

What Does the Liturgy Committee Do? The Liturgy Committee reports to Father Dave and the Parish Pastoral Council. The primary focus of the Liturgy Committee is to provide leadership that will help our parish to enhance our many liturgical celebrations. The Worship of God is our primary expression as a community of Faith. Liturgy is at the heart of our parish life. The committee promotes the active participation of our parish at Mass each week.

The committee members are Patti Bartolacci, Marco Barbesta, Maureen Dresen, Rita Foley, Kathleen Horwath, Becky Pfley, Maura and Kelly Shay, and Cindy Surovi.

To date, this group has coordinated Lent 2019; recitation of the rosary prior to Sunday morning Mass in May and October; May Procession where Helen Maurer crowned the Blessed Mother surrounded by young girls from our parish between the ages of 3 and 9. We are working on a Thanksgiving Day liturgy. Plans are in development for a celebration of World Marriage Day on February 9, 2020.

The parish's longest married couple (Jean and Donald Green) will celebrate 72 years of marriage in 2020. We are actively recruiting additional Lectors and Parish Greeters. If you are interested in helping in either of these roles, please contact the Parish Center

LITURGY COMMITTEE NEWS

Every month, we invite parishioners to ask questions about liturgies, rituals or anything else you may not know or remember from your days studying the catechism. Your question is completely anonymous. Our goal is to help each of us understand the who, what, when and why of our Catholic faith.

In September we discussed the signing before the reading of the Gospel during Mass. Using the right thumb, a small cross is traced over your forehead, lips and heart while whispering or silently praying the words "May Christ's words be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart."

In October, someone asked about lighting candles. It is a very Catholic thing to say to someone that you will "light a candle for them", meaning that you will pray for them and symbolize those prayers by lighting candles. Another common reason to light candles is out of gratitude to God for answered prayers.

Why do we light candles in Church?

The practice of lighting candles for prayer dates back before Christianity when the Jewish people lit candles to recall Creation when God created the light and banished the darkness. In Christian traditions, the use of candles for prayer has a two-fold meaning. The first is that it reminds us that Christ is truly the Light of the World. Candles are also used for private devotional life when a candle is lit accompanied by

a prayer or intention.

The candle burns as a way to extend our prayer and allow others to have solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is being offered. Here in our parishes, we have available the Sanctuary Lamp candle which can be purchased for a person's intention. The sanctuary lamp is a special candle which burns to signify the Lord's real presence in the tabernacle and burns for 7 days before it is replaced. We have additional shrine-lamps placed by the statues of Our Lady, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Pieta, etc.

Like the Sanctuary Lamp candle, these candles will also burn for 7 days. The intention for which they burn will also be printed in the weekly bulletin. The offering for each candle is \$10 and can be reserved through the parish office only. You may also reserve a specific week if you wish. This is a wonderful opportunity to increase our devotional life and at the same time honor our Blessed Lord, our Lady, and the various saints.

November is the month of All Souls. On November 2nd at the 4pm Mass we commemorate all of the faithful departed. On this day we pray that all those who have died – our loved ones and also those people around the world who we will never meet – through the mercy of God will rest in peace.

If you have a question or need clarification on a ritual, please write it down and drop it in the collection basket. You can also email it or mail it to the Rectory via US Mail.

MUSIC MINISTRY – CHOIR

The parish thanks Dave Fox for his years of service playing the organ for Sunday morning Mass. We appreciate his contribution and hard work.

We welcome Dominic Behe, a native of Hellertown and recent Lehigh University Graduate, who will play the organ and keyboard at all weekend liturgies. Dominic is also playing and singing our funerals and weddings. He is an excellent musician and will assist Patti Bartolacci the Parish Choir Director, to make our liturgies even more beautiful and meaningful.

Parish Choir – Needs More Members. The choir sings at the 10AM Mass every Sunday. They also enhance the liturgies for all major Holy Day celebrations. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings @ 7PM. All are encouraged to participate. Reading music is not a requirement and there is no audition. All Are Welcome to join. This is your invitation just go up to the Choir Loft next time you are in church.

Buildings & Maintenance, etc.....

Holy Ghost has a number of buildings on our church campus. There are activities going on almost daily. Whether it is daily Mass, Monday night bible study, weddings and funerals or cooking and meetings in the Msgr. Billinger social hall – there is always something going on around the parish.

Maintaining church buildings is similar to managing any other type of building. Even the most solidly built churches need regular maintenance and repair to remain strong. Holy Ghost's buildings are quite old and, due to limited financial resources, some maintenance and building repairs have been deferred. The Fall Fair has raised money to help convert oil furnaces in the church and former Convent to gas; this change reduced our operating costs for both buildings. Through the generosity of anonymous parishioners and friends of Holy Ghost, we will be undertaking some long overdue repair projects to the church and Rectory. These include:

Replacing and repair of Convent back porches, Replace Broken Exit door on Newman Center, and hopefully replace outdated Air Conditioner in Church and another One Next Summer, and the removal of the second floor porch on the rectory that is quite detonated.

We want to share with you what is being done and why. Our parish will celebrate its 150th Anniversary starting in May 2020. Now is the time to make these long, overdue repairs.

Masses & Vigil Lamps @ Holy Ghost Parish-

Please contact the 610-867-9382 ext. 3. Masses are \$10/for each. Devotional Candles are \$10.00. Please NOTE: Mass & Lamp Requests for 2020 can be made NOW.

Please do not be disappointed if a particular dates are taken!

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday- Tuesday – Thursday Mass 8:00am

Fridays 12noon all in the Loeper Memorial Hall – (Former Convent) St. Vincent DePaul Chapel

Confessions—In addition to the Saturdays before the 4pm Mass from 3:00pm—3:45pm Confessions are also available after weekday Masses in St. Vincent's Chapel.

Weekend Mass Schedule

Mass Saturdays - 4:00pm - Confessions 3-3:45pm
Recitation of the Holy Rosary Every Saturday 3:35pm
Mass on Sundays - 10am

Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drawing

Sunday, November 24th with Coffee and Donuts after the 10am Mass in Msgr. Billinger Hall. 10 Turkeys will be drawn. Tickets may be returned via the Mail or the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass anytime. Extra Tickets are available to sell next to the Church bulletins.

Thanksgiving Mass

Thursday, November 28th 9:00am. The Choir will sing the Mass for us.
Apples will be blessed and distributed.

3rd Sunday of Advent – Sunday December 15th - Bring your Infant Statue from your Nativity Set to Church to be blessed. This Sunday is also known as “Bambinelli Sunday”

Annual Christmas Ham Drawing

Sunday, December 15th after the 10am Mass in Msgr. Billinger Hall with Coffee and Donuts. 10 Holiday Hams will be drawn. Tickets may be returned via the Mail or the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass anytime.

Token of Appreciation

May be picked up Sunday, December 15th from 11am to 12 noon during Coffee Hour. In Appreciation for your services to the Parish during this past year. Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir, Altar Servers, Noodle Workers, Pierogie Workers, Ushers, Social Committee, Society Officers, Collection Counters, etc...

The diocese is asking us to take steps to further ensure your safety while at mass in our parishes. If anyone has experience as a first responder, fire fighter, nurse or doctor, EMT, please inform us at the rectory ASAP. Also Greeters, Ushers, Collectors. Also, Teachers, Counselors, who have experience from school training. There will be a 4 hr workshop sometime from Jan - March free offered from the diocese and we need people from both Masses to attend.

CHRISTMAS 2019

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th

**4:00pm- Solemn Christmas Eve Mass
With visit from St. Nicholas**

Christmas Day –Wednesday, December 25th

10:00am Solemn Mass of Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 31st

4:00pm- New Year's Eve Mass

Wednesday, January 1st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day – Mass 10:00am –Holy Ghost Church

Year -End Financial Statements

Envelope Contribution recording for the giving year 2019 will close on Wednesday, January 8th 2020! Parishioners have until this time to make up on back contributions for 2019. After this time contributions will be put in for 2020. Please drop a Self-addressed stamped envelope via the collection or Mail if you wish to receive a contribution statement for the year 2019.

Holy Ghost “PRIME TIME SENIORS”

Are you 55 or older and wonder what to do on a Monday afternoon? Consider joining the “Prime Time Group” which meets the first and third Monday of each month. Activities include bingo, penny party, musical Entertainment, bus trips, and a lot more. Refreshments are served and those attending have a pleasant time socializing with each other. Annual dues are \$10.00.

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month @ 1:00PM.

Monday November 18th Meeting –“Crafts with Boots”

Monday December 16th Christmas Mass for Living & Deceased Members at 12Noon in Holy Ghost Church followed by Annual Christmas Party and Cookie Social will follow in Msgr. Billinger Hall.

Please make Reservations for the Christmas party to Boots Horwath 610-867-4839 or to Maureen Dresen at 610-866-8351.

First Friday Home Communion and Visitation by Fr. Dave is available on the First Friday of each month. Please call the Rectory to have a name put on the list for a monthly visit from Fr. Dave.

***** ON LINE GIVING *****

On another point some of you have been waiting for:

Holy Ghost Church provides Online Giving— a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy—just visit our website, on the front page of your bulletin, and click our Online Giving link.

When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish bank account. And you won't have to remember to write a check or stop by the ATM on Sundays!

Giving Tree Items.....

Thank you for your willingness to support the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program at Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown through the annual Giving Tree collection. As you may know the Catholic Charities office location has moved, and the new location has significantly less space to store items throughout the year.

With this in mind, we are asking for gift cards to places that sell baby items (i.e.: Walmart, Target, & Kmart). These gift cards will not be distributed directly to clients, but will allow Catholic Charities to purchase larger items and items that are needed on a case by case basis like car seats, strollers, and coats, etc. It will also allow Catholic Charities to replenish other items as the needs arise. Gift cards may be dropped off anytime during December at the rectory or drop gift Cards in the Collection Basket on the weekends during December for that purpose!