

Advent
December 12 & 13, 2020 ~ Immaculate Conception Church



**May your Light, the Light of Christ within you, radiate bright hope to the whole world...
the Advent Season and everyday!**

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, Mike Sanders & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman, and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

**Advent
December 12 & 13, 2020**

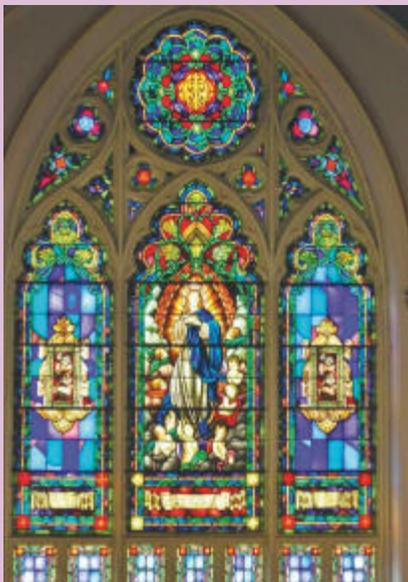
Liturgy Schedule:

Saturday, December 12 - 4PM Mass
Ambrosino Family
 (Requested by Family)
Bagnoli Family
 (Requested by Family)
Levandowski Family
 (Requested by Family)
Ciuk Family
 (Requested by Family)

Sunday, December 13 - 9AM Mass
Catherine Trimble
 (Requested by Dianne Harrington)
Sandy McCart
 (Requested by Mike & Mary Ellen Sanders)
Peter Melesky
 (Requested by Family)

Saturday, December 19 - 4PM Mass
The Downey & Finnen Families
 (Requested by Family)
Joseph Ciuk
 (Requested by Family)
Ann & Elmer Jandrow
 (Requested by Family)

Sunday, December 20 - 9AM Mass
Sandy McCart
 (Requested by Comfort & Hope Group)



**Thanks to Dave Sutton and Dave Begin for the
St. Mary's Cemetery sign design and construction!**



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

Schedule of Fees

Grave Spaces..... \$550.00

Interments

Adults.....\$750.00

Cremated Remains.....\$450.00

Infants.....\$450.00

Additional Fees

Saturday/Holiday Interments.....\$150.00

Winter Interment.....\$350.00
 (There will be additional fees due to cold/frost/snow conditions)

Disinterment.....\$600.00

Foundations for markers by cemetery personnel.....\$100.00
 Not by monument companies. (minimum to scale)

Approved: December 1, 2020

Christmas 2020

“And each went to register” the Gospel of Luke reminds us. As Mary and Joseph had to sign in at Bethlehem, this year all must sign in at Immaculate Conception Church for our Christmas Masses. Beginning today, please sign up so there will be enough safe seating. Sign up as normal by calling our office at 518-686-5064 or emailing at immconcept@roadrunner.com. Once we reach capacity no other reservations will be taken for that Mass. If you do not sign up you will not be able to get inside. As you know, we must follow Federal, State, and Diocesan regulations and guidelines during this epidemic and they are subject to change. Our church has suspended any obligation to be at Mass; especially if anyone is ill, weakened, or vulnerable. Please take care of yourself and other by staying home. A full sung Christmas Mass is being filmed and will be available on Immaculate Conception Facebook by 2pm December 24.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is:

Thursday December 24:

2pm

4pm

6pm

8pm

Friday December 25:

9am

Saturday December 26:

4pm

Sunday December 27:

9am

All these Masses will be the same liturgy of Christmas Mass at Midnight. Please only come to one Mass during these 4 days. If you come to one, there is no need to come to another. This will help spread out the people at each Mass and help keep us less crowded inside. These Masses are all celebrated in our Church Hall Church. Please remember your health and well being and that of all our neighbors. Isn't that what Christmas is all about anyway?

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to: immconcept@roadrunner.com



Holiday Cabaret...Virtually

Soon and very soon! Our evening (or any other part of your day) of entertainment will be available on our Facebook page Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls. This is a beautiful and heart warming way to be filled with the wonder of this season. Singing, music, poems, and stories will fill your home. Thanks to all who are sharing their talents for this hometown treasure. Check out our site this week for our melodies of Christmas.



The Giving Tree (sans l'arbre)

This year we are collecting facial masks for our neighbors in need. Please drop off any kind of mask at church in our parish office. Be safe and well.

Christmas Cards of Kindness

Cheer up and connect with one of our homebound parishioners. Simply sign a Christmas card with your greeting and put in an envelope with their first name legibly printed on the front. Drop unstamped cards off at the church or our office and we'll deliver them. Here's the list of our people... Mary, Helen, Ann, Annie, Marge, Felicia, Maria, Don, Phyllis, Margaret, Al, Reta, Ralph, Joan, Tom, Sophie, Carolyn, Lorraine, Pam, Isabella, Winnie, Peg, Rich, Jack, Gail, Sue, Rita, Pat, John and Mary. Also, if you'd like to send a card to one of our college students simply write "college" on the envelope. We'll get them to the kids.



First Day Hike
Friday, January 1, 2021
Leaving the rectory at 11am



We'll snowshoe/hike, exploring some local wild winter wonders.

Faith Formation News

As part of our Family based focus these are **This weeks and Next weeks** readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings For Sunday December 13

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Readings for Sunday December 20

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16
2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Here is this weeks YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

Waiting for Christmas

Why Are There Gospel Stories of Jesus' Infancy?

Surprisingly in the whole New Testament only two authors pay attention to Jesus' birth and childhood—only Matthew and Luke give us “Infancy Narratives.”

Most scholars think that Mark was the first Gospel to be written, but it begins with the baptism of Jesus by John. It tells us nothing of Jesus' earlier family existence, never even mentioning Joseph, his legal father. In this approach Mark is far from alone in early Christianity, for the other twenty-four books of the New Testament (outside Matthew and Luke) are like Mark in failing to show interest in Jesus' family origins before he began the ministry. Even John who starts his Gospel, not with the baptism but with the divine Word before creation, ignores the family circumstances in which the Word became flesh.

What then caused Matthew and Luke to begin with a story of Jesus' conception and birth? One probable factor was curiosity about the origins of this Jesus who was hailed as God's Son. Were his beginnings marked with the divine power that characterized his ministry? Mere curiosity, however, would not explain the judgment that Jesus' infancy should be made part of a written Gospel. Neither Matthew nor Luke was composing simply a life of Jesus; and for information about his birth to be part of their “good news” it had to have religious value—a value that is the key to understanding the Infancy Narratives. Indeed, as we shall see, despite the fact that the two evangelists fashioned very different birth stories, they agreed remarkably in a common religious message about the conception of Jesus.

If it comes as a shock to many Christians to find that Matthew and Luke are our only sources for knowledge about Jesus' infancy, it may be an even greater shock to realize that the two Gospels differ so much. Our Christmas crib or creche scenes combine them; but if you pick up the New Testament without previous assumptions and read separately Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2, the enormous difference is obvious.

Matthew gives a picture of wherein Mary and Joseph live at Bethlehem and have a house there. The coming of the magi, guided by the star, causes Herod to slay children at Bethlehem and the Holy Family to flee to Egypt. The fact that Herod's son Archelaus rules in Judea after him makes Joseph afraid to return to Bethlehem, and so he takes the child and his mother to Galilee to the town of Nazareth—obviously for the first time.

Luke, on the other hand, tells us that Mary and Joseph lived at Nazareth and went to Bethlehem only temporarily because they had to register there during a Roman census. The statement that Mary gave birth to her child and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in “the inn” implies that they had no house of their own in Bethlehem. And Luke's account of the peaceful return of the Holy Family from Bethlehem through Jerusalem to Nazareth leaves no room for the coming of the magi or a struggle with Herod.

Some scholars have tried very hard to reconcile the differences between Matthew and Luke but with little convincing success. A greater fidelity to Scripture as we have received it would recognize that the Holy Spirit was content to give us two different accounts and that the way to interpret them faithfully is to treat them separately. Sometimes the drive to harmonize them arises from the false idea that, since Scripture is inspired, each infancy account must be completely historical. For some fifty years since Pope Pius XII, the Catholic Church has taught firmly and clearly that the Bible is a library handed down to us by Israel and the early church. In that collection of inspired books there are many different types of literature, including poetry, drama, history, and fiction. Indeed, between history and fiction there is a whole range of possibilities covering imaginative retellings that have a core of fact.

The birth stories differ from the New Testament accounts of Jesus' ministry and death where *known eyewitnesses*, the apostles, are presented as the sources of the traditional preaching embodied in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Some may object that Matthew and Luke surely got their information about Jesus' birth from his parents. Yet that is never claimed in the New Testament nor, in the earliest church writings; and the great difference between the two Gospels' birth stories causes difficulty for that solution. Nor does the rest of the New Testament offer any confirming echo of what is told us in the Infancy Narratives. Hard to reconcile are a great commotion at Jesus' birth and a public revelation as to who he was with the fact that, later when he comes to be baptized, he is an unknown and no one at Nazareth expects him to be a religious figure. We must content ourselves that there is no way to know precisely how historical the Infancy Narratives are, or to know where Matthew and Luke got them. Thus we avoid both a naive fundamentalism that would take every word of these accounts as literal history and a destructive skepticism that would reduce them to sheer mythology.

Does this limitation of our knowledge take away value from them? Not at all. Too much worry about historicity and sources of information distracts from the inspired meaning of the biblical text, which is centered on what the two evangelists were trying to teach us—the religious message on which they both agree.

From Essays by Fr. Raymond Brown

December 12 & 13, 2020

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE

December 5 & December 6, 2020

Offertory:

Regular Offertory - \$3,708.18
Campaign for Human Development - \$81.00
Total Offertory - \$3,789.18

Attendance:

Saturday, December 5 - 57
Sunday, December 6 - 56
Total - 113

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Allen A. Lyle Sr., Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Keith Buck, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Ronda Sharpe, Stacy Rogers, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.



HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. **Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.**

Food Pantry Volunteers... We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.



- ♦ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office,**

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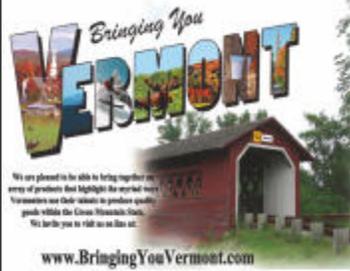
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