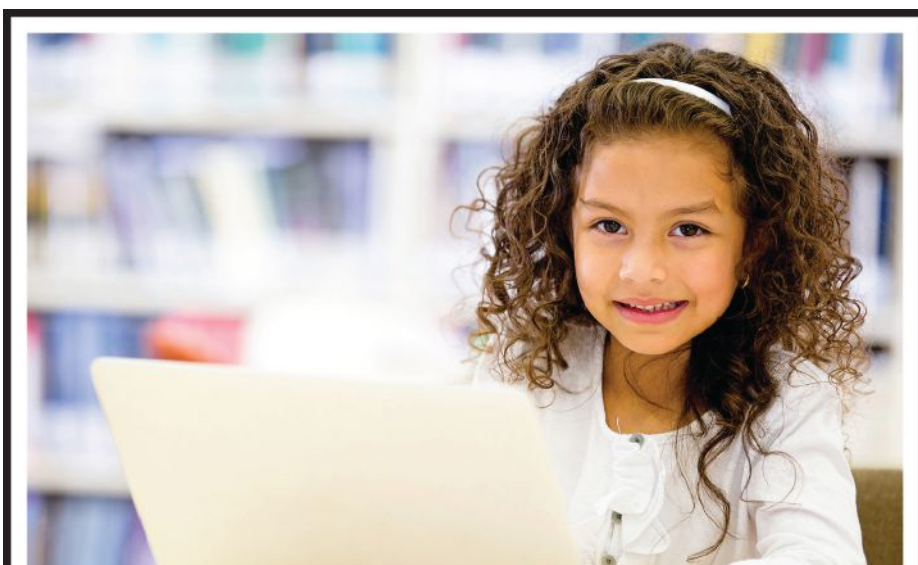
## Christmas artwork contest deadline

Jan. 31 is the deadline to enter the 2020-21 Missionary Childhood Association National Christmas Artwork Contest. Students in grades K-8 can submit original artwork based on one of the following subjects: the Nativity, the Three Wise Men, shepherds, mother and child, Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, newborn Je-

sus in manger and the Angel Gabriel.

Entries must be postmarked or received by the diocesan mission office or online at [mcaartcontest.missio.org](http://mcaartcontest.missio.org) by Jan. 31. Entries can be mailed to MCA Artwork Contest, 70 West 36th St., 8th floor, New York, NY 10018.

For additional contest rules, visit [missio.org](http://missio.org).



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PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Above, in a photo from the 2016 baptism of her son, Nicholas, at St. Barbara Parish, Harrison City, Christy Langan holds both Nicholas and son Peter, with godmother Joanne Breyemeier, left, father Robert Langan and grandmother Colleen Friedline. At right, Delma Scrima holds one of the more than 300 baby blankets she has crocheted for families baptizing their babies at the parish.



## St. Barbara Parish layers infants in love with blankets for baptisms

**By Mary Pickels**  
Contributing Writer

**HARRISON CITY** — Christy Langan treasures the beautiful white christening blankets her sons received for their baptisms as infants at St. Barbara Parish.

Nicholas, 4, and Peter, 7, were wrapped in towels for their immersion baptisms, with the blankets, made by parish members, laid over them.

"That was really precious. I cherish both of those blankets. The fact that they were made by church members is really special," she said.

Langan joined the parish in 2012 soon after meeting her husband, parishioner Robert Langan.

"There are lots of young families — that's one of the reasons we love

the church," she said.

Dawn Borger, pastoral associate at St. Barbara Parish, explained that gifting families with a baptismal blanket has been a church tradition for about 10 years.

Joe Killian, the church's former director of faith formation (and Peter Langan's godfather) brought the idea of the blankets with him from another parish, Borger said. She and staff member Mary Ann Kent implemented the program at St. Barbara Parish.

"We were trying to make a connection with new parents who bring young infants to church to try to keep the connection going through the years," she said. "When we are down a few, I put a little SOS in the bulletin (for volunteers to knit or crochet). People come through. They are just beautiful."

Parishioner Delma Scrima sometimes brings in three or four at a time.

"She prays for the kiddos, too," Borger said. "I remember her telling me that — 'lots of blankets, lots of prayers, too.'"

A handful of other parishioners are dedicated to the efforts, contributing blankets monthly, while others knit or crochet a blanket as time allows.

Over 10 years, approximately 650 babies have been baptized at the parish.

Scrima has crocheted more than 300 baptismal blankets for parish families.

"I learned from my father's mother, who we all called Nanny," she said. "The baby blanket (effort) is what really got me back into it. It's a little ministry that I could be involved in. Families are surprised, but grateful."

"You kind of think about the new life and the new family. We enjoy seeing the families with their kids at Mass."

**DELMA SCRIMA, PARISHIONER WHO HAS CROCHETED MORE THAN 300 BLANKETS FOR PARISH FAMILIES**

Scrima uses several patterns and tries to vary the edging to keep each blanket unique.

"You kind of think about the new life and the new family. We enjoy seeing the families with their kids at Mass. We both feel children are a blessing," she said.

"It makes me feel really good to think that this little gift would be something they would treasure."

## Catechesis of Good Shepherd courses offered for 2021-22

**INDIANA** — Registrations are now being accepted for the summer and fall Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I formation courses being offered at St. Thomas More University Parish.

The courses fulfill several requirements for basic certification in the diocese.

The summer intensive course will be offered in two parts, July 19-24, 2021, and July 18-23, 2022. The fall course is Nov. 20-21, 2021, and continuing in 2022 on Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 17, May 7 and 21, June 11, and July 16 and 29-30. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cost is \$300. Francis Fund scholarships are available; deadlines to apply are May 1 for the summer course and Sept. 1 for fall. For application information, click on the Ministries tab at [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org).

For course information, contact Mary Beth Palko, [mpalko@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mpalko@dioceseofgreensburg.org), or Diane Cawley, [dcawley@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dcawley@dioceseofgreensburg.org), or 724-463-2277.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**CONN-AREA CATHOLIC DONATION:** Conn-Area Catholic School, Connellsville, recently received a donation of \$7,500 from Scottdale Bank & Trust for Earned Income Tax Credit. Above, sixth-grade students Jaidyn Rolla and Jacob Keffer display a thank-you for the bank as Melinda Powell, community banking liaison, looks on.



# Faithful will see changes to Ash Wednesday in midst of pandemic

**GREENSBURG** — Providing for the safety and welfare of the faithful has necessitated many modifications to our ritual practices.

As we draw near the observance of Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has offered some guidance regarding rituals associated with this day. The Diocese of Greensburg will follow that guidance.

To reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus, it is not permitted this year to “sign” the faithful with ashes in the customary fashion. On Ash Wednesday, the tradition of being marked with ashes will take place in a different fashion, through a sprinkling with ashes.

Sprinkling with ashes is a custom observed in many countries throughout the world. The minister, using his thumb and index finger, secures a pinch of ashes from the vessel containing the ashes. Without using words, the minister then sprinkles ashes on the heads of the recipients.

Through this ancient practice we witness to our intention to undertake penitential practices during the Lenten days. We join with the whole Church throughout the world in acknowledging our need for continuing conversion. We express our hope and firm conviction that through Christ’s victory over sin and death, our tears shall one day be turned to rejoicing.

A number of practical matters must be considered:

- Sprinkling with ashes is messy.



These ashes will not remain on your head. They will fall onto your face and clothing and onto pews and floor.

- When receiving this ritual sprinkling, you may wish to close your eyes. These fine particles, unfortunately, will serve as an irritant.
- No extraordinary care is required

when cleaning ashes from clothing, seating surfaces, etc. As a sacramental, these ashes remind us that everything God has fashioned is holy. However, they need not be treated with the same respect that we afford sacraments.

Remember that the reception of ashes on Ash Wednesday is not re-

quired. Whether participating in this ritual or not, all the faithful are urged to undertake penitential practices during Lent. Together with the whole Church throughout the world, we journey with the one who will turn our sorrow to joy.

— *Information from Father Michael P. Sikon, director, Office for Worship*

## Two national collections to be taken in parishes in February

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe serves essential pastoral needs in more than 20 countries.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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**GREENSBURG** — The Diocese of Greensburg Mission Office reminds parishioners of two national collections coming in February.

Customarily taken up on the first Sunday of February, the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will occur Feb. 6-7.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) uses the proceeds from this collection to “support the renewal of vital aspects of Church life: seminaries, youth ministry, social service programs, pastoral centers, church construction and renovation, and Catholic communication projects.”

Contributions help 28 countries in Central and Eastern Europe to “Restore the Church, Build the Future.”

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is made yearly on the First Sunday of Lent, which occurs Feb. 21 this year.

The collection, to be taken up at all Masses Feb. 27-28, aids developing dioceses in the United States. Many “home missions” cannot provide basic pastoral services without aid from



other dioceses and sources.

According to the USCCB, the appeal “helps meet the faith needs of Catholics in the missions (of the United States). It supports the education of priests, deacons, religious sisters and lay people, so the Eucharist and the word of God can nourish Catholics. It supports religious education, so Catholics can expand their knowledge of the faith and hand it down to the next generation.

“It helps small parishes stay alive.”

— *The Catholic Accent*



## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADDICTION SUPPORT

**Irwin** — Sage's Army offers the following groups/meetings:

- Family reinforcement/recovery, Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m., Greensburg site.
  - Grief Recovery after a substance passing, second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Irwin headquarters.
  - Coffee Break for Women, first Friday of every month, 4-6 p.m., Irwin headquarters.
  - Veteran "X" (for veterans), Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., Greensburg site.
  - Recovery Life Group, Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m., Greensburg site.
  - Assiduous Ruminant and Renewal Round Table, first and last Saturday (call for time/location).
  - Gamblers Anonymous, Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., Greensburg site.
  - Changed Forever Prayer Gathering, second Tuesday of every month, 5:45 p.m., Greensburg site.
- Information: [sagesarmy.com](http://sagesarmy.com) or 724-863-5433

## 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](mailto:counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org).

## 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](mailto:pregnancysupport@zoominternet.net) or mailed to/dropped off: AlternativesYes, 6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville, PA 15425. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 22.

## COOKBOOKS

**Uniontown** — The Ethnic Craft Club of St. John Byzantine Catholic Church is selling its Carpathian Cookery cookbook, now in its 17th printing. Cost is \$14 plus \$4 for postage, payable by check or money order. Orders: Mail to Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main St., Uniontown, PA 15401, call 724-438-6027 or email [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

## DOUGHNUT SALE

**Mount Pleasant** — Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish will hold a takeout doughnut sale from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 1 and 8 in the community center. Cost is \$1.50 each. Pre-orders must be placed by Jan. 26 for either prune, apricot or raspberry-filled doughnuts. Orders: 724-547-1911.

## LGBTQ MINISTRY

**Latrobe** — St. Vincent Basilica Parish hosts virtual meetings for Always God's Children, a ministry for LGBTQ people and their families, the second Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. Information: Kristina Davies, 724-539-8629, ext. 19, or [Kristina.davies@stvincent.edu](mailto:Kristina.davies@stvincent.edu).

## RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

**Latrobe** — The Oblates of St. Benedict, Latrobe Deanery, will meet Feb. 21 (speaker Benedictine Father Killian Loch on "Stability in Benedictine Spirituality") and March 14 (speaker Benedictine Father Edward Mazich on "Lectio Divina") 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, may be added; call Father Donald at least two weeks in advance to register for evening events.

## RUMMAGE SALE

**East Vandergrift** — Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish will hold a rummage sale in the church basement Feb. 6 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Feb. 7 from noon-1 p.m. Masks and social distancing required.

## SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

**New Kensington** — Saint Joseph High School is waiving admission fees through Feb. 1. Prospective students can take a virtual tour or visit in person. Information: [SaintJosephHS.com](http://SaintJosephHS.com), [admissions@SaintJosephHS.com](mailto:admissions@SaintJosephHS.com) or 724-226-4932.

## VENDOR FAIR

**Apollo** — St. James Parish will hold a vendor fair in the parish center Feb. 13 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost for vendor tables is \$15 (\$20 with electric). Masks and social distancing required. Information: 724-882-8776.

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# March for Life goes virtual; local prayer service set Jan. 29

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**GREENSBURG** — This year's March for Life will take place virtually, with only a small group of pro-life leaders from across the country marching in the 48th annual event Jan. 29 in Washington D.C.

The March for Life website cited the COVID-19 pandemic and "the heightened pressures that law enforcement officials and others are facing in and around the Capitol" as reasons for the move to an all-virtual event this year.

However, a local event is planned for those who want to join in prayer.

The Greensburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of the National Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Pro-Life Prayer Day Jan. 29 at Christ Our Shepherd Center.

The day will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the Rosary for Priests. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick at noon, and will be livestreamed (see above). Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is scheduled at the conclusion of Mass until closing prayer and Benediction at 4 p.m. Other prayers include the Rosary for Life at 1:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross for Life at 2:15 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. and Litany for Life at 3:30 p.m.

No reservations are needed, and people may attend at any time during the day. For more information, call Millie Krinock, 724-537-2064.

Donations will be accepted for Birthright of Greensburg and LifeWay

## Participate virtually

The Greensburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of the National Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Pro-Life Prayer Day Jan. 29 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick, diocesan chaplain for the DCCW. Due to social distancing requirements at the center, people are encouraged to participate in this event virtually. The noon Mass will be available on the diocesan website, [www.DioceesofGreensburg.org](http://www.DioceesofGreensburg.org), Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Pregnancy Centers of Latrobe and Indiana. In addition to financial donations, the organizations are in need of bottles, diapers, sleepers, onesies and blankets.

The March for Life is held annually in Washington on or around the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Together Strong: Life Unites is the theme for the 2021 March for Life. The theme is a call for all Americans to free ourselves from abortion evils.

Mary Ellen Pellegrino, who has attended many marches, was not planning to go this year. She hopes the event returns to in-person in the future.

"I hope that future plans will allow for greater in-person participation, as we had in the past, because that does facilitate meetings and better develop-



MARY SEAMANS THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Young people from the diocese gather at last year's March for Life in Washington.

ment of communications and understanding between legislative officials and their constituents," she said. "The conferences accompanying the march also facilitate small-group cohesion and overall social movement unity for similar reasons."

"Although it makes me sad, with all the events going on in the nation, especially the violence and let us not forget COVID-19, a deadly contagious virus, I completely understand the reasons the march is virtual this year," said Anita Theiss, political director for People Concerned for the Unborn Child. "Our pro-life work is not done. In fact, there are multiple groups across the nation that are having marches, Masses, adoration and life chains and praying at abortion clinics. We can still petition Congress to ask them to vote pro-life."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is holding a Novena for Life through Jan. 29.

Other virtual events planned for the March for Life include:

- Annual Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn Child, Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m. ([uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org))
- Mass with Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. ([archny.org](http://archny.org))
- Capitol Hill 101, lobbying tips from March for Life organizers, Jan. 28 at 9 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. ([marchforlife.org](http://marchforlife.org))
- The National Vigil for Life, Jan. 28-29 ([uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org))
- National Prayer Vigil for Life from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Jan. 28 at 8:30 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY DAILY COURIER

Artwork by students from Geibel Catholic's classes of 2020 and 2021 brightens the school parking lot.



## Seniors add color to Geibel Catholic school grounds

By Paul Paterra  
Editor

**CONNELLSVILLE** — For the last two school years, the parking lot at Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School has been quite colorful.

That's a result of artwork from the school's senior classes of 2020 and 2021.

"It's something that we get to do that expresses ourselves," explained senior Matti

Trimbath, student council president. "It's something little that we can take the time to show something that we love or something that we think is funny. It gives us that little bit of creative freedom to show ourselves in a more public way."

Trimbath, 17, said painting artwork on the parking lot surface was the brainchild of Ryan Rusko, president of the Class of 2020.

"As far as I know, it was his idea to get it started," Trimbath said. "They painted them before the school year started last year. We still have some of their artwork left over. We carried on the tradition this year with our class."

Students picked their own artwork, which was approved by the school's administration.

"I've heard people who have visited us say, 'That one's

cool or things like that,'" she said.

Five of the members of this year's senior class of 12 students participated in this year's endeavor.

Trimbath painted a quote from one of her favorite series of books, "A Quart of Thorns and Roses," by Sarah J. Maas — "To the stars that listened and the dreams that are answered."

"It's near and dear to my

heart, I really love it," Trimbath said. "It's one of my favorites."

Trimbath says she likes seeing the artwork when she comes to school each day.

"It's something little that makes me feel excited to come to school," she said. "Just being able to come and see all of your friends' artwork and seeing things from last year's seniors, it's really something special to us."