

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoice always! Rejoice!

Almighty God,
giver of all that is good,
you have done glorious things.
You have turned away our enemies and
removed misfortune.
Help us to be unafraid,
to not be discouraged,

to give to those who want.
We sing praise,
rejoicing always, rejoicing,
knowing that you are our salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 The Lord Is Near



Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. On this Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, the second reading and the entrance antiphon proclaim, “The Lord is near.” On Gaudete Sunday, a rose-colored candle is lighted on the Advent wreath, along with two purple candles from the previous two weeks of Advent. The purple candles symbolize our prayer and preparation; the rose candle symbolizes our joyful anticipation at the halfway point of Advent.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem after the nation's sinfulness. He

invites us to not be discouraged, but rather to “Shout for joy . . . / Sing joyfully” and “Be glad and exult with all your heart.” The faithful today, like the people who approached John the Baptist in the Gospel, are filled with expectation.

This week, to continue preparing your heart for the full joy of Christmas, dedicate time every day to pray. As St. Paul suggests in his letter to the Philippians, “with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” Begin your prayer by expressing your joy and gratitude to God. How will the Lord's nearness inspire you to share your kindness with others? End your prayer by resting in the peace of God.

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 16

Trust

In today's Gospel, religious leaders question Jesus' authority as he taught and ministered. At times, you might find yourself faltering in your faith and may question God's authority in your life. Spend some time journaling about your trust in the Lord. How have you questioned him? After your reflection, pray with today's psalm, then choose a line or phrase that stands out to you, calling it to mind throughout your day. Ask for the strength to trust in Jesus. *Today's readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27.*

Tuesday, December 17

O Wisdom

The "O" antiphons date back to around the eighth century. They accompany the Magnificat during evening prayer between today and December 24. As the final days of Advent are entered, dedicate time each evening to meditate with the "O" antiphon of the day. Today's antiphon is "O Wisdom of God our Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!" How can you look to Wisdom to guide you this week? *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.*

Wednesday, December 18

O Sacred Lord

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and, similarly to Mary's call at the annunciation, tells him to "not be afraid." Joseph courageously responds by taking Mary "into his home" and faithfully accepting his role as Jesus' earthly father. Today's "O" antiphon is "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!" As you pray with the antiphon, consider how you might courageously respond to God. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8, Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

Thursday, December 19

You Are My Hope, Lord

In today's Gospel, the angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and tells him that Elizabeth, his barren wife, will give birth to John. Questioning Gabriel, Zechariah notes that he is "an old man, and [Elizabeth] is advanced in years." Gabriel renders Zechariah speechless because of his disbelief. As you light the three candles on your Advent wreath today, pray for those who struggle with their faith. Consider how you might "speak of the mighty works of the Lord." *Today's readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

Friday, December 20

The Lord Is with You

The angel greets Mary, saying, "Hail, full of grace." Today you might ponder how Mary may have received those words. Spend time with the Gospel reading, using the prayer form *lectio divina*, a slow and repetitive reading and praying with Scripture. In this practice, a phrase is repeated and meditated upon in prayer. At the end of your prayer, pray for pregnant women and those who will give birth today. *Today's readings: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38.*

Saturday, December 21

O Radiant Dawn

Today's antiphon is "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death." As you pray with today's antiphon, take a moment to pray for those who may "dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death" near you. Dedicate time to serve them this weekend: visit a shelter, a soup kitchen, someone who is homebound, or reach out to a person in mourning. *Today's readings: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45.*



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& Lloyd Wolf

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Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

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Bill McHugh, Jerry Soles

Office Hours
Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM



Mother of Sorrows Regional Catholic School
Darcie Gatti, Principal
dgatti@mosschool.org
724-733-8840

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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 19** at 6:00 PM.

COMING HOME ROSARY

Our next 'Coming Home' Rosary will take place in January, due to Taizé prayer scheduled on Thursday, December 19.

MOS LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/14	
9:00 AM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM	For the Parish
Sunday 12/15 Third Sunday of Advent	
7:30 AM	† Stephen Gipson <i>(Wife Denise, Grant & Meredith)</i>
9:30 AM	† Florence Monaco <i>(Chuck & Linda White)</i>
11:30 AM	† Andrew Torick <i>(Carol & Bill Balawajder)</i>
3:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service
6:00 PM	† Patricia Mazzella <i>(Guy Mazzella)</i>
Monday 12/16	
8:00 AM	† Richard Pollack <i>(Nick & Kathy Barsic)</i>
Tuesday 12/17	
8:00 AM	† Begolly Family <i>(Family)</i>
Wednesday 12/18	
8:00 AM	† Maria & Giuseppe Riga <i>(Daughter Christina)</i>
Thursday 12/19	
8:45 AM	† Mary Margaret & Bob Munson <i>(Mark & Karen Munson)</i>
9:45 AM	Eucharistic Adoration
5:45 PM	Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament 
6:00 PM	Taizé
6:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 12/20	
8:00 AM	† Joe Rodjom <i>(Family)</i>
Saturday 12/21	
9:00 AM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 PM	Steven Wakefield <i>(Linda Wakefield)</i>
Sunday 12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	
7:30 AM	† Marc Delissio <i>(Family)</i>
9:30 AM	For the Parish
11:30 AM	† Joe Purdue <i>(Tony & Harriet Quaglieri)</i>
6:00 PM	† Jerry Burgman <i>(MOS Staff)</i>

OUR WEEKLY NUMBERS

November 30 and December 1

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 289
 Offertory \$ 6,278.50



St. Mary

Attendance 207
 Offertory \$ 9,760.00



STEWARDSHIP NOTES

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God’s image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.

ST. JOHN AND ST. MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/14	
12:00 NN SJ	Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ	For the Parish
6:00 PM SM	† Lou DelBene (<i>Patty & Joe Zaccagnini</i>)
Sunday 12/15 Third Sunday of Advent	
9:00 AM SM	† Rose Elaine Carbone (<i>Husband John & Family</i>)
11:00 AM SJ	† Anita Kissel (<i>Annamarie & Bob Stackiewicz</i>)
Monday 12/16	
8:30 AM SJ	† Shirley Canterna (<i>Linda Noca</i>)
6:30 PM SJ	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday 12/17	
8:30 AM SM	† Robert Cain (<i>Mike & Patty Blake & Erin Seighman</i>)
12:00 NN SM	Eucharistic Adoration
5:00 PM SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
6:00 PM SM	Benediction and Reposition
Wednesday 12/18	
8:05 AM SJ	Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
8:30 AM SJ	For the People
Thursday 12/19	
8:10 AM SM	St. Joseph Novena
8:30 AM SM	† John Onder (<i>Wife Viola and Daughter Jonette</i>)
Friday 12/20	
8:30 AM SJ	† For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday 12/21	
12:00 NN SJ	Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:00 PM SJ	Frank & Elizabeth Prusasky and son (<i>Robert & Elaine Wolcott</i>)
6:00 PM SM	† John Onder (<i>Wife Viola and Daughter Jonette</i>)
Sunday 12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	
9:00 AM SM	† For the Parish
11:00 AM SJ	† Don Rivardo (<i>Karen & David Shepoy & Family</i>)

WITH SYMPATHY

We commend to your prayers Florence Biondi, Jerry Burgman, Dennis Cargnel, Shirley Crock, Bill Elchik, Lisa Meyerhuber and Jackie Wagner, who died recently.

May God welcome them to the joys of Paradise and bring comfort and peace to their families.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to the Farneth family on the Baptism of Harrison John. We rejoice in the life bestowed upon him by the water and the Holy Spirit.



God Bless Don and Peg Miller as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. May God continue to shine through the sacrament of marriage in their lives!

A PEEK AT THE WEEK...

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

Monday December 16

6:30 PM MOS Cub Scouts, Social Hall

Tuesday December 17

10:00 AM MOS Staff Meeting, Conference Room

Wednesday December 18

9:30 AM MOS Women's Bible Study, Social Hall

6:30 PM MOS Middle School Youth Ministry, Social Hall

Thursday December 19

7:00 PM MOS Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall

Friday December 20

9:00 AM MOS Legion of Mary, Ave Maria Room

9:00 AM MOS Centering Prayer, Madonna Room

Saturday December 21

7:00 AM SM Catholic Men's Fellowship, Social Hall

9:00 AM MOS Men's Renewal Group, Ave Maria Room

12:00 NN MOS Rosary Rally, lower parking lot

Sunday December 22

8:30 AM MOS Faith Formation for those with special needs, Ave Maria Room

12:30 PM MOS Choir Rehearsal, Church

7:00 PM MOS High School Youth Ministry , lower narthex

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at Mother of Sorrows on **Thursday, December 19 from 9:45 AM until 6:00 PM.**

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

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

December 24	Vigil of Christmas	4:00 PM (Church) & 4:00 PM (Hall) - MOS
	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

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

How have I failed to worship God in private and communal prayer?

Do I receive the sacraments regularly?

Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred?

Do I value the sacrament of reconciliation? Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin, to turn again to God and to begin a new life in deeper friendship with God?

Have I tried to grow in my faith through prayer and the reading of the word of God?

Do I pray daily?

Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?

How have I failed to use the gifts of God in daily living?

Do I respect my own body as a gift from God?

Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink?

Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me?

Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health?

Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

How have I failed in my relationships with others?

In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family?

Am I patient? Am I loving?

Do I treat my parents [children] with respect?

Am I ever angry with those I love?

Have I been faithful in my relationships?

Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights? Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs?

Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes?

Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life?

Have I failed to share God's love with the world?

Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need?

When I saw someone hungry, did I give them food?

When I saw someone thirsty, did I give them drink?

When I saw someone needing clothing, did I clothe them?

When I saw a stranger, did I welcome them?

When someone was homebound or imprisoned, did I visit them?

When someone was ill, did I care for them?

Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed?

Do I use the earth's resources wisely?



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Dear Parishioners,

As I announced in the bulletin on November 3, 2024, I began a consultation with the members of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils to examine the current Mass schedule and the number of Masses in our parishes. After listening to the concerns and suggestions of council members and having a conversation with our neighboring pastor at St. Barbara Parish, I requested and received permission from Bishop Kulick to eliminate the 6:00 PM Saturday Mass at St. Mary Parish, effective January 1, 2025. The local regional schedule below will still allow parishioners the opportunity of three Saturday evening Masses in the area.

4:00 PM at St. John Parish,

4:30 at Mother of Sorrows Parish

5:30 PM at St. Barbara Parish.

The bishop asked me to assure parishioners that this decision is NOT a sign that the parish is closing, but is being made in light of the low attendance and the needs of the local clergy.

As a further sign that we are NOT looking to close the parish, we will also be scheduling 3 weekday Masses at St. Mary and 2 Masses at St. John Parish in the New Year: Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be celebrated at St. Mary Parish and Tuesday and Thursday at St. John Parish.

As announced in the bulletin last week, we have hired a part time secretary at St. Mary Parish to provide an additional pastoral presence at the Parish Center in Export along with Joann Giuffre, our Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation and Parish Life at St. Mary and St. John Parishes. This new hire is also a way to make a statement that the parishes are ALIVE and we are NOT moving in the direction of closing any of the parishes in our region.

While not everyone may agree with the decision, I want to assure you that Fr. Jay, Fr. Dave and I are deeply committed to serving you and the needs of your parish communities.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Michael

LET THERE BE LIGHT

After many months of delays, St. John Church has finally been relamped! Many thanks to your DLA dollars at work, and to the persistence and supervision of parishioner John Wilt who saw this project through to completion last week. After supply chain issues and dealing with the scarcity of workers, the completion of this project at the beginning of Advent will certainly help us to celebrate the coming of Christ our Light.

We owe a debt of gratitude to John Wilt for his sharing his knowledge of the physical plant and the vision of the builders of our church with the workers who undertook this project. John was also responsible for overseeing the installation of new carpeting on the ramp leading to the parish social hall. His dedication to St. John de la Salle Parish is truly a gift to us all!

Last Sunday, St. Nicholas left special gifts for our students in their shoes outside their classroom doors. This tradition reminds us of the generosity and kindness of St. Nicholas, whose feast day the Church celebrates on December 6th.





HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

We will not meet again until January 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the MOSS gym for our New Year kick-off. There will be Moe's, volleyball and get-to-know-you bingo. Please bring a friend!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Youth Ministry will meet on on **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 PM for our Christmas Party. Email Jacob Gindhart at jgindhart@dioceseofgreensburg.org for more information and to be added to the Remind chat for updates in Youth Ministry.

COOKIE

FUNDRAISER

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!
WE STILL NEED YOU!

FOR OUR COOKIE FUNDRAISER WE NEED THE FOLLOWING COOKIES:



CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
PEANUT BUTTER BLOSSOMS
GINGERBREAD
SUGAR COOKIES
~~LADY LOCKS (DONE)~~
~~OATMEAL COOKIES (DONE)~~
SNICKERDOODLES
THUMBPRINTS

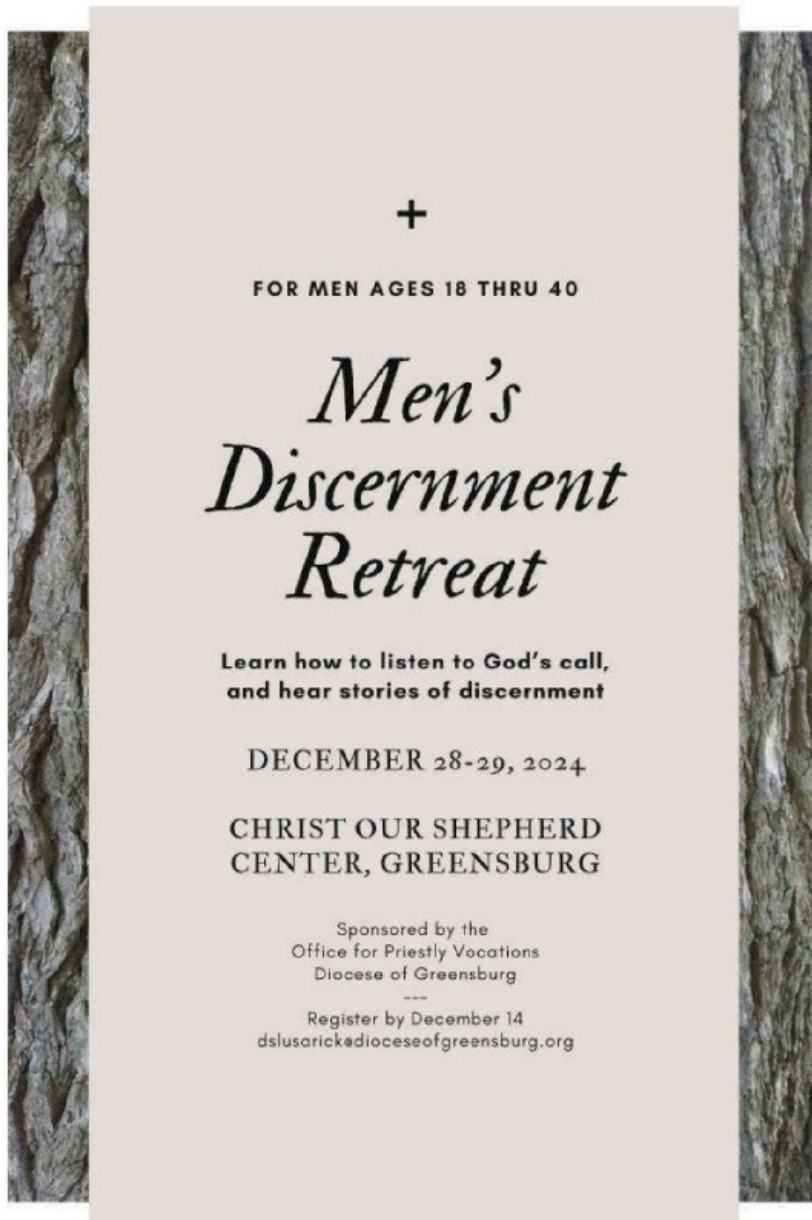


Contact Dina Colangelo to volunteer or for more info
dina.colangelo@gmail.com or cell 410-300-1244



The 2024 March for Life in Washington D.C. will take place on **Friday, January 24, 2025**. The bus will leave Mother of Sorrows Parish at 5:30 AM. The trip will include Mass at the National Basilica in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at 10:30 AM celebrated by Bishop Larry Kulick. A quick stop will be made on the way to Washington D.C. and a stop will be made on the way home for dinner at the Valley Mall in Hagerstown, MD. The bus should arrive back to MOS around 11:00 PM.

Register soon, as the bus fills up quickly! Email Barb Koury at barbkoury@gmail.com with your name and a your cell phone number. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and is payable on the bus or in the Parish Office.



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 motherofsorrowchurch.org and click on the image of the brochure on our homepage.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus are holding a blood drive in the Mother of Sorrows Social Hall on **Thursday, December 26** between 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

You can schedule your donation appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767 or by logging on to www.redcrossblood.org and entering your zip code in the 'find a blood drive' search box.

WEDDING WORKSHOP

All engaged couples planning a 2025 wedding are encouraged to attend this year's Wedding Workshop on **Saturday, January 11** from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM in the Social Hall.

Information will be provided that is needed to plan a beautiful, sacramental wedding. Please RSVP to Brooke in the Parish Office at 724-733-8870 or btognarina@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

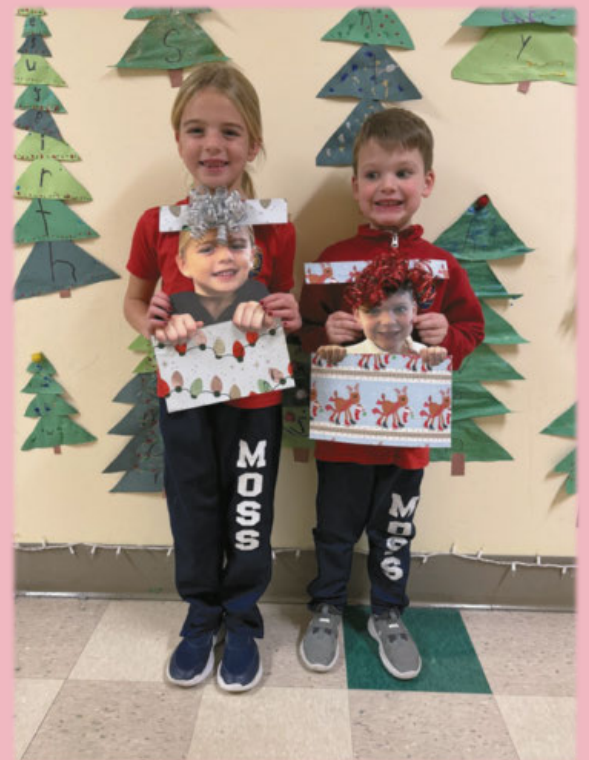


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Advent Season in the Classroom

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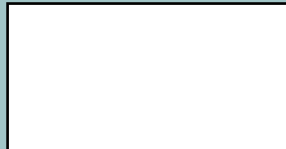
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