

Saint Richard Parish

3841 Dickey Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

724-444-1971

www.saintrich.org

December 25, 2011

The Nativity of the Lord

Reverend Thomas A. Sparacino, Pastor • Deacon Gary Molitor • Deacon Alberto Vargas

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm &
5:00 pm Life Teen September thru May

Monday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 am, Tuesday Evening: 7:00 pm

St. Barnabas Nursing Home: Wednesday 11:00 am

St. Barnabas Retirement Village Friday 9:30 am

Liturgy of Hours Morning Prayer: Monday 8:45 am

Liturgy of Hours Evening Prayer: Tuesday 6:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Monthly, Check bulletin for Week: Tuesday, 7:30 to 9:00 pm,
Thursday, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm & First Friday 8:00 am until 8:00 am Saturday



SACRAMENTS

Baptism: During the Mass: any Sunday (except during Lent); Outside of Mass: following the Noon Mass on the 1st and 3rd Sunday
Please contact the church office to make arrangements

Reconciliation: Saturday after 9:00 am & 5:00 pm Masses. Also by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: By appointment & last Sunday of the month following the noon Mass.


Matrimony: Contact Church Office at least 6 months in advance of proposed date.


PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"We the faith filled community of St. Richard Catholic Church seek to build the kingdom of God through inspiring, dynamic worship and prayer. We strive to grow as the Body of Christ through the celebration of the Eucharist, the Sacraments and the Word of God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we support all of our brothers and sisters in spiritual formation by sharing the faith of our Catholic tradition. Sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure, we witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ by striving to reach out and serve the social needs of our entire community."

SAINT RICHARD PARISH / December 25, 2011 The Nativity of the Lord

<i>PARISH WORSHIP & MASS INTENTIONS</i>	
Saturday, December 24 / Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	
4:00 pm	Michael Bombich / Loving Family <i>(Fr. Tom)</i>
4:05 pm	Stephens Family / Loving Family <i>(Benedictine)</i> <i>(Social Hall)</i>
6:30 pm	Margaret & Andrew Stofa / Dr. & Mrs. John Gruendel <i>(Benedictine)</i>
9:15 pm	Festival of Carols
10:00 pm	Karl & Anna Riegler / Frank & Diane <i>(Fr. Tom)</i>
Sunday, December 25 / The Nativity of the Lord	
8:00 am	People of the Parish <i>(Fr. Tom)</i>
10:00 am	Konrad & Magdalena Klauer / Gabrielle Sandelmann <i>(Fr. Tom)</i>
Monday, December 26 / St. Stephen, the first martyr	
8:45 am	Liturgy of the Hours - Morning Prayer
9:00 am	Elizabeth Anthony / Husband, Ted
Tuesday, December 27 / St. John, apostle, evangelist	
9:00 am	Anne & Henry Burkhart / Fran & Mike Burkhart
Wednesday, December 28 / The Holy Innocents, martyrs	
9:00 am	Frank Ranalli, Jr. / Dr. Frank Ranalli
Thursday, December 29 / The Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	
9:00 am	Elmer & Catherine Hunkele / Fran & Mike Burkhart
5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal: Hoy/Newmaster
Friday, December 30 / The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
9:00 am	Frank Ranalli, Jr. / Dr. Frank Ranalli
9:30 am	Communion Service <i>At St. Barnabas Retirement Village</i>
5:30 pm	Wedding Mass: Carole Hoy & Gregory Newmaster <i>(Fr. Joe Mele)</i>
Saturday, December 31 / The Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	
9:00 am	Joanne Pikur / Donald & Mary Ann Slingwine <i>(Fr. Polak)</i>
	Reconciliation after 9 AM Mass
	Vigil: The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Mary, the Holy Mother of God
5:00 pm	50th Anniversary of Ron & Dot Moser <i>(Fr. Tom)</i> No Reconciliation
Sunday, January 1 / The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord: Mary, the Holy Mother of God	
8:00 am	Robert Trosky / Family & Friends <i>(Fr. Tom)</i>
10:00 am	People of the Parish <i>(Benedictine)</i> Adult Choir to provide music
12:00 pm	Margaret Dubbs / Deschamps Family <i>(Benedictine)</i>

<i>MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES</i>
Saturday, December 24th NO ACTIVITIES
Sunday, December 25th <i>Merry Christmas</i>  NO ACTIVITIES
Monday, December 26th OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES
Tuesday, December 27th OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES
Wednesday, December 28th OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES
Thursday, December 29th OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES
Friday, December 30th OFFICE CLOSED NO ACTIVITIES
Saturday, December 31st 9:30 am Dustbusters - Team 1
Sunday, January 1st NO ACTIVITIES



**Glory to
God
in the
Highest!**

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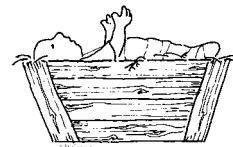
THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome. The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary. Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Roman Martyrology.

With this proclamation of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (at the Christmas Mass during the night), we begin the celebration of Christmas. The angels sang that beautiful star lit night, Gloria In Excelsis Deo! May we never stop singing and proclaiming Jesus the Savior of the world. *He is the only begotten Son of God...Light from Light, true God from true God...consubstantial with the Father. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day... He will come again in glory and his kingdom will have no end. Amen forever and ever Amen!!!* My Christmas wish for you and your family is that you have a very happy, blessed and holy Christmas! May the peace and joy of the newborn Jesus be with you and yours today and throughout the year.

Peace,
Fr. Tom



I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful family of St. Richard Parish. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your pastor. Thank you also for your kind words and encouragement throughout the year. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you. In a special way, I extend a big thank you from the parish staff for the goodies, cards and glad tidings many of you have sent. On behalf of Deacon Gary, Deacon Alberto and our entire Parish Staff, I thank you for your Christmas kindness!

Merry Christmas

from

Fr. Tom, Deacon Gary, Deacon Alberto and the Parish Staff

Speaking of Thank You...

A special thank you to all those who worked hard around our parish home to prepare for the Christmas Season. A huge jingle and jangle of Santa's sleigh bells goes out to those who decorated the Church, the Adult and Children's Choir, the Adult and Children's Bell Choirs, Instrumentalists, Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers and Greeters, Sacristans, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Dustbusters, parking attendants, Northern Tier Police Department and the parish staff, especially the office and maintenance staff. May God bless you and the work of your hands and all the good work you have done to help everyone to celebrate Christmas.

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. O come let us all adore Him in His holy presence during 24 hours of Adoration beginning with Morning Prayer and Exposition at 8:00 am on Friday, January 6th through Morning Prayer and Benediction at 8:00 am on Saturday, January 7th. As always, to ensure that there is someone present with the Lord during adoration, we ask those who can commit to a particular hour to sign up on the poster in the narthex. We hope for at least two people during each hour of adoration. O come all ye faithful and let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Catholic Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

www.saintrich.org or www.saintrichym.org

The Faith Formation Department Would Like to Wish You All A
Very Blessed Christmas!!

A WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL FAMILIES DURING OUR "FAMILY ADVENT NIGHTS"



Middle School
Grades 6-8

Join us for Saturday Night
On the Edge!
Saturday, January 28, 2012

6:00 - 8:00 pm (Dinner Provided)

Need Teen Leaders!!



High School Life Nights
food • fun • friends • faith

Every Sunday
5:00 pm Mass
6:30-8:00 pm Life Night
(Dinner Provided)

Next Life Night is January 15th

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

Week of Jan 1st - Faith Formation back in session

Week of Jan 8th - Faith Formation in session

Week of Jan 15th - NO Faith Formation

CHATS

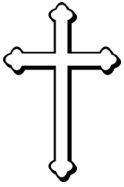
"Christian Hangout and Theological Study" are meetings in which a topic will be studied and expanded upon through the use of Sacred Scripture, the Catechism, as well as other Catholic Church documents. **Wednesday, January 25th 7-8:30 pm** at Panera Bread on Route 8.

Mark Your Calendars!

- Dec. 30 - Ice Skating
- Jan. 13 - Silver Ring Thing
- Jan. 15 - Life Teen Spring Kick Off
- Jan. 22-23 - March for Life and Overnight
- Jan. 25 - CHATS
- Jan. 31 - Theology of the Body



Questions? Contact Hayley at hayleyd@saintrich.org OR
Tim at timm@saintrich.org 724-444-1971



RCIA

COME AND LEARN RCIA SESSIONS

All are welcome to the RCIA sessions held on Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Charity Room unless otherwise noted. COME and LEARN and grow in your faith. These sessions are a wonderful way for Catholics to renew and refresh their faith.

December 29 - No RCIA due to Christmas break

January 5 - Is Jesus truly present in Holy Communion?

How can ordinary bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ? Come and learn as Bob Klobuchar leads this session on the Eucharist, the final Sacrament of Initiation. The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324). He will explain the theology of the Sacrament, the meaning of the celebration of the Eucharist in our lives as Catholics and our call to be servants of Christ through our participation in this Sacrament.

From an address by Pope Paul VI

This Friday, December 30th, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the model family of Nazareth.

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing, some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence if only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplifying its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings; in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children - and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value - demanding yet redeeming - and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well being.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

MERRY CHRISTMAS.....

And blessing to all of you who give so generously to our social ministry programs. Your kindness extends from our local community to Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Whether you prepare meals, make comfort blankets, visit the sick, or participate in one of the many other programs, YOU really are the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank You!!

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass Schedule

- **Saturday, December 31st**
5:00 pm - No reconciliation following Mass
- **Sunday, January 1st**
8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 noon
No Life Teen Mass at 5:00 pm



Divorced and Separated Support Group

The Divorced and Separated support group jointly sponsored by Sts. John & Paul, St. Richard and St. John Neumann parishes will begin its next 13 week cycle of meetings on January 9, 2012. This group provides caring support to anyone who is experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. Meetings are on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:45 pm and will be held at St. John Neumann Church in Conference Room A of the Religious Education Hall. Anyone who has questions or would like more information should contact Ralph Joy at 412-741-5456 or rjoy@verizon.net

Retrouvaille - Save Our Marriage

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 13, 2012, please contact Retrouvaille at 3041@retrouvaille.org or 412-277-3434 More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com

Rooke Chapel Ringers in Concert

Enjoy the magical sound of hand bells and celebrate the season with a performance by the Rooke Chapel Ringers, an internationally renowned hand bell choir from Bucknell University, on Friday, January 6, at 7:30 pm at St. Bonaventure Church, Glenshaw.



Protecting God's Children for Adults

The following are upcoming sessions for "Protecting God's Children" in our area. This workshop is required for all parish volunteers who have not yet taken it. You may register at www.diopitt.org.

- Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 1:00 pm
St. John Cantius Parish (Sharpsburg)
201 Ninth Street
- Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 1:00 pm
St. Paul Parish (Butler)
128 N. McKean Street
- Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 6:30 pm
Sts. John and Paul Parish (Sewickley)
2586 Wexford Bayne Road

PLEASE NOTE:

The parish office is closed this week and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd at 9:00 am. Staff will be checking messages in the morning and afternoon each day should any immediate needs arise. For extreme emergency, please call Fr. Tom at 724-502-4092.

Mass Schedule: Masses for the week of Monday, December 26th through Saturday, December 31st will be celebrated at 9:00 am daily in the Church. There will be no Mass at St. Barnabas Nursing Home on Wednesday, December 28th. There will be a Communion Service at St. Barnabas Retirement Village at 9:30 am on Friday, December 30th.

Men's & Women's Retreat Dates Confirmed

Mark Your Calendars: The men's annual weekend retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center has been scheduled for **February 17-19, 2012**, just after Valentines Day. The women's annual weekend retreat has been scheduled for **January 13-15, 2012**. This is *your* year to attend! Don't let anything stop you!! Bring a friend, even if they are from a different parish. For more information, contact Pete Faix at 412-335-7552, Tom Catalano at 724-940-9449 or Diane Scheib at 724-443-4793.

Lighthouse CD's Available in Narthex

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati - Man of the Beatitudes Fr. Tim Deeter

Born in 1901 in Turin, Italy into a family of wealth and status, Pier Giorgio enjoyed good friends, hiking and skiing, museums and music, and was involved in political action. He found that deep prayer, service to the poor, and a passion for bringing others to Christ led to a life of purpose, peace, and happiness. Pier Giorgio died at the age of 24 on July 4, 1925. He was beatified on May 20, 1990 by Pope John Paul II who referred to him as a "man of the beatitudes".

BONUS: As a teenager, Brian Walch had everything the world tells us we should want. While still immersed in our modern culture, he had a radical deepening of his Catholic Faith which led him to his martyrdom for Christ in 1975. His cause for canonization has been opened.

Are you or someone you know a victim of abuse?

The Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline telephone number is 1-888-808-1235. The State of PA Child Protective Services telephone number is 1-800-932-0313

FOR YOUR PRAYER TIME

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that **One Solitary Life**.

This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!").

May They Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Ann Zias**, mother of Susanna Stewart and all the deceased members of our parish. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



7 Day Sanctuary Light

December 24 - Michael Bombich

December 31 - Donald Conrad

Please pray for the Sick:

Owen Anderson, Carla Battistone, Sharon Brady, Lois Bucek, Bob Craig, David Dailey, Mary Ann Deer, Deirdre, Gigi DePascale, Donna Dowd, Edward Dubbs, Elmer Engel, Betty Jane Fenrich, Luke Frobe, Carol Fulton, Shayla Garret, Maureen Grivas, William Hamor, Helen Heinrichs, Patricia Henkel, Ariana Jacobs, Bev Janssen, Jeffrey, Jill Johnson, Bill Keating, Dolores Kelly, Jim Krahe, Noreene Krzan, Kris Lane Gaitley, Barbara Lagiovane, Joan Lanz, Laura LaRue, Peggy Logan, Howard Lugar, Marygrace & Robert McCartan, Doug McCurdy, Frank McCurdy, Al McKelvey, Jr., Jim McFarland, Connor Michalek, Linda O'Donnell, Judy Rogers, Christine Rosignolli, Mike Rozik, Patrick Ryan, Mike Sarenca, Clara Schultz, Carol Schultz, Tom Sharp, Jack Skelly, Trinity Strudwick, Joe Telles, Torrey, Bob & Judy Wittman and Patricia Zalenski.

Please call the Church office with updates.

Let Us Pray

The St. Richard Prayer Group invites parishioners to pray a decade of the Rosary (1-Our Father & 10-Hail Mary's) for a special intention that will vary each week.

This week, let us pray for:

A Glorious and Peace-Filled Christmas

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Dec. 24, Sat.: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Dec. 25, Sun.: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
- Dec. 26, Mon.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Dec. 27, Tues.: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Dec. 28, Wed.: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Dec. 29, Thurs.: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Dec. 30, Fri.: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
Dec. 31, Sat.: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Jan. 1, Sun.: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21