

# St. Patrick

## Roman Catholic Parish

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

317 West Pike Street Canonsburg, PA 15317

Rev. John J. Batykefer, Pastor  
Rev. Richard S. Jones, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Mr. Joseph Cerenzia, Deacon

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Ph: 724-745-6560 Fax: 724-746-1112

Email: [stpatparish@verizon.net](mailto:stpatparish@verizon.net)

Website: [www.stpatrickparish.net](http://www.stpatrickparish.net)

## December 16, 2007

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 724-745-3787

Carol Serbak, Catechetical Administrator  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.  
Pre-school - 8th Grade

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Contact a Priest 6 months before intended date of marriage. Pre-marriage preparation is required. Call the Rectory - 724-745-6560.

### ST. PATRICK SCHOOL 724-745-7977

Mr. Stanley Mozina, Principal  
Pre-school - 8th Grade

### COMMUNION CALLS

Any homebound member or shut-in may receive Holy Communion in their home. A Eucharistic Minister, Deacon or Priest will visit.

### COUNSELING SERVICES

**Catholic Charities** 724-228-7722  
**CRISIS PREGNANCY** 1-888-543-3243  
**POST ABORTION** 1-800-593-2273

### CHAPLAIN

#### Fr. Gabriel Badurina, TOR

Serving Canonsburg General Hospital and area Nursing Facilities. Fr. Badurina can be reached by calling 724-745-6560, Ext. 21.



### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (SP) 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday (SP) 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m.  
Mon. - Fri. (SP) 7:00 a.m.  
Wed. (SP) 9:00 a.m.  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. (SG) 8:00 a.m.

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and anytime by request

### BAPTISM

First time parents should contact the Parish Office well in advance of an expected Baptism, before birth when possible, to prepare for and to schedule the Baptism. Baptisms during Mass are held the 1st Sunday of the month and Baptisms after Mass at 1:15 p.m. are held the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month.

### BECOMING A CATHOLIC

Instructions to prepare adults for reception into the Catholic Faith or for any of the Sacraments are offered by our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Program. Please call 724-745-3787 for more information.

### BIBLE STUDY

Meet every Monday in Church, 7:00-8:15 p.m.  
Bring a Bible, invite a friend. All are welcome!

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CAR MAGNETS**



With all of the distractions of the season, it's the simple reminders that cause us to pause and reflect on our Savior's birth. As Knights and fellow Christians, the **Knights of Columbus** have developed a way to keep the focus of the Christmas Season on the true meaning of Christmas...Christ! Our Knights of Columbus will be selling car magnets in the shape of the Nativity Scene after all masses the weekends of December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup>. The attractive magnet is white with a black border and has the words Keep Christ in Christmas emblazoned across the bottom and is highly visible on all colors of cars and trucks. The actual size of the magnet is 6.25" X 7". Best of all, the Knights are only asking for a donation of **\$1.00 each**, which is below their cost!

**OPLATKI (Christmas Wafers)** are available at the rectory office. Office hours are Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 pm and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Donations will be accepted.



**This Sunday & Every Sunday in Advent**, High School Youth Ministry will be **meeting from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. All members are encouraged to bring both a friend and a Christmas ornament or decoration each week as the anticipation of the Advent season both builds and ushers us into Christmas joy.



**A PENANCE SERVICE** will be held in St. Patrick Church on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will have several visiting priests available for confession.

**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES** following is a schedule of Penance Services held in our Washington West Deanery. All services begin at 7:00 p.m. and have visiting priests available for confession.

- Mon., Dec. 17 Immaculate Conception (Washington)
- Tues., Dec. 18 St. Benedict (Peters Township)
- Wed., Dec. 19 St. Patrick (Canonsburg)

**ST. PATRICK CEMETERY MAUSOLEUM** will be open Saturday, December 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 9, 2007*

Envelopes.....	\$14,050.50
Children's Envelopes .....	\$71.95
Loose Cash and Coin .....	\$851.30
St. Patrick School.....	\$110.00
Parish Total .....	\$15,083.75

*Immaculate Conception  
December 8, 2007*

Envelopes.....	\$2,132.00
Children's Envelopes .....	\$2.00
Loose Cash and Coin .....	\$216.35
Parish Total .....	\$3,087.35

**Weekly Budgeted Expenses .....** \$13,980.67

**YOUR SACRIFICE IS APPRECIATED!**

**PARKING LOT RESURFACING**

Total cost: \$178,000.00\*

\*This includes the added cost for the new parking areas of \$28,000.00.

Amount in savings to date: \$132,615.06  
Including \$57,245.06 in individual donations

Amount still needed: \$45,384.94

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT !**

**A SECOND COLLECTION** will be taken on Christmas Day for Christmas Charities (*Children & Youth Envelope*).

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- December 16 - Church Decorating Begins**— After 12 Mass
- **High School YM Advent Session**  
1:30 - 3:00 Center: Teen Room
- **Catholic Men's Club Christmas Party**  
Doors Open - 6:30 pm & Dinner - 7:00 pm  
( Rolling Hills Country Club )
- December 17- Ladies of Charity** - 9:00 am: Center
- **Heinz Hall Trip** - 5:45 pm: Board Bus (SP)
- **RCIA** - 7:00 pm: Center
- **No Bible Study**
- December 18- Choir Rehearsal** - 5:20 -10:00 pm: Church
- December 19- Temporalities Mtg.** - 7:00 pm: Center
- **Parish Penance Service** - 7:00 pm: Church



**ST. PATRICK RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**December Sessions: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 - 9:45 am

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 5:00 (SP) (P.M.— **VIGIL for Third Sunday of Advent**)  
Vene Simpson & Thresa Glass Family by Kathryn Simpson
- 7:30 (SP) FOR THE PEOPLE
- 10:00 (SP) Tissot, DiMuzio & DelBene Families by  
Natalie Tissot
- 12:00 (SP) William & Mary Keegan Sr. & Theresa  
Keegan Mathia by Phyllis Keegan
- 5:00 (SP) (P.M.) Louis & Antoinetta Lombardi by Children

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 7:00 (SP) Pauline Mirisciotta by Mary Berti
- 8:00 (SG) Angelo Tatano by Don & Marsha Nagy
- 10:00 (Kingdom Manor)** Susan Marin by Family

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 7:00 (SP) Jacob Martincic by Sophie & Richard Kern
- 8:00 (SG) Joseph Galletta by Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Galletta
- 10:00 (Charles House)** Walter Mark by Walter Redling
- Months Mind: Mary Holland**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 7:00 (SP) Martin Gonglik by Family
- 9:00 (SP) Birthday of Fr. Robin Evanish by Margie Thornhill
- 2:00 (Golden Living)** Poor Souls by Elizabeth Nalitz
- Months Mind: John A. Wallack**

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:00 (SP) Paul and Mary Kvak by Estate
- 8:00 (SG) Joseph Balzama by Family

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 7:00 (SP) Theresa Mathia by Family
- 8:00 (SG) Alice Staniszewski by Family
- 10:00 (Ahepa)** Sarah Puchany Thomas by John, Jamie &  
Jay & Family

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 7:30 (SP) Fran Castafero by Family
- 11:30 to 12:30 (P.M.) – RECONCILIATION**
- 5:00 (SP) (P.M.— **VIGIL for Fourth Sunday of Advent**)  
Stanley & Mary Soberl by Daughters, Martha & Marie

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30 (SP) Patrick & Porcaro Family by Ed Patrick
- 10:00 (SP) Anthony, Adeline & John Giacobbe by Mr.  
& Mrs. Dennis Gump & Family
- 12:00 (SP) Virginia & Ed Yorke by Gloria & Dick Sarlo-  
Yorke
- 5:00 (SP) (P.M.) FOR THE PEOPLE

**Months Mind: Kenneth Reinehr**

**HOME WITH CHRIST:** Gracious Lord, remember and welcome into your Kingdom those who have died and gone before us marked with a sign of faith, especially **Anna M. Andy, Joseph E. Fickulak, Frank Cox** and all the faithful departed. May they rest in your peace.

## This Week's Altar Server Schedule

### Saturday, December 15

5:00 pm - C. & M. Cappelli, S. Luba

### Sunday, December 16

7:30 am - N. Castelli, J. Cavallo, A. Boni  
10:00 am - Z. Simpson, M. Broglia, E. Regoli  
12:00 pm - L. Sollon, M. & T. Costantino  
5:00 pm - C. Tarnik, L. & A. Starcevic

## Next Week's Altar Server Schedule

### Saturday, December 22

5:00 pm - G. Burke, J. & M. Illig

### Sunday, December 23

7:30 am - A. Boni, M. Cushma, & L. Thompson  
10:00 am - E. Regoli, J. Cavallo, P. Gent  
12:00 pm - M. & T. Costantino, L. Law  
5:00 pm - A. Sciulli, A. & L. Starcevic

## PITTSBURGH DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN DECEMBER PRAYER FOR PRIEST'S LIST:

- Dec. 16** Rev. Vincent P. Velas  
Rev. Robert J. Vular
- Dec. 17** Rev. Thomas A. Wagner
- Dec. 18** Rev. Dennis P. Yurochko  
Deacon John F. Manion, Ph.D.
- Dec. 19** Rev. Edwin J. Wichman  
Rev. Joseph D. Laboon
- Dec. 20** Daniel W. Whalen
- Dec. 21** Albert L. Zaph  
Mr. Patrick Caruso
- Dec. 22** Rev. Michael L. Yaksick

May God's abiding presence nourish and sustain them each day  
as they boldly proclaim His Kingdom of mercy and justice.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed  
will return and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.  
Isaiah 35:10a

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
- Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt  
1:18-24

## FR RICH REFLECTIONS

**“The perfect Christian is always a bearer of peace and joy.”** St. Clement of Alexandria

Before the 5:00 pm Mass last Sunday (recall the Steelers vs. Patriots game began at 4:15pm), our organist Anthony, who plays at the 7:30am + 5:00pm came into the sacristy with \$60.00 that he found out in the hallway. Hopefully, no one was betting on a Steelers victory! At the start of my homily, I promised the people a ‘two minute warning’ reflection. By the way, there were more people than I expected in church for that Mass.

I proposed that if no one claims the lost \$60.00, we should divide it three ways – Andrew, Larry, and Abby – the three faithful altar servers on this ‘Steelers Sunday’. The crowd gave a rousing ovation signaling their approval! I waited, and waited, and no one came to claim the lost money. So, my three servers left the church ‘richer’ in grace and in cash. They were simply delighted and filled with **gratitude** and **joy**! Please don’t anyone else come saying they are short \$60.00! As my ‘long-time’ pastor as a child at my home parish Saints Simon + Jude in Greentree, Father Thomas F. Carey would say—*“Those who serve God faithfully should receive the blessings of the Lord and the fruits of the altar.”*

Today on this **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent** it is traditionally known as ‘**Gaudete**’, a Latin word for **rejoicing** and **joy**—so near is our salvation. As the world counts down the days, hours, and minutes to December 25<sup>th</sup>, our Christian faith fills us with hope and joy that our God enters our world to help, to heal, and to save us. Our joy in Christ, the joy of **all** and **every** joy! I invite and challenge each to heed and hear the call of John The Baptist to make ready the way of the Lord through our **recognition**, **renouncement** and **repentance** of all sin both small and great. Come to the beautiful sacrament of reconciliation this Advent season—a sacrament of ‘tears of sorrow’ and sadness for our sin and a sacrament of ‘tears of joy’ and gladness for God’s healing and mercy. What a transformation from *crushing sadness* into *surpassing joy*!

*“Our Savior gave the sacrament of penance and confession to His Church so that we may Be cleansed from all our iniquities no matter how often and how greatly we have been defiled by them... Why should we die a spiritual death when we have this sovereign remedy at hand?”*  
- Saint Francis de Sales

John the Baptist was a **light** to illuminate evil. He was a **voice** to rebuke sin and summon people to righteousness. He was a ‘**signpost**’ to point people to God. So too, we are called by Gods’ grace to be **His light, His voice, and His presence** to others. **Repentance** at the center and heart of both the Jewish and Christian faith. **Repentance** is the turning **away** from sin and turning **towards** God and towards the life that God intends us to live.

When God’s grace truly dwells within us darkness fades, sins ceases, and death is no more. May our Advent lives give **birth to joy, birth to truth, birth to love, and birth to peace**. As St. Paul encourages us—*“Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near.”* (Philippians 4:4-5)

In the New Testament there are 287 references to such terms as *joy, delight, gladness, laughter + rejoicing*. The following **ABC’s** will put more joy into our journey. Sister Anne Bryan Smollin is an international lecturer on wellness and spirituality as well as an educator and therapist. In her book—*Live, Laugh, and Be Blessed* (2006), she invites us to simple joys —

- A** ccept each new day as a gift.
- B** elieve in your goodness and the goodness of others.
- C** heer for others and their successes.
- D** on’t ever give up.
- E** very moment is a gift for you—live it.
- F** orgive others and yourself.
- G** ive thanks for all your blessings daily.
- H** ave faith.
- I** nvite others to share moments with you.
- J** oin groups and be involved.
- K** eep in touch with those you love.
- L** augh, laugh, and laugh some more.
- M** ake some mistakes daily—on purpose.
- N** ever judge—give others the benefit.
- O** ffer your time and talents.
- P** raise the good works of others.
- Q** uit worrying.
- R** elax and rest and live each day fully.
- S** ay nice things to and about others.
- T** ake time to play.
- U** nderstand that everything won’t be perfect.
- V** alue what you have.
- W** ish for the stars.
- X** -plain things when necessary.
- Y** ou are important; don’t forget that.
- Z** ap life into everything (12.16.07)



### ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

The students in Grades 5 -8 will be visiting the patients at the Golden Living Center (formerly the Beverly Nursing Home) on Monday, December 17, 2007.

The students will be making cards for all the patients and will be caroling throughout the nursing home as part of their service project for this year. Grade 4 will be visiting the Townview Nursing Home on Thursday, December 20, 2007.

### Calendar of Events

- December 17, 2007: Students visit Golden Living Center
- December 18, 2007: Gateway Vision Class for Grade 5
- December 19, 2007: Student Liturgy prepared by Grade 2A at 9:00 A.M.
- December 19, 2007: Student Confessions for Grades 3-8 at 10:00 A.M.
- December 20, 2007: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade visits Townview Nursing Home 10:00 A.M.
- December 20, 2007: School Christmas Party and Movie at 1:00 P.M.
- December 21, 2007: Early Dismissal – Christmas Break– 12:30 P.M.

On behalf of all the students, faculty, and staff of St. Patrick School, we would like to wish all the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

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Just in time for Christmas!!! **WALMART** certificates are here!!! Stop by the **SCRIP** table and purchase your certificates for all your holiday needs. Available every morning in the school cafeteria from 8:15 am—9:30 am, and after Sunday masses from 8:30—11:45 am. You may also order online at [www.saintpatsschool.org](http://www.saintpatsschool.org) and pick up your order on Sunday. Questions, call Kristie at 724.969.1069.

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St. Patrick's Athletic Association is selling \$1.00 raffle tickets for a gift basket that is made to appeal to those who appreciate the finer things in life! Filled with many exceptional items, this massive basket is a sure bet to please any winner. Tickets are available through any Athletic Association member, Mr. Mozina, after each Sunday mass, or call Jim Hyde at 724.288.5191.

**RESPECT LIFE...CHRISTMAS CARDS** Members of the Respect Life Group will be in the school cafeteria from 8:30 am until 12:00 noon, Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for your convenience in purchasing religious Christmas cards. Proceeds will benefit the Respect Life movement. Any questions, feel free to call Alan Henderson, 724.747.2572

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Tuesday, January 22, 2008—March for Life in Washington, DC.** This is the 35th Anniversary of the Roe V. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized the destruction of babies in the wombs of their mothers. It has brought about the deaths of over 48 million of God's most innocent children! Planning for our bus trip to the March for Life will begin at the Respect Life meeting on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. ALL are invited to join us!

**MEMORIALS** were received for the following:

**My Father's House:** In loving memory of **Husband, John** by Wife, Mary Urbancic; **Rosalie Mlekush** by Yvonne Hogan, Ann & Frank Chuppetta, Richard & Joanna Ziack, Daniel & Marian Plovic, Kathryn Aquilino, Handle & Lucy Roberts, D. Messina, Richard & Sophia Kern; John Wallack by John & Marsha Blumen; and **Anna Marie Gordon** by Rich & Dorothy Yarkosky, and Ervin & Albina Yarkosky.

**Parking Lot Fund:** In loving memory of **Rosalie Mlekush** by Mr. & Mrs. John Mazza, Tom & Cynthia Lenco, John Renners, Bob & Rose Lawrence, Mary & Tony Luisi, Laura Spadaro, Mickey & Janice Mazza, Gloria Imperatore; **Mary 'Mae' Holland** by Helen M. Jacoby, and John & Joyce Holland; **Anna Marie Gordon** by Gil & Mary Ann Yurus; **Linda Kendo Miller** by Mag & John Mazza; **Ann Koziel** by Margie Mahramus.

**St. Patrick School:** In loving memory of **Rosalie Mlekush** by John & Marion Wagner, Bill & Beverly Marchewka, Agnes Bostjancic, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Engel, Joseph & Amy Solobay, Mrs. Rena Castelli, Frank & Edie Kish, Leon Popiolkowski, Richard & Sharon Maikranz, Helen DiFalco, Mr. & Mrs. David A. Bier, Rosalie McCoy, Violet & Fred Kochanski, Frances Eonta & Daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Campero & Sons, Lillian Senkinc, Mark Solobay, and Vince & Cheryl Racioppi.

**MASSES** were received in loving memory of:

**Rosalie Mlekush** by Sophia & Richard Kern, Mary Jane Neish, Stanley & Jean Maslyk, Eva Tabone, Joe & Lolly Racioppi, Terri Ritter, & Dolores Zuppello; **Mary 'Mae' Holland** by Sophia Conn, Jean Hundzienski, and Pete & Janet Castriota; **Anna Marie Gordon** by Nicholas Lesko, Holly Palivoda, Nicholas Lesko II, Peter Zofchak, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Trovato & Sons, Mary Jane Adams & Family, Gene & Evelyn Julian, Barbara Lesko, and Susan Gordon; **Eleanor Saniga** by Andy & Lorraine Gregus; (the gift of a Spiritual Bouquet) for **Marie Shaffer** by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.