

Saint Brigid Parish

967 Chancery Lane
Meadville, PA 16335



TELEPHONES: (814)

Parish Office336-4459
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Seton School336-2320
Youth Ministry.....333-2274

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Cindy.Fiorillo@StBrigidChurch.org
Larry.Spencer@StBrigidChurch.org
Shari.Bronson@StBrigidChurch.org
Lynda.Morgan@StBrigidChurch.org



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 5:30 P.M.; Sunday 7:00 and 9:00 A.M.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Thru Age 12 - 9:00 Mass

NURSERY

Infants thru age 4 - 9:00 A.M. Mass

BAPTISMS:

By appointment after Baptismal program.

CONFESSIONS In Chapel:

Saturday.....4:00 - 5:00 P.M.
First Friday11:00 A.M.

WEDDINGS:

Arrangements must be made with the pastor 6 - 12 months in advance.

SISTER PARISH: St. Peter Church, Casa Cural, Sotuta,
Yucatan MEXICO

STAFF HOURS:

Monday - Thursday.....8-Noon & 1-4 P.M.
Friday8-Noon

HOME COMMUNION CALLS

The sick or confined (or their next of kin) should phone the parish office to have their names put on the Communion call schedule.

PASTOR

Rev. Johnathan Schmolt

DEACON

Ken Reisenweber

SETON PRINCIPAL

Julia Strzalka

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Christine McGinnity

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Cindy Fiorillo

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lynda Morgan

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Shari Bronson

MEADVILLE AREA CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Sandy Clancy

SETON CATHOLIC DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Jamie Longo

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Give them your ideas, thoughts and concerns. The council members meet four times annually. Their roles are to provide feedback and representation from parishioners of Saint Brigid Church.

Sec. Todd Sommers

Jean Mottillo

Bill Leffingwell

Rosemary Jones

Ryan Landefeld

WORSHIP

Sunday ~ December 16

3:30 PM Advent Communal Penance Service/Church

Monday – December 17

11:30 AM Terri Crytzer Anniv. (M/M Ed Rutkowski)

Tuesday – December 18 ~ No Mass

7:00 PM Advent Communal Penance Service/St. Agatha

Wednesday – December 19

11:30 AM Jim Mizner (Joyce & family)
2:00 PM Meadville Rehab Mass
6:00 PM Adoration & Benediction in Church
7:00 PM Advent Penance Service @ St. Hippolyte

Thursday – December 20

11:30 AM Laurie Riordan (Pat Gourley, mom)
7:00 PM Advent Penance Service @ OLQ of Americas

Friday – December 21

11:30 AM Mary Vatter (Mary Ponsetto)

Saturday – December 22

11:30 AM Rita McGraw (John/Jean Mottillo)

Saturday Eve/Sunday Masses ~ December 22/23

4:00 PM Confessions in Chapel
5:30 PM People of St. Brigid
7:00 AM Jennie & Raymond Wolbert (Jean Conaway)
9:00 AM Frances Williams Anniv. (Steve/Jocelyn,
Aleta/Concetta Mizner)

IN THE HOSPITAL: Elizabeth Bradley & Irene Picerno.
Please remember them in your prayers.

SYMPATHY: to the family of **Linn Hamilton**; to the family of **Anne Sacco**, mother of Donald & Joseph Sacco, Jr.; to the family of **Ann Domingo**.

READINGS

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; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

SUPPORT

Catholic Social Services 800-673-2535
337-7323 Read Program
333-5403 Hospice Grief Support
724-5174 Prayer Line
333-2851 Visitation (ill, elderly) 333-4315
336-1792 Alzheimer's Support Group/3rd Monday
@ Active Aging 6:30 PM



COMMUNAL PENANCE

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3:30 PM @ St. Brigid
Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 PM @ St. Agatha
Wed., Dec. 19 at 7 PM @ St. Hippolyte Rt 27
Thurs., Dec. 20 at 7 PM @ OLQ of Americas, CL

ST. BRIGID CHRISTMAS MASSES

Monday (Dec. 24th) 7:00 P.M.
Vigil -- Carols begin at 9:30 P.M. Mass. . . 10:00 P.M.
Christmas Morning. 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES

St. Brigid Masses (Holyday of Obligation)
Monday (Dec. 31st) 5:30 P.M.
New Year's Day 8:30 & 10:30 A.M.

Additional Christmas Eve

4:30 PM ~ St. Agatha Church
5:15 PM ~ St. Mary Church
9:00 PM ~ St. Mary Church
Midnight ~ St. Agatha Church

Additional Christmas Day

9:00 AM ~ St. Mary Church
9:00 AM ~ St. Agatha Church

Additional New Year's Eve

4:30 PM ~ St. Agatha Church
5:15 PM ~ St. Mary Church

Additional New Year's Day

9:00 AM ~ St. Mary Church
9:00 AM ~ St. Agatha Church

Reminder: Everyone wishing to receive their 2012 annual contribution statement should call the parish office at 336-4459 so that we can prepare it for you. Those making donations at the end of the year, may wish to mark if it is for 2012 or 2013 so that we can apply your contributions properly.

STEWARDSHIP

Sacrificial Giving

Offering Last Week.....\$6,657
Retirement Fund for Religious.....\$1,959

Reminder: Everyone wishing to receive their 2012 annual contribution statement should call the parish office at 336-4459 so that we can prepare it for you.

MINISTRIES – DECEMBER 22/23

ALTAR SERVERS	READERS	GREETERS
5:30 Needed	Stewart	Phelps
7:00 Corsi	Kennedy	Buzzas
9:00 Fiely/Leech	Kiter	Mizners

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:30 Henderson/Wagner/Smith/Williams
7:00 Haines
9:00 Jindra/Roncolato/Higbys

MINISTERS NEEDED for Christmas Eve/Day Masses Christmas Day. Please call the parish office if you can serve (336-4459).

PARISH EVENTS

Sunday – December 16

3:30 PM Religious Ed Grades 3 thru 6/Church Penance Serv.
3:30 PM MACYM students/Church Communal Penance Ser.
7:00 PM RCIA/Room 4

Tuesday – December 18

8:45 AM Pack Baskets/Social Hall
6 PM Seton Scouts/Classrooms
7:15 Webelos/Rm 4

Wednesday – December 19

7 PM Choir Practice/Church
7 PM Adult Bible Study/Room 4

Sunday – December 23

NO Religious Education Classes
NO Youth Group Classes
7:00 PM RCIA/Room 4

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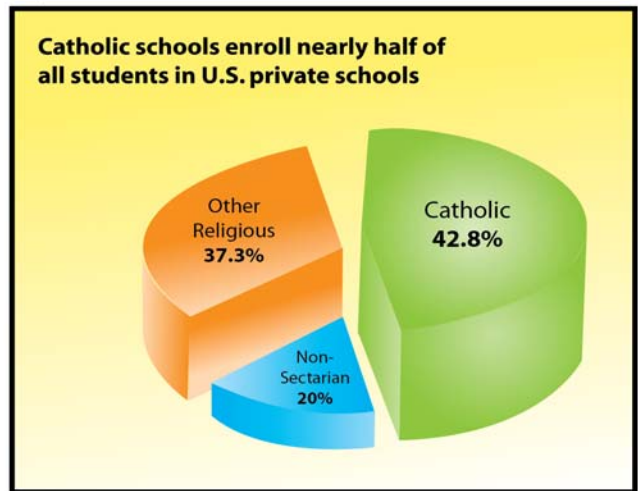


CD of A Christmas Party is Saturday, **December 22nd** at Noon at Perkins Restaurant backroom.

Reservation due December 17th call Jeanette at 724-3148.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Hryczaniuk, C.A (2011).



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Bingo will be held at St. Anthony's Social Hall in Cambridge Springs on Monday, Dec. 17th. Early birds start at 6 PM, with regular Bingo beginning at 6:30 PM. Jackpot is \$675. The kitchen opens at 5 PM serving a hot dinner for \$5. Includes hot dogs, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, and a beverage.

Meadville Community Soup Kitchen Donations – are still being accepted. You may bring them into the parish office or put your envelope marked “Soup Kitchen” in the collection basket at Mass.

Christmas Market at Holy Trinity, Erie

Holy Trinity Parish in Erie will hold its annual Christmas market Dec. 21-22 at the parish social center, 2220 Reed St. in Erie. Market hours are Dec. 21 from 4-7 p.m. and Dec. 22 from 3-6 p.m. Supplies will be limited during the market. Order in advance to ensure you get all your Christmas favorites—cookies, chrusciki, nutroll, oplatki (blessed), sweet bread and pierogies. To place an order, find the order form at www.holytrinityrc.org. Call your order in to 814.456.0671, fax your order to 814.461.1150 or mail your order to Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St., Erie, PA 16503.

3rd Sunday of Advent

THE LORD IS NEAR

Historical records indicate that the birthday of our Savior was not celebrated at all for at least the first two centuries of the church's existence. For the early Christians, Easter was the primary feast in the church year. The Nativity of Our Lord did not finally enter the calendar until around 350 A.D., when it was settled on the date of December 25. Nowadays, Christmas is treated even in the civil calendar as the most important holiday in the year, and for reasons that have gone far beyond its true religious significance. Beginning with Charles Dickens and all the way through to Hallmark, a vision of the perfect Christmas has danced in our heads. Yet many treasured customs of today, such as the decorated tree, greeting cards, and the exchange of Christmas presents, originated only just over a century ago. Christmas has become more complicated in recent decades, and some of us get so tangled up in decorating, shopping, baking, parties, and family gatherings that we experience considerable stress. Others feel left out, isolated, and depressed by all the jollity. Now, with changing times, many Catholics have begun to refocus not only on *why* we celebrate Christmas, but *how* to celebrate in ways that are truly in harmony with the meaning of Christ's birth. In today's second reading Saint Paul assures us that "The Lord is near" (Philippians 4:5) and urges us to stop our worrying, knowing that God will bring the gift of peace to our hearts, a peace beyond human understanding. Like the crowds surrounding John the Baptist in today's Gospel, we may say, "What should we do?" (Luke 3:10). John's answer holds true today: Share with others, act justly, and be satisfied with what we have. Only then can "Emmanuel" truly be, as the name means, "God with us."

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each seasons, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

—James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE

National Catholic Youth Choir seeking high school singers to audition for the 2013 camp and multi-state concert tour held at Saint John's Abbey & University in Collegeville, Minn., June 17-July 2. The choir is led by Dr. Axel Theimer and founding director Father Anthony Ruff, OSB. View a video of the 2012 choir on our website. Apply online at www.CatholicYouthChoir.org. Applications and auditions due by March 18. Questions? Call 320.363.3154 or e-mail dkantor@csbsju.edu. **Family Stepping Stones** is serving NW PA with a mission to support families show God's love thru material goods (clothing, food, furniture, toiletries & household items); education (classes on parenting, nutrition, cooking, safety issues); support (thru companionship, guidance, and referrals to other organizations). Meetings are various locations including Lifeway Nazarene Church, 94 Columbia Ave., Greenville 1st Saturday of month 10 AM-1 PM. Call Kara (724) 456-0217. **Youth and Young Adult Ministry 'Prayer & Praise for Life'** Join other Catholic youth and young adults for "Prayer & Praise for Life" on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 9 a.m. in the Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel at Gannon University in Erie. Prayerfully prepare for the Erie March for Life, which begins at 11 a.m. at Perry Square. Following the march gather for hot cocoa & donuts. More info to come—keep watching www.onthevine.us.



Hats, mittens, gloves & scarves!!

The Altar Rosary Society is collecting these new items to be distributed at the **Jimmy Moore Party** held next weekend. There is a need for larger size items for both boys & girls. Place your donations in

the box in the gathering area. Your continued support of this Altar Rosary project and the **Sertoma Club** is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who donated canned goods and money for

RELIGIOUS ED & MACYM

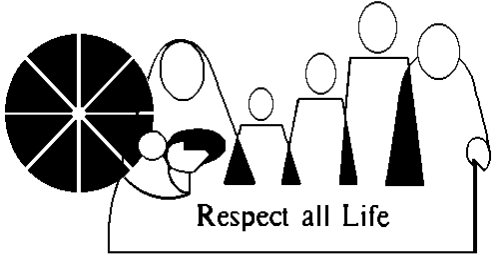
Advent Penance Service –no classes offered this Sunday. Families are to attend the Advent Penance Service on Sunday, December 16th at 3:30 p.m. in the church.

Congratulations! The handmade prayer shawl winner is **Sharon Hoeffler** and the amount donated is \$260.

Thank you to all who supported the fundraiser for St. James Haven—“A Big Thank You.”

Thanks to those who volunteered in cleaning the church for Christmas!

Seton Boy Scouts Troop 209 Brandon Mosbacher Joey Schupp Kyle Mosbacher Nathan Keyes	Leaders/Parents Tom Hall Ted Jastromb, Jr. Steve Steider. Doug Mosbacher Heather Keyes	Altar Rosary Ruth Yoder Theresa Amato Judy Stewart
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Celebrate with us!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
~ DECEMBER 31**

St. Brigid Social Hall ~ Live DJ Music
9 PM—1 AM \$20/Person
Includes snacks, set ups, after Midnight, Kielbasa, Sauerkraut, potato salad, baked beans, pulled pork, hot dogs/buns.

WASHINGTON DC MARCH FOR LIFE – JAN. 25 Join pro-life friends on a trip of a lifetime! Pilgrims will gather at Saint Brigid Church on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 10 PM. After the Holy Hour travelers will board an Anderson bus to travel through the night arriving at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 6 AM. We will attend the Mass at 7:30 AM Mass at the Basilica, then go downtown for the Rally & March on Friday, Jan. 25th. We will return to Meadville about 12:30 AM on Sat., Jan. 26th. Cost details to come later. The bus departs St. Brigid parking lot at 11 PM on Jan. 24th. **Reservations required** by calling Richard at (814)724-3148. Donations accepted.

***Christmas Gift Ideas !
Loaves & Fishes Certificates***

As you may know, at weekend Masses every week, we sell certificates at face value in the gathering area. Some certificates include: Burger King, Chovy's, Cracker Barrel, Valenza's, Giant Eagle, Tops, Valesky's, Malady's, Mill Run Pharmacy, Jack's Pharmacy, Sherry's, Walmart & The Movies. These are great to use as gifts or use yourself on your own purchases and all sales benefit Seton School. If you would like to order certificates not listed above, use the extended list at the Loaves & Fishes table. Certificates also sold at the parish office.