

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

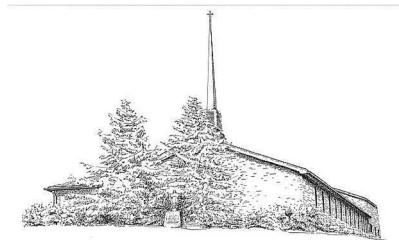
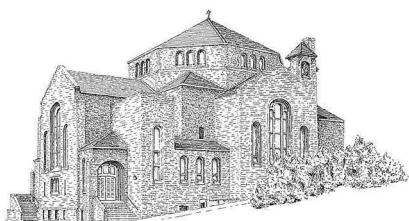
1024 Maple Way
Braddock PA 15104-1612

December 6, 2015

Parish Office: 412-271-1515
Fax: 412-271-1222

Website: www.goodshepherdbraddock.org

Serving the Communities of Braddock, Braddock Hills, East Pittsburgh,
North Braddock and Rankin.



Good Shepherd Church

Braddock Avenue at Frazier Street
Braddock PA 15104-1612

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Sacred Heart Church

1600 Brinton Road
Braddock Hills PA 15221-4902

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM

Weekday Mass: Monday—Thursday—9:00 AM
Sunday: 11:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday at 3:00 PM at Good Shepherd Church or by appointment

Parish Staff

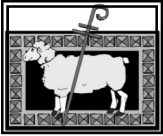
Reverend Albert J. Semler, Pastor
Deacon Joseph M. Dougherty
Mrs. Michele Catone, Parish Secretary (micky52@comcast.net)
Ms. Carol Funk, Parish Office Manager
Mr. Frank Koncerak, Director of Maintenance
Sr. Judith Stojhovic

Parish Telephone Numbers

Parish Office: 412-271-1515
Phone: 412-351-3710
Fax..... 412-271-1222
e-mail..... gshepoffice@comcast.net
East Catholic..... 412-351-5403
School Fax:..... 412-273-9114

- **Sacrament of Baptism:** Please call the Parish Office at 412-271-1515. Previous arrangements are necessary.
- **Instruction in the Faith:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. Contact the Parish Office at 412-271-1515.
- **Sacrament of Marriage:** The prospective bride & groom are to make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the Wedding. All couples are required to attend a marriage preparation class.
- **Parish Prayer Line:** Intentions may be placed on the Prayer Line by contacting Joanne at 412-271-8690 or email tjsjrfhi3@verizon.net
- **New Parishioners are always welcome.** Call the Parish Office to register or to notify of a change of address.

We are an “On Mission for the Church Alive” Faith Community.



December 6, 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

ADVENT 2015

I hope you're holding on tight because it seems to me that time is flying by. There's only about 44 days till my next vacation. But then who's counting? Can you say sunshine? Ok, enough of that! Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We hear John the Baptist proclaiming that we are to prepare the way of the Lord's coming by repenting for our sins. That's probably why Bishop Zubik chose this Wednesday as our annual "**The Lights Are On For You**" in each parish from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for confession during the Advent Season. This goes well with the following from last week's bulletin.

HOLY DOOR OF MERCY:

Bishop Zubik will open a special Holy Door of Mercy at St. Paul Cathedral during a mass on December 13 at 2:30 PM. You are invited to attend. This door will remain open through the conclusion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on November 26, 2016 in response to the call from Pope Francis for Catholics to seek and experience God's Mercy via a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

We will prepare for this by our Advent event of "**Keeping the Lights On For You**" on Wednesday, December 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church. You can petition God for this by coming to Confession that evening. However, if this time isn't good for you, just give me a call and we can arrange an appointment. If you have a "heavy" or "long suffering" item that you think that God would never forgive, please come or call and give me a chance to let you know that He will and does forgive you because of His Mercy.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Tuesday of this week is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have Mass on Monday evening at 7:00 PM in Sacred Heart Church and on Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM in Good Shepherd Church.

Our neighbors will have evening Mass on Tuesday:

Madonna del Castello: 7:00 PM Dec. 8

St. Colman 7:00 PM Dec. 8

St. Maurice 7:00 PM Dec. 8

"LUKE—STORIES ON THE ROAD"

Looking for an Advent Spiritual Lift? St. Angela Merici, White Oak invites you to join them this Friday, December 11th at 7:00 PM for "**Luke—Stories on the Road.**" This is presented by nationally known actor, Frank Runyeon, in his one man production where Luke shares the stories Jesus told his apostles on the road to Jerusalem, the parable we have heard so many times: The Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan and so on. "Stories" is timely for the opening of the Year of Mercy. Free will offering appreciated.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS:

Now is the time of year many of you take a few minutes to consider your income tax situation and need or want to make a special gift to your church. To record your kindness we need to have your gift by December 31, 2015. To make sure we get the most mileage out of your gift you must designate it as a gift to our Parish Share Program. Because of your goodness to our parish we are now paying our bills on time and hopefully we will not have to "tap" our savings program.

MINISTER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 12-13:

4:00 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: C.Mirenzi, F. Szekely, M. Leicht, M. Colao, D. Hrabley, P. Humberson, Deacon Joe

Lector: Eric Helminiak

Server: Jacob Cassidy

9:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: T & D Whyel, M. Garritano, Deacon Joe, M & L Petri, Bob McDonell

Lector: N. Russo

Servers: Julia Piccolino, Selah Corbett

11:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Joe, J & M Besseck, S. Szatkowski, J. Kondas, J. Barbusio

Lector: R. Stamerra

Server: Brianna Skladany

DECEMBER 19-20:

4:00 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: A.Kostyak, J. Kaczmariski, F. Szekely, M. Leicht, K. Mirenzi, J. Carleton, M. Colao

Lector: Grant Gunderson

Server: Steve Yezovich

9:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Strednak, T & D Whyel, P. Koncerak, C. DiNinno, L. Petri, M. Giulianelli

Lector: Mark Petri

Servers: Josh DiNinno

11:00 AM

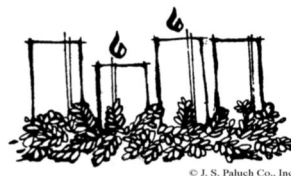
Eucharistic Ministers: H. Sullivan, K. Carroll, E. Foster, P. Fazio, C. Bakin, K. Bitkowski

Lector: Chester Chorazy

Server: Ryan Walker

Note: Please stop in the Sacristy to sign up for when you can serve for Christmas, New Year's, and the weekends following each of them. Thanks.

Please call a sub if you cannot be there or call Father Al at 412-812-5275 for last minute changes.



*Peace and Love,
Fr. Semler*

WOMEN'S GUILD COOKIE STROLL!!

The **Cookie Stroll** will take place today Sunday, December 6, 2015 at Sacred Heart Hall from 12 Noon – 3:00 PM. Come and support our ladies and enjoy some great cookies!

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Seniors will hold their Christmas Party this Wednesday, December 9th at Sacred Heart Hall. Doors open at 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 2:00 PM. There will be 5 free games of Bingo; and 4 specials that you buy. There will also be Share the Wealth and Chinese auction. Anyone wishing to donate a gift feel free to do so. Donation for the party is \$20.00. Everyone receives a gift. No tickets sold at the door. If you need a ticket call Betty at 412-824-8819.

Pictures for the Parish Pictorial Directory will be taken at the back of the Hall.

New members, 50 years and older will be accepted in the new year.

Please note: If the weather is bad there will be no meeting. If you are in doubt, call Betty at 412-824-8819.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON FOR YOU for *Confession* on this Wednesday, December 9th, 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church. Bring a friend.



Please take an ornament from the tree and return the gift, wrapped with the ornament attached to Good Shepherd or Sacred Heart Church by **Sunday, December 13th**.

Gifts can also be brought to the Parish Office. If you have questions, please call Denise at 412-915-9147. Help us to make a blessed Christmas for the deserving students of our Parish and School.

FORGIVENESS

God forgives like a mother who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Stewardship: Time - Talent - Treasure

Sunday, November 22nd:	\$5,061.00
Parishioners receiving env: 652	env used: 304
Loose Offertory:	\$298.00
Religious Retirement: \$ 1,714.00	env used:100
Loose Religious Retirement:	\$313.00
Votive:	\$199.00
Sunday, November 29th:	\$5,493.00
Parishioners receiving env: 652	env used: 304
Loose Offertory:	\$ 191.00
St. Vincent de Paul: \$1,527.00	env used: 172
Loose St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 222.00
Votive:	\$ 176.00

May God bless your generosity!

INVITATION FROM THE 'UPPER ROOM'

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Semler for allowing me to use Herb's former office. Since it is upstairs from the Good Shepherd Church Sacristy, I have called it the **'upper room'**. I plan on using the office as a quiet place to prepare my homilies, as a meeting place for those I am assisting with the annulment process, as a place to keep some of my books, paperwork, and religious articles, and as an office to study.

There are four invitations that I would like to extend to those looking for **'something extra'** to do for Advent. All are welcome to give one of these extra prayer events a try in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

OUR PARISH

Thursday Mornings - Sacred Heart Chapel
8:30 AM Rosary, 9 AM Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet following Mass

Thursday Evenings Prayer Group at Sacred Heart Chapel, 7 PM Adoration, Rosary, Hymns, Public Prayer

NEIGHBORING PARISH

Tuesday Evenings - Holy Hour at Madonna del Castello in Swissvale 7-8 PM Adoration & Rosary

Friday Evening-Holy Hour at Madonna del Castello in Swissvale 7-8 PM Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet

Deacon Joe

GOOD SHEPHERD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tickets are now available for our Christmas Party which will be held in Good Shepherd School Hall on **Saturday, December 12, 2015 IMMEDIATELY after the 4:00 PM Mass**. Dinner will be served at 5:15 PM. In order to keep the cost down we made it a BYOB party. Mixers and ice will be included. The cost is \$18.00 per person or \$35.00 per couple. This includes a delicious buffet dinner furnished by **Banquets Unlimited** and dancing to the Mikey Dee Trio and also a concert from our own Good Shepherd Handbell Choir. Only 200 tickets will be sold. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. **Please call Theodore Schleifer at 724-977-3833. Tickets must be ordered TODAY.**

RINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Our Handbell Choir will be performing several public performances this Christmas season. If you're looking to hear some good music and get in the holiday spirit, you can see them perform on the following dates: **Saturday, December 5th** at the PPG Wintergarden at 7:00 PM, **Friday, December 11th** at Kennywood Lights at 6:15 PM, or **Saturday, December 19th** at One Oxford Center on Grant Street downtown at 11:30 AM. We will also be making an appearance at the parish Christmas party and having a **Christmas Concert at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM**. We'd love to see some familiar faces in the crowd as we help to make the season merry!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

St. Vincent de Paul phone: 412-437-8370

ST. JOHN FISHER CHOIR

St. John Fisher Choir will present a concert of Christmas music TODAY, Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00 PM in the Church, 33 Lewin Ln, Churchill. A warm welcome is extended to all. Free will offering only.

FREE STORY TIME SESSION

at East Catholic School Library

Wednesday December 16, 2015 is the next "Perfect for Preschoolers Story-time" at East Catholic School, 2001 Ardmore Boulevard, Forest Hills PA 15221. This is a free story, rhyme, song and craft program designed to entertain and engage young children. The program is for children 2 1/2 to 5 years old and is designed to give them a positive introduction to books and the habit of reading. Each program features appealing books, favorite stories, and lively activities. The theme of this Story-time is "Christmas". There will be one session from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

We invite all children along with their parent or guardian to come and visit Story time at East Catholic Library. Registration is required by calling East Catholic School Office (412-351-5403) during school hours (8:30 am until 2:00 pm) Final date for registration is Monday, December 14, 2015.

Join us for some "Christmas" fun! East Catholic follows Woodland Hills School District Weather cancellation

THE LIVING NATIVITY-The beauty of the Christmas season will come alive on Tuesday **December 15th at 7:00 PM** with "**The Living Nativity**" at St. Maurice Church, 2001 Ardmore Blvd. in Forest Hills, PA. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of East Catholic School will tell the story of Jesus' birth through narration, song and liturgical dance.

A BUSY MOTHER

Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children. —St. John Vianney

Diocesan Toll-Free Number for Abuse Response:
1-888-808-1235

Safe Environment Administrator: Rose Morgan

MASSSES for the WEEK

Good Shepherd Parish
December 6-13, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent (Lk 3:1-6)
GS: 4:00 PM Bill Rolinski by Wife & Son
GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
SH: 11:00 AM Mary Haski by Family

Monday-St Ambrose (Lk 5:17-26)
SH: 9:00 AM Marilyn Glade by Joyce Family
SH 7:00 PM Anticipated Mass
Dolores Barbusio
by Janet & Alan Kondas

Tuesday-The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lk 1:26-38)
GS: 9:00 AM Phillip Mariani by Helen Yurko

Wednesday-Advent Weekday (Mt 11:28-30)
SH: 9:00 AM Ricky Foster by Philomena Stamerra

Thursday-Advent Weekday (Mt 11:11-15)
SH: 9:00 AM Catherine Motkowski
by Sophie & Gene Szatkowski

Friday-Advent Weekday (Mt 11:16-19)
No Morning Mass

Saturday-Our Lady of Guadalupe (Lk 1:26-38)
No Morning Mass

Third Sunday of Advent (Lk 3:10-18)
GS: 4:00 PM Lawrence Kuzins by Wife & Family
GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
SH: 11:00 AM Carol Ritzel by Dorothy Hudak

Rest In Peace

*In your charity, we remember all those
who have died, especially:*

Joan Zezza.

May the angels lead you into paradise.

What's Happening this Week

December 6-13, 2015

Sunday: Noon-3:00 PM Cookie Stroll SH Hall
Monday: 7:00 PM Scouts GS School
Thursday: 6:30 PM Prayer Group SH Chapel
Saturday: 5:00 PM Christmas Party GS School Hall

Christmas Discernment Retreat -- Fr. Joe Freedy along with Frs. Welding, Vaskov, and Noel will be leading a retreat for men who desire a deeper relationship with Christ, are seeking to know their vocation, and are interested in learning more about discerning a vocation to the Priesthood. Weekend will include daily Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession, conferences, solid brotherhood, as well as a talk and discussion with Bishop Zubik. Friday Evening, December 18th – Sunday Morning, December 20th. No Cost. Gilmary Retreat Center. Must be 18 or older. For more information or to register please visit www.pghpriest.com

This bulletin is from
Good Shepherd Church
1024 Maple Way
Braddock PA 15104
Fax: 412-271-1222
Email: gshepof-
face@comcast.
net

PRINT COVER, ADS,
AND OUTSIDE TABS
IN CYAN EVERY
WEEK!!!