



Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Lilly, PA

NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Volume 30

Number 1

Prayer for the New Year of 2026

A Prayer for the Year

*God of the years that lie behind us,
Lord of the years that stretch before,
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,
Keeper and King of the open door.
Grant us hope and a courage glowing
White and pure as the stars above;
Grant us faith in a full stream flowing,
From the heights of Your eternal love.
Out of the ruins of doubt and sorrow,
Out of the aches and pain and tears,
Help us to fashion a new tomorrow,
Free from the anguish of blight's fears.
All through the seasons of sowing and
reaping,
All through the harvest of song and
tears,
Hold us close in Your tender keeping,
a maker of all New Years!*

*Author Unknown
2024-1 Exchange*



Epiphany - January 4th

Father Matthew will bless Epiphany Water following the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, January 3, 2026

After this formal ritual of blessing is concluded there will be 2-ounce holy water bottles available along with a home Epiphany Blessing ritual paper for anyone who wishes to take some of the water home with them to bless their homes.

There will also be blessed chalk available to take for the ritual blessing at the home.

Please follow the ritual blessing paper for how to bless your homes without a priest available.

Remember that the use of the Epiphany Water is a very powerful sacramental and therefore the ritual prayers should be followed closely. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Fr. Matthew.



January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			December 31 Solemnity of Mary Holyday of Obligation Vigil Mass 4:00 pm	1 Solemnity of Mary Holyday of Obligation Masses 8:00 am & 10:00 am	2 First Friday Adoration 8:30am – 9:30am Confessions 8:30am – 9:00am	3 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45 Blessing of Epiphany Water after 4:00 Mass
4 <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> 	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
11 <i>The Baptism of the Lord {end of Christmas Season}</i> Take Down Decorations in Church at 6:00pm	12 Parish Council Meeting 6:00pm Hall	13 St. Vincent de Paul Society (2 nd Tuesday) 2:00 pm Hall 	14	15	16 Knights of Columbus Blood Drive 12:30 to 5:00 Church Hall	17 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
25	26	27	28 Knights of Columbus (4th Wednesday of month) 6:30 pm <i>in Church this month</i> 	29	30	31 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45

Saint Vincent dePaul Society

SVDP (St. Vincent DePaul) Lilly Conference meets the Second Tuesday of each month @ 2pm in Church Hall. NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. If you want to become a SVDP member and help those less fortunate, please contact any member listed: SPIRITUAL ADVISOR-Deacon Sam Albarano; PRESIDENT- Shelley McIntosh; VICE PRESIDENT-Madeline Conrad; TREASURER-Pattie Grove; SECRETARY-Leona George; Sylvia Davies, Brigid Craine, MaryJo Rainey, Rick Kawtoski, Deb Rabatin. & Nancy Cassisi.



Thank you for your continued support!

GOD BLESS!

Lilly SVDP Conference

814-886-8972

January



1	Frederick Kuntz	11	Crystal Martino	22	Agnes Dougherty
3	Brenna Kuhns	14	Cody Falger		James Kozak
	Calvin Robine		William Kozak		Dennis Michina
	Linda Sweeney	16	Patricia Kutyba		Dane Nesbella
4	Eleanor Kearney	17	Charles Bishop	23	Lawrence Summerville
	Sara Latoche		Farren Herr	24	Catherine Weakland
	Mark Lykens	18	Linda Albarano	26	Vance Brown
	Francis Nazit		Sean Daugherty		Ronald Courtot
	Ava Poborsky		Dorothy Glenn		Gary Nagy
6	Joyce Dorsch		Ronald Yagoda		David Swinger Jr.
	Michaela George	19	Ashley Eckenrode	28	Andrew Jones
7	Gino Fabbri		Noah Eckenrode		Justin Pauley
	Mary Lingafelt		Matthew Hazlett		Debora Rabatin
8	William Walters Sr.		Joe Krug	29	Logan Michina
	Lyla Yagoda		Bonita Mardula		Jeannine Nagle
9	Thomas Zock	20	Imogene McMullen		David Prostejovsky
10	Alauna Gides	21	Carol McLucas	31	Mary George
	Randy Lee	22	Gabriella Custer		



Special Birthday Celebrations

The following members of the parish family will be celebrating special birthdays this month.



Mary Lingafelt	97	Carol McLucas	84	Ronald Yagoda	82
Francis Nazit	87	Mary George	83	Lyla Yagoda	80
Agnes Dougherty	86	Patricia Kutyba	82	Imogene McMullen	80
Sara Latoche	85	Dorothy Glenn	82		

Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.



January Wedding Anniversaries

Jeremy and Chayene McIntosh.....January 02
William and Virginia GallaherJanuary 21
Stephen Sr. and Bonita Mardula.....January 24

Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to *Stephen Sr. and Bonita Mardula*
celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month.

Sacraments conferred at our Parish church in 2025

Baptisms - 2
Profession of Faith (*becoming Catholic*) - 1
First Holy Communions - 8
Confirmations - 3

Funerals - 24
Marriages - 2
Convalidations (*having a Civil Marriage blessed
in the Church*) - 3



Marriages in 2025

Congratulations to those who were married at our church in 2025:
Franco Chiappori and Melanie E. Wilkinson
Matthew Thomas Hoover and Amber Paige Boring

Baptisms in 2025

We welcome the following who were baptized into the Roman Catholic Faith:



Bristol Rose Buck
Isabella Mae Vinglas

Professions of Faith in 2025: (*Conversions to the Roman Catholic Faith*)

We welcome those who entered the
Roman Catholic Church this past year.

Kathy Cullen

Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections. 5

First Holy Communions in 2025



Congratulations to those who received their
First Holy Communion at our church this past year.

*Olivia George
Alauna Gides
Bennett Haney*

*Andrew Lee Jr.
Mackenzie Rainey
Lilah Hoover*

*Kathy Cullen
Lucas McMahon*

Confirmations 2025



Congratulations to those who received their
Confirmation at our church this past year.

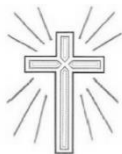
Aiden Braatz

Ava Braatz

Kathy Cullen

Rest in Peace – Funerals in 2025

We had the privilege of praying for these people who were buried from our parish
this past year:



Rest In Peace

*Joan A. Sibis
Dolores A. Forst
William T. Latoche
Frances Nellie Albarano
Bryce George
Mary L. Martino
Vernita L. Kaminski
Elizabeth "Betty Ann" Agosta
Matthew C. Corwin
Karen Marie Sibis
John William Patterson
Sandra L. Courvina*

*Margaret Mary Lukacs
Kimbrow J. Maurer
Bernadette Ann Hmiel
Christopher J. Bost
John Fitzgerald Behe
Donna Gates
Ronald Stephen Martynuska
William C. Clinemyer Sr.
Barbara Wallace
Robin C. Behe
Charles J. Duffy
Josephine Sophie Lysic*



Fr. Matthew and the Christmas Social organizers with Anna Leahey, Head of the Social. It was a wonderful night with over 90 people celebrating the birth of Jesus and enjoying community fellowship. Fr. thanks these volunteers for their commitment and cooperation with each other. This positive event was an example of service for the overall good of this parish community and its visitors. Thank you for making it so!



Spotlight on the Knights of Columbus

Council 11084 - Lilly, PA

For more information,
contact these leaders of our local council:

Officers for 2025-2026

Grand Knight	Gary Nagy
Deputy Grand Knight.....	Deacon Sam Albarano
Chaplain.....	VACANT
Financial Secretary	James R. Secriskey
Treasurer	Patrick J. Rainey
Recorder.....	George W. Nesbella
Inside Guard.....	Patrick McCool

The Knights have weekly lottery tickets for sale. The tickets are \$1 each with 10 chances to win per ticket. Contact Gary Nagy at 886-7374 for more info.

Red Cross blood mobile in the church hall on Friday, Jan 16th from 12:30-5 pm

Dues and 2025 Fraternal Surveys should be turned in to Jim Secriskey no later than January 26th.

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Attended: John Hurley; Michael Summerville; Jim Secriskey; Matthew Hoover; Amber Hoover; Barbara Bart; George Nesbella; Colleen Keagy; Joy Eckenrode (Asst DRE & Youth)
 - b. Absent: Deacon Sam
2. Opening Prayer — Fr. Matthew
3. Reading of minutes of last Parish Council meeting (August 18, 2025). Motion was made to approve, was seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. Catholic Charities presentation: Brenda Guzic and Cindy O'Connor
 - a. Catholic Charities is a nonprofit agency serving Altoona-Johnstown area, focus is to support individuals and families facing immediate crisis
5. Finance Council Report
 - a. Current Balances 2025/2026 as of 12/8/25

i. Cash in bank, general	163,490.10
ii. Cash in bank, maintenance	7,336.74
iii. Cash in bank, small games.	2,907.00
iv. Cash in bank, mass stipend	2,830.00
v. Current Net Income	-27,461.28
 - b. Final Cost of the new sidewalk = \$11,334.58
6. New Business
 - a. Proposal from Jill Lipka was presented
7. Reports from Committees
 - a. Cemetery Committee — Ed Myers (Chair) or his representative, No Report
 - b. Vocation Committee — Joan Walters and/or Renee Behe (as representatives), No Report
 - c. Festival 2026 Heads of Booths Committee — Fr. Matthew
 - i. Planning has begun
8. Old Business
 - a. Parking Lot directional signs
 - i. Legal signs provided by Borough have been put up
 - b. Active Shooter Presentation
 - i. Follow up — begin a Safety Committee with members selected directly by Fr. Matthew
 1. Options were presented – Fr. Matthew will establish committee beginning in 2026
 - ii. CCD Environment changes were suggested by Bubba Fatula

9. Non-Committee Reports

- a. Youth Ministry — Joy Eckenrode (Head)
 - i. December Christmas Decorating & Family Gathering — Friday, December 19, 2025 — all are welcome
 - 1. Games, Food, & Movie all offered in the Hall after decorating
 - ii. Children’s Christmas Play — Wednesday, December 24th at 3:15pm, 24 children, followed by Christmas mass at 4:00pm, this is a family mass with encouraged participation by children and family
 - 1. Play practice is scheduled for
 - a. Dec. 13, @ 10am
 - b. Dec. 17, @ 6:30pm
 - c. Dec. 20, @ 10am
 - iii. Youth Stations of the Cross — Friday, March 27, 2026, at 6:00pm
- b. Youth Religious Education & Sacramental prep. — Fr. Matthew (DRE); and/or Joy Eckenrode (Assistant DRE)
 - i. Kitchen proposal — spaghetti dinner or breakfast in late 2026
 - 1. Possibilities of offering this as a Confirmation project or as service hours for those who need them were proposed
- c. 2025 Jubilee Year — Amber Hoover (Parish Ambassador)
 - i. End of the Jubilee Year is Sunday, December 28, 2025
 - 1. Special Mass on that day at 10:00am to conclude Jubilee Year
 - 2. Immediately following mass, there will be a social with coffee and donuts, etc.
 - 3. Pilgrimage to Rome was a successful trip
- d. Adult Education — Colleen Keagy (Chair)
 - i. Adult Education Class led by Deacon Sam, to be announced
 - ii. Video called “The Miracle Box” — 60 minutes long
 - 1. Offers true stories about how certain people were affected by the Sacrament of Confession — During Lent 2026, date to be announced

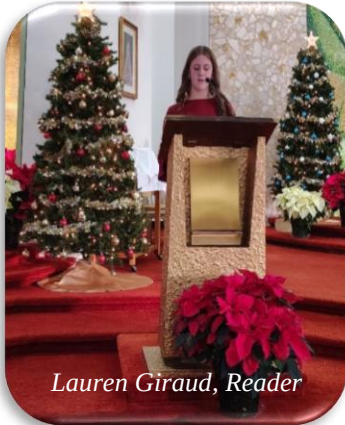
- e. Maintenance Issues
 - i. We had these issues recently which all combined cost us \$21,651.08
 - 1. Church Bell System
 - a. Received \$3,550.00 in total anonymous donations for this cost
 - 2. Sidewalk Completed
 - a. Plans to install a small portion of railing at the corner turn of the old section connecting to the new, located down from the ramp
 - 3. Blower motor for church heat needed replaced as well as circuit panel
 - 4. Proposed having weather mats to be placed within church entrance doorways to capture snow, salt, and mud to prevent damage to the rugs
- 10. Comments from Fr. Matthew
 - a. Advent Confessions on Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:00pm
 - i. Several priest available
 - b. Christmas Mass Schedule
 - i. Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00pm — Family Mass
 - ii. Thursday, December 25th at Midnight/8:00am/10:00am
 - c. New Year's Holyday of Obligation Mass Schedule
 - i. Wednesday, December 31st at 4:00pm
 - ii. Thursday, January 1st at 8:00am/10:00am
 - d. Upcoming Retirements
 - i. Housekeeper Employee — Connie Secriskey will retire with December 22, 2025, being her last day
 - 1. No employee replacement will be sought at this time
 - ii. Deacon Sam Albarano — must submit his “Retirement from Diaconal Ministry Letter” to the Bishop when he turns age 75 on April 13, 2026 – Bishop will make decision on his continuation in ministry
- 11. Closing Prayer
- 12. Adjournment at 8:46 pm (Next Parish Council meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00pm to 7:00pm)

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Bart, Parish Council Secretary

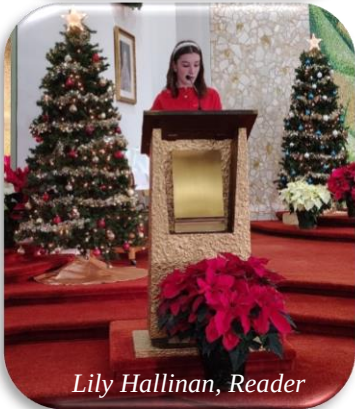
Christmas Eve Family Mass



... with 322 people in attendance



Lauren Giraud, Reader



Lily Hallinan, Reader



Ava Braatz, Reader



*Noah Jones, Isaac Eckenrode,
Brady Jones, Lucas Jones,
Paxton Erzal, Andrew Lee Jr.*



*Connor and Evelyn
Daugherty, Avery Jones,
Madilynn Steberger*

*Fr. Matthew thanks Jayce Summerville
for serving the Christmas Family Mass.*



Christmas Eve 3:15pm Children's Play & 4:00pm Family Mass



The youth of the parish, ages 12 and under, presented a Nativity Play on Christmas Eve, under the direction of Joy Eckenrode and Renee Behe.

Thank you to Ava Braatz for narrating and to all the children for their participation.

4:00pm Mass was a Family Mass with children of the parish participating as ushers, gift bearers, and Readers. Our Readers were Lauren Giraud, Lily Hallinan, and Ava Braatz. Our Altar Server, scheduled by Fr. Matthew, was Jayce Summerville.

Fr. Matthew is very grateful for all of the children's volunteerism!

