

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Our Lady of Fatima Parish*  
134 South Washington Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701  
Telephone(570)823-4168  
Fax(570)822-3477  
E-Mail: OLFSTMARYS@AOL.COM  
Internet Home Page—  
www.OLFSTMARYS.weconnect.com  
**JANUARY 16, 2022**  
**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**



## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Joseph D. Verespy  
**Assistant Pastors:** Rev. Fidel Ticona  
Rev. Mark J. DeCelles  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Msgr. Thomas V. Banick  
**Deacon:** Deacon Joseph Sudano  
**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Rita D. Bevan (Ext. 105)  
**Office Manager/Secretary:**  
Ms. Martha S. Callahan (Ext. 103)  
**Human Services/Social Concerns:** Mrs. Terri Nowak  
**Ministry Scheduler:** Miss Amanda Curcio (Ext. 106)

## WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST

### SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:00PM  
Sunday 10:00AM  
12:10PM  
7:00PM

### WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday through Friday  
12:10PM  
St. Therese Chapel



**HOLY DAY EUCHARIST**  
AS ANNOUNCED

## WE CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS

### PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.  
For Confessions in Spanish, please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

### BAPTISM

Please contact the Church office when your child is born.

### MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should notify the parish priest at least one year prior to the date on which they wish to marry.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the rectory anytime for visitation of the sick at home or in the hospital/health care facility.

### SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/(CCD)

Our program serves children grades PrK to Confirmation Preparation.

### BEQUESTS TO YOUR PARISH

Please remember St. Mary's Church with memorial gifts and in your will

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00PM to 4:30PM  
Tuesday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM  
Friday 8:30AM to 2:00PM

### PARISH REGISTRATION

We always welcome new members to our Parish Community. To join the parish or to give notice of change of address/telephone, please call 570-823-4168.

Siempre damos la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros a nuestra parroquia Community. To unirse a la parroquia o para dar aviso de cambio de dirección / teléfono, por favor llame al 570- 823 - 4168.

Nous sommes toujours heureux d'accueillir de nouveaux membres de notre communauté paroissiale. Inscrivez\*vous à la paroisse ou de donner un avis de changement d'adresse/téléphone, veuillez composer le 570-823-4168.

Chúng tôi hoan nghênh thành viên mới vào cộng đồng giáo xứ của chúng tôi. Để tham gia các giáo xứ, xin vui lòng gọi 570-823-4168 cho một cuộc phỏng vấn với các Pastor.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
JANUARY 16, 2022



**THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE**  
ISAIAH 62:1-5  
I CORINTHIANS 12:4-11  
JOHN 2:1-11

**NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE**  
NEHEMIAH 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
I CORINTHIANS 12:12-30  
LUKE 1:1-14, 4:14-21

**LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
YOU CHOSE THE CHURCH  
FOR YOUR BRIDE,**  
*(gospel reading)*  
**GIVING HER COUNTLESS GIFTS**  
*(responsorial psalm)*  
**AND, AS DOWRY,  
THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS.**  
*(first reading)*  
**YOUR GRACE BROUGHT TOGETHER  
JEW AND GENTILE,  
MAKING THEM ONE IN YOUR LOVE.**  
*(second reading)*  
**BY THE POWER OF YOUR CROSS,  
BLESS ALL WHO SEEK YOU,  
FOR YOU ARE FULL OF GOODNESS,  
YOURS IS ALL POWER AND GLORY  
NOW AND THROUGH ENDLESS AGES.  
AMEN.**

**FACE MASKS**—The Diocesan guidelines continue to strongly recommend vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals to wear masks inside for Mass and other indoor gatherings in order to protect the health and safety of all in attendance. We have also been asked to make sure that we have appropriate signage on our entrances. We are most grateful for the cooperation regarding the mask request with our goal of protecting our neighbors. You are reminded to continue to maximize the use of space as much as possible.



GOSPEL MEDITATION  
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE  
January 16, 2022  
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.*

*Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.*

*God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.*



## Sacrificial Giving

### WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

#### JANUARY 9, 2022

Sunday Offering	\$	2,392.00
Sunday Loose	\$	178.00
Parish Membership	\$	1,112.00
Diocesan Charity	\$	50.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	40.00
Catholic Education	\$	47.00
Diocesan Priest Health	\$	26.00
Human Services	\$	56.00
Insurance	\$	68.00
Initial	\$	88.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	26.00
Retired Religious	\$	5.00
Christmas	\$	970.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,058.00</b>

Mass Count  
4PM—85 10AM—15  
12:10PM—40 7PM—55  
Weekend Total—195

#### RECEIVED FROM OUR ENVELOPE COMPANY

##### Why Your Church Envelopes are LATE!

Dear Valued Customer,

We were notified of a postal issue yesterday by our transportation provider that multiple mail hubs would not accept four pallets of mail that we provide proper USPS clearing paperwork.

We immediately sought explanation of the rejections and after much back and forth this was escalated to our Vice President of Postal Affairs & Customer Service. She in turn escalated this to the USPS Vice President of the East Coast who acknowledged that the postal hubs were incorrect in not accepting the mail and instructed them to accept our mail.

Unfortunately this has caused a delay in delivery, the post office will be expediting this mail and treating it as first class even though it is non-profit mail.

We apologize if you experience any delays due to this postal issue.

Client Relations Manager  
Cathedral Corporation

#### 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please make your requests by filling out this form below and returning it. Thank you.

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop this Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

#### PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington

#### MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR\*FOLD MISSION:

- TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;
- TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;
- TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;
- TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.

#### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS It Takes All Kinds

"If every flower wanted to be a rose," wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, "spring would lose its loveliness."

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of "varieties of tongues" might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, "Do whatever he tells you," her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God's instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God's word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

## **Masses For The Week**

### **MONDAY— JANUARY 17 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Elizabeth Borek*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Judith Comisky*

### **TUESDAY— 18 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Marilyn Lavan*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mary Chamberlain*

### **WEDNESDAY— 19 (WEEKDAY)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Bertha Stoiber*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Thomas Spitalick*

### **THURSDAY— 20 (ST. FABIAN/ST. SEBASTIAN)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *M/M Simon Turong*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Harold J. Miller*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *rose Ann Perrins*

### **FRIDAY— 21 (ST. AGNES)**

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Katie McGuire*  
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Carl Leo Ott*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Susan and James Callahan  
And Family*

## **WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY— JANUARY 22**

St. Mary's 4:00PM *Vigil Mass*  
St. Nicholas 5:00PM *Antoinette Manganello*

### **SUNDAY— JANUARY 23**

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Carl Ott, Jr.  
And Bessie McGowan Ott*  
St. Mary's 10:00AM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Carol Christine Van Why*  
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Mass*  
St. Nicholas 12:15PM *Living and Deceased  
Members of the Parish*  
St. Mary's 7:00PM *Mass*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

At St. Nicholas Church—Mondays: 5PM—6PM.  
For Confessions in Spanish,  
please call Father Fidel at 570-823-7736.

### **I NEED A SPONSOR CARD !**

To serve as a sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage, a person needs a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her Pastor testifying to the fact that the person is a practicing Catholic. Active membership is determined by: regular attendance at Mass, registration at the parish for at least six months, use of your parish envelopes (Only accurate way to know your attendance) and participation in parish activities. Certificates cannot be issued unless you are previously registered with the Parish.

### **ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

There are several new fees that have been initiated by the Board of Directors and some new guidelines and new rates for loans.



Please check the Diocesan Website to take a survey concerning the Synod. Your input is very important.  
[Dioceseofscranton.org](http://Dioceseofscranton.org)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are  
home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:*



*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the people,  
To make music in the heart.*

—Howard Thurman—

### EDUCATIONAL NIGHT ABOUT BEEKEEPING —

The Events Committee of St. Nicholas Church, 226 S. Washington Street, will host a **Beekeeping Seminar** presented by Christopher and Eileen Kohl on **Wednesday, January 19th, starting at 6:30PM, in St. Nicholas's Community Room**. They will explain the bee's role in the hive, environmental impacts, how honey and beeswax is made and many other fascinating facts. Hands-on equipment will be displayed with a question and answer period. Please bring a friend and join us for an evening of community camaraderie and an intriguing educational experience. All are welcome!



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**  
6:00PM | ST. MARIA GORETTI CHURCH, LAFLIN

CELEBRANT: MOST REV. JOSEPH C. BAMBERA  
BISHOP OF SCRANTON

Join us in prayer on the eve of the 48th annual  
March for Life for a greater respect of all  
human life, from conception to natural death,  
and every moment in between.


*We invite you to bring a new pack of diapers to be  
donated to Shepherd's Maternity House and St.  
Joseph's Center Baby and Children's Pantry*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG](http://DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG)

A Bus is being coordinated by **Pennsylvanians for Human Life, to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Friday, January 21st**. Departure will be from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes Street, Swoyersville, Pa. 18704. The cost (Bus and Dinner) is \$65.00, and for students \$35.00. For those wanting to sponsor a student, checks should be made to PHL and can be sent to this Parish. For further information, call Chris Calore @ 570-824-5621. Thank You.



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