

The Parish Community of Our Lady of the Snows - Church of St. Benedict



SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES

4:00 PM - CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT
5:00 PM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
6:30 PM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

SUNDAY MASSES

7:00 AM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
8:00 AM - CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT
9:30 AM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
11:00 AM - CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT
11:15 AM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
12:20 PM - CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT

DAILY MASSES

7:00 AM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
12:10 PM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/ RECONCILIATION

Saturday

3:00 PM - CHURCH OF ST BENEDICT
6:00 PM - CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

**301 South State Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411 -1544**

**Parish Phone – (570-) 586-1741
Fax Number (570) 586-2504**

**E-Mail Address – ols2@epix.net
Web page – www.OLSSB.com**



A welcoming community

OUR PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor	Rev. James J. McGarry
Parochial Vicar	Rev. John O'Bell
Deacon	Leo Lynn
In Residence	Rev. Philip Altavilla, V.E.
Dir. Of Rel. Ed/Family Ministry	Nettie Goldate
Dir. Of Youth & Young Adult Min.	Stephen Wallo
Director of Music/Organist	Jennie Pitkus
Associate Organist	Maria Fay
Associate Organist	Ann Marie Zakaruskas
Pastoral Associate.....	A. Carol Salva
Parish Secretary	Debbie Waters
Maintenance	Peter Serine
Sacristan OLS.....	Matt Gerlach
Sacristan CSB.....	Sal Conaboy
Cub Master	Steven Gember

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM - 12 Noon
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Evenings and weekends by appointment

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to all who have come to Our Lady of the Snows or the Church of Saint Benedict this weekend to join together in this community of worship and praise to Almighty God. We are grateful to our faithful parishioners who come here every weekend. Also, we welcome our neighbors and guests who visit us occasionally and want them to know they are always welcome.



A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

As a Stewardship Parish, our life together is based on the need to share our time and talent and treasure as an expression of gratitude for all of God's gifts to us.

PARISH DEVOTION

THE ROSARY – will be prayed after the 12:10 PM Mass every day.

PRAYER PETITION – anyone who wishes to place a petition in the Prayer Petition Book is asked to write it in the book that is located on a stand in the back of the Church

CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION HOLY CROSS SCHOOL SYSTEM

Holy Cross High School, Dunmore, PA

Principal- Mr. James Marcks

Phone 346-7541

OUR LADY OF PEACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CLARKS GREEN

Principal – Mrs. Jane Quinn

Phone 587-4152

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is the official five-stage process the Catholic Church uses to bring adult members into the faith. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this process or in obtaining more information can call the Parish Center.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: In order to understand and better appreciate this special sacrament, parents are required to attend the Pre-Baptismal Program. Our Parish offers this instruction once every two months, so please watch the bulletin for information, or call the Parish Center.



SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Congratulations! You are asked to contact one of the parish priests at least six months before the date of your marriage so that the appropriate preparations can be made for this special celebration.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Urgent calls will be attended to at any time of the day or night.

VISITATION OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Center for visitation of the sick at home, in the hospital, or health care facility.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE:

Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten

Parish Center Basement

Sunday, 9:30-10:30 AM

All other grades have Clusters or Classes on Sundays at Our Lady of Peace School; Clusters are encouraged.

High School – Released Time Program Monthly
 Call parish office for dates and times

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 20, 2009

*"Blessed are you
who believed that
what was spoken
to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."*

-- Luke 1: 45 --

ADVENT: THE COMING OF THE LORD

By this time in the season of Advent, the emphasis is on the remembrance of the **first coming** of **Jesus** among us when he was born as a baby in Bethlehem. This part of Advent prepares us directly for the celebration of the Birthday of Jesus on Christmas Day.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish all members and friends of our parish a very happy and very blessed Christmas. May the Lord Jesus whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas fill you and all of your loved ones with all of the special graces of this holy season. May the peace which only Jesus can bring be yours. Merry Christmas!

Father McGarry
Father O'Bell
Father Altavilla
Deacon Lynn

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Your **Sacrificial Offering** for last weekend amounted to **\$15,202.56**. **In these challenging economic times, we thank you for your sacrificial offering. The faith that leads you to make this offering is recognized and acknowledged and appreciated very much. Thank you for all that you do for our parish!**

In order to make ends meet, we need to average **\$16,200.00** a weekend. Anything you can do to help us reach that figure in these challenging times will be greatly appreciated.

Members of our parish may want to consider donating **appreciated assets, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.** You can take the full amount as a tax credit and our parish gets the full amount donated – a sure win-win situation.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

There will be a celebration of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** with **individual confessions** at the **Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks Green** on **Monday** evening of this week, **December 21**, at **7:00 P.M.** All are welcome!

Individual Confessions will be heard in **Our Lady of the Snows Church** on **Wednesday, December 23**, from **12:40 P.M. until 1:40 P.M.** and from **7:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.** All are welcome!

There will be **no scheduled times** for **individual confessions** on **Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve**. You may make an appointment for individual confession that day by calling one of the priests at the parish office number, 586-1741.

2009 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL LET US DO GREAT THINGS TOGETHER

Thank you to all who have already donated or pledged to the **2009 Diocesan Annual Appeal**. As of our latest report from the Diocesan Appeal Office, **391 individuals or families** in our parish had pledged **\$54,814.50** to the **2009 Appeal**. This amount is **46.04%** of our **parish goal** of **\$119,055.00**.

If you have not already pledged, please consider doing so. The pledges may be paid over a six month period, beginning in **January 2010**. You can use the envelope received in the mailing from the diocese or you can use any envelope which can be marked **2009 Diocesan Annual Appeal** and dropped in the collection basket on the weekend or sent to the parish office. Please list your name and address and the amount of your pledge. **Thank you for whatever you can do**. With all of us doing what we can, we can provide much help to the many projects scheduled to be funded by this year's Appeal.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday

7:00 A.M. Joseph Aveline Wife
12:10 P.M. Edward Pricci Ann/Family

Tuesday

7:00 A.M. Alice/John Palickar Daughter
12:10 P.M. Edward Gowarty Family

Wednesday

7:00 A.M. Don Galasso Pete/Ann/Katie Brokus
12:10 P.M.

Thursday - Christmas Eve

4:00 P.M. OLS James Biondi Family
4:00 P.M. CSB Kraynak/Burns/
Dolan/Savo Families Savo Family
6:00 P.M. OLS Joseph Kreder Family
8:00 P.M. OLS Virginia Lee Armbruster Family
12 Midnight CSB James/Helen/Son Family

Friday - Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. All members of the parish
8:00 A.M. James Quinn Family
9:30 A.M. Mary Otle Family
11:00 A.M. M/M Robert Kretschmer Family
11:15 A.M. Kathyne Calvey Chris/Sharon Calvey
12:20 P.M. Katie Pfister Family

Saturday

4:00 P.M. Anthony Kelly Pivovarnick Family
5:00 P.M. Nicholas Torin Zaums Family
6:30 P.M. George Serock Family

Sunday

7:00 A.M. For all members of the parish
8:00 A.M. Bruney Nowakowski Wife/Family
9:30 A.M. Harold Lee M/M Jack Lee
11:00 A.M. Timothy Dougher Rogers Family
11:15 A.M. Special Intention Pusateri Family
12:20 P.M. George Gawrys Ben/Grace Lewis

A PRAYER PLEASE- Your prayers are requested for all the sick and deceased members of our parish and community, especially Michael Dougherty.

TINY TIM

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The Office for Parish Life/Family Life wishes to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2010 to a diocesan **Wedding Anniversary Celebration** on **Sunday, April 25**. The event includes a **2:30 P.M. Mass** at **St. Peter's Cathedral** followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address that will be accurate in February, should be made through your pastor **before January 10, 2010**.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Our **Mass Schedule** for **Christmas** is as follows:

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:

4:00 P.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict
4:00 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
6:00 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
8:00 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
12 Midnight Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25:

7:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
8:00 A.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict
9:30 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
11:00 A.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict
11:15 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church
12:20 P.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to all who have made donations to help with the flowers for the Churches for the Christmas Season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Donations are still being accepted. You may use the envelope in your set or any plain envelope **marked with your name and address** and **"Christmas Flowers"**.

"LIVING CHRIST" RETREATS

We hope that you will not be the last person in the parish to make one of the "Living Christ" Retreats. Please consider making the next Retreat which is scheduled for **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 21, 22 and 23, 2010**, in the **Gathering Room** on the lower level of Our Lady of the Snows Church. On **Thursday** and **Friday** evenings, the **Retreat** will run from **6:00 P.M. until about 10:00 P.M.** On **Saturday**, it will run from **8:00 A.M. until about 12 Noon**. We hope that the time of the last person in our parish making one of these retreats is a long way off. Please consider participating in the next retreat Retreat. **Please call the parish office as soon as possible to register.** It is our hope that eventually all members of our parish will participate in one of the special retreats. Please consider the invitation to participate this coming January. Please call the parish office.

We ask all members of the parish to continue to pray regularly for God's blessing on the "Living Christ" Retreats in our parish.

The following prayer has been prepared for those who would like to use it:

Prayer for God's Blessing on our Parish "Living Christ" Retreats

Loving God, we ask you to send your blessing on the "Living Christ" Retreats in the Our Lady of the Snows/Church of Saint Benedict Parish Community. Guide and direct those who are leading the retreats and open the hearts and minds and souls of those participating in them. Lead all participants to a deeper experience of your Son Jesus Christ and to a greater commitment as disciples and followers of Jesus. Without you, such success is not possible. With your help, all things are possible. Bring about great spiritual growth in our parish that we might more effectively do your will. We ask all of this help through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Resurrection Choir: This choir sings at funerals to support the bereaved. If you are interested in joining, please call Jennie for information.

Parish Youth Choir: The Parish Youth Choir accompanies the congregational singing at the 9:30 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows usually every other week, beginning in September through May. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 -6:30 in the choir loft during that same week. This choir is open to young people ages 11-18. We sing for Liturgies which include Christmas Eve (at the Church of St. Benedict), Palm

Sunday, Easter Sunday (at the Church of St. Benedict) and Pentecost Sunday. Please call Ann Marie for more information at 586-4112 or e-mail at Pianogirlz@comcast.net.

CANTORS are needed for the 12:20p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Saturday) Masses. If you love to sing, please call Jennie at 586-1741.

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS 100TH YEAR

Our Lady of the Snows 100th year celebration will occur in 2011. We are beginning to prepare a historic time line of our church. If you have any pictures, articles or memorabilia you would like to share, please contact one of the following: Phyllis Ruzbarsky at 586-2119 or Jo Ann Carr at 586-3520 or Anna Scahill at ascahill@epix.net or Bonnie Sherman at 587-2235.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 20, 2009

11:15 A.M. OLS Choir ***

Monday, December 21, 2009

7:00 P.M. St. Gregory's Penance Service

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

12:40 P.M. Confessions **

7:00 P.M. Confessions **

Thursday, December 24, 2009

Friday, December 25, 2009

Parish Center * Church ** Large Conference Room

***** Church of Saint Benedict **** Small Conference**

Room *** Gathering Room *******

LITURGY COMMITTEE NOTES

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

SICK HOMEBOUND IN HOSPITAL

NURSING HOME

WOULD LIKE COMMUNION

WOULD LIKE A VISIT

NEEDS SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

NEEDS OTHER ASSISTANCE

Jamaican Ministry Donation Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to OLS/CSB (please note Jamaican Ministry on the bottom of your check.)

I wish my funds to be used for:

___ Medical Needs of the people in the Missions

___ Help with Tuition for a school child. \$300/year

___ Help with funds for a student at Catholic College of Mandeville. Tuition - \$2000/year Books - \$500/year

___ Funds for Mandeville Retreat House - \$50/person

___ General funds for the Passionist Mission in Jamaica

WE THANK those who brought Non-Perishable Food this weekend. If you can, please bring Non-Perishable Food for the Holidays next weekend. Your generosity will not go unnoticed by a grateful Lord.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE PRAYERWORKS TEAM at Countryside

Community Church is sponsoring a "Blue" Christmas Service on Sunday Dec. 20th at 7p.m. at 14001 Church Hill Rd. The service will be geared towards persons for whom the holidays season is rife with anxiety and with little joy.

FAMILY MINISTRY

The next bereavement session will be on

Wednesday January 6th at 10:00 am and on **Sunday January 17th at 2:00pm** in the **parish center**. All are invited to attend. For more information call Nettie at 586-1741. **Bereavement Support for Parents: Please call Sue Brier at 586-2162.**

MARRIAGE PROGRAMS

Your marriage deserves your attention, just like your health, home, car, job. Attention to keep it healthy and strong. Are you giving your marriage the attention it needs?

Consider a Marriage Encounter Weekend www.wwme.org or a Retrouvaille Weekend www.helpourmarriage.org

MOMS AND TOTS GROUP

Looking for interested participants in a monthly moms/caregivers of toddlers fellowship group. Please call Nettie at the parish office 586-1741 if interested.

Care-Giver Support

If you are interested in an elder parent care support group please call Mona DelSole at 586-3344.

LAZARUS MINISTRY

The Lazarus Ministry is a group of volunteers to prepare a meal for the bereaved family in The Gathering Room (lower level of the Church) after the funeral of their loved one. We can always use volunteers to help with the cooking, setting up of the tables, serving the meal, and cleaning up afterwards. All ages welcome. Please consider helping out in any way possible. For more information or to sign up call Nettie at 586-1741 or June Burns at 586-2048.

Only you can help...please read on.

Side By Side is a network of people in our parish who have experienced a difficult situation or "cross" in their life, (cancer, amputation, mastectomy, miscarriage, SIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease, death of a child, caring for an elderly parent, unwed pregnancy, child on drugs, etc.) Are you willing to simply talk to someone who is going through a similar situation? Are you willing to help another by sending a card, or making a phone call telling someone you understand? Then your help is needed in the **Side By Side Ministry**. The Apostle Paul implores us to "Bear one another's burdens", and there is no one who can bear another's burden as well as someone who has been there himself/herself. All information is held in confidence. For more information about this ministry or to help out please call Nettie Goldate, Director of Family Ministry @ 586-1741.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OLDER CHILDREN WHO NEED TO RECEIVE FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST OR CONFIRMATION:

If the student is older than 3rd grade and needs to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Eucharist, or is older than eighth grade and needs to receive the sacrament of Confirmation please call

Nettie at the parish center to arrange to have the student instructed for the sacraments needed.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS:

There will be several opportunities for parish service hours during the next several weeks. Please call Barbara at the parish office 586-1741 to have your name placed on the list of students willing to help on these service projects.

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER

The youth ministry at Our Lady of the Snows is all encompassing. **Youth Ministry planning meetings are every Thursday night starting at 6:30PM with a general gathering and team meetings starting at 7:00PM. All High school students are welcome to attend anytime.**

Scheduled Events for 2009

December 19-20th ...Luminary Sales!
December 28thChristmas Adventure
January 12-22ndMarch for Life

Luminary Sale!

The Our Lady of the Snows Youth Ministry will be selling Luminary Kits for this Christmas. They will be available for purchase after all masses on December 20th and 21st. Kits can also be purchased at any time through the Church office at 586-1741. We have limited quantities available and this sale is being advertised to the entire Abington Community. Get yours now! **Each Kit contains 12 white bags, 12 TEN hour votive candles, and 5 lbs of sand. The cost for one Kit is \$7.00 or two Kits for \$12.00.**

All money goes toward supporting the Youth Ministry Summer Mission Trip to West Virginia and also towards the Franciscan University Summer Youth Conference.

Deodorant Collection



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the deodorant collection. Over 150 care packages will be distributed to the needy who come through St. Francis Kitchen this month.

Pro Life March in Washington DC

January 21-22nd 2010

There are at least 1.4 million unborn babies killed each year in the US (3700 each day). Every January, Pro Life Supporters come from all over the US to show support for the right to life of the unborn. This year we will be joining other youth ministries from Scranton in an overnight Vigil followed by the March for Life.



We will travel down the night before the March and stay at Nativity Church in Washington DC, hosted by the Salesians. During the night, there will be food and games along with live music, speakers, and a place for Adoation.

Cost will be around \$65 for transportation, and events.

Christmas Adventure

This event is in planning by the High school Outreach team. It's a night starting with dinner at OLS, followed by a Christmas Themed scavenger hunt around Clarks

Summit and ending with a gift exchange. Details are still in the works but the date is **December 28th starting around 6:00PM** at Our Lady of the Snows!

Franciscan Youth Conference 2010

WHEN: July 16th -18th 2010

WHAT: The conference combine awesome talks, incredible music, praise and worship, time for prayer and fellowship, entertainment, and anointed liturgies.



WHERE: Steubenville, OH

WHO: Students entering grades 9-12 in the Fall of 2009 – OR – be a 2010 High School Graduate.

COST: \$250 A \$50 per person deposit is due by January 9th 2010 to confirm your spot. Cost includes: Conference fee, all meals while at the conference, lodging on campus, round trip bus transportation, 3 tee shirts, and orientation and follow up retreat costs. Fund raising will be done in order to bring down the cost as much as possible. Scholarships are also available for students who want to attend but cannot afford it.

2010 Vermont Ski Weekend Trip

March 4th – 7th is skiing time and it's time to book your spot! Flyers, reservation forms, and brochures are available soon in the Youth Office. This trip is open to all high school students and those in 7th and 8th grade if an older sibling or parent is going.

-3 day ski pass

-5 meals

-3 nights at the Round Hearth at Stowe Mt.

-Round Trip Transportation

-Loads of Fun

Approximate Price: \$400.00



\$100 reserves your spot. Get your deposit in as soon as possible for this awesome trip! If you are interested in more information, call Steve at the Church: 586-1741.

Forms are available for download under the Youth section of OLSSB.com

