



Saint Michael Parish

85 North High Street, Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-9800

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER
15
2024**

**THIRD
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Saint Margaret, Parish's Mission Church
701 Denver Street, Jamestown, PA 16134

www.stmichaelgreenville.com
st.michaelchurch@neohio.twcbc.com

Fr. Brandon Kleckner:
Pastor
BKleckner@ERIErcd.org

Ms. Patty Meehan:
Office Manager
Phone x133

Megan and Chris Straub:
Faith Formation Leadership
Team Leaders

Deacon Frank Luciani:
Phone x139

Mrs. Susan Swartzbeck:
Business Manager
Phone x135

Jaime Knicely:
Faith Formation Administrative
Assistant Phone x136

Deacon Marty Aubel:
Phone x138

Mr. Nick Hoovler:
Maintenance Supervisor

St. Michael School:
724-588-7050
stmikes@neo.rr.com

SANCTUARY CANDLES

INTENTION & DONOR

Dec 16-31 Dennis Durkos (Dan & Susan Wallace)
Dec 16-31 James & Edith Barbarossa (Benny & Bonnie Barbarossa)
Dec 16-31 John Potase (Daughter & family)
St. Margaret
Dec 16-31 Beth Yurisc (M/M Robert Moore)
St. Margaret

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the response of the souls of Carol Moore, wife of Robert Moore, and Rilla Svirbly. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

STEWARDSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent
\$ 20,268.32

Immaculate Conception
\$1544

CSA
Pledged: \$103,440

Paid: \$ 102,180

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR PARISH!

Saint Michael Church: In Memory of James P. Morgan (\$200).

Date / Mass	Lector	EMHC	Cantor	Accompanist	Altar Servers
Dec. 21/ 9 AM	Joseph Yarzab	Mary Ann Marshall Sandy Ohl	Mary Smart	Pat Shaughnessy	Maggie L. & Krystal W.
Dec. 22 /8 AM	Dawn Richter	Kenda and Tom Hoovler			Avery W. & Duncan M.
Dec. 22/11 AM	Jane Turcic	Nancy & Alan Carr	Bruce Turcic	Natalie Serrano	Ella & Lance P. , Andrew H.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

*Weekday Masses Tues- Fri 9AM /First Sat 9AM
Saint Michael Church*

ALL MASSES AT THE CHURCH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Late Advent Weekday
Mildred Schwartz (Tom & Shirley Patton)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Late Advent Weekday
Joseph Langiotti (Daughters)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Late Advent Weekday
Steve Sr. & Ted Zawistowski (Anniv.) (Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Late Advent Weekday
Margaret Thickey (John & Barbara Miller)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:30 PM *Saint Michael Church*
Wally Johnson (Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

***8:00 AM** *Saint Margaret Mission**
For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM *Saint Michael Church*
Isaiah John Perry (John & Gianna)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes for Christmas flowers are on the tables at both Churches. The envelopes need to be returned by December 16 for the December 22 bulletin. Additional flower donations will be listed in the December 29th edition.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The roof crew will return to complete the steeple as soon as there are a few dry, moderate temperature days. Please be aware of any caution areas as you come to daily Mass if they are here.

The speakers should be complete and in use any day now.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 17 SMS Christmas Pageant.
Dec. 19 Men's Group meets at 6:00 AM.
Dec. 23 Church "Deep Clean" Work Day.

Confessions heard daily at St. Michael. Check the printed December calendar for times for the parish and for options in area.

40 CLUB NOVEMBER 27TH & DECEMBER 4

November 27- \$100, Barbara Walton; \$100- D. M. Walton; \$50-Jeanie Holsing.
December 4- \$100-Jack Kearney; \$100-Kathleen Bonacker; \$50-Joanie Pickens.

SAINT MICHAEL'S/SAINT MARGARET MEN'S GROUP

Join us Thursday December 19th for a continuation of the Father Kapun's (Priest, Chaplain, POW, and Medal of Honor winner) Virtue series. The focus of the video on the 19th is Hope. One of the greatest things that Father Kapun did was to inspire the virtue of hope in his men, a virtue that helped many of them survive the terrible conditions of the prison camp and set their sights on something higher than this world. Are you a man of hope? Do you bring hope to those around you? The door opens to McElhinny Hall before 6 AM, video at 6:15 with conclusion by 7:20 AM. Light breakfast items provided.

*"There is no timeline on grieving."
Seasons of Hope Grief Group Starts again after
the New Year*

"I learned that I'm not the only one grieving - that there is no timeline on grieving." - Season 1 Member

Whether you lost a loved one this past year or 50 years ago, and are looking for consolation in that loss, this Christ-centered faith-sharing group is for you. It meets for six weeks (plus a final extra session with a meal), each Tuesday beginning Tuesday, January 14 through February 25. Prayer, scripture, faith sharing, and fellowship begin at 6:00pm. For more details, take a Seasons of Hope brochure at the church entrance or call Patty, Church Secretary, at 724-588-9800 option 1 by January 7, 2025 to register your spot.

A WORD FROM FATHER BRANDON

I'm writing this from Kentucky, having gotten down here to deliver the gifts for the 140 children you so generously provided for! It was good getting down here to see the area (of which we will do more after I write this) and to see the school the Piarist Fathers run that is a facet of their wide-reaching outreach they have for those in such a unique rural and mountainous poverty. Initially, it feels a lot like *Young People Who Care* out in Frenchville, PA, Clearfield County. The Sisters of the Anawim, a small diocesan order (I don't recall their proper categorization) run an outreach to the many similarly impoverished in Clearfield and Centre Counties. They also run a Youth and Retreat Center on many acres of largely wooded grounds in Frenchville. They just do so many things for so many people. It's a hidden gem in our Diocese that I was able to get acquainted with over my years out that way. They are down, now, to only two sisters: Suzanne and Ruth Ann. But this mission down here in Kentucky felt reminiscent of that so it was great to visit and minimally participate in that good and holy work. They were incredibly appreciative when they saw that 6x12 trailer open and filled to the brim with your generosity for those children – children we will never meet or ever know, but because of a love for those in need, they will be blessed by your faith and your love. So, again, thank you – your generosity will go far!

This makes me think of something that I've been ruminating about: Keeping Christ in Christmas. For whatever reason, this becomes the battle cry of some Christians this time every year. Albeit I don't hear it as often as I used to, I still have heard it so far, nonetheless. I remember a handful of years ago, the saying, 'happy holidays' was uber atrocious and carnage to the Christian ear. Some had to rage against their baristas for their wishing them a happy holiday...I just said thanks and drank my Americano! And it manifests in so many banal and miniscule ways all over the place from time to time, but behind that rage towards a few words, I think, is a misplaced solution to a legitimate and real desire in every heart: keeping Christ in Christmas.

Putting or keeping Christ in Christmas is not about saying 'Merry Christmas', but it would be being Christ. Christianity does not call us to say proper salutations, but to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, give gifts to those who have no one to buy them gifts. Keeping Christ in Christmas doesn't find its end and solution in correcting baristas or doing anything obnoxious, but it lies in a daily holy hour, in daily study of the Word; it lies in your fasting and abstinence, in your frequenting the Sacraments and upholding your Sunday Obligation. You can have the biggest Nativity Scene in your yard with bold and underlined signs that say Merry Christmas and Keep Christ in Christmas, but if you are doing nothing else...I just question where Christ is?

I think there is a tremendous temptation the enemy of our human nature tosses our way, and that is to succumb to a cultural Christianity and the abandonment of an orthodox Christianity. I think it's uniquely acute in America as we are not an orthodox Christian or Catholic culture. For the majority of the twentieth century, we had a Mainline Christian culture. But, today, the Mainlines are rapidly dwindling and disappearing. The movement in Christian culture is now to Evangelicalism or non-denominationalism. Though, I would argue this has led to a more Biblical culture (which is beautiful and powerful), it is not entirely historical or orthodox Christianity, Catholic. Our unique senses of what it means to Keep Christ in Christmas is just going to be far more hidden, liturgical, mystical, contemplative, little, and seemingly insignificant. Our sense of a Christian culture will necessarily involve a relationship with The Cross and Liturgy that we won't find in even the most non-Catholic evangelical culture. So, let's keep Christ in Christmas, but let's work on keeping Christ in Christmas by how we go to meet Him in the prayer, fasting, and in meeting those who hunger and thirst for Him. Let us never devolve into cultural Christians, and as The Church, let's balk against all that could pull us into a false Christianity and to know a false Christ!

Love
Fr. Brandon