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To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

# **DEVIVO CENTRE**

116 South 2nd Street Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / I-4pm FRI 8:30am-Ipm

#### BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm



We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. You may call them at 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers on pages 4 and 9, who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is **BUD MURPHY'S SPORTS BAR &** RESTAURANT.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).

We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

# OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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# SAT-SUN, AUG 31-SEP 1, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
Adult	\$6,430.00		
Loose	418.00		
Maintenance	<u>467.00</u>		
Total: ·····	·\$7,315.00		
Cemetery ·····			
Assumption ·····	····\$140.00		
Accent ······			
Catholic University ······	\$35.00		
Seminary/Clergy ·······			

### ST. ALOYSIUS

31. ALU13103	
Adult\$3,6	60.00
Loose2	17.25
Children/Young Adults ·······	16.75
Total:\$3,86	94.00
Assumption ·····\$	10.00
Accent\$	
Catholic University ·····\$	50.00
****	

#### ST. IOHN

<u>31. JUHN</u>	
$Adult \cdots \cdots$	. /
Loose ······	270.35
Maintenance ·····	····· <u>263.00</u>
Total:	·\$3,246.35
Cemetery ·····	\$30.00
Assumption ·····	\$255.00
Catholic University ······	\$85.00
***	

*****	
ST. RITA	
Adult · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	. /
Loose ······	
Maintenance ·····	
Total:	4,819.00
Cemetery ·····	\$20.00
Assumption ·····	
Catholic University	\$15.00





# Wisdom 9:13-18b KNOWLEDGE BEYOND US

As painful as it is sometimes to know the truth, not knowing is worse. If someone we love is rushed to the hospital, the greatest agony comes from not knowing what is wrong. Is it serious? How extensive are the injuries? Are they life threatening? Will they cause further suffering? Not knowing the answers is very painful.

Once we know, even if it is bad news, the situation is easier to accept. We can start to make adjustments, to deal with the truth. But when truth is unknown, chaos reigns. It terrifies us.

There are things we do not know. You can be the smartest kid in

your class, the expert in your field, the parent who knows the habits of your children better than they do, but there are still things you do not know.

Only with difficulty, the Book of Wisdom says, do we understand the things of this world. "But when things are in heaven, who can search them out?" As hard as it is to understand the things of earth, it is impossible to grasp the mystery of God.

The closer we come to God, the more awesome is the mystery. The more we understand about God, the more we realize we do not know. Some people quit their relationship with God in despair of ever learning the truth. Others go into that mysterious relationship, deeper and deeper.

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On the weekend of SEP 28-29, a representative of the BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILIES will visit St Aloysius, speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries - all made of olive wood native to Israel and Bethlehem - to help the poor and needy families in the Holy Land and the Middle East.



# SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

TUE: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

WED: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

THU: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

FRI: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

SAT: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

SUN: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17;

Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]



St. Rita Holy Name will meet in Bucci Hall on SUN, SEP 8 after 8am Mass.

New members are always welcome. Coffee and donuts will be served. Remember, "Unity makes strength".

All are invited to IC's Anniversary Mass with Bishop Malesic THIS SUN, SEP 8 at 5pm.

St. John's 125th Anniversary Committee will meet on TUE, SEP 10 at 6:30pm in Moravek Hall to discuss their upcoming Chicken Dinner and the anniversary year's calendar of **events.** New members and new ideas are always welcome.

Tom Severin's Bible study on the book of Job will resume on WED, SEP II. It will be held WED's in IC's Sciberras Hall, 6:30-8pm.

The first session of Altar Server training is THU SEP 12 at St. Al, beginning at 7pm. Call Fr. Dan at 628-6840 with any questions.

St. Rita Holy Name will hold a Pancake, Buckwheat and Sausage Breakfast Sceakfase on SUN, SEP 15 in Bucci Hall, 7am-noon. Try their famous buck

wheat sandwich! \$6/adults, \$2/ children under 12. Men are asked to help set up on SAT, SEP 14 beginning at 9am.

There will be a Families in Faith meeting at St. Al on SUN, SEP 15 following Mass. Come for coffee, donuts and planning for 2019/20 activities.

St. Aloysius Altar Rosary Society will meet on MON, SEP 16 at 6:30pm in the Church Hall. Catholic women from ALL parishes are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate. Committees and 2020 activities will be established. New members and ideas are always welcome. For more information, call Betty Dunaway @ 277-4265 or Regina Hughes @ 317-8740 (Friendship and refreshments will be served.)

The IC 150th Anniversary Classic and Antique Car and **Vendor Show will** be held SAT. OCT 12 in their Festival **Building parking** lot - cars noon-4, vendors 9am-2pm. All cars must pre-register. Call Ron at 880-1761 or John at 875-4717 for registration forms and details.



WED, SEP 11: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

for all families and children grades Prek-5<sup>th</sup> at Geibel Catholic from 5:45-8pm. Our theme for the year

is "Following Jesus." Registration forms are online, at the parish office and at the entrance of all churches. You may also sign up that first night!

THU, SEP 12: RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS) begins for all inquiring about the Catholic faith in the DeVivo Center parish office, 6:30-8pm. (Note location change.)

Sessions will continue every THU evening. If you would like to become Catholic, or are simply interested in learning more about your Catholic faith, COME AND SEE.



SAT, SEP 14: 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION onfirmation RETREAT, 10am-3pm in St. Rita's social hall. All 8th graders are required to attend

a retreat in preparation for their upcoming Sacrament of Confirmation. You MUST register online for this retreat at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/confirmation. If this date does not work for you, other retreat dates/ locations are being offered this fall. It is YOUR responsibility as a candidate to sign up for our retreat or another retreat in our diocese prior to Confirmation on DEC 5.

SUN, SEP 15: 2nd grade parent/child meeting for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Holy **Communion.** Please plan to attend 9:30 Mass at IC as a family. We will meet after Mass in IC's social hall until 12pm. At least Communion one parent is required to attend with their child.

We need 2 or 3 more men or women to minister as altar servers for funerals at St. Aloysius.

No experience needed - we'll train you! If you can serve in this ministry, please call Sr. Donna at 628-6840.



The parishioners of St.
John are participating in a 125th Anniversary
Silent Festival to raise funds to help defray costs for activities in

their upcoming year-long celebration. The deadline for payment of all gifts/pledges is <u>SUN</u>, OCT 27.

To kick off their 125th Anniversary Celebration, St. John will be holding a Chicken Dinner on SUN, SEP 29, 12:30pm until sold out.

Menu includes 1/2 a baked chicken, potato, vegetable and salad, roll and butter, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$10, \$5 for kids under 12.

Take-outs will be available.

A basket raffle and 50/50 drawing will also be held. Parishioners wishing to donate baskets should call Carol at 628-9415 or Stephanie/Toni at 628-8878. Baskets should be dropped off at St. John's Moravek Hall on SAT, SEP 28 from 10am-noon.

St. Al's Calendar Party will be held on SUN, OCT 13 at 1pm in their social hall. (Doors open at 12:30pm.) Hostesses and their special table themes will be:

Keirsten Andolino - Under the Sea Regina Hughes - Ships Pam Lowe - Birthday Mary Marra - Pumpkin/Fall Tammy Nedrow - Afternoon Tea Party Joy Wallace - St. Patrick's Day Advance tickets are \$15. To reserve your seat, please see/contact one of these ladies, or call Kathy Andolino at 710-7540. Seats are already going fast!

If you wish to donate something for the Chinese Auction, please call Regina at 317-8740. Items should be brought in by SUN, SEP 29.

Auction chances (26 for \$10) and 50/50 chances (7 for \$5 and 20 for \$10) will be sold after Masses, the 2 weekends prior to the party - OCT 5/6 and OCT 12.



Nar-Anon will meet on WED, SEP 11 in St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

St. George Maronite Church of U'town invites you to their Annual Rosary Walk on SUN, SEP 15, beginning at 2pm in their Garden of Prayer. Call St. George Church at 437-5589 with any questions.

St. Pius in Mt. Pleasant is hosting an All You Can Eat Omelet Breakfast on SUN, SEP 22, 8am-noon. Adults \$7, Children (3-12) \$3, under 3 free. Tickets sold at the door.

St. Vincent DePaul in Uniontown is looking for a Food Pantry Coordinator. 25 hours/week, MON-FRI. Send message of interest with a resume to director@svdpuniontown.org.

"Transformation: A Men's Prayer Gathering" will be held TUE, SEP 24 from 6:45-9pm at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg. The event is free and includes music, fellowship, prayer, confession, Adoration and small group discussions.

The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will host a daylong Youth Fun Fest on SAT, SEP 28 at Camp Conestoga in Somerset County.

There is an overnight camping option. The event is open to all young people. Registration is at 8am, activities are 9am-4pm, and Mass is at 4pm, There will also be a closing bonfire. Cost is \$15 by SEP 23 and \$25 after, and includes a light breakfast, lunch and dinner on SAT, and a light breakfast SUN morning for those staying overnight. Register at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/scouts.

St. John Preschool (Scottdale) will be hosting a Rummage Sale on SAT, OCT 12 from 8am-2pm. Please call 887-6321 with any questions.

Bishop Malesic will lead the annual Rosary Rally on SAT, OCT 12 in St. Joseph Chapel at the Christ Our Shepherd Center. The day will include 9am Mass, adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation after Mass, and recitation of the Scriptural rosary at I lam. Organizations planning to carry a banner at the Rally must register at 724-552-2645.

A Catholic Men's Fellowship Retreat will be held FRI/SAT, OCT 18/19 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, starting at 6pm and closing with Bishop Malesic celebrating Mass. Keynote speaker will be Catholic author, Devin Schadt. The retreat features music, Adoration, confession, witness talks and small group discussions. Register at www.cmfgbg.org.



When the slave Onesimus fled from Philemon, his master, he entered a hopeless situation. As a runaway slave in the first century, he had no rights - not even to his

life. If he did not return to his master, he would be running from Roman authorities for the rest of his days finding neither rest nor peace. If he returned to his master, he would be returned to the state of a slave, certainly punished, and possibly killed.

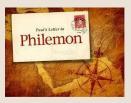
Providentially, Onesimus met St. Paul, who converted him to Christianity. St. Paul then sent Onesimus back to his master in obedience to Roman law. But he did not send him empty-handed. He sent him with a masterful and convincing letter addressed to his master, known today in the New Testament as St. Paul's

letter to Philemon.

In this letter, St. Paul showcases both his mastery of persuasion as well as his love and concern for Onesimus. St. Paul first states that, while he could order Philemon on apostolic authority to receive Onesimus back and to free him, he would rather "urge him out of love" to do "what is proper". Paul cleverly uses Onesimus' name (which means "useful" in Greek) and describes him far more useful to Paul and to Philemon now as a Christian than he was as a slave before. St. Paul then persuades Philemon to treat Onesimus "no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother" because of his newfound dignity as a son of God. Finally, in a display of deep emotion, he beseeches Philemon to welcome Onesimus as though he were welcoming Paul himself, alluding to Jesus' words: "whenever you did these things to the least of my brothers, you did them for me."

Consider the joy and confidence this letter must have given Onesimus. This letter that St. Paul wrote on his behalf was the solution to his hopeless situation. Without it, he was as good as dead. With it, he could be reconciled with his master, forgiven for his departure, and restored to the dignity of true freedom.

Now that you know the story, I invite you to read the whole letter (it's only



25 verses). Imagine Paul writing this letter on your behalf. Imagine the joy and confidence it would give you.

As Christians, Jesus Christ hands us our own "letter" in the Holy Spirit, our advocate. He promises that we do not face our hopeless situations alone. We do not journey empty-handed but with the joy and confidence that God will give us what we need, just as he did for Onesimus.



Congratulations to LYDIA ROSE, daughter of Brant and Elizabeth Copple, baptized at St. Rita on AUG 31.

Most Holy Father, we live in an angry world of increasingly angry people. More and more, we feel a need to cling ever more closely to You. Help us to fix our hearts and minds on Your eternal and unchanging truth, and to wash ourselves daily in the cleansing water of the Word.

Protect us from those who would seek to undermine our trust in You. Develop in us a true attitude of praise and worship, no matter what the circumstances, and help us to build ourselves up in our most holy faith, looking for the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We pray that in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we may draw every closer to you. Amen.



Congratulations to
OAKLYN GRACE, daughter of
David Kooser and Gemma Gailey,
baptized at St. Rita on SEP 1.

Please remember BARRY PREMOSHIS, and CAROL TRIMBATH, the newest additions to our prayer list.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of PHIL HODGE (brother-in-law of Judy Colvin), TED KOVAL and JOSEPH L. VILLA NEUVA,

who died recently. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

The 11:30 Mass on SEP I was inadvertently omitted from the AUG 24-25 bulletin. The Mass intention was for Sophia Sandusky, at the request of Al and Gerry Sandusky.

If family members wish to take up the gifts, please be sure to check with the ushers before Mass.

SEP ministry schedules are now online at www.youghcatholic.org

If you can't serve when scheduled, please call Chris Sparks at 628-7510 or email him at crsparks1@zoominternet.net.

# MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS



MON, SEP	9	St. Peter Claver, Priest				
8:00am	St. Rita	Mary Susan Galiardi (Andrea, Linda & Cynthia)				
8:30am	St. Al	John Canada (Dale Malinzak)				
TUE, SEP I	0	WEEKDAY				
8:00am		Deceased Members of the Misconin Family (Jean Misconin)				
8:30am	St. Al	Sturge Hughes (Thad & Helen Durka)				
WED, SEP	11	WEEKDAY				
8:00am	St. Rita					
8:30am	St. Rita	of the Parr & Sarko Families (Judy) Adoration until 4:30pm				
THU, SEP	12	Most Holy Name of Mary				
8:00am	IC	Vivian Galiardi (Andrea, Linda & Cynthia)				
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions				
8:30am	St. Al	Catherine Lizza (Jane Glad & Family)				
FRI, SEP I	3	ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH				
8:00am		•				
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet				
8:30am	St. Al	John (Jack) W. Taylor, Jr. (Wife & Sons)				
9:30am	IC	Elizabeth Bartholomai & Deceased Family Members				
Conn-Area		•				
SAT, SEP 14		Exaltation of the Holy Cross				
1:30pm	St. John	, , ,				
4:00pm	St. Rita	VIGIL Pro Populo				
4:00pm 5:00pm	St. Al	John Tomaro (Family)				
•	IC					
6:00pm	iC	Cara Marie Soisson (Family)				
SUN, SEP		24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
8:00am		John Mongell (Family)				
9:00am	St. Al	John & Nancy Maddas (The Randy Johnston Family)				
9:30am	IC	IC Class of 1958 (Mary Ann Hudacek Buberniak)				
11:30am	St. John	Ann V. Peshko (Daughter, Dolores Peshko)				

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - SEP 14				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - SEP 15				
	SR-4PM	St. Al-5pm	IC-6PM	S	it. Rita-8am	St. Al-9am	IC-9:30am	St. John-11:30am
Acolytes/	R Specht	C Tabaj	M Grimm	1	M Waggett	N Mongell	A Zavatchan	A Bandemer
Servers	K Daniels	0 Tabaj	K Lizza		T Barrett	A Mongell	A Howrylak	R Knizner
Extraordinary	A Hann	S Lincoln	N Holonich		C Waggett	T Grover	J Miller	D Siecinski
MINISTERS	G Lembo	P Herron	P Calinao		N Stasia	A Trimbath	B Molitor	J Kosinski
	J Lembo	T Nedrow	M Pieczynski		L Lauffer	J Goodwin	J Colvin	P Daniels
CROSS BEARERS	H Specht	J Trimbath	M Martray		E Kozel	R Barron	B Zavatchan	L Thomas
LECTORS	V McDowell	T Shal	L Galiardi		P Stefano	T Szepesi	R Lazor	A Shoemaker
Rosary		P Herron				E & D Gmitter		



#### MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

The new organ at Immaculate Conception is ready to go! It was actually ready LAST weekend, but we wanted to hold off on her debut until the Sesquicentennial Mass with the Bishop Sunday evening. I for one CAN'T WAIT! I have been assured that she is positively *angelic*. What a way to begin our next one hundred fifty years. I am extremely grateful to all the people who donated to ensure that the Grand Ol' Lady would have a worthy successor!

COVER PHOTO: Not only will a new organ be unveiled at the Anniversary Mass but we will be blessed with the debut of an entire new Mass setting for most of the sung parts of the Liturgy (the Gloria, Sanctus, the Mystery of Faith, and Lamb of God). The Mass setting is entitled Mass of the Immaculate Conception (how apropos!) and has been composed by an Immaculate Conception parishioner, Levi Graft (double apropos!).

Many undoubtedly are already familiar with this INCREDIBLY talented young man, but even those somewhat acquainted with him are probably not FULLY aware of his story so thus allow me to give a brief biographical sketch:

Levi Graft, son of Dennis and Barcine Grimm Graft, was born 11 April 1989 and baptised at Immaculate Conception Parish. He was educated at Conn-Area and then the local public schools, graduating from Connellsville Area High School in 2007. He then matriculated at Indiana University Bloomington, graduating from whence in 2011 with a degree in Piano. His musical training began at the tender age of seven with Mary Ellen Burhans of Dunbar and Joel Hudock of Connellsville. As the years passed he studied under various celebrated pianists including Anne Schein, Emile Naoumoff, and Andre de Groote. He now owns and operates a piano studio in Connellsville, located in the former Conn-Area School. (As an aside, a completely COINCIDENTAL aside, the person from whom the lot was purchased by Bishop Michael Domenec of Pittsburgh for the use of Immaculate Conception community in 1873 was one **LEVI** Huntley!) With his studio Levi is passing on the gift that others nurtured in him. As it is also a fully equipped recording studio he also uses his talents as a recording and mixing engineer for local talent. Most recently he has produced a record for a Cleveland-based (I know, **BOO!**) band. He is a regular pianist at Nemacolin Woodlands (shi-shi!). As part of his "giving back" to the community he also performs a recital at the annual City Mission fundraiser at the State Theatre in Uniontown. Most recently he played all 24 Chopin Preludes in one concert.



I am UNBELIEVABLY proud of Levi for doing this. He was **NOT** asked to compose a Mass setting; he took the challenge upon himself! God bless him! IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HISTORY: I am still slaving away on the task. A very WISE parishioner suggests that we should simply hire a professional writer to compose the history. That might end up being the most logical approach. (I am FAR from a professional writer!) Not, however, having made that decision, here is the beginning of MY version of the history to whet your appetite:

#### **PREFACE**

The historian David McCullough wrote "How can we know who we are and where we are going if we don't know anything about where we have come from and what we have been through, the courage shown, the costs paid, to be where we are?" As Immaculate Conception parish celebrates the sesquicentennial of its founding it seems a most auspicious time to apply the wisdom of that quote. Thus I here endeavour to provide as complete and accurate a history of the parish as possible, correcting mistakes in past histories, shedding light on lesser known chapters, and bringing the story up to the present day, i.e. the end of the second decade of the twentyfirst century.

# PREHISTORY-A BRIEF SKETCH OF SAINT PETER, BROWNSVILLE

To explore the history of Immaculate Conception Parish is to study the roots of Catholicism in the Jewel of the Yough and environs; the various ethnic parishes that eventually arose in Connellsville as well as the neighbouring parishes in northern Fayette and Southern Westmoreland Counties ultimately grew out of this congregation. Immaculate Conception parish itself, however, did not arise in a vacuum; its story begins further west with the mother church of all of Fayette County, Saint Peter in Brownsville.