



St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church

1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, PA 17353
Phone ~ 717-677-8012 - Fax ~ 717-677-6350
stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org
www.stignatiusofloyola.org

February 23, 2020

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Harrisburg, PA

Rev. Dominic M. DiBiccaro
Pastor
frddibiccaro@hbgdiocese.org

Deacon Steve Huete
Pastoral Associate
shuete@hbgdiocese.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Closed Fridays, Holy Days of Obligation,
and Holidays



Weekend Masses

Saturday: Vigil Mass of Anticipation ~ 5 pm
Sunday ~ 8 am and 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
8:30 am
Wednesday ~ 7 pm

Holy Days of Obligation

See Parish Calendar inside



Ash Wednesday
February 26

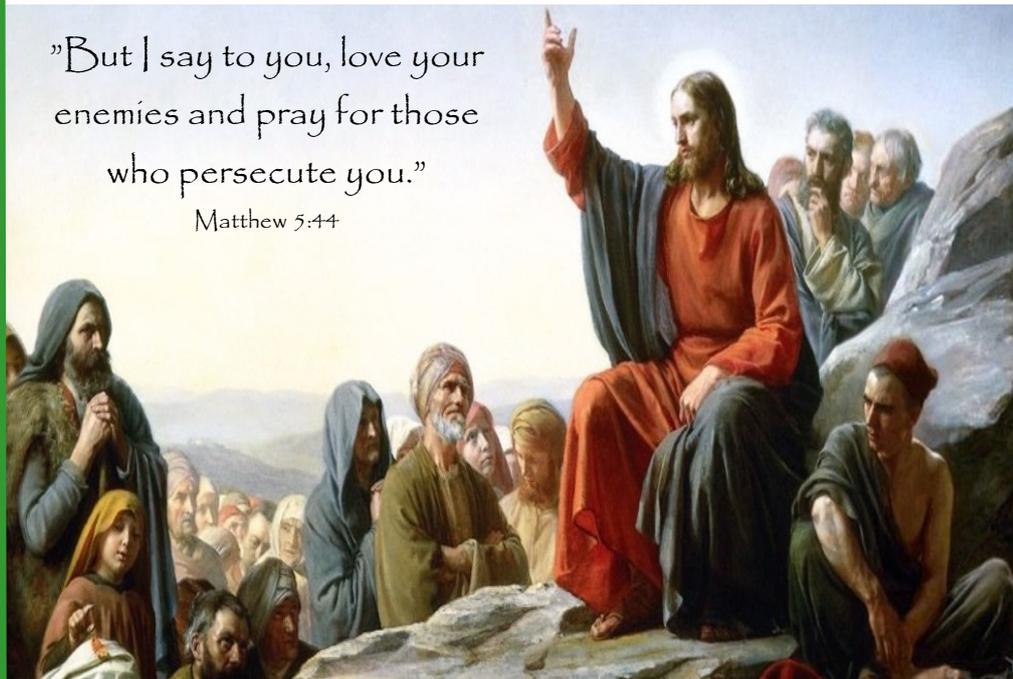


Parish
Mission Survey
Is Coming!

**Please see the insert
in next week's bulletin.**

"But I say to you, love your
enemies and pray for those
who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44



The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Mass Intentions, Daily Readings, & Events
for the week of:*

February 22nd ~ March 2nd

Saturday, February 22 ~ Vigil for Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:15 - 4:45 pm ~ Confessions

5:00 pm Vigil ~ MASS - Special Intention for Renee Galvan

Sunday, February 23 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am ~ MASS + Dorothy Black

10:30 am ~ MASS - People of the Parish

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 ♦ 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 ♦ Matthew 5:38-48

9:10 am ~ Picnic Meeting

9:15 am ~ Religious Education ~ Classrooms

9:15 am ~ Coffee & Donuts ~ Lower Loyola

Monday, February 24 ~ Weekday in Ordinary Time

NO Daily MASS

James 3:13-18 ♦ Mark 9:14-29

8:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Parish Office Open

Tuesday, February 25 ~ Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am ~ Daily MASS - Private Intention

James 4:1-10 ♦ Mark 9:30-37

8:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Parish Office Open

9:00 am ~ Book Group ~ Conference Room

10:00 am ~ Bible Study ~ Conference Room

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday

8:30 am - MASS + Ed Warfield

7:00 pm - MASS - Special Intention for Emily & Unborn Child
Joel 2:12-18 ♦ 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 ♦ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

8:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Parish Office Open

Thursday, February 27 ~ Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 am ~ Daily MASS - Special Intention for Linda Mumaugh

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 ♦ Luke 9:22-25

8:00 am - 2:00 pm ~ Parish Office Open

Friday, February 28 ~ Friday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 am ~ Daily MASS - Special Intention for Lorraine Warfield

Isaiah 58:1-9 ♦ Matthew 9:14-15

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, February 29 ~ Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:9-14 ♦ Luke 5:27-32

7:00 am ~ "That Man Is You" ~ Lower Loyola

Saturday, February 29 ~ Vigil for First Sunday of Lent

4:15 - 4:45 pm ~ Confessions

4:30 pm ~ Rosary

5:00 pm Vigil ~ MASS + Anna Jacob

Sunday, March 1 ~ First Sunday of Lent

8:00 am ~ MASS - People of the Parish

10:30 am ~ MASS + John Finamore

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 ♦ Romans 5:12-19 ♦ Matthew 4:1-11

9:15 am ~ Religious Education ~ Classrooms

9:15 am ~ Coffee & Donuts ~ Lower Loyola

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1*



First
Sunday
in Lent

This is our first 2020 PICNIC meeting ...

Sunday, February 23rd

9:10 am ~ Lower Loyola Center

There are important updates on the following issues :
Sandwich Stand, Soda Stand, Ball Pitch, and the Ring Toss.
Other items such as inviting the Cashtown Boy Scouts to be
involved with our Picnic with clean up and more .
This would be for credit for merit badges, etc.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - Protector of
Holy Mother Church

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our
protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and
do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by
the power of God, cast into hell Satan and
all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the
world seeking the ruin of souls!
Amen.



Join us for the
Holy Rosary

Saturday, February 29
4:30 pm.

February 26th

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

8:30 am & 7:00 pm

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses

*Remember, man, that you are dust and dust
you shall return. +*

Women of St. Ignatius Luncheon

Tuesday, March 3 @ 12:30 pm

Join other ladies of the parish at Perkins on Route 30 East
for some good food and fellowship. It's a low-key, friendly
affair. Why not attend? All ladies are welcome!

If you have any questions please call
Ginny Hocter @ 717-264-8177.

Extraordinary Ministers,
Readers & Sacristans

The new schedules are ready.
You may pick one up in the
Narthex or in the
Loyola Center mailbox.

Lent

A Time to Renew

Lent is a 40 day period (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter.
It's one of the most important times of year
for many Christians around the world.
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.
The purpose of Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

FASTING is to be observed by all, 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday.

On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. [As are medications, including those prescribed as to "take with food." Any doctor nutritional/dietary approved regimens are thus outside the Lenten disciplines. Holy Mother Church does not envision risking one's health as appropriate for Lent or at any other time.]

ABSTINENCE is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. It has already been noted that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.
(Code of Canon Law, 1251-1252)



FASTING, ALMSGIVING, and PRAYER are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of the renewal of baptismal promises at Easter.

The Significance of Ashes

A Reflection by St. Pope John Paul II

The ashes imposed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are a reminder of our unworthiness and sinfulness-- sinfulness that corrupts and stains us and leads to death (we return to the dust from whence we came). Ashes remind us of our original sin and our need of redemption -- of our need to be cleansed of sin and made worthy of Salvation.

This is why the priest says, as he imposes ashes on our foreheads,
"Remember, O Man, that you are dust and unto dust you shall return".



See the bulletin for details

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE. FRIDAYS OF LENT ARE ALSO DAYS OF ABSTINENCE.

Once again the Knights of Columbus will be hosting the

St. Patrick's Dinner Dance
and Silent Auction



Saturday, March 14, 2020

Silent Auction items are currently being accepted.

You may place them in the Lower Loyola Center.
(Put them on the table near the restrooms)

\$25.00 person

(same menu but will be catered)

Tickets offered after all Masses

"Knights of Columbus Council #14035 are not part of and not acting on behalf of the Parish or Diocese."



The Sanctuary Candle reminds us of the Presence of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Sanctuary Candle is offered for the month of February

In Memory of Donald Redding
from Edna Redding



For the intention of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the month of February:

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered. *Let us pray to the LORD...*

A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.
Proverbs 27:9

OFFERTORY - Thank you for your generosity	
February 9	
Weekend Collection	
Sunday	\$2,829.00
Candles/Living Faith	\$ 156.62
Altar Flowers	\$ 160.00
Parish Second Collection	
Local Poor	\$1,502.00
Holy Day	
	\$ N/A
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$4,647.62
Amount Needed Each Week	\$5,013.00
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Week	(\$ 365.38)
Diocesan Second Collection	
Society for Propagation of the Faith	\$ 90.00

Other Income	
	\$ N/A

LENTEN

FISH FRY

March 6 & 27



PRICES

Adults \$ 10.00

5-10 \$5.00

4 under FREE

Serving:

Potato Crusted Cod

endless Fries

Coleslaw

Dessert

Beverage

Dessert donations are appreciated.
You may drop off Thursday before 2
or Friday after 3.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00 PM

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted." Mt. 5:4

Our Life After Loss Ministry invites those who are mourning to our monthly meeting for fellowship and support on

Saturday, March 28, 2020
10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

More details to be announced. Please contact Dodie Huete for help or information: dshuete@yahoo.com or 717/816-7463 [cell/text].

There is help when you're hurting!!

Please pray for the sick of our Parish & Friends

Helen Mills, Joanna Hodges, Haley Detman, Kim Glass, Martha Klinger, Clara Redding, Liam Shields & Family, Helen Mills, Fr. Bill Sullivan, Fr. Dominick Mammaerella, Ginger DiTullio, Steve Jaimes, Megan Shaffer, Sue Gustafson, Mickie Schneider, Joe Durovey, Donald Sheppard, Linda Mumaugh, Cynthia, Dawn Snyder, Hank & Loretta, Fr. Michael Messner, Fr. Dunkleberger's mother, Janet Hartman, Linda York, Robbie, Edward Johnson, Ryon, Paul Ward, Bev Smith, Jan Patla, Christopher H. Herr, Angela Galeone, Donna, Boden Miller, Dalton, Mindy Rouzer, Chris MacBeth, Harry Graham, Donald Howard, Jean, Alison Haring, "Champ", Carol Adams, Arlene Szoch, Kathy, Armond Binni, Jenn, Mike Dodson, Ange Pena, Kelly Kimple Kahn, Dot Edwards, Eileen, Louise Huete, Elizabeth Stansky, Troy Weishaar, Pauline McDermott, Peg Hippensteel, Douglas Prentice, Lana, Liam Brown, Marlene Iannotti, Ursula Kaley, Douglas Prentice, Mary Irwin, Loren Stonestifer "Stoney", Patrick Glass, Spencer Propst, Carol Dunn, Nick Russo, Tom & Clare Switzer, Cynthia Byers, Faud Doaney, Yvette Stoklosa, Mary Andia, Nancy Kewisnek, Maureen McGilloway Collins, Poulos, Rae Harmand, Ray Haber, Melanie Latina, Chris Morris, Olivia Grace, Janis Potter, Helen Myers Scarlata, Denny Borbonus, Julia Weishaar, Hope Foreman, Juliete Lang, Paul Young, Bill & Michelle Cloonan, Karlton Smith, Donna Doxzen, Pat Johnson, Harry Shogren, Leverne Barrett, Jeff Klein, Assour and Abuhajaze, Mary Hawthorne, Andy Graham, Maryann Jurysta, Ed Washington, Mason Pritchett, Edna Showers, Josh Kempinski, Shirley Shermeyer, Don Sheppard, Nancy Baker Baltzey, Anji Eisenhart, Andy Consiglio, Anthony Kane, Helen Lagasse, Monica Manner, Marlene Webster, John DeMeza, Emile Shunnarah, Janet Shunnarah, George Shunnarah, Yvette Stoklosa, Joan Dionne, Delores & Jim Gilbert, Bill & Deb McClintock, Mary Pekich, all nursing home residents and shut-ins, and all private intentions.

In your prayers please also remember all our men and women who are currently in our Armed Forces who are on active duty. Pray for them, their families, and for their safe return. Maj. Nathan Jeffcoat - Marines, Lt. Alexandra Jeffcoat - Navy, Lt. Joseph Cleary - Navy, Michael C. Kenney IV - Coast Guard, Joshua Kimple - Army, SGM Kevin Hauser, Private Austin Shaffer - Army, Lt. Sarah Fogleman, M.D. - Navy CPT., Fr. Raymond LaVoie - National Guard,

If you have a family member or someone who you would like listed in the bulletin for the parish prayer chain to pray for, contact Mickie Schneider at hlsforts@centurylink.net or 642-8501 or Helen Lagasse @ 352-4339.

No Openings for Married Priests, Nor Women Deacons, in Pope's Post-Synodal Exhortation on the Amazon

'Querida Amazonia'

Warns Against "Reductionism," "Very Narrow Aims" & Calls for Striving "to Awaken New Life in Communities"

February 12, 2020 | ZENIT ("The World Seen From Rome")

In order to combat the shortage of priests in the Amazon, Pope Francis says this "urgent need" requires prayer for priestly vocations and more encouraging of the missionary vocation. This was the Holy Father's conclusion in 'Querida Amazonia', Pope Francis' post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Amazon, which was published today after great anticipation.

The papal document is the fruit of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian Region, on the theme "*Amazon: new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology.*" The regional Synod took place in the Vatican, Oct. 6-27, 2019, bringing together the Roman Curia and the region's Church leadership and religious order superiors.

Composed of 111 paragraphs and published originally in Spanish, 'Dear Amazon' is broken up into Pope Francis' different 'dreams' for the territory and concludes with a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. With half of the text being dedicated to ecclesial matters, there is a great emphasis throughout it for the pastoral care of the indigenous in the region that reaches nine countries, and for the environment.

In the text, Pope Francis does not affirm the idea proposed by bishops during the synod of ordaining married priests in the Latin Rite in that region, where faithful may go many months without receiving the Eucharist due to lack of priests. The Pope instead suggests: "This urgent need leads me to urge all bishops, especially those in Latin America, not only to promote prayer for priestly vocations, but also to be more generous in encouraging those who display a missionary vocation to opt for the Amazon region." Pope Francis says "it's not simply a question of facilitating a greater presence of ordained ministers who can celebrate the Eucharist. That would be a very narrow aim, were we not also to strive to awaken new life in communities."

The Holy Father has repeatedly expressed his opposition of the idea of changing the law on priestly celibacy. He did so on the return flight from his Apostolic Trip to Panama, quoting Saint Pope Paul VI who said he would rather give his life than change the law on celibacy. Also this week, when meeting with US bishops in Rome during their *ad Limina* visit, he suggested nothing would change.

Moreover, in a recent book he participated in, on St. John Paul II, Francis again reaffirmed this, noting his conviction that celibacy for the Latin Rite "is a gift, a grace" and "never a limit."

In the text, there is no new opening for women deacons. Francis suggest that "only reductionism" would lead us to believe that women would be granted a greater status and participation in the Church only if they were admitted to Holy Orders." He warned "that approach would in fact narrow our vision; it would lead us to clericalize women, diminish the great value of what they have already accomplished."

While some may have suggested that if Pope Francis does not open a door to study this option that it was influenced by the "From the Depths of Our Hearts" book published on Jan. 14 by Cardinal Robert Sarah with the contribution of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, which reaffirmed priestly celibacy, well-informed sources state that Pope Francis submitted his document on Dec. 27 and the document, other than for minor translation tweaks, has not been changed since.

The Pope's Apostolic Exhortation is available online or at the parish office.



The 2020 DAC began on February 1 with a letter sent to all donors over the past three years asking them to renew their gifts prior to the **in-pew weekend on March 8, 2020.**
We will have in-pew envelopes for three weekends.

In two weeks we will kick off the 2020 Diocesan Annual Campaign, formerly known as the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal with the in-pew solicitation. Bishop Gainer has prepared a video message for us. You may go on the Diocesan home page to view. Rooted in Faith is the theme for the 2020 Diocesan Annual Campaign. Letters have been mailed from Bishop Gainer asking for your support. We have been asked by the Bishop to prayerfully consider a pledge to this effort. As a parish, we benefit in a number of ways: shared outreach ministries that are led by the Diocese, and implemented at the Parish level. By our collective efforts from parishioners and parishes throughout the Diocese, a multitude of programs and ministries are offered to those in need. We are relying on your generous support to insure that these programs and ministries continue. I thank you in advance for your loyal and steadfast support.

St. Ignatius 2020 DAC Goal ~ \$29,335.00



Pennies for Life

Thank you to all those who gave for this important collection.
 We collected a total of \$258.83.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Do you have an ill friend or family member experiencing these symptoms? Are you part of a ministry that visits the sick and home-bound, and would like to learn and understand these conditions in order to serve with compassion and care? Do you simply want to learn about Alzheimer's and Dementia? Please join us for a free presentation led by the Alzheimer's Association.

The presentation will include helpful resources and Q&A.

Diocesan Conference Center
 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg
 March 3, 2020
 10:30 am.

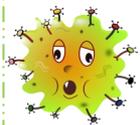
All are welcomed. In order to prepare for this presentation, kindly RSVP by contacting Jaclyn Curran at:
jcurran@hbgdiocese.org
 or
 (717) 657-4804 ext 313

Cold and flu season is upon us!

The distribution of the Most Precious Blood in the side chalices and the extending a hand at the sign of peace

will be suspended until it passes. If you are suffering from cold or flu symptoms, please be mindful of your contact with others. Please wash your hands thoroughly and make use of hand cleaner when necessary.

Wash hands frequently! Cough and sneeze? Elbow, please! Thank You!



Food for the Spirit:

There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits that you place on your own thinking.



"Save the Date" for the

\Annual Diocesan Men's Conference
 March 28 ~ 7:15 am - 4:15 pm

Bishop McDevitt High School

You may now register on-line at www.hbgdiocese.org/men and click "Register Online."

The early-bird price is \$35.00 per man.

Be one of 1,000 or more men to register for this fantastic Catholic Men's Conference.

"SAVE THESE DATES"

Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women of the Diocese to attend the 95th Annual Convention at the Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, PA. The keynote speaker is Sarah Christmyer.

On **June 12 - 14, 2020** please join us at the 10th Annual Women's Weekend Retreat at Mt. St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD. The Retreat Master is Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.



More details coming soon!



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

2020 Individual

Ticket Order Form

The Diocese of Harrisburg is once again working with *Hersheypark*® to offer tickets for a substantial discount to parishioners and their families.



If you would like to order tickets for the 2020 *Hersheypark* Summer season (valid any ONE public operating day), complete and submit this ORDER FORM along with full payment, checks made payable to your St. Ignatius, NO LATER THAN:

Tuesday, April 30, 2020

Name _____

Address _____

Phone for Contact _____



THIS OFFER ENDS on
Tuesday, April 30, 2020



Note: Tickets are valid any public day during the regular 2020 season.

Quantity	Type	Gate	YOUR Price	Savings	TOTAL \$
Total					
	ALL Ages (ages 3 +)	\$74.80	\$38.95	40% off	
	Prepaid Meal Ticket <small>Choose a meal at up to 20 food venues. All meals include entrée, side and Large Fountain Drink</small>	\$14.99	\$12.99		
	Snack Voucher	\$4.50	<small>Exclusive, not available at the park</small>		
	Prepaid Parking Pass	\$20.00	\$10.00	50% off	



Upcoming Events:

February 26: Ash Wednesday
March 6: Fish Fry

Upcoming Collections:

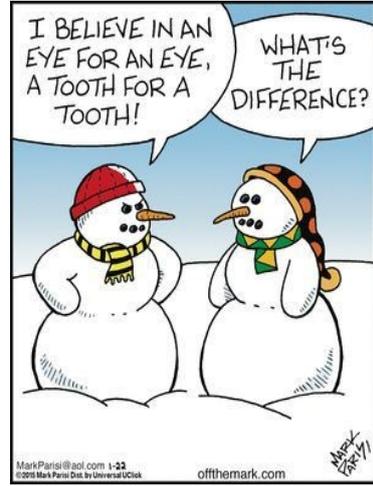
February 26: Ash Wednesday
March 1/2: Poor Missions in the U.S.
7/8: Easter Flowers
21/22: Catholic Relief Services
(watch the bulletin for details)

CONTRIBUTION TAX STATEMENTS

The 2019 contribution statements are ready. Again this year, copies of the contribution statements will be mailed ONLY upon request.

Anyone requesting a copy, please contact Sue in the Parish Office by phone or sswitzer@hbgdiocese.org.

(If e-mailing, please give name, address, phone # and that you're requesting 2019 tax information.)



The LORD is kind and merciful.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday ~ 4:15pm- 4:45pm; or by appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick should be given if an individual is gravely ill or near death. If possible, the Sacrament should also be administered before major surgery or when one is initially hospitalized.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Diocesan policy requires 12 months of preparation for Marriage. Contact the parish as soon as possible after engagement. No arrangements should be made prior to consultation with the pastor.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents must be registered members of the parish and attend a Baptism preparation class prior to the Baptism if this is your first child baptized. The requirements for godparents are established by the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for information and to register your child for Baptism.

Parish Registration

All Catholics should be registered in their local parish. Please contact the parish office to obtain registration forms, or if you are uncertain of the parish where you should register.

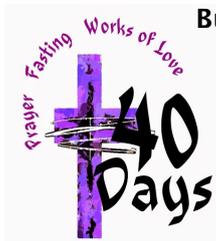
Parish Staff & Ministries Directory

Parish Secretary ~ Sue Switzer ~ 717-677-8012 ~ sswitzer@hbgdiocese.org

Financial Manager ~ Deacon Steve Huete ~ 717-677-8012/677-0682/816-9600 (cell) ~ shuete@hbgdiocese.org

Coordinator of Religious Education ~ contact the Parish Office

Buildings & Grounds ~ JB Groff & Craig Groff ~ 717-677-8012



Parish Council Members

Julie Abell
Jim Bittle
Emma Flemming - *Chairperson*
Jane Oyler - *Vice Chair*
Dorothy Vega - *Secretary*
Dr. Bob Ternes
Walt Wilson

Finance Council Members

Deacon Steve Huete (*Ex Officio*) - 677-8012
John Dabney - *Chairperson*
Greg Ernst
Christy Hemler - *Secretary*
Diane MacBeth



Altar Flowers

Carol Lowe
Diane Ebersole

Bereavement Luncheons

Ginny Bittle

Cemetery

Contact Sue Switzer

Call the Parish Office for Contact Information

Knights of Columbus

SK Bob Ternes - Grand Knight

OCIA

Contact Fr. Dominic

Picnic Co-Chairpersons

John Neiderer
Wally Kane

Prayer Chain

Mickie Schneider - hlsforts@centurylink.net
Helen Lagasse

Soup Kitchen

Jane Stockhausen

Mary Daniels

Website Development

Erin Switzer - tse441@embarqmail.com



Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

www.YouthProtectionHBG.com

Abuse Reporting Contact Information

First – Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 800-932-0313

Then – Call the Diocesan toll-free hotline at 800-626-1608

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it.” (1 Cor 12:26)

Many Catholics have questions regarding the 2018 Grand Jury Report — what steps have we taken to ensure the safety of our children, how are we helping survivors, how are we meeting our financial obligations, and where the Church goes from here. Bishop Gainer has held Listening Sessions to address these questions. A booklet was developed to help: *We Pledge: A Report to the Catholic People*. It is available on the diocesan website @ www.YouthProtectionHBG.com.

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



(717) 657-4804
FAX (717) 657-1370
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111-3710
Bishop'sOffice@hbgdiocese.org
www.hbgdiocese.org

February 19, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

By the time you are reading this letter, many of you will have already heard that our Diocese has been forced to make the difficult decision to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Known as Reorganization Bankruptcy, this plan will allow us to continue the work of the Diocese and equitably compensate our creditors.

This decision was made after countless hours of prayer and careful deliberation with our financial experts, attorneys, and our Diocesan Consultative Bodies.

Over the past few years, our Diocese has been forced to confront our horrific past regarding clergy sexual abuse. Today, we are facing some difficult financial realities. Despite making every attempt to scale back operations and reduce overhead, we are currently unable to meet our financial obligations.

The overwhelming reality is that for a number of years prior to receiving the Grand Jury Subpoena in 2016, the Diocesan finances were in a very challenging condition. Responding to that investigation forced us to incur very heavy legal costs, which has had harsh financial consequences for the Diocese. Those costs were not something the Diocese was able to plan for in our budget, which greatly limited the options available to us to correct the preexisting financial trend. Our current financial situation, coupled with changes in the law both here and in New Jersey, where we are already named in one lawsuit and where we anticipate more to follow, left us with no other path forward to ensure the future of our Diocese. Despite the success of the Survivor Compensation Program, which helped 111 survivors of clergy child sexual abuse, or 96% of those who participated in the Program, we already are in receipt of half a dozen new lawsuits, any one of which could severely cripple the Diocese.

As Bishop, I must ensure the Diocese's core mission is upheld, which is to remain focused on Christ's mandate to preach, teach, sanctify, and to serve those in need. We must work to bring the Chapter 11 process to a conclusion, as soon as is reasonably possible and in a way that allows us to be present to the community, as we have been for the past 152 years.

When I think about our current situation and the future, I cannot help but think about what it will take to rebuild and strengthen our Diocese as we move forward. You cannot build anything without a strong and solid foundation. As we read in Luke chapter six, verse 48, *"He is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on the rock; when the flood came, the rivers burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."* Our Diocese currently lacks that strong foundation; however, at the end of this difficult process, we will again have a solid foundation to build upon.

I understand that you may have additional questions. To help answer those questions, we have created a special page on our website about our path to a more vibrant and secure future as we look to lay **A Foundation to Build Upon**. This page has several resources, including some Frequently Asked Questions and court documents. Please visit www.hbgdiocese.org to learn more about this process, and please know that we will update this information throughout this process as we move forward. I humbly ask for your prayers for our Diocese as we move forward in this process. May God grant us every grace needed during this difficult time. May Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, intercede with Her Son to be our strength and support as well.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer



A FOUNDATION TO BUILD UPON

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Chapter 11 Bankruptcy and how does it affect the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg?

1. What exactly is Chapter 11? Chapter 11 is a chapter under the United States Bankruptcy Code pursuant to which a company or entity seeks to reorganize financially under court supervision, with the goals of being able to equitably and proportionally address the financial claims of those to whom it owes money and to emerge with its operations intact. A Chapter 11 filing with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court immediately stops all efforts at collection of debts and legal actions against the entity. A Chapter 11 filing ***does not mean*** the entity is going out of business. Under Chapter 11, an entity is able to maintain normal operations and continues to provide employees with salaries and benefits, and retiree benefits.

2. Why is the Diocese seeking reorganization under Chapter 11 now? Our Diocese's financial position has been tested as a result of changes in the laws here and in New Jersey. On December 1, 2019 New Jersey opened up a two year "look-back" window. On June 11, 2019 the Pennsylvania Superior Court issued its "Rice Decision" which has effectively re-animated certain time-barred claims. This decision includes survivors of clergy-child sexual abuse, teacher/volunteer-child sexual abuse, and/or other cases of abuse in the Diocese.

These changes in law have resulted in the Diocese being named in multiple claims of sexual abuse of a minor.

Litigation costs and settlements will exceed many millions of dollars. The Diocese simply does not have the resources to equitably and proportionally address these claims on a one-by-one basis.

3. What if the Diocese did not file for Chapter 11? The Diocese would face multiple civil actions, a slow, unpredictable and costly process that would require years of court involvement. The first survivor to obtain a judgment against the Diocese would likely receive all available funds, leaving little to no resources available for compensation or otherwise caring for other survivors. As a result, later survivors would likely receive nothing, and the Diocese would be left with insufficient resources to continue assistance to survivors. Most importantly, such lengthy proceedings delay justice for survivors and only prolongs their pain and suffering.

4. Who made this decision to file for reorganization under Chapter 11? The Bishop of Harrisburg made this decision in consultation with experts in finance and law as well as our Diocesan Consultative Bodies which include lay persons with expertise in these matters.

5. Has this been approved canonically? Yes. This has been unanimously approved by the College of Consultors and the Finance Council.

6. What is the Diocese's total liability? At this time, we are unsure.

7. Does the Diocese have insurance? Yes. The Diocese is in negotiations with its insurers to respond to these claims.

8. Are other dioceses in Pennsylvania declaring bankruptcy? That is unknown at this time.

9. Do legal costs associated with this filing just add to the Diocese's financial burden? There are legal costs associated with filing under Chapter 11, but there would also be legal expenses to defend the Diocese in litigation. Filing under Chapter 11 is the best course of action given the financial liability the Diocese faces.

One important aspect of filing for Chapter 11 protection is that filing stops all civil actions, judgments, collection activities and related actions by claimants. The stay, in effect, provides time for the organization filing for Chapter 11 protection to form a reorganization plan detailing how the available assets that it has will be used to pay claims and negotiate reasonable settlements.

10. How long does reorganization take under Chapter 11? There is no set schedule on how long it takes a debtor to reorganize under Chapter 11. The Diocese's hope is to bring this to a conclusion within the next two years.

11. What financial control will the Court have over the Diocese in Chapter 11 bankruptcy? The Court will hear and decide on the Diocese's requests to conduct business as usual, e.g. carrying out its ministries, paying its employees, while the Diocese develops and submits a Reorganization Plan to satisfy all claimants in a fair and equitable manner. While the Diocese undertakes the process of submitting and obtaining approval of a Reorganization Plan, the Diocese will be required to make regular financial reports of its activities to the Court.

How will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect survivors of abuse?

1. What does reorganization mean for survivors and their court cases? This Diocese has limited resources for adequately responding to claimants in the current legal environment. We believe and hope that the Chapter 11 process will provide survivors, any other claimants, the Diocese, and its insurers with a place where all of these claims can be settled, and the survivors compensated in a fair and timely manner.

Prior to the filing of the Chapter 11 proceeding, the Diocese provided counseling to anyone seeking it. We intend to continue to provide those services while we are in Chapter 11.

2. Will the Diocese still have to defend itself against lawsuits in civil court during reorganization? No. Chapter 11 prevents all lawsuits from going forward.

How will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect Diocesan priests, deacons and employees?

1. How will the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy impact Diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians? Our filing should have no impact on our priests, deacons and seminarians.

2. Will the Diocese be laying any employees off as a result of restructuring and reorganization? While we cannot predict with one-hundred percent certainty that there will be no reductions in staff, that is not our intention.

3. Will the Diocese be able to pay employees as usual as it reorganizes? Yes, the Diocese will continue to pay employees and retiree benefits in the ordinary course of business.

4. Will retired priests and employees still receive their pensions and benefits? Yes, the Diocese will continue to pay retiree benefits.

How will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect your parish, school and affiliated agencies?

1. How will reorganization affect the daily operation of your parishes, schools and affiliated agencies? Our parishes and schools are separate legal entities, distinct from the Diocese. Charitable entities such as Catholic Charities are similarly separate legal entities. The ministries and operations of parishes and entities, such as our Catholic Charities agencies, should not be directly affected by the Diocese's Chapter 11 proceeding.

2. If the Diocese is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, is my parish or school in Chapter 11 as well? No. Parishes and schools are separate entities and are not part of this bankruptcy filing.

3. Will the Diocese sell parish property or use parish assets to pay its debts? It is our sincere hope and prayer that the celebration of Sacraments and regular parish life will be unaffected by this difficult financial process to resolve claims. One way in which the Diocese hopes to positively impact parishes is to seek a court-approved process which stops any child sexual abuse-related litigation against those parishes so that those claims can be settled in the same way as claims against the Diocese. Future claims against the parishes and Diocese are expected to be resolved through a survivor's fund established as part of the Diocese's Reorganization Plan. Thus, all claims would be settled from the same fund. Final decisions regarding our financial plans must be approved by the Court.

How will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect any gift I have or will make to my parish or the Diocese?

- 1. Will the gift I place in the collection plate go to pay for this bankruptcy?** The money you place in the collection plate will be used to fund your individual parish.
- 2. I am hesitant to give to a “bankrupt” organization. Why should I?** Your contributions provide funding to operate crucial ministries for people from all walks of life. While the Diocese reorganizes, these needs continue and can only be met with the financial support of the faithful.
- 3. I made a large gift to the Diocese for a specific cause. Is that money protected?** Yes. Restricted gifts and funds are protected under law and cannot be used to settle claims.
- 4. Will my gift to the Diocesan Annual Campaign (DAC) be used to pay legal settlements?** No. Gifts are made to the DAC to support specific ministries and programs and we intend to use the funds for those purposes.
- 5. Will the DAC operate in the same way during reorganization?** Yes. For many years, the DAC has operated under a system in which goals are set for individual parishes using a formula based on parish demographics (number of households, Mass attendance, parish collections, and median income of parishioners) developed by HCAS. This system has proven to be a fair, equitable and objective way of engaging parishes to contribute to the operation of the Diocesan church, and to collectively share the cost of services provided by the Diocese to the parishes. Under this system, parishes are required to pay the difference between the amount contributed to the DAC or raised through fundraising efforts and the parish goal. That system will remain in place.
- 6. How do I ensure that my gift and/or planned gift to the Diocese is not used to pay settlements?** Restricted gifts can only be used for the purpose for which they were given. You may want to speak to your attorney about how to make a restricted gift to the Diocese.

How will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect any gift I have or will make to my parish or the Diocese?

- 1. Will Chapter 11 Bankruptcy affect Catholic Charities?** Catholic Charities is a separate legal entity and therefore is not part of the bankruptcy. We do not anticipate the efforts at Catholic Charities to be impacted.

For more information about Chapter 11 Bankruptcy or to make a claim, who should I call?

- 1. If we have additional questions regarding Chapter 11 or would like to make a claim, who should we contact?** Please call our bankruptcy information line at:

1-866-977-0992

or visit:

visit <https://dm.epiq11.com/RCDH>.