

DEC 28-29, 2019



OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE YOUGH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Pennsylvania Charitable Trusts

*Our vision is to lead all whose lives we touch
into a living relationship with the person of
Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament,
Service and Fellowship.*

www.youghcatholic.org



To our visitors... If you are just passing through, we are glad you chose to worship with us. If you are seeking a new church home, please know there is always room in our pews and a place in our hearts for you.

DEVIVO CENTRE

116 South 2nd Street
Connellsville, PA 15425

724.628.6840 (f) 724.628.0838

MON-THU 8:30am-noon / 1-4pm
FRI 8:30am-1pm

BRADY CENTRE

459 Ranch Road
Dunbar, PA 15431

724.277.4236 (f) 724.277.8954

MON, TUE, THU, FRI 9am-3pm

SATs 5:15-5:45pm at IC

Confession

and by appointment

We work with the Holy Trinity Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul to help our neighbors in need. Their number is 724.562.3341.

We are grateful for the advertisers who cover the cost of printing our bulletins.

Please frequent their businesses in support of them.

This week's featured advertiser is JAG's PAINTING.

Our Faith Community consists of the Parish Families of Immaculate Conception, Connellsville (1869), Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Dunbar (1874), Saint John the Evangelist, Connellsville (1895), and Saint Rita of Cascia, Connellsville (1915).



We also embrace the former Parish Families of Saint Vincent de Paul, Leisenring (1888-2008), Sacred Heart, Dawson (1889-2007) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Connellsville (1901-1913), Saint Emory, Connellsville (1903-1970), Holy Trinity, Connellsville (1903-2008), Saint Polycarp, West Leisenring (1917-1997).

OUR STAFF - WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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SAT-SUN, DEC 14-15, 2019 STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Adult	\$4,510.00
Loose	602.00
Maintenance	92.00
Total:	\$5,204.00

Cemetery	\$355.00
Christmas Flowers	\$198.00
Immaculate Conception	\$308.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$5.00
Accent	\$25.00
Children/Family Services	\$7.00



ST. ALOYSIUS

Adult	\$3,722.00
Loose	184.00
Children/Young Adults	22.00
Parish Improvements	82.00
Energy	94.00
Total:	\$4,104.00

Christmas Flowers	\$15.00
Immaculate Conception	\$205.00



ST. JOHN

Adult	\$2,331.00
Loose Collection	198.00
Maintenance	35.00
Total:	\$2,564.00

Cemetery	\$416.00
Thanksgiving	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$97.00
Christmas Flowers 12/8	\$557.00
Immaculate Conception	\$188.00
Accent	\$17.00
Catholic Relief	\$20.00

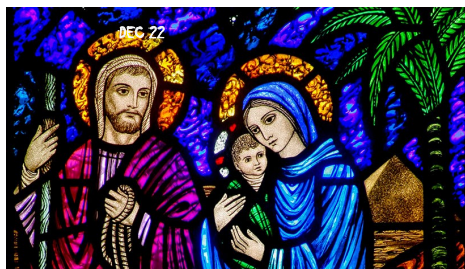


ST. RITA

Adult	\$3,417.00
Loose	378.00
Maintenance	100.00
Total:	\$3,895.00

Cemetery	\$540.00
Christmas Flowers	\$160.00
Immaculate Conception	\$96.00
Accent	\$20.00

The STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE report for SAT-SUN, DEC 21-22 will be in an upcoming bulletin.



Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

Our first experience of family is dependence. As children we need the help of parents. As children we get lots of attention. We do not earn it. We just receive it because of who we are.

Then our eyes are opened. We recognize the sacrifice our parents have made. We see how they thought less of themselves in order to give us life. Our respect for them grows.

Today we remember the care that Mary and Joseph gave to Jesus. We recognize the sacrifice they

made. We imagine the many ways they thought less of themselves to improve the life of the son entrusted to their care. Our respect for them grows too.

Sirach proclaims that those who honor their parents atone for their sins and keep themselves from evil. Their prayers reach God's ears. The benefits of satisfaction return to those who honor their fathers and mothers.

The Christmastime feast of the Holy Family celebrates the model of home life, but it also reminds us to honor our parents. Kindness to them will not be forgotten.

How will you honor your parents this coming year? How will you keep their memory?

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the 1st/2nd Readings, Year A © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.

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Conn-Area Catholic students during a recent Mass with Fr. Paul

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

MON: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

TUE: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

WED: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

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

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

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

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

What's Happening at home

Tom Severin's Bible study will resume during Lent. Details to come.



RCIA is on the move!

Since October the RCIA catechumens and candidates have been enjoying the hospitality at St Al's during Breaking Open the Word at the SUN 9am Mass. Beginning in JAN we will be traveling on to spend some time with the good people of St John's at 11:30am. *A great thank you to St Al's for their generosity and encouragement.*

NO Nar-Anon meeting on JAN 1.

They will resume on WED, JAN 8 in St. John's Moravek Hall, 7-8pm.

The next THU night RCIA session will be held on JAN 2 in St. John's Moravek Hall, from 6:30-8pm.

The final session of St. Al's FRI Mary series will be held after 8:30am Mass on JAN 3 in the social hall.

The study on the Gospel of John will resume on JAN 10.

Our Children's Choir will rehearse on SAT, JAN 4 in IC's choir loft, beginning at 11am.

Children in grades 3-6 from all 4 parishes are eligible for membership. Additionally, junior/senior high students are invited to serve as leaders and cantors for the Children's Choir.

St. Rita Christian Mothers will attend the 4pm Mass on SAT, JAN 4 at St. Rita Church, as a group.

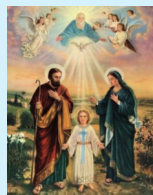
There will be NO meeting in JAN.

Those who donated \$125 or more for St. John's Silent Festival can pick up their appreciation set of 4 keepsake glasses on SUNs, 10:30-11:15am or after Mass in the social hall. Additional glasses are available for \$25/set and \$45/2 sets.

Anniversary Christmas ornaments are available for purchase, \$15 each or 2/\$25.



6th-8th graders from Fayette and Westmoreland counties are invited to submit entries for the annual pro-life essay contest sponsored by Alternatives.Yes pregnancy support center. The theme is "All Human Life is Beautiful." Entries must be 300-500 words, typed, double-spaced, with name, grade, phone number, address and school name on a separate page or the back of the essay. Essays will be judged on originality, creativity, grammar and neatness. Cash prizes will be awarded. Email entries to pregnancysupport@zoominternet.net or mail to/drop off at Alternatives.Yes, 6 Frank Gallo Lane, Connellsville 15425; postmarked by JAN 22, 2020.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

From Christmas Day to New Year's Day is the Christmas octave. Octaves are eight day weeks. Of course, an ordinary week is seven days. It's what we expect. But eight days? That's something strange and wonderful in Christian symbolism, eight days represent eternity. Maybe that's because an eight day period begins and ends on the same day of the week. Christmastime is a season to live with one foot in eternity. Christmastime is filled with feast days. The First Sunday of the season is the Feast of the Holy Family. Holy Family Day is a favorite time for family reunions. Students are home from school and many people have extra days off from work. Like every day of Christmastime, it's an occasion for feasting and caroling and relaxing. Some people say that the nicest part about Christmastime weekends is that there's finally some time to sit back and enjoy the decorations and music and good company. May our parish families truly model the Holy Family during this joyous time of the year.

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

Heavenly Father, most good and gracious God,
Sustain our family in Your love.

Make it a place where holiness and love abound.

Help us to learn to be like Jesus in all our actions.

Aid our family to imitate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Help us to learn from the example of others

And to give good examples to everyone.

Assist us in learning to bear our pain and suffering as Jesus did.

Aid us in overcoming difficulties and carrying our crosses.

Help our family life to lead only to Jesus, the source of true happiness.

Please give wholesome habits to our family.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



THANK YOU! Words can never really convey how I feel when offering my sincere thanks to all who made Christmas here in Dunbar and Connellsville a very joyous one.

As one begins to reflect on all that took place, it seems impossible to make a listing and not to overlook anyone or anything. From the tremendous happiness you gave to so many through Christmas baskets, cards and letters to our shut-ins - to the efforts of decorating the churches - to the hours of practice and labors of love on the part of the music ministries - the choirs, the instrumentalists, the music directors - to all the lay ministers - to the entire staff and to all those "behind the scenes" who did so much to make sure that everything was ready and in good order. Sincere thanks to all who attended the Masses at our churches, for the cards received, for your many acts of kindness, for the sincere words of support and gratitude, for the pledge of prayers. For all this and more, I am most grateful, and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The spirit of Christmas allows us to realize how truly extra special the families and spirit of Immaculate Conception, St. Aloysius, St. John and St. Rita parishes continues to be evident in the loving, caring, sharing and praying with one another.

Please be assured that I am indebted to all for your generosity and expressions of love and joy.

A continued Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year to you and your families on this Feast of the Holy Family.

As the year ends, we offer thanks! This Christmas season offers us an opportunity to rejoice above all in the Life of the Lord among us. In us He inspires an outpouring of "thank you's" for so many blessings, both recognized and unrecognized. So, we end the old year of 2019 with a prayer of gratitude:

- ♦ For the many expressions of loving thoughtfulness by our people to one another, we give thanks.
- ♦ For the Christmas messages and gifts we shared with one another as signs of remembrance (including the many to us priests here at our parishes) we give thanks.
- ♦ For the wonderful offerings over Christmas to sustain our parishes, to house the orphans, to feed the starving, to help the needy, we give thanks.
- ♦ For the exceptional weather, safe trips and coming together of families, we give thanks.
- ♦ For the many blessings we recollect and for those we've forgotten, for the blessings that seemed like blessings and those that did not, for the blessings we received and those we bestowed, we give thanks.

Thank you Lord, who lives and blesses in us and through us and for us. For everything from You who does all that is good, heartfelt gratitude and a humble "Thank You".

Fr. Paul

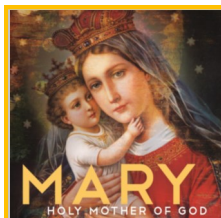
The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul.

G.K. Chesterton

The St. Vincent dePaul clothing donation bin has been relocated from the St. Rita parking lot to the St. John parking lot.

Happy New Year!

Fr. Paul, Fr. Julius, Fr. Dan and the parish staffs wish all of you and your families a happy, healthy and blessed new year.



MASS SCHEDULE
SOLENNITY OF MARY
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
A Holy Day
of Obligation

TUE, DEC 31
5pm Vigil Mass at St. John

WED, JAN 1
10am Mass at St. Al
11am Mass at St. Rita

Because of the celebration on JAN 1, as the Holy Day, Mary, Mother of God, and also the New Year's Day holiday, the DeVivo and Brady Centres will be closed on TUE, DEC 31/WED, JAN 1.

Normal office hours will resume on THU, JAN 2.

If you have completed high school or are over 18 years of age, you must register at your home parish as an adult. When you are asked to be a sponsor or Godparent, you must present proof of membership in a parish. Your membership will not be verified if you are still listed as a child on your parents' registration.

Please call the DeVivo Centre at 628-6840 or the Brady Centre at 277-4236 or pick up a church registration form in the back of your church if you need to take care of this detail.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO HELP YOU GROW IN FAITH THIS YEAR



There is nothing wrong with losing weight, paying off debt, or setting a new goal for 2020. But, if our faith is truly the number one priority in our lives, shouldn't it top our list of resolutions for the upcoming year?

Would you like to resolve to grow closer to the Lord and His Church in 2020? If so, here are 10 ideas to help get you started. I'd really encourage you not to simply pick one at random and say you're going to do it. Take some time to prayerfully consider what will best help you grow in faith!

GO TO CHURCH EVERY WEEK

Yes, I know you are busy. **BUT** we have **SEVEN** different opportunities every weekend to attend Mass here in Our Lady Queen of the Yough Catholic Community. **YOU CAN** make it to **ONE**! Countless people have told me that when they are attending Mass regularly, they can feel a real difference in their lives! Mass sets the tone for the rest of the week. Through the Eucharist, we are spiritually fed and filled up so that we can continue to pour ourselves out.

SET ASIDE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES A DAY TO PRAY

Again, I fully recognize that time is an issue for most of us. But even if you are busy, you **STILL** have time for God. You just have to **MAKE** it. You could...

- ♦ Wake up 15 minutes earlier
- ♦ Pray in the shower
- ♦ Pray while you're doing your hair/make-up
- ♦ Pray during your morning or evening commute
- ♦ Pray on your lunch break
- ♦ Pray while making dinner, washing dishes, or folding laundry
- ♦ Pray with your kids before they go to sleep every night

KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH

Keeping the Sabbath holy goes far beyond going to Mass on the weekend. The Sabbath, after all, is our day of rest. I know I am going to get eye rolls from parents with children when I say to rest on the Sabbath. As someone with 3 children, I get it. But I also acknowledge that I need to **MAKE** time to rest. Just a few weeks ago, I had to simply say **NO** to an opportunity. As much as I absolutely **HATE** to say no (especially for a worthy cause), I knew I needed to take that day for God and my family. What can you cut out or cut back on this year to leave room for rest and Sabbath?

READ YOUR BIBLE/PARTICIPATE IN A BIBLE STUDY

Your Bible is **NOT** meant to collect dust on your book shelf. If you don't know where to start, we use the Mission 119 series for our Adults and Children in Faith Formation. I would be happy to prepare the weekly children's packets for you if you are interested, and they are free! The Mission 119 App also makes it easy for you to read weekly adult scripture reflections from your phone. Molli Vassar offers a morning Bible Study on Fridays at Saint Aloysius after morning mass. Tom Severin also has a weekly Adult Bible Study at Immaculate Conception on Wednesday evenings.

START TITHING

When we give, it is an act of faith that shows that we are committed to God and the work of the Kingdom. Open handed giving releases joy, prosperity, and favor in our lives. Giving is not just about making a donation; it is about making a difference. Our parishes will **NOT** be able to make an impact or do *any* type of ministry if we can't afford to keep the lights on!

BEGIN VOLUNTEERING

One of the best ways that we can be Christ's hands and feet in a broken world is through service to our parish and our community. Sadly, many of the same people volunteer for **EVERYTHING** and quickly get burnt out. Presently, we are in need of more

Eucharistic Ministers (in the parish and to the homebound) and also individuals willing to take our children downstairs for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Above and beyond volunteering for our parishes, our local community is always in need of people willing to lend a hand in various projects. St Vincent de Paul, Community Ministries, or our very own Mayor Greg Lincoln would be happy to direct you!

LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Every New Year, K-LOVE has a challenge where participants listen to **NOTHING** but Christian music for 30 days. Five years ago I participated in the challenge, and five years later I am **STILL** listening to nothing but Christian music! Truly it has made a world of difference in my life. Put on Christian radio in the car, at work, or even while you're cleaning the house and see how it changes your mood, your outlook and even the atmosphere of your home!

STOP COMPLAINING

Are you guilty of complaining? Philippians 2:14 reminds us to *"Do everything without complaining and arguing."* Trust me; I know how satisfying it can be to complain about slow drivers, work, bills, and opinionated trolls on Facebook. But in this case, it really is best to just bite your tongue.

REFUSE TO GOSSIP

I will admit it; it is so **FUN** to gossip, especially in a small town! **HOWEVER**, 99% of the time, the information that we are spreading is **MISINFORMED CHATTER**. Gossip creates an environment of negativity and passive aggressive behavior. Again, before you speak, think!

FIND A MENTOR OR ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

It's one thing to say you're going to make a change in your life; it's another to find someone to keep you accountable to actually make that change. If you're feeling stuck, or are serious about changing, find a mentor or partner to help hold you accountable.

Christ's peace
and our Mother Mary's love,
Mary Sampey

2020 Calendars are now available at the entrances of our churches.

Thanks to the following:
 Brooks Funeral Home, Inc.
 Burhans-Crouse Funeral Home
 Paul G. Fink Funeral Home, Inc.
 Stephen R. Haky Funeral Home, Inc.
 Richard Kucera Funeral Home
 Vito C. Martucci Funeral Home



Congratulations to
MADISON BROOKE SPAW, daughter of
 Morgan Spaw and Jennifer Lee,
 baptized DEC 15 at St. John



TUE & THU Masses will be held at ST. RITA if the Connellsville School District has a delay or cancellation for winter weather. Watch the news on TV or listen to your favorite radio station if the weather is bad.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

MON, DEC 30		WEEKDAY
8:00am	St. Rita	Anthony & Roberta Mongelluzzo (Children & Grandchildren)
8:30am	St. Al	Genevieve Logan (Leonard Farris)
TUE, DEC 31		ST. SYLVESTER I, POPE
8:00am	St. John	Charles & Ann Riley (Mr. Samuel Brooks & Family)
8:30am	St. Al	Joe & Eleanor Habina (Dennis & Rita Martin)
<u>VIGIL/SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</u>		
5:00pm	St. John	Sylvester & Melvina Rendine (Stanton & Paula Fogie)
WED, JAN 1		SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
10:00am	St. Al	Thomas Bell (Susie Cruz & Erin Slade)
11:00am	St. Rita	Cavaliere, Ditto & Shroyer Families (Rita & Jim Pratt)
THU, JAN 2		STS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS/DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH
8:00am	IC	Anthony & Roberta Mongelluzzo (Children & Grandchildren)
8:00am	St. Al	Prayers for Priests & Padre Pio Devotions
8:30am	St. Al	Rose Novak (Anna Bell)
FRI, JAN 3		MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS
8:00am	St. John	Diletta Orlando (Family)
8:15am	St. Al	Divine Mercy Chaplet
8:30am	St. Al	Sophia Vaslavsky (Donnie & Krista D'Amico)
SAT, JAN 4		VIGIL/ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS
4:00pm	St. Rita	John, Sophia & Larry Mayros, Jr. (Kathy, Shawn & Jade Holup)
5:00pm	St. Al	Jacob & Catherine Bereiter (Daughter, Barb & Family)
6:00pm	IC	Stephen Mullaney (Mom, Jim & Baba)
SUN, JAN 5		EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00am	St. Rita	Pro Populo
9:00am	St. Al	Shirley Wallace (Ed, Joy & Shaun)
9:30am	IC	Vincent Frazier (Norma Frazier)
11:30am	St. John	Patricia Check (Mary Shubert)

If family members wish to take up the gifts,
 please be sure to check with the ushers before Mass.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - JAN 4				MINISTRY SCHEDULE - JAN 5			
	SR-4PM	St. AL-5PM	IC-6PM	St. RITA-8AM	St. AL-9AM	IC-9:30AM	St. JOHN-11:30AM
ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	K Callahan K Callahan	C Tabaj E Bohinski	P Scarry G Galley	S Harbaugh M Pascoe	R Barron M Ross	K Lizza A Howrylak	I Burd C Jones
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	M Pieczynski R Pratt G McDermott	S Lincoln M Vinoverski T Bohinski	P Calinao E Aquino D Calinao	C Porter L Lauffer L Sparks	A Trimbath J Laurion T Grover	J Baluch C Baluch J Miller	L Martin B Knizner D Siecinski
CROSS BEARERS	M Martray	O Tabaj	L Geary	R Lewandowski	F Vinoverski	L Tomasko	R Gaudiello
LECTORS	G Panzella	V McDowell	D Mulligan	C Sparks	N Gallis	T Severin	M Hood
ROSARY		Volunteer			C Johnston		



It's New Year's Resolution time — the second most ambitious time of the year for Catholics! (After Lent of course.)

According to an online survey I found, the vast

majority of people will resolve to improve their diet and exercise more. And after all of the pierogi, nutroll, and cookies from the last month, I can see why! But I'd like to take a step back from the obvious and look more carefully.

Resolutions to do better are a healthy part of Christian living. It is connected to Jesus' command to "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt 5:48) God calls us daily to conversion of heart. It has long been a Catholic tradition to perform a daily examination of conscience, usually at the end of the day, to consider our actions of the day and to consider how we can improve. New Year's Resolutions are just another tool to accomplish this lofty goal.

I think there are two main reasons why so many of us focus on diet and exercise. The first is because we very reliably perform an "examination of body" when we look in a mirror and get dressed every day. It becomes painfully obvious that our body is not the way it "should" be (at least in our own eyes). The second reason is that our society and culture have made it acceptable to examine our bodies and seek its improvement. We can look around and readily

find an unfavorable comparison — just about every magazine, billboard, and website has an example of a body type we might aspire to have. And because our body is the most obvious way that we project ourselves to the world, our bodies are our billboards —and we want to look good!

Resolving to get in better physical shape is often the most obvious thing to do, but it is not necessarily the most important thing to do. After all, we are far more than our bodies. We are made in the image and likeness of God. As such, our minds and souls cannot be neglected during our self-examination. Our personal health is connected to our

that you have been avoiding or haven't dealt with properly. Maybe this is the year to see someone about it. Perhaps it means picking up some sort of healthy leisure activity to keep your mind active — doing crossword puzzles, Sudoku puzzles, or trivia nights.

Many of us realize the need to pray more often. Our spiritual health is the unseen part of ourselves that has an impact on everything we do. Being spiritually healthy can make a profound difference when other parts of our health fail us as they often do in time. Here, I refer you to Mary's article inside where she gives ten suggestions that you might find helpful.

New Year's Resolutions

entire selves and when one part of us is sick, the whole person suffers. I experienced this personally when I got bronchitis a few weeks ago — not only was my entire body suffering on account of my weakened respiratory system, but it was much more difficult to think well and to pray well.

Perhaps this year is an opportunity to think outside of the bodily box the New Year's Resolution often creates. Have you been neglecting the health of your mind? Perhaps this is a year to read that book you've always wanted to read or to try learning a new language or musical instrument. Or, perhaps there is something from your past

Statistics show that around 80% of New Year's resolutions fail and most fail by around mid-February. This seems to also follow a very Christian theology — no matter our intentions, we are broken people and need help to succeed. Above all, we need God's help and grace to get through those difficult days when our resolutions seem distant and unimportant. But it is also important to involve others with our resolutions. Share them with someone and ask for their help in accomplishing your goals. Being accountable to someone else helps us to stay committed. I suspect that Jesus sent his disciples out two by two for that reason.

No matter what your resolution might be — for a better body, mind, or soul — I wish you blessings in this upcoming year as we seek to become more perfect together in 2020.