

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

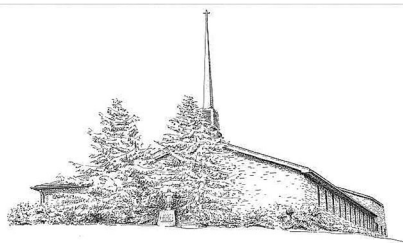
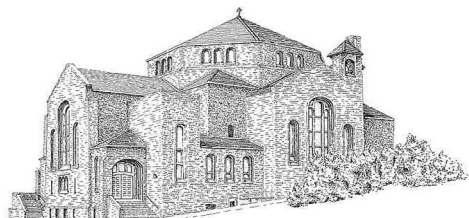
1024 Maple Way
Braddock PA 15104-1612

December 20, 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

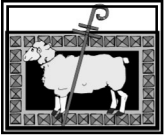
Reverend Albert J. Semler, Pastor
Deacon Joseph M. Dougherty
Mrs. Michele Catone, Parish Secretary (micky52@comcast.net)
Ms. Carol Funk, Parish Office Manager
Mr. Frank Koncerak, Director of Maintenance
Sr. Judith Stojhovic

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 20, 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

ADVENT 2015

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Mary made her usual 4th Sunday appearance. This year, Year C, Elizabeth appears with her and praises her for her majestic YES. And then we proceed to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. What a great week of celebration it will be. Again, I encourage you to welcome home a family member, a friend or a co-worker to share mass with us or perhaps their family in another church. The Birth of Christ should provide each of us with a new Birth for our own Spiritual Life.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Our Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is as follows:

- December 24: 4:00 PM Good Shepherd
- 10:00 PM Good Shepherd
- December 25: 9:00 AM Good Shepherd
- 11:00 AM Sacred Heart

NEW YEAR'S DAY:

As you prepare for your New Year's Mass, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, please know that Father John at St. Maurice and I have arranged two New Year's Eve Masses. The Mass at St. Maurice will be at 5:00 PM and ours at Sacred Heart will be at 7:00 PM. Hopefully this will give you a chance to plan your evening. We'll have an envelope switch on Monday after the New Year. Mass on January 1st will be at 9:00 AM at Good Shepherd Church and 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart.

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.

SISTER MARITA AWARD:

Well, I really don't have a Sister Marita Award but if I did I would give it to Theodore Schleifer. He reminded me of Sister Marita the week of December 6 to 12. He was here, there and everywhere coordinating our Photo Directory and the Christmas Party. Our thanks to Theodore and also to his helpers for a job well done.

SPEAKING OF SR. MARITA reminded me that I wanted to publish her address along with Herb's in the bulletin. Better late than never. So here they are:

Sr. Marita Charley, O.P.
Mohun Health Center, #303
2340 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219

Mr. Herbert Dillahunt
5730 Great Northern Boulevard, I-1
North Olmsted, PA 44070

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!

We are in the early weeks of the Jubilee Year of Mercy called by the Holy Father. The Jubilee Year will last until November 28th next year. Pope Francis has described this year as a "favorable time to heal wounds." At the same time, we have begun "On Mission for The Church Alive!" The goal of "On Mission" is to help our parishes become even more vibrant communities of service. What social outreach to the community can our parish do that it is not doing now?

To read more, check our "On Mission for The Church Alive!" on page 5 of this week's Pittsburgh Catholic and visit www.OnMissionChurchAlive.org.

MINISTER SCHEDULE

PLEASE REMEMBER your sign ups for December 24, 25, 26 & 27 and for December 31 and January 1, 2, & 3. But I am not worried because I know you are willing to come up if we are short of ministers.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:

We are in those early bulletin deadline days so hopefully everything will be in order. Collection reports will be in when they are available. While on the monetary subject I want you to know why we didn't publish our financial statement for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. They changed "systems" at the Diocese and they had "lots of problems." We will publish it as soon as possible. Thanks for understanding.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

I want to wish each of you a very spiritual Christmas Day and Season. May you keep the love and joy that the Christ Child brings to you alive and well in your hearts and lives every day of your life.



*Peace and Love,
Fr. Semler*

RINGING IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Please join us this afternoon as our Bell Choir presents their Christmas concert here at Good Shepherd Church at 4:00 PM. Bring your family and friends!



Special birthday wishes to Father Al, who will celebrate his 75th birthday this Wednesday, December 23rd. We'll see if he can blow out all of his candles at one time!

THANKS TO ALL

A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in our Giving Tree. Special thanks to **Peggy Cox** and **Denise Cunningham** for organizing this wonderful tradition in our parish each year for our children.

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS

Special thanks go out to our bulletin advertisers. We appreciate their support as they provide our bulletins each week at a very low cost to the parish. Please support them with your business whenever possible. They will be remembered at our January 27th MCC.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES COLLECTION

The second collection at all Christmas Masses will be taken for the annual Christmas Charities Collection. Your generosity toward those in need will be greatly appreciated. This collection is also credited to our 2015 Parish Share Program.

PARENTING POINTERS

These last few days before Christmas can be hectic - concerts, cooking, creating gifts... As the nights grow longer, a candle can be your friend. Light the 4th Advent candle tonight and pause, gaze, take a deep breath. Let the pause refresh and calm you.

~©2015 by Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net

Stewardship: Time - Talent - Treasure

Holy Day-Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8th: \$ 1,598.00

Parishioners receiving env.: 652 Env used: 165

Loose Holy Day Offering: \$ 80.00

Sunday, December 13th: \$7,209.00

Parishioners receiving env: 652 env used: 351

Loose Offertory: \$331.00

School Offering: \$504.00 env used: 65

Loose School Collection: \$104.00

Votive: \$251.00

May God bless your generosity!

****PLEASE NOTE****

2016 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

After this weekend all of the envelopes will be transported back to the Parish Office. If you weren't able to pick yours up at Church, you will be able to stop by the office to pick them up. For information or questions, please call the Office at 412-271-1515.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there.

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.

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

Christmas Flower Donations are listed on the insert in today's bulletin. If you gave a donation and your name has been omitted, please call the Parish Office and we'll be happy to post it in the bulletin at the next opportunity. Thank you for your generosity.

East Catholic School Walking Tours for the 2016-2017 School Year

Choosing the right school for your child is a very intuitive decision. Many parents say that they just know in their gut, while touring a school, which school environment is the best fit for them and their child.

The school tours are conducted during school hours. This will allow parents to observe the children in the classroom, learn about the programs, meet our teachers and find out more about the East Catholic School philosophy. Tours include classroom observation as well as a guided tour of the facility. Parents will receive an application with additional information for them to consider.

To sign up for a tour: Contact the School Office between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm at 412-351-5403.

East Catholic School Walking Tour Dates are as follows : January 6 and 20 at 9:30 am, January 31 2016 Open House, February 9 and 23 at 9:30 am and March 2 at 9:30 am. A special tour will be on Sunday March 13, 2016 (at Story Time) scheduled for 2:00 pm.

NATURE RESTORED

Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature. —St. Peter Chrysologus

*Peace
on Earth*

EAST CATHOLIC GALA

We are again planning to have our **East Catholic Gala** this school year. Please save the date of Saturday, February 27, 2016 for an evening of fun, great prizes, and good food and dancing. It will be held at Stratigos Banquet Facility. This is an over 21 event. Ticket price is \$85.00 per person and they are now on sale. Included in the price are: hors d'oeuvres and sit down dinner, complimentary beer and wine table, music and dancing, featuring "The Soul Searchers" with Father John.

There will also be live and silent auctions, games of chance and \$1,000 raffle and ten \$100 prizes.

Any questions, please contact: Amie & Kenny Cooley at 412-260-2989, or you may email them to amie4dance@msn.com, or Laurie & Lou Del Rosso, 412-841-8767 or email ldelrosso3@gmail.com

4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE—The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 15, 2016, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434.

More information is available at

<http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>

PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC HIGHLIGHTS

**There will be a lot of activities around the Diocese of Pittsburgh to kick off the New Year. The December 25th issue will include a pull-out calendar of events for January, 2016. Be sure to look for it in your Pittsburgh Catholic.

**In celebration of the birth of Christ, the December 25th issue will also include a beautiful, full-page photo for the Christmas season accompanied by a letter from Bishop Zubik to all the faithful of the Diocese.

Weekend Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing -- Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held January 22-24, 2016 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women (and men) struggling with abortion's aftermath. Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh co-sponsor this retreat. To register or for more information, call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348 or email toniafj1@comcast.net

Diocesan Toll-Free Number for Abuse Response:

1-888-808-1235

Safe Environment Administrator: Rose Morgan

MASSSES for the WEEK



Good Shepherd Parish
December 20-27, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Lk 1:30-45)
GS: 4:00 PM Frank Trybus by Ceil Balogh & Family
GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
SH: 11:00 AM Carole McIntyre
by Mom & Dad Fischer

Monday-Advent Weekday (Lk 1:39-45)
SH: 9:00 AM John Joschak by Joschak Family

Tuesday-Advent Weekday (Lk 1:46-56)
SH: 9:00 AM Margaret Macara by Family

Wednesday-Advent Weekday (Lk 1:57-66)
SH: 9:00 AM Schleifer & McClelland Families
by Family

Thursday-Advent Weekday (Lk 1:67-79)
No Morning Mass



Christmas Eve

GS: 4:00 PM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
GS: 10:00 PM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish

Friday-The Nativity of the Lord (Jn 1:1-18)
GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
SH: 11:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish



Saturday-St. Stephen, First Martyr (Mt 10:17-22)
No Morning Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
(Lk 2:41-52)

GS: 4:00 PM Nellie Mazzoni
by William & Anita Bordas
GS: 9:00 AM Parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish
SH: 11:00 AM Terry Bryan by Gloria Bryan

Rest In Peace

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

Please remember in your prayers, **Anna Szarmach,**
who died this past week. Anna was a long time mem-
ber of Good Shepherd Parish before she moved away.

May the angels lead you into paradise.

WEEKLY MEMORIAL OFFERING:

Sanctuary Lamp: *In Memory of George Bandik*
By Family

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL OFFERING:

Altar Bread, Altar Wine, Altar Candles, and
Sanctuary Lamp:

In Memory of George Urda
By Wife & Family

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!!!