

St. Cyril of Alexandria

3854 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

December 10, 2017



Mission Statement

Members of Saint Cyril of Alexandria Parish, a Catholic community of faith serving Brighton Heights, strive to live Christ-centered lives through worship, partaking of the sacraments, and serving those in need.

Our parish family welcomes and accepts without judgment all those who wish to join us. We will serve and motivate each other so that we continue to grow in our Catholic faith.

Together we will nurture our faith, hope and love of God, our parish, and our neighbors, here and throughout the world.

Administrator
Reverend Lawrence R. Smith

In Residence
Reverend Clement Kanu

Religious Education
Jean M. DiDonato
Jennifer Earnest
Kristen Frankovich

Director of Music Ministries
Theresa M. Hammond

Rectory Staff
Esther White
Maureen Stack Galardi

Maintenance
Fred Thornton

Parish Phones

Rectory..... 761-1552
School 761-5043
School Fax..... 761-0840
Religious Education Office..... 734-0505
Axmacher Hall..... 761-3254
E-mail Address: saintcyrilchurch@yahoo.com
Website: www.stcyrilpittsburgh.org

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Holyday TBA
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.

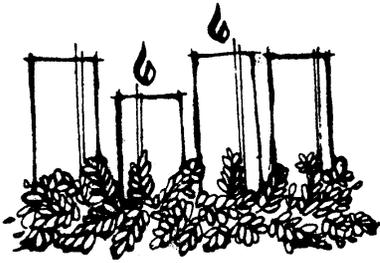
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Baptism
*Second Sunday of each month 12:15 p.m.
(arrangements must be made at the Rectory in advance)*

Baptism Seminar
First Sunday of each month 12:15 p.m. (all parents of newly baptized must attend prior to Baptism)

Sacrament of Matrimony
Couples planning to be married are to contact the Rectory six months prior to the intended date of the wedding, in order to complete the necessary Diocesan requirements.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline
1-888-808-1235



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 9 - Vigil

4:30 pm - Mary Kraus - Family

Sun., Dec. 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am - For Our Parishioners

11:00 am - Stan Marciniak - Family

Mon., Dec. 11 - Advent Weekday

7:30 am - Fr. Larry Bruney - Guild Christian Mothers

Tues., Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30 am - For Our Parishioners

Wed., Dec. 13 - St. Lucy, martyr

7:30 am - Marie Starr - Mike & Chris Hoss Family

Thurs., Dec. 14 - St. John of the Cross

7:30 am - Theresa Healy - Family

Fri., Dec. 15 - Advent Weekday

7:30 am - Greg Starr - Mike & Chris Hoss Family

Sat., Dec. 16 - Vigil

4:30 pm - For Our Parishioners

Sun., Dec. 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am - Frank Guerra (anniv.) - Lou, son

11:00 am - Shannon Schipani (birth.) - Family

Following are the Mass schedules for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (which falls on December 24) and Christmas.

Saturday, December 23:

Vigil for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

8:30 am

11:00 am

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve:

4:30 pm

8:00 pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

11:00 am

Treasures from our Tradition

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called "penal" days, extending from 1691 to the "Catholic Emancipation" in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate Christmas Mass for them. The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!



The Sanctuary Light at Saint Joseph's altar will burn as a **Memorial Light for all members of our Military** on active duty throughout the war-torn areas of the world. Let's let the candle remind all of us to pray for peace.

This week the Vigil Light was donated by the Guild Christian Mothers

The Light is On For You: Confessions will be available on Wednesday, December 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in every Catholic parish in the Diocese, including St. Cyril's. We encourage you to seek God's forgiveness and peace in this beautiful sacrament. The light will be on and the confessional door will be open.

The Sacrament of the Anointing will be offered after all Masses celebrated on the **first weekend of each month**. Anyone facing a hospitalization, or suffering from a chronic illness, old age, etc. is encouraged to receive this Sacrament. The Anointing of the Sick is administered to bring spiritual and even physical strength during an illness. It is an outward sign established by Jesus Christ to confer inward grace.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the **third Sunday of each month** between the 8:30 and 11:00 morning Masses for private prayer and meditation. Please participate in this beautiful tradition of Adoration.

Your Weekly Charity

Total Parishioner donations: \$4,444
 General Loose Offertory \$ 171
 Total donations this week: \$4,615

This generosity goes a long way in sustaining the ministry of our Faith Community. Thank you!



The holidays are upon us and preparation for the annual Holiday Program at Northside Catholic School is underway. The children and Music teacher, Mrs. Curtin are doing something different this year. Seventh and Eighth grade are putting together a Christmas play. The students will be the actors and stage crew for the production. The other grades are singing appropriate hymns at certain spots in the show. Sixth grade is working on “We Three Kings”, Fifth grade is preparing “The First Noel”, Fourth grade will be singing “O Come All Ye Faithful”, Third grade is working on “Joy to the World”, Second grade will be singing “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, and First grade and Kindergarten are preparing “Away in a Manger”. The Advanced Band is working on a few carols for the show and the Fourth grade will be performing “Hot Cross Buns”. Hope you can come to see our program and learn about our school. For more information, call 412-761-5043, ext. 3001.

Acquire inward peace, and a multitude around you will find their salvation. ~ St. Seraphim



St. Cyril’s Music Ministries will present special performances for the Christmas liturgies on December 24 and 25.

Prior to the 4:30 Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, the Jubilee Children’s Choir will proclaim the Christmas story in word and song.

The program will begin at 4:00 pm. Prior to the 8:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, the Adult Choir will perform a medley of Christmas carols. The program will begin at 7:30 pm and end with the beautiful candlelight ceremony announcing Christ’s birth, which has become a tradition at St. Cyril’s.

On Christmas Day, before the 11:00 am Mass, the Adult Choir will again perform a medley of carols beginning at 10:30.

We hope you and your family will join us to celebrate this “Marvelous and Mysterious” Christmas Season at one or more of these liturgies! Merry Christmas from all of us!

Music Rehearsals This Week

Wed., 12/13: 7:0-9:00 pm All
 Sun., 12.17: 10:30 All

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

12/16 4:30 D. Partridge, D. Curtin, D. Vaughan
 12/17 8:30 M. & C. Hoss, M. Cloonan
 12/17 11:00 B. Murtha, R. Gredlein

LECTOR CANTOR

12/16 4:30 P. Bellisario K. Clark
 12/17 8:30 I. Sestrich W. Hammond
 12/17 11:00 D. Carr L. Pace

ALTAR SERVERS

12/16 4:30 Hannah & Isabella Gorrell
 12/17 8:30 Luke Hoss, Roman Frankovich
 12/17 11:00 Gwen Jackson, Ronnie Raya

The Little Sisters of the Poor are once again offering Christmas cards sketched by Sister Martha. This year’s card is cream with a green sketch of Mary holding baby Jesus. The previous year’s cards are also available. The cards are 7 for \$10 + \$2 shipping; 12 for \$15 + \$3 shipping; or 30 for \$25 + \$6 shipping. Cards can be viewed and by calling 412-307-1100, or sending a check payable to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Ave. or stopping at the main entrance of the Home.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**John the Baptist
appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism
of repentance.**

From Our Administrator

As we now enter the Second Week of Advent, the beginning of St. Mark's Gospel is proclaimed. John the Baptist appears in the desert to announce the coming of the Messiah. Those who come to be baptized, without hesitation, confess their sins. And so, I remind you for the last time, (well, at least until the Lenten Season) that **THE LIGHT WILL BE ON FOR YOU** on December 13 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. What better way to prepare for the Christmas holidays than by unloading your sins. Please come, invite the whole family, and perhaps someone you know who has been away from the Church to come and experience the love of Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

I will be attending Vesper Services with Bishop Zubik and my brother priests on Monday at St. Paul Seminary. Bishop Zubik will bless the new addition to John Vianney, the retirement home for priests. This has become possible because of your contributions to the Diocesan Capital Campaign. Thank you. Tuesday, I will travel to Deer Lakes to hear confessions with several other priests at St. Victor's.

My thanks for the 55 Club and our Guild Christian Mothers for a very special time at their Christmas parties.

Continue your preparations for the Coming of the Lord with prayers, songs, and reaching out to others. God bless.

~ Father Larry Smith



Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Dolores Ewing
who was called home to our Loving God.

On Mission For The Church Alive!

Prepare the Way of the Lord: Advent is our annual time of anticipation and expectation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and, ultimately, at the end of time. During this season we make many preparations so that we can be ready to meet the Lord. We prepare our hearts through prayer and reconciliation to be a fitting place of welcome for Jesus to dwell. We also prepare our homes as places of warm hospitality to welcome neighbors and strangers alike with a loving and generous heart. This Advent, we also find ourselves anticipating the changes that will soon be upon us as part of the *On Mission* initiative. How are you preparing for the new realities in our parishes? Will your heart meet these changes with resistance or with the resolve to do what it takes to foster new life in your community and help grow the Church? Take some time this Advent to prepare the way of the Lord as he comes to make us and our Church ever more alive! Visit **onmissionchurchalive.org** to learn more and to stay informed.

From Religious Education Dept.



RCIC & RCIA:

Sessions on Wednesday, December 13 beginning at 6:30 pm in the school.

*Remember that throughout this hopeful season of Advent you are invited to write and place your prayers and petitions on the Parish **Prayer Tree** in the vestibule.*

*Come join us as the second and third graders perform their **Christmas Pageant** and retell the birth of Christ on Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 am in church. The production will also have a performance from our pre-school/kindergarten classes. We look forward to having you!*

Annual Christmas Celebration

Church of the Assumption

45 North Sprague Ave., Bellevue

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 pm

Featuring the Adult & Children's Choirs & Brass Ensemble. A freewill offering will be taken.