

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

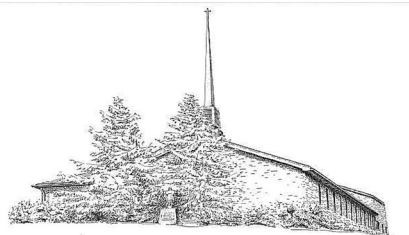
1024 Maple Way
Braddock PA 15104-1612

December 17, 2017

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

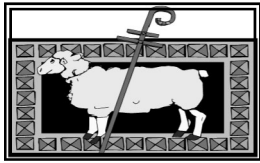
Parish Telephone Numbers

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- **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

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



December 17, 2017
From the Pastor's Desk

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT 2017:

The Third Sunday of Advent is also called **GAUDETE** Sunday. When we pass the half way mark of Advent and Lent we celebrate in a joyful mood because preparation for the oncoming feasts are more than half over. So as we rejoice today let us contemplate on the way we are preparing. Ask yourself are you joyful or are you stressed? If you answer stressed then you are not preparing properly. The physical and NOT the spiritual concerns are weighing you down. So, refocus and become joyful. I heard that ... and you are right. I don't have 20 people or so coming to dinner!

NEXT WEEKEND:

Next weekend is a biggie in that Christmas Day follows on Monday. So please note that the Masses for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** are the same as every other Sunday: 4:00 PM on Saturday, and 9:00 AM on Sunday at Good Shepherd and 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart.

Then the **Christmas celebration** starts with Mass at 4:00 PM on Sunday and then at 9:00 AM on Monday at Good Shepherd and 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart.

So invite a family member or friend to join you for the Christmas Mass. And offer to pick them up if they need a ride.

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND:

The following weekend is New Year's weekend. Masses are as usual on Saturday and Sunday. **But New Year's Day is not a Holyday this year since it falls on a Monday.** And please note the next item.

WEEKDAY MASS CHANGE:

As I announced before, we will change our weekday mass to 7:00 AM beginning Monday, January 1, 2018. Father Elmer, our very faithful retired priest, can no longer commit to a 7:00 AM mass every morning. So with one less priest, Father Ken and I decided that we want to keep a 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM mass available since they are both well attended. So we will have the 7:00 AM and the 9:00 AM will be at St. Maurice. I will put the mass schedule for our neighbors in the December 31 bulletin. One of these times may fit your schedule better.

END OF YEAR DONATION:

Some of you like to make an end of the year donation to help reduce taxes. Please write **Parish Share Program** on your donation to support us in the best possible way.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES COLLECTION:

The second collection at all Christmas Masses will be taken for the annual Children & Youth Collection. Kindly respond as you are able. This collection is also credited to our 2017 Parish Share Program.

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!

In All Circumstances Give Thanks – For people of faith, thanksgiving is not just a day in November when we gather with family and loved ones to eat turkey and stuffing and watch football. Instead, thankfulness is one of the foundational virtues of our lives. In our prayer we give thanks as we recognize the many ways God is at work. In the Eucharist, which itself means “to give thanks,” we offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God from the multitude of gifts he provides. It is easy to give thanks to God for what we consider the joys and blessings of our lives. Yet, are we thankful for the difficulties and challenges? In today's readings Saint Paul exhorts us to give thanks in all circumstances, recognizing the constant work of the Holy Spirit within and among us. As we journey On Mission for The Church Alive! we reflect with thankful hearts on how our parishes have supported and inspired our faith. And as we prepare for the changes to come, may our gratitude for God's constant work in our lives encourage us as we build up new communities of faith. Visit **onmissionchurchalive.org** to learn more and to stay informed.

TURKEY TROT-SECOND CHANCE:

The winners will be published in next week's bulletin for the 2nd chance winners from December 11-15.

CRAZY DEADLINES:

We will have crazy deadlines for our Sunday bulletin. But eventually we will catch up. If you should miss one you can get one from the previous bulletin containers in each church vestibule.

CHURCH ENVELOPES:

The church envelopes for next year are at Sacred Heart this weekend. On Monday they will move to the office.

MINISTERS:

Please minister at the masses you designated on the sign-up sheets for the following weekends: December 23-24, 24-25 and December 30-31.

OFFICE:

The office will only open one day between Christmas and New Year's Day. So please note that the office will only be open on Wednesday, December 27 (from December 23 to January 2nd). As you are enjoying Christmas know that my faithful staff is too.

MASS TIMES:

In case you need a Mass time for Christmas different than ours, I share these:

Sunday, December 24: 4:00 PM Madonna del Castello
6:00 PM Word of God
Midnight Word of God
Monday, December 25: 10:00 AM Madonna del Castello

*Peace and Love,
Fr. Semler*

MONTHLY COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

The final MCC will be celebrated Wednesday, December 27, at 9:00 AM at Sacred Heart. Donations are to be turned in by Wednesday, December 20th.

Please Note: This will be the last MCC Mass.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to 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 Society Phone: 412-437-8370

LADIES OF CHARITY

Please Note: The ladies will NOT meet this month.

Our ladies are selling Christmas ornaments (\$5.00 each). Proceeds of the sale will go toward the Ladies of Charity Assembly in Pittsburgh in 2018. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

WALKING TOURS AT EAST CATHOLIC

Is your child ready to start Preschool or Kindergarten? Please join us at East Catholic School for a tour and see firsthand what we have to offer from pre-K through 8th grade. **Registration is required for the walking tours.** Call the school office at 412/351-5403 to register for a tour today! **Current scheduled tour:** Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 9:30 AM.

**Catholic Schools Week Open House
Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 1—3 PM
No registration required for open house.**

What's Happening this Week

December 17-24, 2017

Sunday:	2:30 PM Bell Concert	GS Church
Monday:	7:00 PM Scouts	GS School
Wednesday:	6-7 PM RCIA	SH Hall
Thursday:	7:00 PM Prayer Group	SH Chapel
Friday:	6-7 PM Bell Choir at	
		PPG Wintergarden
Saturday:	6:15-6:45 PM Bell Choir at Kennywood	

Stewardship: Time - Talent - Treasure

Sunday, December 10th:	\$6,061.00
Parishioners receiving env: 652	env used: 264
Loose Offertory:	\$305.00
School Offering: \$498.00	env used: 55
Loose School Offering:	\$ 82.00
Votive:	\$179.00

Thank you for your generosity

HANDBELL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

The bell choir will be performing on the following dates and times:

TODAY:

Sunday, December 17 - Concert at Good Shepherd Church 2:30 p.m.

Friday, December 22 - PPG Wintergarden from 6-7 PM

Saturday, December 23 - Kennywood Holiday Lights from 6:15 - 6:45 PM

Come out to support our kids and help to ring in holidays.



THE SOUNDS AND EVENTS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Music is in the air as the students at **East Catholic School** prepare for a variety of musical performances in December.

THE LIVING NATIVITY

The beauty of the Christmas season comes alive on Tuesday **December 19th** with "The Living Nativity" at St. Maurice Church at 7:00 p.m. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of East Catholic School will tell the story of Jesus' birth through narration, song and liturgical dances.

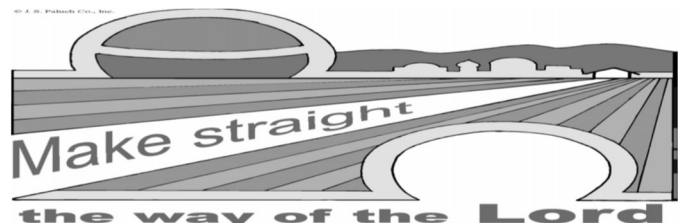
BAND CONCERT

The East Catholic School Band will have a concert on Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm in Keane Hall (School Cafeteria). All are invited to attend.

We hope everyone will be able to attend these events to support our students and school while celebrating the Christmas season!

HOLIDAY SAFETY

- ◇ Tips to keep your celebrations hazard free!
- ◇ Inspect all electrical decorations for damage before use.
- ◇ Keep tree fresh by watering it daily and locating it at least three feet from heat source.
- ◇ Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.
- ◇ Check decorations for a safety certifications label—if it doesn't have one, it hasn't been tested. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.
- ◇ To avoid a fire hazard, use battery-operated candles.
- ◇ Protect electrical cords from damage and do not overload outlets.
- ◇ Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking to avoid kitchen fires.



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

The University is holding an **Accounting Honors Institute** for high school students who have an interest in business. There are 3 topics with 2 sessions each held on Saturday mornings on campus in January, February and March. Students may sign up for one or more topics. Information and registration is available online at www.duq.edu/business/AHI or by calling Debbie at 412-396-5832.

AUTHENTIC HAPPINESS: A High School Silent Retreat

Have you ever allowed God to speak to you through silence? What does it mean to find Him as the source of your authentic happiness? Find out through Authentic Happiness: A High School Silent Retreat. Father Mike Ackerman will lead this retreat for high school men, February 3-4 at Martina Spiritual Renewal Center. It will include Mass, adoration, dynamic talks, and solid brotherhood. No cost. To register, visit PGHPriest.com by January 22.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD weekend retreat for post-abortion healing will be held on March 2 - 4, 2018 at Tabor House in Millvale. To register or for more information, call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348 or email: tonia-fj1@comcast.net.

DON'T SUFFER THROUGH ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

Hope and help for troubled marriages is available through Retrouvaille. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 19, 2018, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at <http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org>.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRAIN DISPLAY

This annual display will take place at St. Aloysius, Second Floor, 3616 Mt. Troy Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, Reserve Township. Operating hours are Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Sundays from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM, November 25, 2017 through January 14, 2018. They are closed on Saturday, December 23 and Sunday, December 24. Free Admission, however donations are appreciated. The event is sponsored by St. Aloysius Christian Mothers.

CATHOLIC SINGLES, 21 & OVER

The Catholic Alumni Club offers a variety of social opportunities including league athletics, parties, picnics, dances, dinners, hiking, volleyball, scripture study, trips, etc. For information, check out www.capittsburgh.org.

YOUNG ADULTS & SINGLES OF ALL AGES:

Check out Catholicthrive.com

Diocesan Toll-Free Number for Abuse Response:

1-888-808-1235

Safe Environment Administrator: Rose Morgan

MASSSES for the WEEK

Good Shepherd Parish
December 17-24, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent (Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)

GS: 4:00 PM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

GS: 9:00 AM Donna Hidinger by Family

SH: 11:00 AM Helen Tomasic

by Andrew & Ann Skladany

Monday-Late Advent Weekday (Mt 1:18-25)

SH: 9:00 AM Joseph Napolitano by Therese Brail

Tuesday-Late Advent Weekday (Lk 1:5-25)

SH: 9:00 AM Carole McIntyre by Cel & Ed Fischer

Wednesday-Late Advent Weekday (Lk 1:26-38)

SH: 9:00 AM Pat Emrock by Wife

Thursday-Late Advent Weekday (Lk 1:39-45)

SH: 9:00 AM Margaret Macara by Family

Friday-Late Advent Weekday (Lk 1:46-56)

No Morning Mass

Saturday-Late Advent Weekday (Lk 1:57-66)

No Morning Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Lk 1:26-38)

GS: 4:00 PM Adam Mains by Loretta Yanowich

GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

SH: 11:00 AM Walter Chuckro by Martin McLaughlin

REST IN PEACE

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

Richard L. Blazina.

May the angels lead you into paradise.

MEMORIAL OFFERING THIS WEEK:

Sanctuary Lamp:

In Memory of George J. and Eleanore Bandik

by Family

TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Make Sundays complete for someone who can't get to church because of age, illness or weather conditions.

Sunday TV Mass will be shown at 6:30 AM on:

WINP (ION) channel 46

Comcast Cable, channel 4

Verizon Fios, channel 16

Dish Network, channel 16 or 216

DirecTV, Channel 305

EWTN-12:00 Noon everyday

To watch the Mass online anytime on Sundays, visit
www.heartofthenation.org

WELCOME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

***Kindly welcome a family member or friend home for
Christmas Mass. Maybe even offer to bring them.***

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

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