



Saint Aidan
Est 2020

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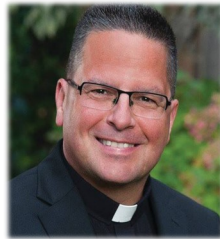
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Important Dates

- Sunday, October 4**
@ 12:00 p.m. - Feast of
St. Francis Blessing of
Pets at Saint Alexis
- Sunday, November 1** - All
Saints' Day
- Monday, November 2** - All
Soul's Day (TBD due to
fluidity of pandemic)
- Monday, November 2** -
Opening of Mass book
for 2021. More
information to follow.
- Thursday, November 26**
@ 9:00 a.m. -
Thanksgiving Mass at
Saint Alexis

The Flame



Dear Parishioner,

With Father Will, Deacon Al and Deacon Jeff and our entire staff I want to welcome you to the inaugural newsletter of Saint Aidan Parish. Aidan means “fiery one” or “bringer of fire” in Gaelic. In the spirit of our patron, this quarterly newsletter will be known as “The Flame.”

It is our hope in these pages to inform, to inspire and to invite you, the faithful, into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and this very special faith community under the patronage of Saint Aidan of Ferns.

While beginnings always engender a particular excitement, this new time is challenged by the pandemic. This Newsletter is a concerted effort to reach all of our members especially those who do not have access to the internet.

Our Mission remains the same—to form disciples who seek to be one in Jesus Christ. Although the pandemic has resulted in certain restrictions and limitations to our normal ways, we are committed being the Church.

While we have a parish name, and an emblem, and are in the process of having statues commissioned of our patron to be located in our churches and parish office, we now need to begin a parish census. Look for information on the census in the near future or visit our website at www.saintaidanparish.org.

We also would like to begin a needs assessment so that we can determine what are the best ways to serve you. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact us clergy or our office manager, MaryEllen at mependel@saintaidanparish.org. We all use email and our addresses are located in this newsletter. For those without email, always feel free to call us.

We will be working on our website to make it more user friendly along with our parish bulletin all for the purpose of keeping you in the loop.

In the meantime, know that our clergy and staff are excited to be part of your story. We look forward to working with you to make a vibrant parish with effective ministries and a place of welcome for all.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. David J. Bonnar, Pastor

Saint Aidan Parish

10090 Old Perry Highway, Wexford, PA, 15090

(724) 935 - 4343 or (724) 935-1151 * saintaidanparish.org

Liturgical Schedule

Masses

Outdoor Masses
During COVID-19

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Saint Alexis

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.

Saint Alexis

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Saint Alphonsus

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Saint Alexis

* We also offer a
live-streamed Mass on
Sunday: 7:00 a.m.
Saint Alphonsus

Confessions

Every Saturday:

Outside

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saint Alexis

One Priest under both old and
new church porticos

Also by appointment by
Calling the Parish Center
at 724.935.4343

Adoration

Every Tuesday

7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In Saint Alexis Church.

Please NOTE: Beginning
Wednesday, September 16,
and continuing for the next
four weeks through Wednes-
day, October 7, Adoration will
take place on Wednesdays at
7:00 p.m. in Saint Alexis.

New Staff Spotlight

What led you to parish ministry?

I've wanted to be a Director of Faith Formation since I was a kid! I loved learning about my faith in CCD, and I became a catechist in high school. I know that God was preparing me for and leading me to this ministry my whole life.

What do you love about your ministry?

I love that the faith of children is constantly renewing my own faith. Finding creative ways to form others in a life of faith energizes me!

Who is your favorite saint?

St. John Bosco! He was an educator ahead of his time and inspires me to always look for the need behind the behavior and to help children feel that they are loved and valued.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I love reading fiction, especially classics. My family has a cabin two hours north of Pittsburgh and I enjoy going up there to disconnect and spend time in nature hiking and toasting marshmallows at the fire.

What is your favorite scripture quote?

"I come that they may have life and have it abundantly" – John 10:10



Darcy Osby, MDiv
Director of Faith Formation



YOU are part of the RCIA team! The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a total effort of the whole parish community to evangelize and form new members of our Church. Here are some things you can do to support our parish RCIA:

Pray regularly for people who are seeking God Live a joyful life as a witness of your faith

Share our parish news and social media posts with friends Invite friends to parish events (virtually now, or in person once we are able to gather!)

Tell your story – how has being Catholic made an impact in your life?

Do you know someone who is thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Invite them to contact our Director of Faith Formation, Darcy Osby. RCIA is a no pressure environment where anyone can explore the Catholic faith and grow closer to God.

Baptism Prep

Please pray for the littlest members of St. Aidan parish as we celebrate their baptism! May God strengthen the faith of their parents as they raise their children to be disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Parents wishing to baptize their first child need to attend a baptism formation session, currently held via Zoom. Upcoming dates are: September 24, November 19, and January 21 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up on our website or contact Darcy Osby.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust." Psalms 91:1-2 RSV

Faith Formation – I Received From the Lord What I also Handed on to You

On Sunday, September 20th, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. The USCCB theme this year is: “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you”. Parents are our primary and best catechists of the faith who hand on to their children what they have received. Thank you to the faithful parents of our parish for your commitment to forming your children in the faith. We are so grateful for our parish catechists who partner with parents to hand on the faith to our children and youth, as well as our RCIA catechumens and candidates, and the whole parish.

This theme reflects the essential work of catechesis: to hand on what we have received. In a year where we are being challenged by so much, it is important to focus on what is most essential in our lives. Faith formation should not be about memorizing facts or jumping through programmatic hoops to get to sacraments. Faith formation should be cultivating a way of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our children need to see the difference that following Jesus has made in our lives and how we connect with God

through prayer, liturgy, scripture, sacraments, and community. They need to see how faith is lived out in difficult as well as joyful times, and learn to recognize the presence of God in their own daily experiences. They need to see how we use our gifts and talents to serve one another and to recognize how their own gifts can build the Kingdom of God. This year, let us focus on handing on the essentials of our faith and trust that God will nurture the seeds we plant to bear good fruit. For the 2020-2021 year, faith formation for all students in grades K-6 will begin at home. Parents have options to work with their children using a textbook, online platform, family activity, or joining a virtual lesson with a catechist. "Grades 7-8 will participate in the EDGE program virtually with both live and self-paced opportunities for engagement." As the year progresses, we will assess the situation to see if adapted on-site programming can be safely added. Please register on our website! More details and a full calendar will be shared via email soon.

Safe Environment Update - Frequently Asked Questions

by Mary King, Safe Environment Coordinator

There are many questions I frequently receive on the topic of clearances. I'd like to address some of the most frequently asked questions about volunteering in the parish and obtaining clearances.

- “Do I need clearances?” If you are planning on becoming involved in the parish, more that just coming to Sunday Mass (and we hope you are!), the answer is YES! All parish volunteers are required to obtain clearances.
- “I don’t work with children-do I need to obtain clearances?” – Again, the answer is yes! While working with children does require you to obtain an additional clearance, all volunteer roles need clearances. This includes Ushers, Hospitality Committee, Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers, Lectors, Wedding Coordinators, Choir members, etc.
- “How difficult is it to obtain clearances?” - It is not difficult at all! Obtaining all necessary clearances initially does require a bit of time, but it does not need to be done in one sitting! All of the necessary items can be completed online, and progress can be saved as you have time to work on it. The Diocese asks that it be completed in 30 days. If you have no computer access, please contact the Parish and we will assist you!
- “I have/had some clearances through my employer-do I need to do them again?” – Not necessarily. Many employed in the education, child care, social work or health care sector need to obtain some of the same clearances. We just need a photocopy of these certificates if they are less than 5 years old. If they are older than 5 years, they are considered expired. However, registering with the Diocese and the Protecting God’s Children class are unique to the Church.
- “I obtained clearances a while ago, why do I need to do it again?” – There are 2 clearances that expire after 5 years. Usually this can be updated by filling out 2 forms. The other initial requirements only need to be completed once.
- “How do I get started?” - Visit the Diocese of Pittsburgh Child Protection site for more information: www.diopitt.org/compliance or please give me a call at the Parish office at 724-935- 1151 x212-- I’m here to help!



New Staff Spotlight

What is an aspect of music directing that you love?

I love the sound of the organ and the beauty of the choir in the church building. Being able to convey the True Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist at the Sacrifice of the Mass is truly a gift. Producing beauty through music is a wonderful aspect of the job.

Which Saints do you look to for guidance?

Saint Joseph, the patron and protector of the Church and foster father of Jesus, is a man I constantly look to for guidance and intercession. Joseph is my Confirmation name and I pray to him and ask that I may be a good husband and father. I also have a prayer invoking St. Joseph before and after I receive the Holy Eucharist.

Pope St. Gregory the Great is another saint I love. His influence and guidance in Liturgical music has brought so much beauty to the Sacred Liturgy and influenced other composers such as Palestrina. St. Gregory the Great's influence has helped many to hear and experience the beauty of Heaven and of the Love of God. He is a constant guide to me as a Catholic musician.

St. Thomas Aquinas has given us so much in the way of philosophy, theology, and apologetics. In our world of relativistic and atheistic thought St. Thomas Aquinas is a saint who can guide us in navigating the snares of belief. His writing has certainly helped me in my Faith.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy running and reading philosophy and Church history. I'm currently reading "Faith of Our Fathers" by James Cardinal Gibbons and "The Last Superstition: A Refutation of the New Atheism" by Edward Feser. I also enjoy, working on cars, and writing and recording jazz music.

From the Organ Bench by Ian Brown

Hello everyone, I would like to tell you how to access the Mass guide (Worship Aid) for Sunday Mass. First you'll need to go to www.saintaidanparish.org.

Once you are there scroll down to the heading "Mass Schedule for our Parish." You will then see "**EACH

WEEK... CLICK HERE." When you click on the red "HERE" you will be directed to the worship aid. Now you can follow along at Mass and praise God with the cantor and musician. You can either print this PDF out or you can use your electronic device. I hope this helps you every Sunday.

Stewardship and Electronic Giving by Chuck Goetz

Stewardship

The continued financial support from our parishioners through this unprecedented time is truly amazing! With our normal Mass schedule being interrupted, our ability to enjoy fellowship and community with one another limited like never before in our lifetimes, not to mention the disruption of employment for some of our fellow parishioners, it would be easy to stop giving of our time, talent and treasure. We are truly blessed as that has not occurred here in the least!

Several have asked how they can continue to support our parish over the last few months. Many families already use Faith Direct and Vanco, our electronic giving partners, to fulfill their very generous stewardship commitments to our parish. Given that, it seems like we will be in this "new normal" state for some time to come, perhaps now is a good time to consider giving electronically.

E-Giving is:

- **Convenient:** Support the parish from the comfort and safety of your home with a smartphone or computer.
- **Consistent:** Your support will allow us to continue our ministries and help the community. It also gives us a better idea of the funds we will have coming in and allows us to more effectively plan during this time.
- **Cost-Effective:** Every parishioner using electronic giving means one less package of envelopes to print and mail out. Not only is that less waste but also a savings for our parish.

Please know of the sincere thanks and continued prayers for all of our parish faithful.

A Journey through the Desert, a Voyage through Stormy Waters.

(Celebrating Mass in a Tent, Celebrating Mass on the Deck)

By: Deacon Jeff

The Church continuously throughout time has found itself having to undertake a difficult journey, constantly seeking a safe haven.

As we His Church journey, we occasionally encounter serious difficulties, temporary but nonetheless disturbing. These difficulties require us to adjust our methods of worship. This has always been the case with God's people, and still is now, especially, and again true with COVID 19. However, God has always provided His Holy Spirit to inspire His people to devise ways to overcome the temporary rough spots and stormy seas that we encounter on this journey, which allow us to continue to hold Him in our hearts and minds, regardless of the circumstances

Worship in a Tent

"The LORD spoke to Moses: Go! You and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt are to go up from here to the land about which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. .



.. Moses used to pitch a tent outside the camp at some distance. It was called the tent of meeting. Anyone who wished to consult the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, the people would all rise and stand . . . As Moses entered the tent, the column of cloud would come down and stand at its entrance while the LORD spoke with Moses, face to face." Ex. 33: 7 – 11.

For forty years, the Israelites were journeying in the desert. The difficulties of that life were excruciating. Yet throughout that time, the people of God continued to regularly gather together to turn to God, through their chosen Priests, Moses, Aaron and Aaron's sons, and worship in their midst the real presence of God IN A TENT.

Only once that Journey came to an end, and the Israelites were comfortably settled into the Promised Land, did King David build a permanent structure for worship, the Temple in Jerusalem. It was then that God, really and truly present, first in the Tent of Meeting, and then in the Temple, was able to be worshipped in a permanent structure.

Worship on a Deck



375 to 380 AD: From the book II of the [Apostolic Constitutions](#):
"When you call an assembly of the Church as one that is the commander of a great ship, appoint the assemblies to be made with all possible skill, charging the deacons as mariners to prepare places for the

brethren as for passengers, with all due care and decency..., and so it will be like a ship. In the middle of

the deck let the bishop's throne be placed, and on each side of him let the presbytery sit down; and let the deacons stand near at hand, in close and small girt garments, for they are like the mariners and managers of the ship"

A **barque**, is a type of sailing vessel with three or more masts. It is that kind of barque from which is derived the term **Barque of St. Peter**, symbolizing the Roman Catholic Church. The symbolism refers to St. Peter, the first Pope, and other disciples, fisherman who became the Apostles of Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church has always seen itself as the Barque, or ship, of Peter, navigating the stormy waters of this present world as we journey to our permanent home in heaven.

"Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us!- We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?"- Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"* Matt. 8: 23 – 27

There they were, the disciples of Jesus, gathered together on the deck of the boat, before Jesus himself. They were in awe of what they certainly recognized in their midst as the real presence of God, and they did Him homage as he stood ON THAT DECK. Once back on dry land, the difficulties of the crossing of the sea behind them, Christ and his disciples continued as usual with His ministry.

Our Present Journey

COVID 19 is frightening to many. It has caused excruciating difficulties in our lives, including in our spiritual lives, and nothing seems to be "as usual." But like the Israelites journey in the desert, and like the disciples crossing of the stormy see, IT IS TEMPORARY. In the meantime, we should all be able to find solace in the fact that just as in times past; when God's people worshipped His real presence in a tent, just as in times past when His followers did Him, the Christ, homage on a deck, we too are able to similarly experience Him, really present, Body Blood Soul and Divinity in our worshipping Him at Mass; both at Mass in a tent at the St. Alexis site and Mass on a deck at the St. Alphonsus site. We certainly are not the first of his disciples to worship Him in a tent, nor the first to worship Him on a deck. We are in good company, with Moses, Aaron, and all the apostles in these practices. Worship has never been primarily about "where" but has always been primarily about "who". As long as we, the people of God remain faithful, we can be confident that **HE**, our Lord and Maker will be with us on this journey.

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20

Creating Community Online by David Piccirilli

The last few months of 2020 have changed most of our lives in substantial ways. The question has been: How do we thrive in a time where community, prayer, and hope are so needed but seem so far away?

The team at Saint Aidan's has been asking that same thing and over the next few months is rolling out different ways to connect with you and your families. We are continuing and doubling down on our digital media like the weekly email updates and mass livestreams (on Facebook), while adding new media to support you and your family. Some of these include videos from our clergy and ministry team, our new newsletter, and online faith formation programs to start!

For those on Facebook, a big note of change. Over the next month, we will be migrating to our new Saint Aidan Parish Facebook page. Please like and follow Saint Aidan Parish at www.facebook.com/saintaidanparish.

We know that online community is not a substitute for being in person. Still, we seek to proclaim a message of hope and join together in prayer, formation, and fellowship. Some of the ways you can be a part is by liking, sharing, and commenting on content posted to our social media. Also consider signing up for the weekly emails if you don't already receive them at saintaidanparish.org under "About Us>E-News Sign Up".

Here's An Inside Look At Our Website: saintaidanparish.org

Daily Reflections with Deacon Jeff:

Deacon Jeff's daily reflections on the Mass readings can be viewed on [YouTube](#). Also, please join us every morning at 7:00 for our daily rosary on [Zoom link](#).

Did you know that you can request Masses online?

We cannot guarantee a day or date, but you are welcome to have a Mass said for your loved one in honor of, or in memory of someone. You pay directly and safely with your credit card or banking account. You will be notified when your Mass is scheduled. Go to "Liturgy" and then "Mass Intentions during COVID-19".

Live-streaming of Masses:

If you are not able to go to Mass, you have the opportunity to watch the Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass live streamed. You can watch it on Facebook or watch it later in the day on the website.

Request Forms in the Upper Right of our Home Page:

Sponsor Letter
Schedule a Baptism or sign up for Baptism Prep Classes
Requesting a copy of your Baptism Certificate: All Sacramental records for Saint Alphonsus and Saint Alexis are now at the Diocesan Archives office. Please call 412-456-3158 in order to request a copy.

Fr. Dave's Blog:

As an editor of "The Priest Magazine" which is a national publication for priests published by Our Sunday Visitor, you can read all of Fr. Dave's writings under "ABOUT US."

Funeral Planning Packet:

Protocol for Funeral Planning, along with Music selections, and Reading selections.

Wedding Planning:

Protocol for Wedding Planning, Signing up for Marriage Preparation Class, and a Wedding Planning Worksheet which you fill out only after you have met with the Priest and scheduled a date.

Access to:

Saint Aidan Parish Registration Forms
Weekly bulletins
Electronic Giving link
LIFE Squad (Pro-life info)
Any special events
A link to Blessed Francis Seelos Academy website

Lift High the Cross

We have been carrying seemingly heavy crosses and burdens this year. This article is a reflection of the Triumphant Cross of the Lord. September marks the month of the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, making this a perfect time to reflect on this year about our crosses and unite them to the Lord's Cross. First, I have been promoting through videos, homilies, and talks about the idea of creating a sacred space in your home. I want you to prayerfully consider making a chapel in your home dedicated to prayer. We have a beautiful little chapel in the rectory. I take time there each day to pray, have time for Adoration, read Sacred Scripture, reflect, meditate, contemplate, journal, and say mass. It is a sacred holy space in our home, where we have the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and for times of Adoration. I make a holy hour there each day, a time to give to the Lord.

This year has brought many challenges, which call us to take more time to tend to our souls and interior spiritual lives. If you have not been caring for your interior life this year more deeply and diligently, start today. Do not delay. One of the spiritual principles I follow and direct people to follow is that of incremental increase. Evaluate your prayer and spiritual life. Answer the question, what are my spiritual practices? Write them down, according to time frames, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually. How often are the Sacraments a part of your spiritual life? Then make some manageable goals.

A goal would look like this; I will spend 30 minutes in prayer each day. A plan follows a goal. If you are currently spending little time in prayer, thirty minutes is too much for you, and you will likely fail within a few days and give up. Instead, start with 2-3 minutes of silent prayer, and say one Our Father or Hail Mary at the end. Then every few days, add a minute or two, making incremental changes each week. Over 30-40 days build-up to the thirty-minute goal and eventually a holy hour each day. Build up a discipline of taking care of your soul each day. Thomas Merton says that the most important thing about prayer is that we take the time. Take the time for prayer each day. As you read this you may already be thinking of excuses why you cannot create **a holy space** and **a sacred time** for the Lord each day. Stop making your list of excuses and start making a list of prayers. The world is in so much need of prayers, especially your prayers.

To conclude, I recommend two formal prayers to add to your prayer time. First, pray the Holy Rosary. This prayer is an ancient tradition of the Church. It allows us to meditate and contemplate the Gospel of the Lord Jesus in the mysteries of the Rosary. It brings us into a deeper relationship with the Lord and Our Blessed Mother, Mary, who continuously contemplates the goodness of the Lord.

The second takes more significant effort and is less well known, but is one of the greatest treasures of the Church, the *Liturgy of the Hours* or *Divine Office*. The Liturgy of the Hours is the formal daily prayers of the Church. These prayers are prayed by the Church throughout the world each day, to make holy the day and remind ourselves to turn our minds and hearts to the Lord continuously. It is composed of prayers throughout the day. They are Office of Readings, Morning Prayer (Lauds), Mid-morning (Terce), Midday (Sext), Mid-afternoon (None), Evening Prayer (Vespers), and Night Prayer (Compline). These are the prayers that priests and religious make Sacred Promises and Vows, respectively, to pray each day. Each time of the day is composed of a rhythm of Psalms, Scriptural Canticles, prayers, and more.

If you are unfamiliar with the Liturgy of the Hours, I invite you to purchase a copy of *Shorter Christian Prayer*; this contains the Morning and Evening Prayers of the Church. Become familiar with these prayers, do some study on the *Liturgy of the Hours*, and begin to incorporate them into your daily prayer life incrementally. The Psalms are the prayers that the Lord himself would have prayed when "He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12)

In this year of many crosses, the Lord is inviting us to tend to our souls more deeply, to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus. Pray, cultivate a love of Sacred Scripture, remain faithful to the Lord, and be filled with the Peace of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.

Grace & Peace,

Fr. Will

Rev. William Wuenschel
Sr. Parochial Vicar, Saint Aidan Parish

Saint Aidan Clergy and Staff Contact Information

CLERGY

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Office Manager

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Administrative Assistant

Mary King / mking@saintaidanparish.org/ x 212

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David Piccirilli / dpiccirilli@saintaidanparish.org/x 227

MUSIC AND LITURGY

Director of Music and Liturgy

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Assistant Music Director - Lisa Hoffman

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Music Associate - Mary Heagy /

mheagy@saintaidanparish.org

Even though the offices are closed during this pandemic, our staff is either working in the offices or remotely and will respond to you as soon as possible.

Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you!

Saint Aidan Parish
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Wexford, PA 15090

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E-mail:
parish@saintaidanparish.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Saint Aidan
Est 2020