

The Linked Parishes of Corpus Christi and St. Barbara



“As members of the Body of Christ, the linked parishes of St. Barbara and Corpus Christi celebrate the presence of God in all people through our thoughts, words and deeds. We answer Christ’s call as a community of believers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.”

June 9, 2024

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Immaculate Conception Church
Holy Redeemer Church
St. Anthony Church**

**Msgr. John J. Sempa, Pastor
Rev. Michael Drevitch,
Assistant Pastor
Corpus Christi &
St. Barbara Parishes
605 Luzerne Avenue
West Pittston, PA 18643
Phone (570) 654-2753
Phone (570) 654-2103
Fax (570) 654-9244
Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday

4:00PM St. Anthony

5:30PM Immaculate Conception

Sunday

7:30AM St. Anthony

9:00AM Holy Redeemer

10:30AM Immaculate Conception

Confession

Saturday

3:00PM to 3:30PM

St. Anthony Church

Daily Mass Schedule

Mon 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

Tues 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

Wed 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

Thurs 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

Fri 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

Watch Sunday & Daily Mass at

www.corpuschristi-stbarbara.com

Weekly Collection

June 2, 2024

St. Barbara

Weekly.....\$3,603.00

E-Giving.....\$100.00

Total \$3,703.00

Corpus Christi

Weekly.....\$7,337.11

E-Giving.....\$1,895.43

Total \$9,232.54

Flea Market

July 19, 20 & 21

St. Anthony’s Parish Center

Donations for our flea market can be left at the parish center by the door next to PowerRail Distribution (formerly Pride). Please do not leave donations on a rainy day. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, exercise equipment, computers, TVs, luggage, stuffed animals, shoes, clothing, live plants or any broken or dirty items.



Volunteers are asked to meet in St. Anthony’s Parish Center on **Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00-8:00PM** to help set up for the flea market. All are welcome!

Ministering to Our Homebound

The spiritual needs of our sick, homebound, hospitalized and nursing home parishioners are very important to us. We want to keep them in prayer and provide visits and communion. You can help us minister to these parishioners in a variety of ways. Please call the rectory st 570 654 2753 or e mail Joyce at jceconi50@gmail.com.

- ▶ If someone you know is admitted to a hospital, nursing facility or is homebound...
- ▶ If you would like to visit a nursing facility on a regular basis...
- ▶ If you would like to bring communion to our homebound on a regular basis...
- ▶ If you are homebound and wish to receive communion...
- ▶ If you are homebound or residing in a nursing facility and would like the bulletin mailed to you....
- ▶ If you would like to help with deliveries to the homebound and nursing homes.,.,



On Line Giving

My E offering is a service we’ve teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offering online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products.

You can stop writing checks or having to remember to bring cash every week when you come to church. Simply log into our service and set up your offering. You can set donations to match your pay periods, and even send your one-time donations to the special offerings we may have from time to time. **To sign up, just go to www.corpuschristi-stbarbara.com** then click on the icon. If you have any trouble signing up, please call 877-393-3330 Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

Important Notice

Due to the consolidation of Corpus Christi & St. Barbara Parishes, we will be utilizing one bank account. Effective the weekend of June 28/29, all checks MUST be made payable to CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH. Thank you.

Courtesy News

Divine Mercy Parish Picnic

312 Davis St., Scranton (Minooka) will hold its annual picnic on June 21, 22, 23 on their church grounds, beginning each night at 5:00 p.m. There will be plenty of delicious foods, games for all ages, big cash raffle prizes, specialty baskets and live musical entertainment. Fr. Paul McDonnell, OSJ, pastor, invites all his Greater Pittston friends to come up & join in the fun. For more information, call the parish office at (570) 344-1724.

Summer Scripture Series

A Summer Scripture Series for adult learners will be held in Sacred Heart of Jesus School of Religion, 219 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont, on Wednesdays June 12, 19 and 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. Former Lutheran minister and Catholic convert Bill Jones will conduct the classes.

Proposed classes:

June 12, "The Ups and Downs of Jesus in the Gospel of John."

June 19, "The importance of 'kenotic theology' (Phil. 2:1-11) and the theology of the Cross in the New Testament."

June 26, "Covenantal Identities." This class will discuss the meaning and importance of God-man covenants. All are invited to attend this free series – please bring your Bible.



THE PARISHES OF ST. MARIA GORETTI, ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST & ST. JOSEPH MARELLO PRESENT

YOUTH VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

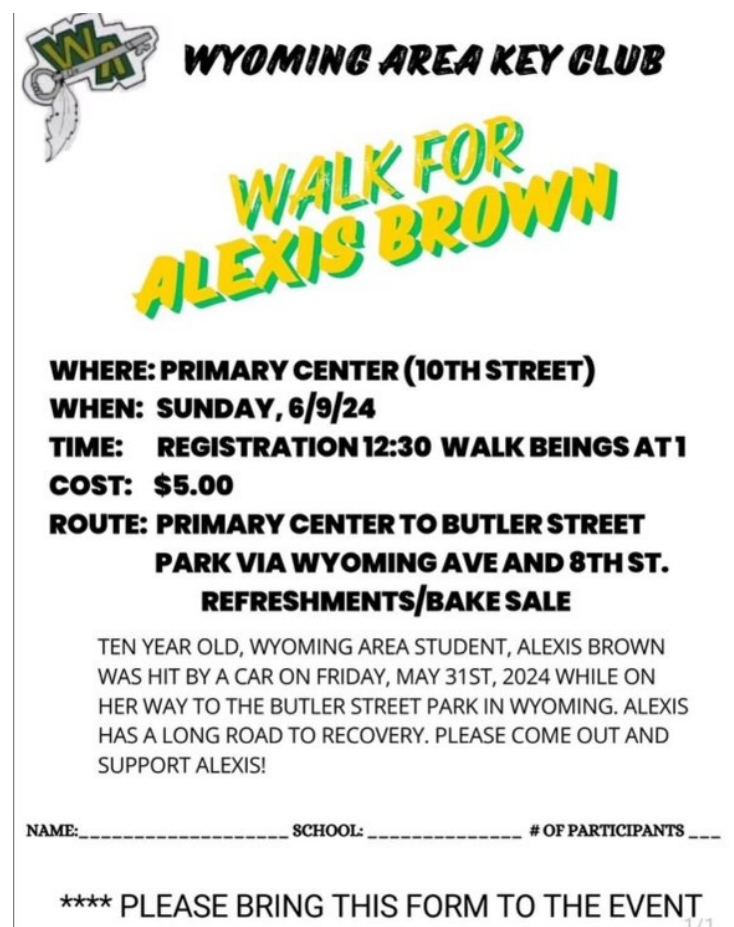
CAMPING WITH CHRIST

JULY 8TH-12TH, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM

ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH
42 REDWOOD DRIVE | LAFLIN

PARTICIPANT SIGNUP

AGES 3-10 ~ PARTICIPANTS
AGES 11+ ~ HELPERS/YOUTH ASSISTANTS
\$10 PER PARTICIPANT



WYOMING AREA KEY CLUB

WALK FOR ALEXIS BROWN

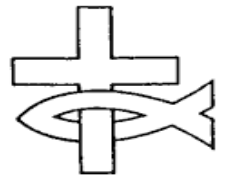
WHERE: PRIMARY CENTER (10TH STREET)
WHEN: SUNDAY, 6/9/24
TIME: REGISTRATION 12:30 WALK BEINGS AT 1
COST: \$5.00
ROUTE: PRIMARY CENTER TO BUTLER STREET PARK VIA WYOMING AVE AND 8TH ST.
REFRESHMENTS/BAKE SALE

TEN YEAR OLD, WYOMING AREA STUDENT, ALEXIS BROWN WAS HIT BY A CAR ON FRIDAY, MAY 31ST, 2024 WHILE ON HER WAY TO THE BUTLER STREET PARK IN WYOMING. ALEXIS HAS A LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY. PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT ALEXIS!

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____ # OF PARTICIPANTS _____

**** PLEASE BRING THIS FORM TO THE EVENT

Liturgy Intentions For The Week



June 10 thru 16, 2024

- Mon 7:30AM (ICC)** **Frances Macy**
By Ray & Shelly Mattie
- 8:30AM (HRC)** **Christopher Ryan Bone**
By Rita Pahl
- 12:10PM(SAC)** **John & Irene Dolgash**
By Niece, Geraldine
- Tues 7:30AM (ICC)** **Joan Flanigan**
By Family
- 8:30AM (HRC)** **Anthony Rostock, Jr.**
By Gerard & Lisa Scatena
- Wed 7:30AM (ICC)** **Barbara Cawley**
By Eileen & Patrick
- 8:30AM (HRC)** **Anne Carmody**
By Carolyn & Lance Moscatelli
- 12:10PM (SAC)** **Dec'd Members of the Manganiello & Casagrande Families**
By Ann Manganiello
- Thurs 7:30AM (ICC)** **Clare Leckie**
By Richard, Children & Grandchildren
- 8:30AM (HRC)** **James D. Alco**
By Father Jim
- Fri 7:30AM (ICC)** **Joseph E. Fedor**
By Wife & Daughter
- 8:30AM (HRC)** **Thomas J. Zenobi**
By John & Marge Hovan
- 12:10PM (SAC)** **Joseph Bone**
By Karasinski Family
- Sat 4:00PM (SAC)** **Father's Day Intentions**
- 5:30PM (ICC)** **Father's Day Intentions**
- Sun 7:30AM (SAC)** **Father's Day Intentions**
- 9:00AM (HRC)** **Father's Day Intentions**
- 10:30AM (ICC)** **Father's Day Intentions**

Candles

The following candles will burn this week in loving memory of the following:

- Altar Candles at ICC**
Harry O'Dell.....By Wife, Maryann & Children
- Sanctuary Candle at ICC**
Joseph E. Fedor.....By Wife & Daughter
- Holy Family Candle at ICC**
Clare Leckie...By Richard, Children & Grandchildren
- Sanctuary Candle at HR**
Barbara Cawley.....By Eileen & Patrick
- Sanctuary Candle at SA**
Dec'd Members of Ragantesi Family.....By Family

NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION TO PARISHIONERS OF CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH & SAINT BARBARA PARISH

JUNE 8 & 9, 2024



For the last several years, the Diocese of Scranton has been working proactively to address the realities of our local church while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade. The Diocese created its *Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process* in order to create vibrant expressions of parish life rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

The process addresses ongoing parish needs by examining four distinct priority drivers:

- Vibrancy of Parish Life
- Condition of Facilities
- Financial Viability of a Parish
- Distribution/Availability of Clergy



When a concern regarding one or more priority drivers is present in a parish, or deemed critical by the needs of the diocese overall, the Diocese of Scranton looks to make modifications in a proactive way so that the Gospel can be announced and the Church's sacraments celebrated in vibrant parish communities.

Corpus Christi Parish and **Saint Barbara Parish** initially came together in a linkage under the leadership of one pastor on May 1, 2022. Since that time, the two parish communities have been preparing to come together by celebrating Masses in all three worship sites with a combined bulletin and website, and forming shared ministries and programs. In recent years, demographic changes have resulted in a sustained decrease in Mass attendance and a diminishing number of faithful whose donations sustain the two parishes. Between 2016/2017 and 2023, Mass attendance has decreased 35 percent, from an average of 1,647 people attending Mass each weekend in 2016/2017 to 1,057 attending Mass each weekend in 2023. Furthermore, independent facility reports completed indicate that each church building will require significant funding for maintenance needs over the coming decade.

Over the last several years, in the spirit of the *Vision 2030* process, conversation and consultation has taken place within the parish community regarding the future of **Corpus Christi Parish** and **Saint Barbara Parish**, which includes, but is not limited to:

- In preparation for the linkage in **May 2022**, a Transition Team, with members from both parishes, was formed to help determine a new Mass schedule for Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes. In addition, the group helped brainstorm ways to bring people from both parishes together in shared ministries and programs.
- Since the date of the linkage, **May 1, 2022**, many parish ministries and programs have been combined, including, but not limited to the visitation ministry, social concerns ministry, bereavement ministry and adult choir.
- On **August 21, 2022**, the linked parishes held a Covered Dish Festival to bring the people of both parish communities together for food, fellowship and fun.
- At the end of **January 2023**, due to staff changes, the rectory at Saint Barbara Parish closed and all permanent records and files were moved to Corpus Christi Parish. Since that time, all business for both parishes has been handled out of the Corpus Christi parish rectory.
- In **September 2023**, all religious education classes for Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes were combined and held at the Immaculate Conception church site on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.
- In **October 2023**, a combined parish "youth choir" was formed. All boys and girls from both parishes were invited to participate. The "youth choir" sings at all scheduled family Masses, including on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.
- On **October 21, 2023**, Father Michael Drevitch was assigned as Assistant Pastor for the linked parishes and a new Daily Mass schedule was instituted that involved Masses being celebrated at all three worship sites.
- On **November 19, 2023**, parishioners from the two parishes filled and distributed more than 300 bags of food to the community in advance of Thanksgiving.
- In **December 2023**, the parishes developed and launched a new website encompassing both Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes.
- During **Advent 2023**, parishioners from both parishes joined together to fulfill the wishes of 375 children in the community and religious education students made Christmas cards for 125 homebound parishioners. Furthermore, the combined choir of Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes held a joint concert on December 10, 2023.

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JUNE 8 & 9, 2024



- In **January 2024**, work began on a new roof at Immaculate Conception Church in West Pittston.
- In **January and February 2024**, both parishes shared five years of financial data and parish life statistics in accordance with the *Vision 2030* process in the Diocese of Scranton.
- After recognizing how much work had already been done to bring the two parishes together, on **February 5, 2024**, a Joint Pastoral/Finance Council meeting of both parishes was held to discuss the possibility of consolidation beginning July 1, 2024, and the steps that would need to be taken. The Joint Pastoral Council, and separate Finance Councils, with representatives from both parishes have met and conferred repeatedly throughout the linkage and consolidation process. Their collective goal has been to ensure all aspects of the process are thoroughly considered and assure full transparency.
- On **February 27, 2024**, parish leaders met with Diocesan representatives regarding consolidation issues, including working to advance the sale of the former Saint Cecilia church property.
- In **April and May 2024**, a series of four bulletin inserts regarding consolidation were printed, beginning with a letter from Msgr. Sempa on **April 13/14**; information on the declining number of priests and parishioners on **April 20/21**; financial information for both parishes on **April 27/28**; and highlights of infrastructure needs of both parishes on **May 4/5, 2024**.
- On **May 4, 2024**, both parishes celebrated First Holy Communion together and on **May 19, 2024**, both parishes celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation together.
- On **May 13, 2024**, and **May 20, 2024**, Parish-wide Information Sessions were held at both Saint Anthony's Church and Immaculate Conception Church to explain the consolidation process in greater detail and allow the opportunity for questions or to provide feedback. More than 200 people attended these sessions.
- On **May 28, 2024**, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera consulted the Diocesan Presbyteral Council (a consultative body of priests from throughout the Diocese) regarding the possible consolidation between Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes. Following a presentation of data, the Presbyteral Council voted in unanimous agreement to the proposal.

As a result of this extensive conversation and consultation, on **June 4, 2024**, Bishop Bambera signed a formal decree (which is a document that formalizes a decision within the Church) to best address the spiritual needs of the faithful as well as the needs of the Diocese of Scranton. The decree contains the following information:

1. **Corpus Christi Parish**, with its worship sites of Immaculate Conception Church, 605 Luzerne Avenue, West Pittston, and Church of the Holy Redeemer, 2435 State Route 92, Falls, will be consolidated with **Saint Barbara Parish**, with its worship site of Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 212 Memorial Avenue, Exeter.
2. The name of the newly consolidated parish will be **Corpus Christi Parish**.
3. As a result of this consolidation, **Immaculate Conception Church** will be designated as the principal church of the newly consolidated parish and **Saint Anthony of Padua Church** and **Church of the Holy Redeemer** will be designated as the secondary churches of the newly modified parish.

According to Church law, diocesan bishops alone have the power to “erect, suppress or alter parishes” but can only do so after speaking to the Presbyteral Council and consulting parishioners. In this case, Bishop Bambera has determined that the newly modified Corpus Christi Parish has more than adequate resources to serve the liturgical and sacramental needs of parishioners.

Any parishioner who wishes to read the official decree regarding the consolidation between Corpus Christi Parish and Saint Barbara Parish may do so by visiting the Vision 2030 section of the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) or by contacting Monsignor John Sempa, pastor, Corpus Christi Parish and Saint Barbara Parish.

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