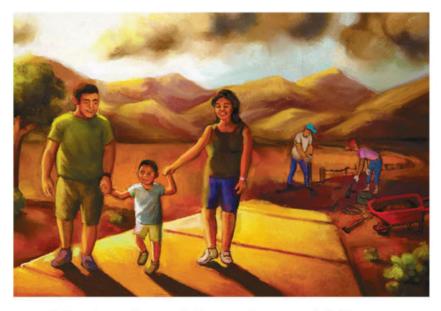
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Moving from Mourning and Misery

Loving God,

you restore what we have broken. Amidst our struggles with sin, guide us in preparing the way; help us to see your salvation. Give us courage to move on from mourning and misery. We rejoice, for you have done great things for us.

As you directed the Israelites, lead us in joy by the light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 Led by God in Joy

Today's readings: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6. The first reading comes from the end of the prophet Baruch's poem of consolation to the Israelites. Though the Israelites have sinned and are in exile, the prophet shares encouraging words, referencing the Israelites' eventual return to Jerusalem. Baruch's words paint a beautiful image of hopefulness and trust in God. Encouraging the Israelites, he tells them to shed their "mourning and misery; / put on the splendor of glory from God forever." He reminds them that they are "wrapped in the cloak of justice from God," and tells them to confidently display "the glory of the eternal name." Indeed, just like the Israelites, we are led by God in joy.

In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord" echoes Isaiah words "that every lofty mountain be made low / and that age-old depths and gorges / be filled to level ground." The text encourages us to meditate on the universality of salvation. How can you take on John the Baptist's challenge to repent for forgiveness with joy? Our reason to rejoice is evident, for as the psalmist sings, "The Lord has done great things for us."

Make an intentional effort this week to join in St. Paul's prayer: may our love increase ever more and more in every way so that we can be ready for the day of Christ.

St. John Baptist de La Salle

497 Athena Drive Delmont, PA 15626 (724) 327-0647 Saturday anticipated Mass 4:00 PM Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Saint Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes

5900 Kennedy Avenue Export, PA 15632 (724) 327-0647 Saturday anticipated Mass 6:00 PM Sunday Mass 9:00 AM

Mother of Sorrows 4202 Old William Penn Highway Murrysville, PA 15668

(724) 733-8870 Saturday anticipated Mass 4:30 PM Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 9 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Luke's Gospel relates that Mary is "greatly troubled" at the angel Gabriel's greeting. The angel attempts to comfort her, telling her not to be afraid and reminding her that "nothing will be impossible for God." Celebrate Mary's courageous response to God's call by spending time in silence, listening to how God may be calling you. Reach out to a conversation partner and share your prayer experience. *Today's readings: Genesis* 3:9–15, 20; *Psalm* 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; *Ephesians* 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.

Tuesday, December 10 Comfort

Speaking to the Judeans exiled in Babylon, Isaiah tells of the deliverance that is to come. He assures them that flesh might wither and wilt as grass and flowers do, "but the word of our God stands forever." In the Gospel, we hear that the Lord values each one of his followers, and just as a shepherd goes after his sheep, the Father does not want one of his to be lost. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3 and 10ac, 11–12, 13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

Wednesday, December 11 Mercy and Grace

As you light two candles on your Advent wreath, say a prayer in gratitude for the Lord's mercy and graciousness. As the psalm proclaims, he is "slow to anger, abounding in mercy" despite our turning from him. The Lord is always welcoming, for as the Gospel states, he calls out, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened." *Today's readings: Isaiah* 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.

Thursday, December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego, an indigenous peasant, at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. Today we celebrate Mary's presence, especially her making herself known to those who are marginalized. On this feast day, pray with Mary's canticle (Luke 1:46–55) and ask for her intercession to help you proclaim the greatness of the Lord. *Today's readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

Friday, December 13 St. Lucy

St. Lucy, whose name means "light," is the patron saint of the blind. She was tortured and martyred for her dedication to her faith. St. Lucy is often depicted holding a platter with gouged eyeballs. Pray for St. Lucy's intercession today, that you may give sight to those who are hopeless and bring light in the darkness of persecution. *Today's readings: Isaiah* 48:17–19; *Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, and 6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 14 St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross is the patron saint of contemplatives, mystics, and Spanish poets. After being educated by the Augustinians and Jesuits, he joined the Carmelites. St. John of the Cross encountered Teresa of Avila and was attracted to her devotion to prayer and simplicity. After being influenced by her regimented spirituality, he was punished for seeking to restore the Carmelite order. To celebrate St. John of the Cross, learn about the Catholic Church's diverse spiritual traditions. Pray with one that may be unfamiliar to you. *Today's readings: Sirach* 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.

LTP

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Mother of Sorrows Regional Catholic School Darcie Gatti, Principal

dgatti@mosschool.org 724-733-8840 TOPS scholarships available: www.catholicschoolsguide.org



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on **Sunday**, **December 8** after the 11:30 AM Mass. If you are planning to have surgery, are experiencing health problems or facing the challenges of aging, you are welcome to celebrate the sacrament.

BLUE CHRISTMAS LITURGY



As we approach the darkest night of the year, we are aware that the

holidays can be difficult for any number of reasons. The Blue Christmas Liturgy allows people to acknowledge their sense of loss or pain and the shadow it casts over the holiday season.

Join us at Mother of Sorrows Parish on **Sunday, December 15** at 3:00 PM as we stand by one another during life's difficult seasons.

ADVENT TAIZÉ PRAYER

Taizé is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed by an ecumenical community of monks in rural France. This quiet, moving, reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation.

A typical Taizé prayer service incorporates periods of silence with meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise and intercession, and the frequent repetition of simple, contemporary chants based on the Psalms or other parts of Scripture.

All parishioners from St. John, St. Mary and MOS are invited to join us at Mother of Sorrows Parish on **December 12 and December 19** at 6:00 PM.

MOS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday	12/7	
9:00 AM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM		For the Parish
Sunday	12/8	Second Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	vir	Tony Perricelli (Phyllis & Peter O'Neil)
9:30 AM		Merante Children (parents)
11:30 AM	sto	Marco & Francis Grado (Nick & Maria Grado & Family)
12:30 PM		Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
6:00 PM	*	Makowski Family
Monday	12/9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 AM	γţν	George Yuhasz (Donahoe, Massa & Zubrow Families)
10:30 AM		For the Parish
Tuesday	12/10	,
8:00 AM	*	Tatum Heinle <i>(Tom & Rebecca Nist)</i>
Wednesday	12/11	
8:00 AM	÷	Jack Diehl (Children)
Thursday	12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:45 AM	ý	Fr. Dennis Sheehy (Family)
9:45 AM		Eucharistic Adoration 🧿
6:00 PM		Taizé
7:00 PM		Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Friday	12/13	2
8:00 AM	str.	Pete Rota (Sue & Jim McLaughlin)
Saturday	12/14	Saint John of the Cross
9:00 AM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM		For the Parish
Sunday	12/15	Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 AM	νţν	Stephen Gipson (Wife Denise, Grant & Meredith)
9:30 AM	u the	Florence Monaco (Chuck & Linda White
11:30 AM	u the	Andrew Torick (Carol & Bill Balawajder)
3:00 PM		Blue Christmas Service
6:00 PM	÷	Patricia Mazzella (Guy Mazzella)

OUR WEEKLY NUMBERS November 23 and 24

Mother of Sorrows

Attendance 1,684 Offertory \$ 26,389.18 Outreach \$ 1,040.00



Diocesan Assessments for The Accent and Technology, Catholic Education, Pastoral Healthcare, Property Insurance and Diocesan Support:

\$ 50,801.26

St. John

Attendance 268 Offertory \$ 8,182.50



St. Mary

Attendance 250 Offertory \$ 4,839.15



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them and learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish Offices will be closed on **Monday, December 9** and will reopen **Tuesday, December 10**.

ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday	12/7	
12:00 NN SJ		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ	*	Evelyn Bartko (Son, David)
6:00 PM SM	÷	Michael Davie
	12/8	(Mom, Dad, John & Emmie)
Sunday	12/8	Second Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM SM		For the Parish
11:00 AM SJ	*	Larry Martonik (Robert & Elaine Wolcott))
Monday	12/9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:30 AM SM	÷	Don Rivardo (Karen & David Shepoy)
7:00 PM SJ		For the Parish
Tuesday	12/10	,
8:30 AM SM	ŵ	Paula Topolosky (Edward & Marilyn Markoff)
12:00 NN SM		Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 PM SM		Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:00 PM SM		Benediction and Reposition
Wednesday	12/11	
8:05 AM SJ		Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
8:30 AM SJ	÷	John Voss Jr. <i>(Steve & Loretta Voss)</i>
Thursday	12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:10 AM SM		St. Joseph Novena
8:30 AM SM	*	Carolyn Thatcher (Family)
Friday	12/13	Saint Lucy
8:30 AM SJ	*	Gerald Dunn & Marge Anne Noel (Jim Dunn)
Saturday	12/14	Saint John of the Cross
12:00 NN SJ		Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ		For the Parish
6:00 PM SM	*	Lou DelBene (Patty & Joe Zaccagnini)
Sunday	12/15	Third Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM SM	÷	Rose Elaine Carbone (Husband John & Family)
11:00 AM SJ	Ŵ	Anita Kissel (Annamarie & Bob Stackiewicz)

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at Mother of Sorrows on **Thursday**, December 12 from 9:45 AM until 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary will take place on **Tuesdays** from 12:00 NN until 6:00 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to the Stutz family on the Baptism of Cora Jean. We rejoice in the life bestowed upon her by the water and the Holy Spirit.



Given new life in the waters of Baptism, we welcome Tristan Lynn Rittmeyer to the Church. May Tristan grow string in her faith and always remember that she is a beloved child of God.

A PEEK AT THE WEEK...

~ 1		
Sunday		December 8
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, school
8:30 AM	MOS	Craft Show, Social Hall
2:00 PM	SJ	Pilgrimage Junior
5:00 PM	SJ	Delmont Pilgrimage
7:00 PM	MOS	High School Youth Ministry , lower narthex
Monday		December 9
6:30 PM	MOS	Cub Scouts, Social Hall
Tuesday		December 10
10:00 AM	MOS	Staff Meeting, Conference Room
11:30 AM	MOS	Boomers and Beyond, Social Hall
6:30 PM	MOS	Outreach Group, Ave Maria Room
6:30 PM	MOS	Pastoral Council, Conference Room
Wednesday	τ	December 11
9:30 AM	MOS	Women's Bible Study, Social Hall
6:30 PM	MOS	Middle School Youth Ministry, Social Hall
7:00 PM	MOS	Choir Rehearsal, Church
Friday		December 13
9:00 AM	MOS	Legion of Mary, Ave Maria Room
9:00 AM	MOS	Centering Prayer, Madonna Room
Saturday		December 14
7:00 AM	SM	Catholic Men's Fellowship, Social Hall
9:00 AM	MOS	Men's Renewal Group, Ave Maria Room
10:00 AM	MOS	Prayer Shawl Ministry, Social Hall
7:00 PM	MOS	Square Dancing, Social Hall
Sunday		December 15
8:30 AM	MOS	Faith Formation for those with special needs, Ave Maria Room
12:30 PM	MOS	OCIA, Ave Maria Room
6:45 PM	MOS	OCIA, Ave Maria Room
7:00 PM	MOS	High School Youth Ministry , lower narthex

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on December 8 each year and celebrates a singular honor: that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb without sin.

Since December 8, 2024 is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to **Monday**, **December 9, 2024.** Mass times for the Immaculate Conception are:

Sunday, December 8	6:00 PM	MOS
Monday, December 9	8:00 AM and 10:30 AM	MOS
Monday, December 9	8:30 AM	St. Mary
Monday, December 9	7:00 PM	St. John

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift of mercy to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In this sacrament we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in God's presence and honestly acknowledge our sins. Receiving absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church.

As we anticipate the Jubilee Year in 2025, parishes in the region will no longer have a communal Penance Service prior to the celebration of the Sacrament. Instead, there will be several priests hearing confessions from 6:30PM – 8:00 PM each evening. It is our hope that allowing more time for confession, we might be better able to experience the joy that comes from being freed from whatever separates us from God, who seeks to lavish upon us the same forgiveness and love lavished on the prodigal son.

Renewed, refreshed and reconciled in this sacrament once more, we are once more we are made new. It is this newness of spirit and soul that we hope that all of us will experience time and again in the sacrament of Penance. All are invited to celebrate the gifts of God's mercy this Advent at the following times and places.

Monday,	December 16	6:30 – 8:00 PM	St. John, Delmont
Tuesday,	December 17	6:30 – 8:00 PM	St. Regis, Trafford
Wednesday,	December 18	6:30 – 8:00 PM	St. Barbara, Harrison City
Thursday,	December 19	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Mother of Sorrows, Murrysville

CHRISTMAS	MASS	SCHEDULE
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December 24	Vigil of Christmas	4:00 PM (Church) & 4:00 PM (Hall) - Mother of Sorrows
	Vigil of Christmas	4:00 PM - St. John, Delmont
	Vigil of Christmas	6:00 PM - Mother of Sorrows
December 25	Mass at Night	12:00 MN - Mother of Sorrows
	Mass at Night	12:00 MN - St. Mary, Export
	Mass at Dawn	9:00 AM - St. Mary, Export
	Mass at Dawn	9:30 AM - Mother of Sorrows
	Christmas Mass	10:00 AM - St. John, Delmont
	Christmas Mass	11:30 AM - Mother of Sorrows

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY PARISHIONERS

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On Christ the King Sunday, our Faith Formation program had the incredible opportunity to participate in a Eucharistic Experience and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After encountering Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, our young parishioners reflect on this powerful experience. It was a beautiful way for them to connect with Christ and carry this encounter into their daily lives.





WELCOME DEBBIE



We welcome Debbie Coffen back to the St. John and St. Mary Parish Office as our Parish Receptionist. Debbie served as our Financial Secretary from July 2021 to October 2023. Please be sure to stop by the office and say hello!



There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote com/txt Support Ministry is open to all widows. The group meets to share a meal, have conversation and to relate to others who share the feeling of loss.

The next gathering, the Christmas Luncheon, will take place on **Tuesday, December 10** at 1:00 PM in the St. John Social Hall. Please RSVP to Sandy at 724-787-9305 or email *sandymartin112@gmail.com*.

THANK YOU



Thank you for your generous donations of diapers, wipes, lotions, blankets handmade with love and many more baby items. Also, a special thanks to the prayer shawl ministry group for the beautiful prayer shawls. The women were very appreciative and say they can feel God's love around them when they are praying and wearing the prayer shawl.

THANKSGIVING GIVING TREES

Thank you to all who donated to our Thanksgiving giving trees at St. Mary and St. John. Your generosity of \$3,500 enabled us to offer over 80 meals to those in need in our communities for Thanksgiving and will also enable us to provide for Christmas as well.

We also appreciate those who assisted with the collection at each Mass.



In need of material assistance? Contact the St. John St. Mary St. Vincent DePaul Conference. Call (724) 575-9888

ONLINE GIVING OPTION NOW AVAILABLE, VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

www.stjohnstmary.net



All three parishes are being provided FREE access to FORMED On Demand. Discover the best Catholic content all in one place. Sign up for free at formed.org/ signup and search for Mother of Sorrows.

This week on FORMED:

Christmas Special | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Hosted by the Hopeful World, this beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.

What Is The Immaculate Conception?

What is the Immaculate Conception? Use this video to help teach kids about this great mystery of our faith.

CONGRATULATIONS

We rejoice with the families of Eva Campbell and Anthony DiFulvio who received their First Holy Communion. We pray that they will always hear and follow the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.



Congratulations to the following Serra Catholic High School students who made the First Quarter Honor Roll:

Bailee Dayton, Skylar Davis, Isabella Dumbroski, Cameryn Skaggs and Tyler Skaggs. Keep up the good work!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women of MOS, St. John and St. Mary Parishes are invited to the annual Women's Retreat **January 17 - 19, 2025** at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh. This year's theme is Pilgrims of Hope. For more information, please contact Barb Hantz at *hantzbf@gmail.net* or Sherri Tollari at *sherritollari@yahoo.com*.

To register, visit our website at <u>motherofsorrowschurch.org</u> and click on the image of the brochure on our homepage.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND



Join us on **Tuesday, December** 10 at 11:30 AM as Father Dave Slusarick presents, "Graces Received from Hand-Copying Sacred Scripture." He will also

share the story of his journey to the priesthood.

Boomers and Beyond lunch and learn sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Mother of Sorrows Social Hall. Topics are varied and reservations are not required. Participants gather at 11:30 AM and are encouraged to bring a 'brown bag' lunch and a friend. Presentations begin at 12:00 NN until 1:00 PM.

ROSARY RALLY

Our next outdoor Rosary Rally sponsored by America Needs Fatima will be held on **Saturday, December 21** at 12:00 NN in the lower MOS church parking lot.

Please bring a folding chair, an umbrella, your rosary, and a friend with you. It will be held outdoors rain or shine. Please call Mary Rita Turka at 412-848-5105 with any questions.

SQUARE DANCING

Join us for an evening of square dancing on **Saturday, December 14** at 7:00 PM in the Mother of Sorrows Parish Social Hall. Dances are always taught, so no previous experience is required. Bring your favorite snack or beverage to share. The suggested donation is \$10 per family or \$4 per person.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

All High School Youth are invited to join us on **Sunday**, **December 8** from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM for a look at the seven commandments that teach us what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. The catechism speaks on everything from faithful citizenship and just war doctrine to scandal, end of life issues and much, much more. Come and have all your questions answered!

On **Sunday, December 15** please join us for our annual Christmas Party. We will meet from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Social Hall for a gingerbread house decorating contest, a crazy gift exchange, snowball fight and lots of treats to eat. Be sure to bring a friend to enjoy all the surprises in store.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Youth Ministry will meet on **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:30 PM in the Mother of Sorrows Social Hall. Be sure to save the date for the Christmas Party on **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 PM. Email Jacob Gindhart at *jgindhart@dioceseofgreensburg* for more information and to be added to the Remind chat for updates in Youth Ministry.



At the last High School Youth Ministry gathering before Thanksgiving, the students looked at the first three Commandments, those that tell us what we must do to love God as He wills it. They discussed what love is and what it requires, and also talked about what love is not. Love is not mere emotion, but rather a decision that requires commitment and sacrifice. They played a game called "Look Up, Look Down" and were treated to pumpkin pie in anticipation of Thanksgiving.



THANK YOU

This holiday season, we have remembered teenagers in need with new hoodies; we have remembered children in need with gifts through Merry Mittens; we have remembered lonely nursing home residents with gifts that say "we are standing with you", and in January, we will remember homeless men with gifts of winter clothing. We are so very blessed to live in the midst of such generosity.

The gifts just kept pouring in for all of these individuals who do not have the ease of daily life that most of us enjoy. It is difficult to express sufficient gratitude on behalf of all of these men, women, and children, so we will just say, **Thank you, God Bless You All the Days of Your Life !**

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MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL



SCIENCE IS FUN!

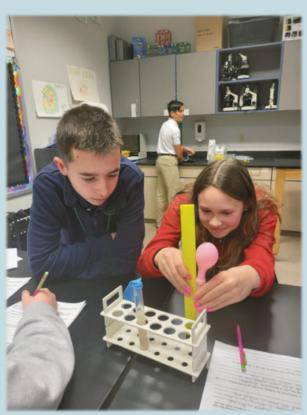








Mrs. Bentley's 7th grade students learned about DNA and experimented with balloons to observe them inflating as yeast cells produce carbon dioxide gas during fermentation. Hands-on lessons like these enrich student understanding and engage budding scientists!



1:00 - 8:00 PM **Mass with Bishop Larry J. Kulick** 4:00 PM **Christ Our Shepherd Center** 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg

Christmas

Night Market

The Christmas Night market is a festive, fun and faith-filled event! Stroll the outdoor attractions under the twinkle of Christmas lights and warm yourself with hot chocolate by the fire, or head inside to enjoy dozens of food and craft vendors. Explore collectibles created by artist Pipka Ulvilden, on display for this event! Carolers. St. Nicholas and Christmas cookies are all part of the experience. Admission and parking are free!

Schedule of Events:

1:00 - 8:00 PM Food and Craft Vendors, St. Nick's Gift Shop, Artwork **Display, Face Painting and Grand Raffle**

- 1:00 PM Christmas Wine Tasting
- 2:00 PM Christmas Beer Tasting

1:00 and 2:00 PM Children's Christmas Cookie Tasting and Visit with St. Nick

NIGHT

2024

3:00 PM "The Madonna in Christmas Art," a lecture and display by worldrenowned artist Pipka Ulvilden

4:00 PM Mass with **Bishop Larry J. Kulick and Diocese Children's Choir**

10 Pilgrimage to Christ



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