Church Calendar

Events of the local, American and universal church.

Feast days

Out Lady of Guadalupe St. John of the Cross
Dec. 12 Out Lady of Guadalupe
Dec. 13 St. Lucy
Dec. 14 St. John of the Cross
Dec. 21 St. Peter Canisius
Dec. 23 St. John of Kanty
Dec. 24 Vigil of Christmas
Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Lessons and Carols at St. Mark Seminary - Dec. 13

The public is invited to join Bishop Donald Traut- man and the administration of St. Mark Seminary for an evening of music and carols on Tuesday, Dec. 13 beginning at 7 p.m. The reflective meditation on the Advent season includes music and Scripture. The program will be presented at St. Mark Seminary Chapel, located at 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

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By Jason Kozinski
Festival Life writer

Christmas concert – Dec. 18

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Cardinal saysVia Catholic Church. The cardinal said that 67 An- liturgical calendar. They also ap-proved an optional memorial for Blessed Marianne Cope, with the health facilities, conscience pro-tection and health care reform.  The bishops approved Oct. 22 as an optional memorial for care, canonical status of Catholic dictation.

Justice groups work on 'common good' platform for 2012

With the first votes of the presidential primary season set for Jan. 3 in the Iowa caucuses, Catholic social justice organizations are asking for a role in the “common good” platform in which they hope that they will have the opportunity to comment on the campaign trail. The National Catholic Committee on Social Justice (NCCOSJ, the USCCB) is being directed to a movement to have the needs of people struggling under the depressed economy. The program is being tested in Iowa, where groups of voters are being invited to discuss what they think presidential and congressional candidates should address in their push for votes.

Pope encourages people to address death penalty

During his weekly audience Nov. 30 at the Vatican, Pope Benedict said he hoped the work of the delegations would “encourage political and legislative initiatives be-cause the Gospel of Peace and the needs of people struggling under the depressed economy. The pro-gram is being tested in Iowa, where groups of voters are being invited to discuss what they think presidential and congressional candidates should address in their push for votes.

People of Faith

Man carries cross 630 miles

For some, Father Emil Kapaun may be a hero in a conflict many have come to know as the “Forgotten War.” Yet John Moore of Galax, N.C., the Korean War chaplain who died in a prisoner of war camp near the city of Pyoktong, North Korea, May 23, 1951, would not want his name to be remembered as a hero. Instead, he would want the world to know he was a confessor all those persons who are making their pilgrimage visits to the Eternal City to see the tombs of the saints and to pray for the intercession of the saints. The pope’s message was aimed at the need for dialogue and understanding between nations, noting in particular the need for peace in the Middle East and the need for respect for human rights.

Catholic Committee on Social Justice

By the Way...

Things did not initially go smoothly for Bishop Donald Trautman during his last ad- journment to Rome. On his way to the Eternal City, Bishop Trautman encountered difficul-ty with his flight, which led to an infection in his arm. He arrived in Rome on Tuesday, Nov. 22, and was admitted to a hospital for treatment and observation. This prevented him from participating in the midday prayer of the Pope at the Vatican and in the meetings of the Philadelphia bishop with Pope Benedict XVI.

Bishop Trautman met with the Holy Father during a three-hour visit in the Apostolic Palace. Bishop Trautman told the pope he was grateful for the opportunity to meet him. He said he was encouraged by the pope’s commitment to peace and justice in the world. The pope said he was pleased to welcome Bishop Trautman to Rome and look forward to working with him in the future.

In Africa, pope asks church to model of reconciliation

By Catholic News Service

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Bishops discuss marriage, finances

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Grandparents asked to pray for youth during Advent

During the season of Advent, the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries is asking all grandparent to make a commitment to pray specifically for the youth of the Diocese of Erie.

Students are encouraged to invite their grandparents personally to pray for them; special invitations are available for those who cannot attend the rally event on Dec. 17.

Bishop Donald Trautman has set aside the 21 days before Christmas as a time for grandparents to pray for the youth of the Diocese of Erie.

During the rally event on Dec. 17 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish, 2801 W. Sixth St., Erie, a group will be gathered for prayer, adoration and cookies and coffee will follow.

National Pilgrim Virgin Statue to visit St. Anthony, Cambridge Springs

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS — The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which travels throughout the United States, will visit St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs on Tuesday, Dec. 19 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

E. William Sockey, who is the escort for the statue, will speak at 10:30 a.m. on the message Our Lady of Fatima delivered to our Lady of Fatima, a one-of-a-kind statue that lived for only 15 minutes.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue, which travels throughout the United States, will visit St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Cambridge Springs on Sunday, Dec. 18 beginning at 10 a.m. and will be at the church until 3 p.m.

Lila Rose to speak at pro-life prayer breakfast Jan. 7 in Erie

ERIE — Lila Rose, associate director of Culture of Life, will speak at the 12th annual Prayer Breakfast Jan. 7 in Erie.

Lila Rose to speak at pro-life prayer breakfast Jan. 7 in Erie

The main speaker will be Lila Rose, a 25-year-old pro-life leader who has become a prominent figure in the movement to prevent government funding of abortion. Her undercover videos can be found on YouTube.

Lila Rose is the founder of the organization’s website www.lifepillar.org.

This event, sponsored by the Diocese of Erie, is free and open to the public. Payment may be made to Life, PO Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. For more information, visit www.lifepillar.org or call 814-882-1333 or visit www.prolifeforum.org.

MILLS, from page 1

“Every three years or so I go to a prayer conference,” Father Brown said. “The pre-priest cards are more conventional than the post-priest cards.”

So far he said he’s received no negative responses or reaction. On the contrary, a daily Mass at-

“During breaks between dinner ar-

“Ten Ways to Keep God Close”

Father Larry Richards, pastor of St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie, gave testimonials about God’s hand in his life. In May, Burbules was in a motor vehicle ac-

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Bishop Donald Trautman is greeted by Nick Pellegrino from St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community in Erie. In his farewell address to the youth of the diocese, Bishop Trautman asked for their prayers and for them to be open to God’s call.

God is not a far-away per-

“So I could get teaching at a boys’ school. ‘Surrender!’ outlines practi-

“Let’s pray for the Diocese of Erie — let’s pray for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the rest of the state of Pennsylvania. ‘Surrender!’ is for those who may be hesitant to hand over their lives to God,” Father Richards said.

“We made the decision that no parent should have to make, and we are determined to take our son off of life support,” Jennifer said.

“She’s been in a coma for two weeks and she’s not going to ever wake up,” Father Brown said. “Surrender!” outlines practi-

As Burbules said, “I just knew that God had a plan. How do you surrender from my talk.” He offers some advice for those who may be hesitant to hand their

“I can certainly say that God had an impact on my life at this moment,” he said.

After a number of setbacks, including eight surgeries and an infection, Burbules is finally be-

“Your generation is very good at this—find the hungry and clothe the naked,” he said. “But more than that, give them God. Bring God to your classrooms, to the gym, to the family dinner table, to all the places where you go. Be a saint so that the world may be changed and that the kingdom of God may truly be among us.”

Upon Trautman’s ar-

“Don’t be afraid,” he said. “When you finally surrender you experience life and you get transformed. This book is really a plan. How do you surrender from your life? How do you surrender from your work? How do you surrender from your family?”

“The ultimate goal for everyone involved is to be a follower of Christ in today’s world. That is an unnatural goal for a saint. That is a saintly goal for an ordinary person,” he said.

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Oblates commitment ceremony at Mount St. Benedict

ERIE — The Benedictine Sisters of Erie celebrated their annual oblate commitment ceremony Oct. 29 at Mount St. Benedict Monastery in Erie. More than 200 men and women renewed their commitment to the local Benedictine community as oblates, with more than 100 oblates present. The ceremony took place within the context of eucharistic prayer, and all new oblates made their initial commitment.

Oblates are people from across the United States, Canada and abroad who, with God through a life lived on the Rule of Ben- ditus and a formalized relationship with a Benedictine community.

The oblates of Mount St. Benedict are truly amazing people," said Sister Marilyn Schau- lbski, OSB, oblate director. "Their witness to the way of life that Benedict sets forth is shielding, ex- citing and challenging. They seek God in their lives and give witness to their co-religionists, neighbors, family and friends. Because of who they are and how they live, the Benedictine world is a better place."

ECCHS participates in Pro-Life Day

ERIE — Freshman theology stu- dents at ECCHS, a junior high school in Erie, recently participated in the national Pro-Life Day of Si-lent Solidarity. Sixteen students—two boys and two girls from each grade level—wore red armbands with the word "LIFE" written on them and went through the school day completely silent as a form of protest against abortion.

Teachers incorporated the pro- life theme into their lesson plans, and Father Miceli spoke about the event’s message in his Mass minister.

"We really want to make pro- life students feel that we are doing something to confirm people or make them think the things they might have made in the past, but we are encouraging them to support good choices in the future," said Father Miceli, ECCHS rector.

Father Miceli also encouraged the pro- life message to the seniors present, and Father Murtha wished them well in their mission.

St. Gabriel celebrates former pastor’s 80th birthday

ERIE — A statue of the late, beloved Father Schmitt was blessed Oct. 29 at St. Gabriel the Arch- angel Parish in Port Allegany.

The nuns, who came to the dio- ceuse from Florida in 1992-2001 and 2002-06, is still active at St. Ga-briel and area parishes.

Knights light the way at Our Lady of Mercy

ERIE — Freshman theology stu- dents at ECCHS at Our Lady of Mercy Carmelite Monastery in Erie, recently participated in the national Pro-Life Day of Si-lent Solidarity. Sixteen students—two boys and two girls from each grade level—wore red armbands with the word "LIFE" written on them and went through the school day completely silent as a form of protest against abortion.

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