

# The Linked Parishes of Corpus Christi and St. Barbara



*“As members of the Body of Christ, the linked parishes of St. Barbara and Corpus Christi celebrate the presence of God in all people through our thoughts, words and deeds. We answer Christ’s call as a community of believers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.”*

**April 21, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Immaculate Conception Church**  
**Holy Redeemer Church**  
**St. Anthony Church**  
**Msgr. John J. Sempa, Pastor**  
**Rev. Michael Drevitch,**  
**Assistant Pastor**  
**Corpus Christi &**  
**St. Barbara Parishes**  
**605 Luzerne Avenue**  
**West Pittston, PA 18643**  
**Phone (570) 654-2753**  
**Phone (570) 654-2103**  
**Fax (570) 654-9244**  
**Weekend Mass Schedule**

**Saturday**

4:00PM St. Anthony

5:30PM Immaculate Conception

**Sunday**

7:30AM St. Anthony

9:00AM Holy Redeemer

10:30AM Immaculate Conception

**Confession**

**Saturday**

3:00PM to 3:30PM

St. Anthony Church

**Daily Mass Schedule**

**Mon** 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

**Tues** 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

**Wed** 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

**Thurs** 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

**Fri** 7:30AM Immaculate Conception

8:30AM Holy Redeemer

12:10PM St. Anthony

*Watch Sunday & Daily Mass on*

*Corpus Christi Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/corpuschristiparishpa](http://www.facebook.com/corpuschristiparishpa)

**Weekly Collection**

**April 14, 2024**

**St. Barbara**

**Weekly.....\$4,506.23**

**E-Giving.....\$610.00**

**Easter.....\$305.00**

**Total                   \$5,421.23**

**2nd Collection \$2,896.46**

**Corpus Christi**

**Weekly.....\$6,905.27**

**E-Giving.....\$2,608.93**

**Easter.....\$906.00**

**Total                   \$10,420.20**

**2nd Collection \$14,593.02**

**Thank You!**

Dear Parishioners of Corpus Christi & St. Barbara Parishes, It was a true pleasure meeting all of you last weekend as I was making a missionary appeal at your parishes. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement, support and prayers. I am grateful for your hospitality. Thank you very much for your generous contribution to our missionary work. Through your generosity the lives of so many will be changed. Be assured of my prayers for all of you. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely, Father Francois X. Eale

**Second Collection Next Weekend**

Next weekend at all Masses, we will have a second collection for Catholic Home Missions Appeal.



**“That Foam Party Guy” & “Ice Creamers” Ice Cream Truck Sunday, April 28, 2024 Following 10:30AM Mass Immaculate Conception Church Grounds**

All are welcome! Join us for some good clean fun for toddlers to adults! Foam never disappoints, neither does ice cream. You may want to bring a towel! In case of inclement weather, ice cream will be served in the church hall. *This event has been rescheduled from last year.*



**Mass Honoring Our Class of 2024 High School Graduates Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:30AM Mass**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

All 2024 high school graduates from Corpus Christi and St. Barbara Parishes are invited to this Mass. We invite the graduates to take part in the liturgy as lectors, ushers, gift bearers. Following the Mass all graduates and their guests are invited to join us in the church hall for brunch. To help us prepare for the brunch, we are asking you to please RSVP to Joyce at 570 654 2753 or [jceconni50@gmail.com](mailto:jceconni50@gmail.com) by May 15th with the number of people who will be attending. Thank you.

**St. Barbara Parish “Flea Market”**

**July 19, 20, & 21, 2024**

Starting May 1st we will begin accepting donations for our flea market. Items can be left at St. Anthony’s Parish Center by the door next to Pride. Please do not leave donations on a rainy day and do not block the door. Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, exercise equipment, computers, TVs, luggage, stuffed animals, shoes, clothing, live plants or any broken or dirty items. Thank you!



**Candles**

The following candles will burn in loving memory of:

**Altar Candles at ICC**

**Ed & Angie Doreskewicz....**

.....By Ed & Tish

**Holy Family Candle at ICC**

**Tony Denisco.....**By

Wife, Carmella

**Sanctuary Candle at ICC**

**Faust Valenti.....**By M/M Louis Pagnotti

**Altar Candles at SA**

**Sal Cometa.....**By Wife & Children

**Sanctuary Candle at SA**

**Dec'd Membs of Parra Family.....**By Children

**Sanctuary Candle in Chapel at SA**

**Dec'd Membs of Sabatini & Mazzarella**

**Families.....**By Tina Sabatini



**Corpus Christi Parish  
13th Annual Car Show  
Sunday, May 5, 2024**

(Rain Date: Sunday, May 12th)

**11:00AM-4:00PM**

**Holy Redeemer Grounds**

A Car Show meeting will take place on Monday, April 22 at 6:00PM in Immaculate

Conception Rectory. All are welcome!



**Candy Makers Needed**

Volunteers are asked to join us in Immaculate Conception Church kitchen on Thursday, April 25th at 9:00AM to make chocolate pops for kids. All are welcome!

**Thank you Cub Scout & Boy Scout Troop 302**

**Thank you to Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troop 302 of West Pittston! This great group of kids, along with their adult help, did a wonderful job cleaning up our cemeteries.....St. John's on Cedar Street and St. Cecilia's on Schooley Avenue. Thank you to all for a job well done!!!**

**2024 Bishop Youth Award Winners**

Congratulations to the following 8th grade and 12th grade students from Corpus Christi & St. Barbara Parishes who received the Bishop Youth Award this year.

**8th Grade**

**Mia Bovani  
Caitlyn Babuscak  
Santino Capitano  
Thomas Capitano  
Joshua Chaump  
James Chromey  
Madison Doblovasky  
Giana Federici  
Grace Ferretti**

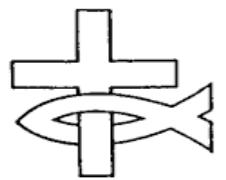
**Stephen Hoegen  
Joseph Manganiello  
Jade Pilarcik  
Nadia Rawhouser  
Kaelyn Romanoski  
Alex Rosencrance  
Ryleigh Santee  
Nina Valenti**

**12th Grade**

**Tanner Alfano  
Trinity Basara  
Joseph Breck, IV  
Dominic Donati  
Marissa Gacek**

**Jacob Hoegen  
Alexis Romanowski  
Michael Steinberger  
Faith Stoshak  
Tiffany Stoshak**

**Liturgy Intentions  
For The Week**



**April 22 thru 28, 2024**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Michael J. Fino</b> By Ellen & Sr. Sue Brown
	<b>8:30AM (HRC)</b>	<b>Health &amp; God's Blessings Mike &amp; Eason</b> By HR Morning Mass Group
	<b>12:10PM(SAC)</b>	<b>Anne Marie Shedlock</b> By Montante Family
<b>Tues</b>	<b>7:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Justine Marranta</b> By Deacon Jim & Lynn Meizanis
	<b>8:30AM (HRC)</b>	<b>Caroline Kudasik</b> By Carolyn & Jerry Carlson
<b>Wed</b>	<b>7:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Michael Murphy</b> By Brian & Family
	<b>8:30AM (HRC)</b>	<b>Fr. William Campbell</b> By Joan Hennigan
	<b>12:10PM (SAC)</b>	<b>Carmelina Frankosky</b> By Sister, Tina
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Roberta Petrucci</b> By Husband & Children
	<b>8:30AM (HRC)</b>	<b>Carmen Colarusso</b> By Sidari Family
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Anne Milcavage</b> By Sisters
	<b>8:30AM (HRC)</b>	<b>June Yunkunis</b> By Dr. William & Susan Yunkunis
	<b>12:10PM (SAC)</b>	<b>Charles Cupani</b> By Deacon Bill & Mary Dervinis & Colleen & Family
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:00PM (SAC)</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Josephine Zaboski</b> By Children & Families
	<b>5:30PM (ICC)</b>	<b>Nicky Solano</b> By Freddie, Linda & Family
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7:30AM (SAC)</b>	<b>Mariano Fanelli</b> By Frederick Sam & Sons
	<b>9:00AM (HRC)</b>	<b>Janice Poceschi</b> By Husband, Children & Grandchildren
	<b>10:30AM (ICC)</b>	<b>Robert Blauer</b> By Wife, Children, Grandchildren

**Corpus Christi Parish  
Holy Name Society  
Family Brunch  
Sunday, June 9, 2024  
11:15AM  
Immaculate  
Conception Hall**



Our guest speaker is Dennis Bonvie, former AHL/NHL player and current scouting coach for the Boston Bruins. The menu will consist of omelette station, homemade waffles, breakfast potatoes, ham, sausage, bacon and rolls and butter. Tickets are available after Masses or at the rectory.

Adults over 16 years.....\$12.00  
Children 6 to16 years .....\$6.00  
Children 5 years and under....Free

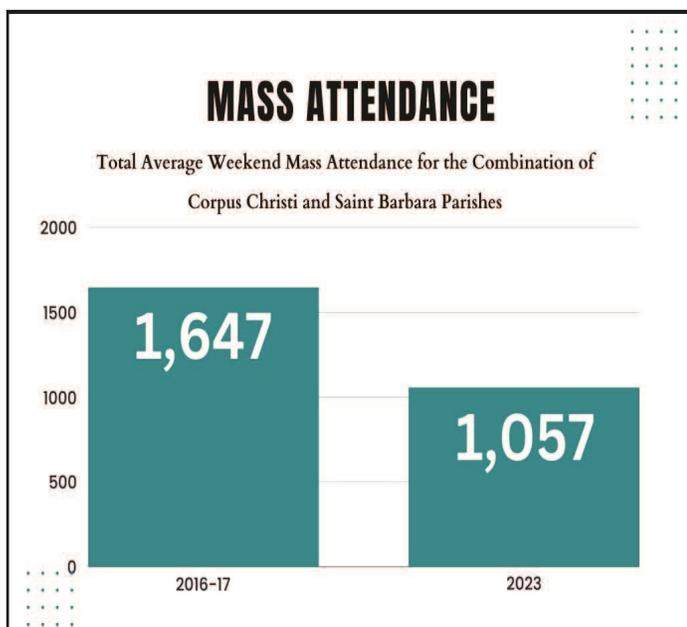
## Honoring and Remembering Our History

As we look towards the possible consolidation of Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes on July 1, 2024, we celebrate the many ways in which we, as parishioners, have continued to build a new community of faith since the linkage process began. In doing so, we must remember and be grateful for the sacrifices that our parents, grandparents, and many current parishioners have already made to accept and embrace change.

The consolidation of Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara's is built upon a long history of deep faith and devotion shown by the parishioners of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Cecilia's, and Saint Anthony of Padua in Exeter, Holy Redeemer in Harding, and Immaculate Conception in West Pittston. With your help, these rich histories and the goodness and faith of our parishioners can serve as the cornerstones upon which we will continue to build our new parish community.

## Changing Realities: Confronting a Combination of Fewer Parishioners & Fewer Priests

### *Fewer Parishioners Supporting the Mission of the Church*

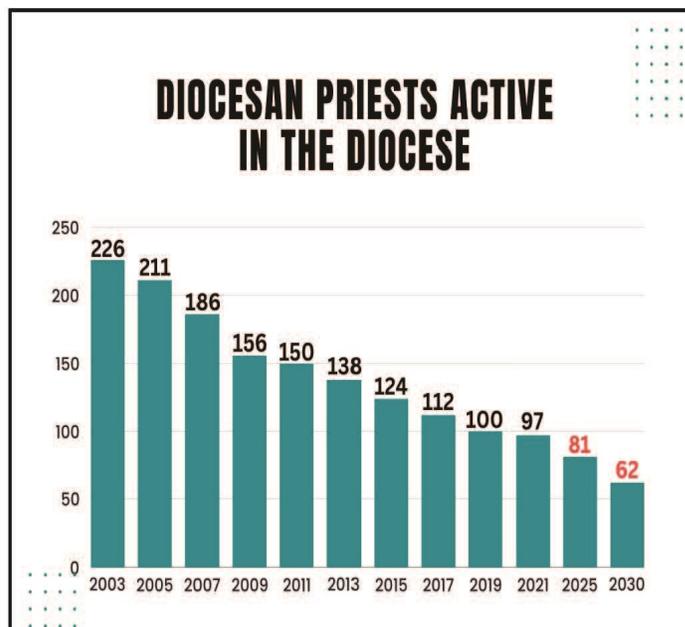


One of the changing realities that many parishes in the Diocese of Scranton are facing is fewer parishioners supporting the mission of the Church. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, regular weekend Mass attendance had been declining.

Each October, every parish in the Diocese is asked to record its Mass attendance figures. That allows a comparison, over time, for statistical purposes.

Between 2016/17 and 2023, the total number of parishioners regularly attending Mass at Corpus Christi and Saint Barbara Parishes combined dropped from **1,647** to **1,057**. That is a decline of **36 percent**.

### *Diminishing Number of Ordained Priests*



Over the coming decade and beyond, the Diocese of Scranton faces a decreasing number of priests. While the Diocese had more than 200 active priests in 2003, in 2021, that number had declined to **97 active Diocesan priests**.

By 2030, that number is projected to only be **62 active priests** for all 11 counties that the Diocese of Scranton covers.

Luzerne County has seen change over the recent decades because of clergy availability. In 1968, the city of Wilkes-Barre had **20 parishes** and was served by **50 priests**. The city is currently home to **four** parishes that are staffed by three Diocesan priests, one Parish Life Coordinator, and two international priests.

## The Larger Picture

*The population of Luzerne County has declined over the last century as well.*

*In 1930, census figures show Luzerne County had an overall population of 445,109. In 2020, the population had dropped to 325,594.*



**VISION 2030**

*Creating Parish Communities  
Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ*



**DIOCESE OF  
SCRANTON**