She is exalted, yet still one of us.
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

The Octave Day of Christmas
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved.

(Lumen Gentium, no. 53)

Mary embraces God’s will and freely chooses to cooperate with God’s grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God’s plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, “while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed.”

The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

Confession - Saturdays
St. Wendelin - 11:30am-Noon
St. John - 3:15-3:45pm

Baptism
Pre-Birth/Pre-Baptism Class
on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00am
at St. Wendelin Parish
Call either office to register.

Marriage
Six months notice

READINGS for the week

Monday:
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday:
1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday:
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday:
1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday:
1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Saturday:
1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday:
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

MAY YOU SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE NEW YEAR!
**Mass Intentions**

**St. John**

- **Sunday, January 1** -
  The Solemnity of Mary
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am
  Confessions ................................. No Mass

- **Thursday, January 5** -
  Rosary & Faith Alive ........ 6:30pm & 7:00pm

- **Saturday, January 7** -
  Vigil Mass ................................... 4:00pm

- **Sunday, January 8** -
  The Epiphany of the Lord
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am
  CGS & K-5 CCD .............................. 11:30am to Noon

**St. Wendelin**

- **Saturday, December 31** -
  Vigil for New Year's Eve
  Mass ................................................ 7:30am

- **Sunday, January 1** -
  The Solemnity of Mary
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am

- **Wednesday, January 4**
  Confessions ................................. No Confessions

- **Thursday, January 5**
  Vigil Mass ................................... 4:00pm

- **Friday, January 6**
  Mass ................................................ 10:15am

- **Saturday, January 7**
  Vigil Mass ................................... 4:00pm

- **Sunday, January 8**
  The Epiphany of the Lord
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am

- **Vigil Mass**
  Saturday, January 7
  Commences in Church, Dismissal from Center
  8:30pm & 9:00pm

**St. John**

- **Saturday, December 31**
  Mass .............................................. No Mass
  Confessions ................................. No Confessions

- **Sunday, January 1**
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am
  CGS & K-5 CCD .............................. No CCD

- **Monday, January 2**
  Mass .............................................. No Mass

- **Tuesday, January 3**
  Grade 6 & 7 CCD ............................. 6:00pm

- **Thursday, January 5**
  Mass .............................................. 7:30am

- **Saturday, January 7**
  Vigil Mass ................................... 4:00pm

- **Sunday, January 8**
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am
  CGS & K-5 CCD .............................. After Mass
  Commissions in Church, Dismissal from Center
  Grade 8 CCD ................................. 6:30pm

  Commences in Church, Dismissal from St. Wendelin Church

**Baptism Class**

St. Wendelin will host a Baptism Class on **Saturday, January 21**, at 10:00am. It is for all new and prospective parents and includes a discussion of raising your children in the Catholic faith. It is for members of both parishes. Call either office to register.

**Choir Practices**

Choir practice will resume in February, after a break during January.

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**The WEEK AHEAD at a glance**

**St. John**

- **Saturday, December 31**
  Mass .............................................. No Mass
  Confessions ................................. No Confessions

- **Sunday, January 1**
  Mass .............................................. 8:45am
  CGS & K-5 CCD .............................. No CCD

**St. Wendelin**

- **Saturday, December 31**
  Confessions ................................. 11:30am to Noon
  Vigil Mass ................................... 5:00pm

- **Sunday, January 1**
  Mass .............................................. 7:00am & 10:30am
  K-8 CCD ................................. No CCD

**POPE FRANCIS’ WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE**

In his message for the 50th World Day of Peace, celebrated TODAY, January 1, Pope Francis urges families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice non-violence and work to build a just peace.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

1. **Pray.** Use the Prayer for Peace in Our Communities (below) with your family, school, faith community, or in other settings.

2. **Learn.** Read the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)) *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace* especially the section on “Nonviolence: New Importance.” How can Gospel nonviolence challenge each of us personally, and as a nation? How might the Holy Spirit be calling your community to respond? Look for Pope Francis’ message on ToGoForth.org.

3. **Act.** Join thousands of others to advocate for policies that build peace at home and around the world. For current action alerts, visit ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org and USCCB Action Center ([Votervoice.net/USCCB/home](http://Votervoice.net/USCCB/home)).

**PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

Let us pray. O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required.

“Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Mi 6:8).

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will.

Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
MASS TIME
REMINDER

There is no 7:30am Mass tomorrow, January 2. Regular Mass times will resume at St. John on Thursday, January 5, 7:30am, and at St. Wendelin on Wednesday, January 4, 10:15am.

MASS MINISTRIES

LECTOR
Saturdays:
Denise Drosjack
Pat Rodgers
Ted Snyder

Altar Servers:
Luke McCready
Maxwell Drosjack

Eucharistic Ministers:
Chrissie Mullen
Jerry Harrison
Dixie Mennor
Rose Asher
Kendall Mullen
Sidney Mullen

St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. John Parish (sponsored by the Marian Guild) will host a

Chili Cook Off & Dance at St. Wendelin Hall
On Saturday, January 28

Featuring a Neil Diamond Impersonator

Advance tickets are $10, and $12 at the door.

Tickets will be available before and after Masses at St. John and St. Wendelin

Questions? Ted Snyder at 724-285-4992 or Jerry Harrison at 724-679-3224

How The Voting Works!

With the purchase of your ticket, you receive a free vote toward the best chili. Additional votes may be purchased for $1/each at the event.

Chili Entries

Do you think your chili is good, have a unique chili recipe, or just like to cook? Entries for the Chili Cookoff are now being accepted. Contact Jerry at 724-679-3224 to register. There is a $2.00 fee per crockpot entered. Prizes will be awarded.

This town ain't big enough for both our chilies ...

St. John and St. Wendelin together plan to present ChristLife's unique spiritual "discovering Christ" course, beginning January 9.
If interested, log onto www.stwendelinbutler.com
You will find a link to the "discovering Christ" program and an application to join the program.
Please return to either parish as soon as possible.

MAKE TIME TO VISIT MARY
Devotion to Mary, Un-Doer of Knots

Holiday strife? Family discord? It sounds like a good time to take pause and visit our Blessed Mother. For several months, St. John has been home to Mary, Un-Doer of Knots. The knots represent the sin in our spiritual life: our lack of love, our vices, our waning desire to live a God-centered life. As we engage habitually in sin, it becomes harder and harder to return to virtue, just as a knot that is pulled tighter and tighter becomes harder to untie. God’s grace, however, offered through the intercession of Mary, can undo any knot and conquer any sin. Stop in the back of St. John and tie a knot at the devotion. Ask Mary, especially at this hectic time of year, to keep you and your concerns in her heart.

THIS WEEK’S FEATURED ADVERTISER

WOODEMEN OF THE WORLD

Please support and thank our advertisers!

St. John Offertory
December 24 & 25

Due to early bulletin deadline, Christmas offertory will be listed next week.

THANK YOU for your generosity to parish ministries!
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 4

At the end of January, the Diocese of Pittsburgh celebrates National Catholic Schools’ Week with a variety of activities. St. Wendelin School will join the festivities. This year’s theme is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Diocese, and the School have educational standards that every child must meet in order to be successful, and we celebrate our students achieving these standards at the highest level.

Watch the bulletin for activity announcements.

MASS MINISTRIES

St. Wendelin Offertory
December 24 & 25

Due to early bulletin deadline, Christmas offertory will be listed next week.

THANK YOU for your generosity to parish ministries!

Sympathy is extended to the family of Ronald J. McKivigan who was buried on December 23, 2016. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Advent Adventure
St. Wendelin’s K-5 CCD students participated in the annual Advent Adventure last week. The morning included Santa Stack Relays, an Igloo Ice Cream Station, and many prayers of thanks.

Don’t forget kids ... we return to class on January 8!

Happy New Year!

LECTORS

SATURDAY 6:00pm
Deb Bell
Ruth Ann Nebel
Alli Frenchak

SUNDAY, 7:00am
Rick Newell
Mary Grenet
Tanner Schaffner

SUNDAY 10:30am
Jill Geibel
Nikki Coyle
Brooke White®

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Linda Green
Lou Green
Katie Frenchak

Ed Grenet
Lori Welter
Conner Schaffner

ALTAI SERVERS

Alli Frenchak

Katie Frenchak

Bianna Bell

Fifth grade teacher Emily, right, gets a Merry Christmas from Rachel, Cooper, Emma, and Molly.

Looks like they won!
ST. WENDELIN SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK
This week’s St. Wendelin School Student of the Week is Dudley Borja. Dudley is a first grade student at St. Wendelin School. He is a happy, competitive, and loving young man. This year he wants to learn more about Math. In his free time, Dudley likes to color. His favorite color is green. He works very hard in all academics. He wants to be a daddy and work for his church when he grows up. Congratulations to this week’s St. Wendelin School Student of the Week, Dudley Borja!

CCD SCHEDULE
St. John
CCD Class for St. John CGS-Grade 5 will not be held today, January 1. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8, at 9:45am in the church. Grades 6 and 7 will return to class on Tuesday, January 3.

St. Wendelin
There are no classes for Grades K-8 today, January 1. All classes K-8 resume at regular times, on Sunday, January 8.

CONFIRMATION CLASS REMINDER FOR JANUARY
Students who will be confirmed in the spring - remember - your Confirmation Candidate sheets are due Sunday, January 8. This is part of the packet handed out at the Parent Meeting in October. The paperwork includes baptismal and sponsor information. If you need another copy, email a request to Gina Beaver at drestwendelin@gmail.com. Remember to tell your sponsor about the Retreat on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY WEEKLY VIRTUE/VALUE
This week’s virtue is ENTHUSIASM
Enthusiasm is intense and eager enjoyment or interest.
The word is derived from two Greek words, en and theos, with theos being the word for God. Enthusiasm in its root concept means “full of God.”

Scripture References:
~ 2 Maccabees 15:9 ~
By encouraging them with words from the law and the prophets, and by reminding them of the battles they had already won, he filled them with fresh enthusiasm.

~ Romans 8:19 ~
Creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God.

~ Philippians 1:20 ~
My eager expectation and hope is that I shall not be put to shame in any way, but that with all boldness, now as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT SUNNYVIEW NURSING HOME
St. Wendelin Student Council Spreads Holiday Happiness
St. Wendelin School student council members, teachers, and parents offered their rejoicing voices to residents of Sunnyview Nursing Home last week. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
~ BUTLER AREA PARISHES ~

Marriage Preparation Retreats at St. Michael
There are two sets of dates being offered for the local Diocesan PreCana Program in 2017 - one set in the spring and one in the fall. Dates are Saturdays, March 25 and April 1, or Saturdays, October 28 and November 4. Couples must attend both Saturday sessions to fulfill the program requirements. The retreat begins at 11:45am each Saturday and runs until 7:00pm. Both Saturday sessions conclude with Holy Mass at 6:00pm at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church. Mass attendance is part of the PreCana Program and satisfies the Sunday obligation. The retreat will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Church Parish Hall, 432 Center Ave., Butler. Cost is $50 per couple. Dinner is provided or couples can pack their own dinner. Please let us know of any dietary needs. Retreat size is limited to 20 couples. Register early, as the retreat fills quickly. Cancellations will be accepted with a full refund a week prior to it starting. Questions? Phone 724-991-2639 or email cwelland@zoominternet.net.

Blue Army Devotions at St. Paul
Blue Army will have First Saturday Devotions on January 7, at 8:00am Mass at St. Paul Church, 128 McKean St., Butler, followed by the Rosary. There is a meeting to follow in the Collins Room with Bernadette Conklin as guest speaker. She will bring the Statue of Mary, The Ark of The New Covenant. All are welcome to the devotions and meeting.

March for Life Bus from Butler
A March for Life bus will leave from St. Michael the Archangel Church, 132 Center Ave., Butler, for the annual trip to Washington DC, on Friday, January 25, at 6:00am, boarding at 5:45am. Bus captain is Ed Hoyt. Call 724-287-1759 to reserve a seat for $25.

Our Neighbors in Faith

HIGH SCHOOL MEN’S RETREAT
God is alive and we believe that He speaks to us. At this men’s High School Silent Retreat, we are going to give God the time and space to speak to our hearts about our lives and our vocations. The retreat will be led by Fr. Mike Ackerman and Fr. Joe Freedy at The Ark and The Dove Retreat House, from 9:00am on Saturday, January 14 until 11:00am on Sunday, January 15, 2017. For more information or to register, visit PGHPriest.com.

RETREAT FOR POST-ABORTION HEALING
Rachel’s Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held January 20-22, 2017 at Tabor House in Millvale. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel’s Vineyard demonstrates God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion to women (and men) struggling with abortion’s aftermath. To register or for more information, call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348 or email: toniafj1@comcast.net.

SISTERS OFFER CHILD CARE
Providence Connections, Inc., a ministry of the Sisters of Divine Providence, offers child care for children six weeks up to Pre-Kindergarten. We also offer afterschool care for children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Come visit our Star 3 center, on Brighton Road, just north of city. For more information and registration details call the center at 412-766-3860 or visit www.providenceconnections.org.

St. John the Evangelist Parish
www.stjohntheevangelistparish.org
668 Clearfield Road, Fenelton PA 16034-9743
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday - 9:00am-2:00pm

Staff
Father Matt McClain, Pastor 724-287-7590
Barbara Boltz - Office Manager and Safe Environment Coordinator 724-287-7590
stjohnchurch@zoominternet.net
Laura Eakman - CCD Program Manager 724-287-0426
stjohnccd@zoominternet.net
Steven Yealy - Music Coordinator 717-451-2082
stevenyealy@gmail.com
Jake Snyder - Cemetery Manager (home) 724-297-5485

ST. JOHN PRAYER REQUEST HOTLINE
Contact Rose Chuba, Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 724-285-1134 and leave a short message with the reason for the prayer request.

Please Keep All Those In Need In Our Prayers

St. Wendelin Parish
www.stwendelinbutler.com
210 St. Wendelin Road, Butler, PA 16002
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00am-Noon

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Cemetery - Contact Parish Office at 724-287-0820