

Blessed Sacrament Church

"I am the Living Bread come down from Heaven. If any man eats of this Bread, he shall live forever; and the Bread I will give, is My Flesh." John 6:51-52



The Nativity of the Lord

FOR UNTO US
A CHILD IS BORN

*His Name shall be called "Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6

Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place in the side chapel twenty-four hours a day, every day. All are welcome to come and worship and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" Matthew 26:40

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

LORD'S DAY: Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
HOLIDAYS: Vigil: 6:00 p.m.
Holyday: 9:00 a.m.
WEEKDAYS: 9:00 a.m.
SATURDAYS: First Saturdays only: 8:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

BAPTISM: As part of the preparation process an interview with the Pastor and two instructional sessions are required. Please contact Laurie at 774-2918.

ENGAGED COUPLES: Arrangements for your marriage must be made at least nine months in advance of the marriage date.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome you and ask that you register at the Rectory. We want to know and serve you! We hope that you will favor your parish with your prayers, your presence and your talents.

Pastor

Rev. Timothy J. Campoli

Church

221 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
blessedsacramentgreenfieldma.org

Rectory

182 High Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 773-3311

Deacons

Deacon John Leary
(413) 219-2734 (C)
deaconjohnleary@gmail.com

Deacon George Nolan
(413) 523-3394
gnolan5366@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education

Laurie Tilton
774-2918
ltilton2@gmail.com

Organist

Choir Director
Stephen Glover
772-0532

Alternatives Pregnancy Ctr.

Pregnancy Tests, Counseling, Support
Post Abortion Support
(413) 774-6010

Calvary Cemetery

Wisdom Way
Greenfield
773-3311

Hispanic Ministry

Sr. Caritina Olmos, M.P.S.
413-777-5115
Sr. Rosa Torres, M.P.S.
413-459-7052

Natural Family Planning

Ed & Suzi Cottrill
413-772-6062



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD (Bishop McDonnell)

4:00 Campbell and Clark Families – by Family
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 (Our Seminarians)

8:00 Anthony Pregony, Jr. – by Wife and Sons
 10:30 Pam Page – by Page and Dame Families

Vigil of Christmas

*4:00 Deceased members of the Canuel-Boudreau Families

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH – The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas - *Holy Day of Obligation*

*9:00 Henry & Yvonne Campoli (Vocations)

TUESDAY, DEC. 26TH – St. Stephen (Our Deacon Candidates)

9:00 Grace & Blessings for Stephen Filiault – by Mom

WED., DECEMBER 27TH – St. John the Evangelist (Fr. Cullen)

9:00 Edward H. Letourneau (8th Anniversary) – by Family

THURSDAY, DEC. 28TH – The Holy Innocents (Fr. Pawlus)

9:00 Grace & Blessings for Mary Filiault – by Mom

FRIDAY, DEC. 29TH – St. Thomas Becket (Clergy in Purgatory)

9:00 David Thompson – by Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH (Clergy who are sick)

4:00 Yvonne & Joseph Togneri – by Eva & Phil Babits

SUN., DEC. 31ST – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 (Fr. Roux)

8:00 Arthur E. Gilmore, Jr. – by wife, Mary Ann Gilmore

10:30 Jim DeJoy – by Family

REMINDER: ♦ Please join with us in praying the **Rosary** before each daily Mass at 8:15 a.m., before the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass.

♦ **Confessions** after each weekend Mass.

♦ The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** will be recited Fridays at 3:00 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel. All are invited to come and pray with us.

♦ Blessed Sacrament has a **Prayer Chain** which is available for anyone. Simply contact Marie Boynton at 413-772-5858 or memeboynton@comcast with your petition.

♦ **Sponsor Certificates** - Many parishes require certificates of sponsorship for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors. These will be issued only to those who are confirmed adult Catholics, registered in the parish, regular participants at Mass, validly married in the Church (*if applicable*) and providing for the religious education of their own children (*if applicable*).



Weekend of December 30 & 31

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Saturday, December 30

4:00	Deacon George Nolan	Cynn timer Erho
	Bill Randall	Francis Campbell
	Hannah Lively	Monica McCarthy
	Brian Luippold	Joanne Yestramski
	Kathy Burrows	

Sunday, December 31

8:00	Deacon George Nolan	Jim Podlesney
	Ginger Baird	Lynne Podlesney
	Lionel Martin	
10:30	Deacon John Leary	Bob Page
	Deacon George Nolan	Judy Lapointe
	Donna Leary	Bob O'Connor
	Mary Jane Bardwell	Suzanne Hunter
	Joyce Thibodo	

Poet's Seat Nursing Home:

Sunday, December 31 Kerry Semaski

Lectors / Cantors:

Sat., Dec. 30	4:00	Jason Semaski / Betsy Grybko
Sun., Dec. 31	8:00	Laurie Tilton / Karlena Henry
	10:30	Marie Boynton / Brenda Hill



Saturday, December 30

4:00 Piper Day, Penley Day

Sunday, December 31

8:00 Cody Podlesney, Sarah Podlesney
 10:30 Jacob Christi, Ezra Christi, Casey Christi

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory/honor: **Baby Giovanni** – from Marie Boynton

The Adoration Chapel Candles will burn this week in memory/honor of:

- 1.) **For a special intention** – from Susan Hurley
- 2.) **For a special intention** – from Anonymous
- 3.) **Deacon John Leary** – from Doug & Joan Gilhooly Parsons
- 4.) **Deacon George Nolan**–from Doug & Joan Gilhooly Parsons

March for Life

Catholics for Life, along with the Franklin County Deanery, are sponsoring a chartered bus to attend the Annual March for Life in Washington, DC on the 45th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. The bus will depart from Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield on Thursday evening, January 18th. We will spend Friday, January 19th in Washington, leaving at 4:00 p.m. We will arrive back in Greenfield early Saturday morning. **All students may attend at no charge; sponsorship will be available.** For additional information, please contact Deacon John Leary at deaconjohnleary@gmail.com or (413) 219-2734.

Inclement weather CCD Cancellations

In case of inclement weather please check any of the following: WHAI 98.3, WHMP 1240AM, Bear Country 95.3 or websites: www.whai.com, or www.bear953.com for CCD cancellations.

Food Pantry

Please remember to leave your non-perishable food donations at the doors of the church, especially cold cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, hearty soups, pudding/jello, crackers and cookies. Thank you!

Volunteer Cleaners - Adoration Chapel

Volunteers are needed to help with the weekly cleaning of the Franklin County Adoration Chapel in Greenfield. Four teams of volunteers help clean the Adoration Chapel once a month. The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7 and we clean it every Monday. It only requires about 30 minutes of your valuable time. The normal time for cleaning is from 7:00 a.m. to about 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on Mondays. Please prayerfully consider helping us by volunteering for this important ministry. For more information and to sign up, please call **Pat Earley at 773-3396**. Thank you!

Panamá 2019 World Youth Day

Registrations are being taken for a World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Panamá (January 21-28, 2019) for the Diocese of Springfield. For an itinerary visit www.diospringfield.org. For more information contact Pilgrimage Host Gina Czerwinski at 413-452-0677 or g.czerwinski@diospringfield.org. Space is limited.

Pilgrimage to Poland, Vienna, and Prague

Join Bishop Rozanski and Fr. Gary Dailey on a pilgrimage to Poland, Vienna and Prague with the Catholic Communications Ministry of the Diocese of Springfield scheduled from July 16 – 27, 2018. For more info., visit the official pilgrimage website at www.johnpaulpilgrimagesandtours.com/project/diospringfield or contact info@johnpaultours.com or 928-255-0955 / or l.gaulin@diospringfield.org or 413-452-0643.

Knights of Columbus Museum

Crèches of the World: This 13th annual Christmas exhibition includes nearly 70 Nativity scenes from across the globe and will be on display through Feb. 19, 2018. **Christmas Tree Festival:** This 17th annual exhibition features 24 trees decorated with handmade ornaments by Connecticut school children and continues until Jan. 28, 2018. The Museum is located at 1 State Street, New Haven, Conn. Visit kofcmuseum.org or call 203-865-0400. Free admission and parking.

Advent Wreath Prayers for Home
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE



Leader: The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

VOICE: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus

(Light Advent Candle Four - Purple.)

Leader: Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love - shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Spiritual Food for Thought

"Little by little, we can make our daily life more and more prayerful, as we are able, over time, to incorporate those suggestions that work with our schedule and that we are ready for spiritually. There is a particular spiritual practice that Francis [de Sales] highly recommends that is possible for all of us: even on those 'impossible' days when we are perhaps unable to undertake our normal spiritual practices, we can stay rooted in prayer by constantly addressing brief prayers to the Lord. These can be acts of love, of adoration, of faith, of hope, of petition, or simply saying the name of Jesus—throughout the course of the day. Francis places a very high value on these simple utterances, traditionally called ejaculatory prayers or aspirations."

— Ralph Martin



Knights of Columbus Council #133
Meetings 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Fr. Casey Hall, Holy Trinity Church

We are looking for new members.
If interested, please contact Jason Semaski
(413-626-3378) or Jay Dillon (413-773-3678).

College of Our Lady of the Elms

The annual Diocesan Appeal for the College of Our Lady of the Elms will be made throughout the Diocese at all Masses on January 7 and 8. Elms College educates young women and men in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and offers scholarships for students to make this faith-based education more affordable. The need for your support is great. There is an envelope in your packet for this purpose. Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift opportunity. For more information about how you can support Elms College, call 413-265-2214 or go to www.elms.edu.

The New Star

When Saint Elizabeth of Hungary lay dying on November 16, 1231, she spent her last hours telling about the life of Jesus, as she had learned to see this and understand it in the Bible and in the preaching of the Church. Toward midnight, she asked those present to be utterly silent: "Let us speak about the Savior and about the Christ child, for midnight is close at hand, when the sweet child Jesus was born." In the hour of her dying, she entered the silence of Christmas night. In the night of her dying, she entered the night of light.

This shows how deeply she had imbibed the words and the realities of the faith, so that these now totally filled her soul and her senses. She had allowed the history of the faith to structure the rhythm of her own time to such an extent that for Elizabeth, the hours of the day were no longer merely phases in the movements of the sun and the stars: they were hours that told the story of God's love for us.

Silence, the sphere where God is born

Saint Elizabeth asked those around her to be utterly silent, since a child was about to be born. This might seem almost playful – the child wants to sleep, and one should not disturb him! But this apparent playfulness is in reality the expression of that reverence which alone is able to open up the path to the mystery. Silence is the space of this child. Silence is the sphere where God is born. It is only when we ourselves enter the sphere of silence that we reach the point where God is born.

Thus, these words of Saint Elizabeth echo one of the earliest texts of the Christmas liturgy, which came in the course of time to inspire so many hymns: the Book of Wisdom says, "While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed" (18:14-15).

As early as the beginning of the second Christian century, Ignatius of Antioch drew on this passage when he wrote of three mysteries that cried aloud but were hidden from the prince of this world since they had taken place in the silence of God (*Letter to the Ephesians* 19, 1).

Learning to listen in the silence

Christmas invites us into this silence of God, and his mystery remains hidden to so many people because they cannot find the silence in which God acts. How do we find it? Mere silence on its own does not suffice to create it, for a man may be silent externally while in himself he is torn this way and that by all the confusion of the world. It is possible to keep silent yet experience a terrible din within oneself.

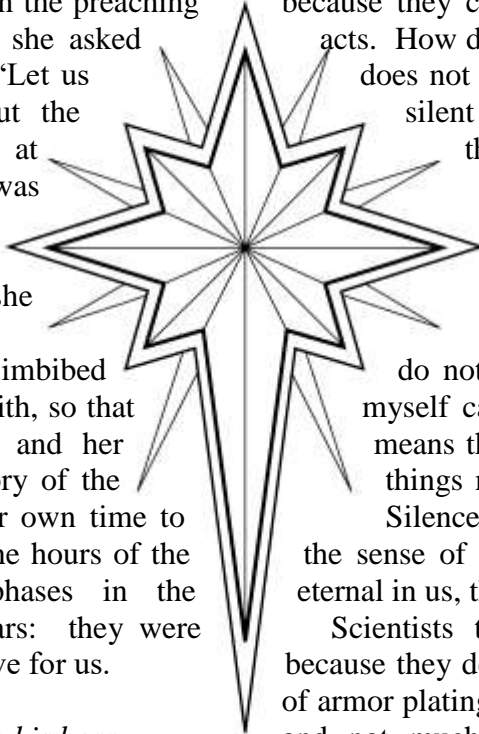
Becoming silent means discovering a new order of things. It means that I do not limit my attention to those things I myself can produce and display to others. It means that I do not limit my interest to those things men consider important and valuable. Silence means developing the inner senses, the sense of the conscience, the sensitivity to the eternal in us, the ability to listen to God.

Scientists tell us that the dinosaurs died out because they developed in the wrong direction: a lot of armor plating and not much brain, a lot of muscles and not much understanding. Are not we, too, developing in the wrong direction: a lot of technology, but not much soul? A thick armor plating of material know-how, but a heart that has become empty? Have we not lost the ability to perceive the voice of God in us and to recognize and acknowledge the good, the beautiful, and the true?

Remaining open to God

"Let us be silent, let us speak about the Savior, for midnight is close at hand." Is it not high time to do what Saint Elizabeth tells us? Is it not high time to correct the course that our "evolution" is taking?

Such a correction cannot consist in a foolish renunciation of human work and the cultivation of the earth. Rather, it means giving renewed space to the ethical and religious reason in man. The silence that faith requires means that man is not so completely absorbed by the system of the economic-technological civilization that he is reduced to one function within this system. We must learn anew to grasp that there is something lying between science and superstition: that deeper ethical and religious insight which alone can banish superstition and make man human by seeing him in the light of God.



Christmas is meant to help us achieve this correction of our course, thereby performing for one another and for the world the service that is so urgently needed. For the deepest distress of men today is not due to the crisis of our material resources; the problem is that the windows that give access to God have been bricked up, and we are consequently at risk of losing the air our heart breathes, the core of human freedom and dignity.

Receiving light and giving light

Let us return to Saint Elizabeth. Her last words were: “Then he created a new star, which had never shone before.” As she looked at this star, she passed away. The star she had followed throughout her life shone for her in her last hour, too, on her last path, which thus became a path into light.

The star of Christmas night – this is, first of all, the incarnate Son himself. He is the light that shows the path through the streets of history. He shatters the superstition that blooms all the more exuberantly as faith disintegrates. He shows the absurdity of the astrology that wishes to imprison man in the

straitjacket of unending cycles of constellations, cycles in which there is nothing new, but only the repetition of something that never changes.

Man’s true constellations are those men who show him the new path of his heart and his vocation. Christ is the star that has risen for us. In faith, he himself kindles for us the light that makes other men stars who show the way to him. Elizabeth became such a star. And this is why we pray in the Second Mass of Christmas: “May the light of faith shine in our words and actions.”

This makes Christmas a very practical matter. To look at the star means receiving light and giving light, radiating in the world around us the light that we have received, so that it can provide orientation to others, too. We have more than enough opportunities to do this, even outside Advent: once our heart has awakened, we see around us so many others who are waiting for a light. Let them not call out to us in vain.

Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)
The Blessing of Christmas, Ignatius Press

January, Pray for the Priests and Deacons of the Franklin County Deanery

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Clergy who are sick</i>	2 <i>Fr. Campoli</i>	3 <i>Fr. Lisowski</i>	4 <i>Fr. Bermudez</i>	5 <i>Deacon Rabbitt</i>	6 <i>Fr. Reardon</i>
7 <i>Msgr. Yargeau</i>	8 <i>Deacon Culliton</i>	9 <i>Deacon Leary</i>	10 <i>Deacon Bucci</i>	11 <i>Pope Francis</i>	12 <i>Deacon Ratté</i>	13 <i>Fr. Roach</i>
14 <i>Vocations / Deacon Bete Holy Hour for Vocations – 7 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Fr. O’Mannion</i>	16 <i>Fr. Bombardier</i>	17 <i>Clergy in Purgatory</i>	18 <i>Our Seminarians</i>	19 <i>Deacon Nolan</i>	20 <i>Fr. Akšamit</i>
21 <i>Fr. DiMascola</i>	22 <i>Fr. O’Connor</i>	23 <i>Fr. Roux</i>	24 <i>Our Deacon Candidates</i>	25 <i>Bishop Rozanski</i>	26 <i>Deacon DeCarlo</i>	27 <i>Deacon Patten</i>
28 <i>Fr. Lunney</i>	29 <i>Clergy in Purgatory</i>	30 <i>Bishop McDonnell</i>	31 <i>Vocations</i>	<i>We ask you, Mother of Christ, be our guide to the Heart of your Son. (January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God)</i>		