



Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Lilly, PA

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Volume 30

Number 7

Independence Day

*In the year of 1776
That paper was decreed
They were tired of oppression
And wanted to be freed*

*They wrote a Declaration
So the whole world would see
This was "the home of the brave
And the land of the free"*

*They signed that piece of parchment
The leaders of this land-
Knowing, divided they would fall
But, together they could stand*

*A new world lay before them
Untamed from shore to shore
They swore they would protect it
If it meant going to war*

*Battles have been fought-
And many lives have been lost
So sad something so basic
Has such a high, high cost*

*Seems freedom is a luxury
There's some would bind us all -
Like then, together, we can stand
But divided, we will fall*

*More than two hundred years
Have passed by since that day
That each of us celebrate
In our own different way*

*We should be proud and thankful
Pay our share of the cost-
Not take freedom for granted
For it easily could be lost*

Exchange 2026-3
Trinity Methodist Church
Portage, PA

Independence Day - 250 year Celebration

July 2026

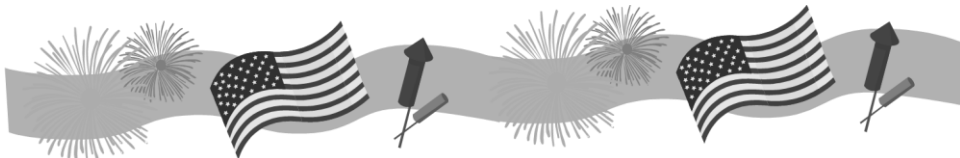


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 PARISH FESTIVAL SUNDAY, JULY 19TH 11:00AM - 5:30PM			1	2	3	4  Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
5	6	7  St. Vincent de Paul Society (2 nd Tuesday) 2:00 PM Church Hall	8	9	10	11 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45



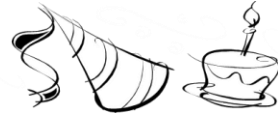
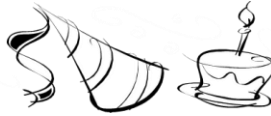
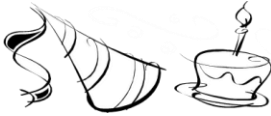
July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 Parish Festival 11:00am to 5:30pm	20	21	22  Knights of Columbus (4th Wednesday of the month) 6:00 pm Church Hall	23	24	25 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
26 <i>Last Day to Sign Up for Altoona Curve Baseball Game & Picnic on August 14</i>	27	28	29 Journey Through Loss Wednesdays July 29 -Sept. 30 Holy Family Parish Portage	30	31 Youth Swimming Party at Cresson Swimming Pool from 6-8 pm	
 YOUTH POOL PARTY FRIDAY, JULY 31ST 6:00PM - 8:00PM				ALTOONA CURVE BASEBALL FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH 5:00 PM – PICNIC 6:00 PM – GAME 		



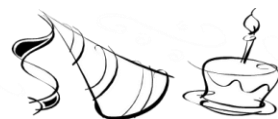
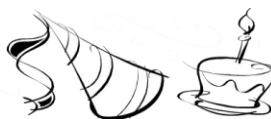
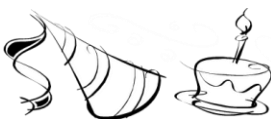


July Celebrations



1	Nathan Hoover	10	Sharon Zoskey	19	Tucker Brown
	Heather Jones	11	Carol Albarano		Daniel Falger
	Anna Leahey		Mason Barlick		Patrick McCool
	Dorothy Phillips		Regina Leja	20	Lily Hallinan
2	Kendall Osman		Kathryn Martynuska		Fr. Matthew Reese
	Dana Ronan		Agnes McCarty		Gary Risko
3	Alyse Rabatin		Tami Wissinger	21	Mary Callen
	Robert Van Guilder	12	Deborah Giraud		Alfred Hritz
6	Charlie Craig		Linda Leahey	22	Amber Kertes
	Patrick Tremel		Patricia Steberger	25	Shana Hoover
7	Evelyn Daugherty	13	Steven Noland		John Stiffler
	Amber Hoover		Ronald Sweeney	26	Renee Behe
	Phyllis Siedlarczyk	15	Kim Gides	27	Les Kiel
8	Kerry Bossler		Donna Panek	28	Annette Ditosti
	Helen Link	16	Patricia Davis	29	MaryEllen Nazit
9	Patrick Behe		Malia Prebish	30	Heather Agosta
	Trisha Behe		Regis Tremel		Brandon Roop
	Janet Franey	17	Edward Craine		Claire Tickerhoof
10	Diane Bishop	18	Ronald Leturgey Jr.	31	James Moyer
	Debra Kozak		Diane Misiura		
	George Nesbella				

If there is an error, please contact the Pastor,
Fr. Matthew at (814) 886-2504 ext. 101





Special Birthday Celebrations

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

Regina Leja	99	Agnes McCarty	86	Phyllis Siedlarczyk	81
Claire Tickerhoof	95	Robert Van Guilder	85	Kathryn Martynuska	81
MaryEllen Nazit	88	Helen Link	85	Edward Craine	81
		James Moyer	83	Fr. Matthew Reese	50

Six Very Short Stories

– each with a message that will help make your good day an even better one.

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain.
On the day of prayer all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH .



{2} When you throw babies in the air,
they laugh because they know you will catch them.
That's TRUST.

{3} Every night we go to bed
without any assurance of being alive the next morning,
but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE.



{4} We plan big things for tomorrow
in spite of zero knowledge of the future.
That's CONFIDENCE.

{5} We see the world suffering,
but still we get married and have children.
That's LOVE.



{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence
'I am not 79 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 63 years of experience.'
That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

Author unknown

1. Call to order at 6:00 pm
 - a. Attended: John Hurley, Barbara Bart, Amber Hoover, Matthew Hoover, George Nesbella, Jacob Bossler
 - b. Excused: Colleen Keagy
 - c. Absent: Deacon Sam, Michael Summerville
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Matthew
3. Welcome new member of this council: Jacob Bossler
4. Election of this year's Chair - John Hurley (2026/2027)
5. Volunteer for Secretary - Barbara Bart
6. Reading of minutes of last Parish Council meeting (April 13, 2026). Motion was made to approve, was seconded, and passed unanimously.
7. Financial Council Report
 - a. Cash in bank, general \$ 283,069.02
 - b. Cash in bank, maintenance \$ 2,909.16
 - c. Cash in bank, small games \$ 1,375.36
 - d. Cash in bank, mass stipend \$ 2,765.00
 - e. Net Income as of 6/1/2026 + \$ 86,093.42
8. Old Business
 - a. Parking Lot - Knopp & Klatt are currently backlogged
 - b. Handicapped spaces - expanding to 6/7 additional areas
 - c. Ramp repair/new carpet - estimated cost \$800.00 for cement repairs and the carpet estimated at \$2500.00
9. New Business
 - a. Offering Envelopes update
 - i. The May/June envelopes were mailed. Parishioners should receive them the first week of June
 - ii. Father Matthew is changing companies. The new company is Our Sunday Visitor. The new company will start with the July envelopes (bi-monthly). This company will also offer online giving.
 - iii. The youth envelope box sets should begin in January 2027 with this new company.
 - iv. *Addendum note: will save an estimated \$325.00 by changing to this new company*

- b. Updating Hall Rental forms
 - i. The forms are currently being updated. See website.
 - c. Request by USCCB
 - i. Consecration of USA to Sacred Heart of Jesus
 - 1. Thursday, June 11th here at this parish at 6:00 pm
 - d. Council asked question about seeing cars and trailers being parked in the parking lot. Father is discerning to pursue this issue further.
10. Reports from Committees
- a. Cemetery Committee – Ed Myers - no report
 - i. there will be an upcoming meeting (date to be announced)
 - b. Vocation Committee - Joan Walters and/or Renee Behe
 - i. Primary mission focus on this committee's work needs to be on the most current serious need of our Diocese which is Diocesan Priesthood vocations for this Diocese.
 - 1. Next possible Diocesan Priest Ordination currently not until 2033
 - ii. Second notable mission of this committee is to focus on helping children, teens, and college age individuals consider Priesthood or Consecrated Life in a Religious Order or Marriage because there are life choices for a person that determine the trajectory of one's lifestyle.
 - iii. Sign-up sheets are still available for the Prayer Crucifix program
 - c. Safety Committee
 - i. Summary of 1st meeting.
 - 1. Looking into new church and hall doors with locking access being reserved to the parish office and no one will have keys thus preventing unauthorized entries
 - 2. Cameras for security were discussed
 - 3. A fifth member with military or police experience is still being considered
 - d. Festival 2026 Heads of Booths Committee
 - i. The meeting was held June 1st.
 - 1. Items discussed - laid out the grounds, booth set ups, obtaining a license for beer tent.
 - ii. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be out in Church soon.

11. Non-Committee Reports

- a. Youth Ministry - Joy Eckenrode (Head)
 - i. Swim party - date to be determined based on issues at Cresson Pool
 - ii. Altoona Curve Faith Day - date not scheduled by the Curve
 - 1. May connect to Diocese date - Friday, August 14th. More information will be mailed to the CCD students, and a bulletin insert
- b. Youth Religious Education & Sacramental prep - Fr. Matthew (DRE); and/or Joy Eckenrode (Assistant DRE)
 - i. CCD teachers for 2026/2027 will be:
 - 1. First grade - Amanda George; Second grade - Joy Eckenrode; Third grade - Nancy Sivec; Fourth grade - Deb Giraud; Fifth grade - Renee Behe; Junior High - Joan Walters; High School - George Nesbella. Substitutes Coleen Keagy, Amy Hazlett, John Hurley, Kelley Brown, and Fr. Matthew.
 - 2. The first day of CCD 2026/2027 will be Sunday, August 30, 2026.
- c. Adult Education – Colleen Keagy
 - i. Q & A will be on June 11th following USA Consecration Prayer Service
- d. Maintenance Issues
 - i. Drainage issue repair will begin soon. The drainage issue is between the rectory and the church.

12. Comments from Fr. Matthew - NONE

13. Closing Prayer

14. Adjournment at 7:23pm (Next Parish Council meeting: August 10, 2026, at 6:00 to 7:00 pm)

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Bart, Parish Council Secretary

A Prayer for Summer Gratitude

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the blessings of summer—the warmth of the sun, the beauty of nature, and the time spent with loved ones. Help me to cultivate a heart of gratitude and to recognize Your hand in every good thing.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

-Trinity Methodist Church, Portage, PA

Prayer Requests

Prayer Circle



A prayer circle enlists the power of our community joining together to pray for those in need of prayers and/or healing. It is not a gossip group! Prayer requests may be made to any member of the prayer circle by contacting:

Shirley Patterson	814-886-7213	Jeannie Krug	814-931-9311
Diane Misiura	814-317-5711	Debbie Kozak	814-886-8296
Pattie Grove	814-886-4463	Dorothy McCool	814-736-4126
John & Sara Latoche	814-736-3037	Patty Nagy	814-886-7374
Mike & Shelly McIntosh	814-886-5516		

Any one of these people can be contacted for a prayer need. Then the prayer request is passed onto the next member of the circle and continues around the circle. Contact any member to start your request.

We welcome any new volunteers. Please contact Shirley Patterson

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
Chancellor..... Robert Kunrod
Treasurer Patrick J. Rainey
Recorder..... George W. Nesbella

Next Bloodmobile

Urgent Need!

Our Council will be
sponsoring blood drives.

August 28, 2026

11:30pm – 4:00pm

Council 11084 - Lilly, PA

***Please consider becoming a member
of our Knights of Columbus.***

Contact
Gary Nagy
Grand Knight
Lilly Council #11084

We need new members with new
ideas of how we can better serve the
church and community.

Since 2024 we lost 6 faithful
members of our Council and our
numbers are dwindling.

Parish Council Members 2026-2027 as of May 24, 2026

The 2026-2027 Elected Parish Council Members – **John Hurley (CHAIR)**
(# years left of term)

Age Group 56 & above

- (2021-2027) Barbara Bart (1)
- (2024-2027) Colleen Keagy (1)
- (2022-2028) John Hurley (2)
- (2024-2027) George Nesbella (1)
- (2025-2028) Jim Secriskey (2)
**{Temporary Appointee for Jim Secriskey = Bill Mulhearn}

Age Group 36-55

- (2022-2028) Michael Summerville (2)

Age Group 18-35

- (2026-2029) Jacob Bossler (3)
- (2024-2029) Amber Hoover (3)
- (2023-2029) Matthew Hoover (3)

Clergy – Father Matthew Reese, PASTOR and Deacon Samuel Albarano Jr.

Finance Council Chair	-----Bill Mulhearn
Assistant D.R.E. & Youth Ministry	-----Joy Eckenrode
Cemetery Committee Chair	-----Ed Myers
Vocation Committee	-----Renee Behe & Joan Walters
Safety Committee Liason	-----John Hurley
Adult Education	-----Colleen Keagy
Festival Heads Liason	-----Fr. Matthew Reese
Craft Fair Head	-----Marion Zunich
Christmas Social Head	-----Anna Leahey
Maintenance	-----Liam Layo, employee

Finance Council Membership

OUR FINANCE COUNCIL members include:

Clergy: Fr. Matthew Reese (PASTOR)

*Bill Mulhearn (**CHAIR**)
Matthew George
Ted George

Rich Giraud
Gary Nagy
Pat Rainey

Andy Ronan
Jenny Schilling
Liz Wilt



July Wedding Anniversaries

1	Richard and Debbie Giraud	12	Stanley and Delores Skura
3	Edward and Patricia Grove	13	Jeffrey and Crystal Hite
4	Matthew and Amanda George	14	Robert and Theresa Shedlock
	Frederick and Mary Offman	15	Daniel and Claudine Falger
5	Nate and Missy Erzal	16	Dominic and Erica Farabaugh
	Francis and Mary Risko		John and Lana Geriak
7	Joseph and Annette Ditosti	18	Ron and Tami Wissinger
8	Robert and Amy Hazlett	20	Brent and Alysia Krug
	Joseph and Tanya Phillips	25	Mark and Deborah Wilson
9	Ryan and Shauna Haney	26	Frank, Jr. and Julie Crouse
	William and Catherine Weakland	29	Dominic and Juliana Ricupero
11	Donald and Cindy Hartline	30	Adam and Greta Rabatin



Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to the following couples
celebrating special anniversaries this month.



Francis and Mary Risko-----57	Frederick and Mary Offman----- 57
Stanley and Delores Skura-----57	Edward and Patricia Grove ----- 55

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Mark your calendar for our parish festival.
Sunday July 19, 2026, from 11:00am to 5:30pm

What can you expect?

- Several businesses have donated either money or gift certificates or baskets
- Basket Raffle
- Craft vendors and Food vendors
- Rip Tickets
- Fun, games, bouncy houses, and entertainment by Charlene's Dance Studio from 12:45-1pm, and Felix & the Hurricanes from 2pm-5pm & MORE!

All of our Heads of Booths have been busy planning. Now we need some help on the day of the festival. Just an hour or two of your time would go a long way in contributing to the success of the festival. Please sign up at the Masses. Your help will be truly appreciated.

PARISH FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, JULY 19TH
11:00AM - 5:30PM
CHURCH GROUNDS